

Menu 1291

Chapter 1291: Deal! (3)

Xu Dashan spoke and then walked towards Red Fragrance Alley with his hands behind his back.

His words remained cryptic.

His true goal was to have Mu Bai and the organization behind him rely more heavily on Red Fragrance Alley, so he couldn't feed them all at once; it had to be done in stages.

He might even put on an act of hard won achievements.

To sequentially earn the favor of Mu Bai and the organization behind him.

Of course, there's also probing.

Some necessary, secret probing.

He needed to use these Nourishing Essence Pills to test the endurance of Mu Bai's organization.

Or more accurately: consumption.

A martial artist with decent talent only needs two Nourishing Essence Pills per month.

If the talent is average, even one pill per month is somewhat a waste.

Thus, by the amount of Nourishing Essence Pills, its enough to deduce the numbers and strength of the people behind Mu Bais organization.

However, he wouldnt say this outright.

He needed his aides to figure it out.

The more they understood, the sooner they could take over his position.

But unfortunately, that aide returned to Red Fragrance Alley without realizing it.

Nevertheless, none of this had anything to do with Jason.

Jason headed to the backyard, and upon passing through the Moon Gate, he saw two dining tables set up in front of the kitchen door.

On each table was a white porcelain plate stacked with beef slices, fresh red and milky white, complementing each other, making one drool.

Beside the two tables was a charcoal stove with an iron pot on it. The charcoal inside was glowing hot, while the pot was bubbling with spicy red oil and bright red chili peppers rolling about; Jason couldn't help but take a deep breath, the numbing spicy aroma made him salivate even before reaching the fore.

Beef hotpot.

Or rather, dipped beef.

"Alright, you can go now.

Without hesitation, Jason sent Jia Youcai away.

Eat together?

Stop joking.

It wasn't enough for him alone.

Jia Youcai turned and walked away reluctantly.

He realized that everything about Master Mu was great, except for his possessiveness over food.

But, that pot smelled amazing!

No way!

This noon hes having hotpot!

Jia Youcai swallowed his saliva, and his pace quickened as he left.

As Jason sat down in the backyard, Dou Bao was still fiddling with a large piece of beef, she quickly sliced the meat.

"I got the butcher to prep two cows today, Master Mu, you can eat to your hearts content, plus he sent all the offal. Ive washed tripe and such, so you can dip them directly later.

"Do you like spicy food?

"If not, I can make a mild version for you.

"And theres oil dipping and chili powder, dip them and eat, its delicious.

Dou Bao started speaking in a strong regional accent unconsciously.

"Meat?

Jason hesitated.

"I mean meat.

Dou Bao replied.

"Shouldnt the meat be dipped in the oil and chili powder?

Jason picked up his chopsticks.

"Oil dip and chili powder are the soul, do you want to add green onions?

Dou Bao picked up the plate of chopped scallions.

"Add!

Jason said without hesitation, meanwhile, a piece of beef was already being dipped in the oil, covered in the fragrant oil and garlic paste below, and rolled in the chili pepper powder on the side.

The moment it entered the mouth, it was fiery hot.

Then, chewing generously, the juicy meat exploded quickly.

The flavor became increasingly delicious.

If the spice were a sword, teasing Jason's taste buds, then the meat was the armor, repeatedly allowing Jason to withstand the sword.

Letting Jason experience the irresistible allure of spice and delicious food.

One slice after another was lifted.

One slice after another entered his mouth.

After eating for a while, Jason's forehead was slightly sweating.

But he couldn't stop.

It really came down to one word: awesome!

Meanwhile, Dou Bao, who was slicing beef, smiled happily, suddenly thinking of something; the knife paused suddenly, and her brows furrowed

"What a pity.

Chapter 1292: Harmonious Jia Youcai

As Jason was eating the slices of meat, he looked up and saw Dou Bao with a slight frown, and directly asked: What a pity?

"Ice powder!

"No ice powder!

"Although I can make ice powder, the weather in Mountain City is not very suitable, and Mountain City does not have ice cellars or ice sellers, maybe Zhoufu there will have its spicy hotpot paired with ice powder, that's the real delight.

Dou Bao sighed.

Jason did not disagree.

Just like when eating skewers, wanting to have an ice-cold beer.

Having ice powder with hotpot is also a pleasure.

It's just this ice...

"Since the additional options of [Barehanded Combat] include Searing, there should be additional options like Frost, it's not just for ice powder, but also for preserving food, this kind of Secret Martial Arts Techniques should be learned.

Thinking of this, Jason nodded.

"I will keep an eye out.

Jason said.

"Hmm.

Dou Bao thought Jason would keep an eye out for ice sellers, or simply prepare to store ice for use in winter, never considering anything else.

Never underestimate the energy a foodie can exert for food.

Its superhuman.

"By the way, Master, I touched upon Vigor.

Dou Bao was slicing the meat, looking expectantly at Jason, as if waiting for praise.

"Thats really impressive.

Jason praised.

This was not just to placate, but genuine praise.

Mu Bai met Dou Bao how long ago?

All things considered, it was just three, four months.

Relying on three, four months to train into Muscle, even though later giving a Nourishing Essence Pill, it still speaks to Dou Baos talent.

Of course, theres also the foundation.

Thats equally strong.

Although Dou Baos parents did not teach Dou Bao any martial arts techniques, they definitely did not lack in food and drink for Dou Bao, surely integrating some medicines into Dou Baos daily diet.

Mu Family Tiger Fist can be trained to the stage of Muscle success, but there is no subsequent Bone Tempering chapter, I will find a way to look for it.

Jason said.

For his personal chef, Jason cannot possibly treat her poorly.

Moreover, he hopes that this personal chef becomes stronger.

Only then can safety be ensured when he is overwhelmed.

"Master doesn't need to intentionally search, let's go with the flow, maybe one day someone will bring it to us.

Dou Bao joked.

Secret Martial Arts Techniques are not that easy to obtain.

But she didn't want Jason to overwork himself.

Jason just shook his head with a smile, began finishing the beef on his plate, and while waiting for Dou Bao to slice the meat, he thought about one of his two core skills [Dragon Battle Pattern Pruse Griffin Shadow Cloak Body Forging Technique].

With the two hundred Nourishing Essence Pills bought from Red Fragrance Alley, and the annual tribute of thirty-six pills, his satiation level is already at a reassuring high.

Enough to advance [Dragon Battle Pattern Pruse Griffin Shadow Cloak Body Forging Technique].

However, his intuition tells him not to advance directly, there will be regrets.

After completing, advance.

Only then could it be complete.

Only then is it truly in its entirety.

Dusk?

Night Watchers night as the starting point, Chen Xi Sword as the dawn, Battle Pattern Breathing Method as the noon, what about dusk?

What secret technique to use in its place?

Cant possibly manufacture Ragnarok, right?

Jason joked in his mind.

But as he thought, he became serious.

It seems... it might really be possible to do so.

Dusk has an accurate reference.

"Then as long as you grasp a precise ritual, it can entirely replace a secret technique!

As Jason's understanding of the Mystical Side deepens, some things become clearer.

Firstly, intuition is trustworthy.

Secondly, some rituals are more easily completed than secret techniques.

After all, secret techniques you still have to search for.

Sometimes, there's simply no such secret technique.

Can't possibly create one?

Even if you create one, the energy, time consumed are unimaginable.

But rituals are different!

Especially after reaching Master-level of [Dufol Language], some secrets have greatly inspired Jason.

With Jason's current Master-level [Dufol Language], he can truly arrange some simple rituals concerning Dusk, but to want feedback on oneself, it's somewhat difficult.

It's not impossible.

Just difficult.

Needs a stroke of luck.

To entrust success or failure to luck is unacceptable to Jason.

"If [Dufol Language] could be elevated to unrivaled level, it would suffice to get me answers, and with my Master-level [Dufol Language] already discovering deficiencies in [Dragon Battle Pattern Pruse Griffin Shadow Cloak Body Forging Technique], attaining unrivaled level might uncover more.

"But...

"Where to find Excitement of Feast?

Jason fell into a dilemma.

The previous Big Snake was already the most delicious food he had encountered.

From it, there was not Excitement of Feast.

Only a large amount of Excitement of Feast.

"Is it because I didnt eat it all?

"Or should I search for tastier food?

Jason pondered.

He even thought if its because he hasnt cooked it.

If with exquisite culinary skills, can you obtain better food?

"Maybe its worth a try.

Jason thought as he picked up the chopsticks again.

Dou Bao had sliced the beef.

Afterwards, the rhythm transformed into Jason eating meat, Dou Bao slicing meat.

Chapter 1293: Harmonious Jia Youcai (2)

It wasnt until the moment before the apprentices entered the Martial Arts School in the afternoon that it was finally over.

Most of the two cows had been eaten by Jason.

Dou Bao had eaten roughly a whole cow leg.

The two maids helping at the Martial Arts School arrived earlier than the apprentices, so they witnessed Jason and Dou Baos battle. Both were shocked and sighed, saying: No wonder theyre martial artists, they really can eat. Normal households could never supply this amount.

"The poor study literature, the rich study martial arts.

"It seems the elders do have a point.

The two maids chatted while they worked.

Dou Bao walked toward the front yard to supervise the apprentices martial arts training.

Jason took the Nourishing Essence Pills sent by Xu Dashan back to his room, a total of 236 pills in 24 bottles, with one bottle containing six pills, and the remaining 23 bottles each holding ten pills.

After taking out the bottle with six Nourishing Essence Pills, Jason downed it all at once.

Sour and refreshing!

Comfortable!

The sweet and sour taste blossomed on his taste buds, and the rapid increase in satiety in front of him made the corners of Jasons mouth involuntarily rise.

It took a full half minute for the notification of increased satiety to stop.

In Jasons eyes, only he could see the neat row of numbers, finally stopping at 4891.

4891 points of satiety?

"That equates to 1630+ lives!

Whew!

A sense of security immediately filled Jasons heart.

This allowed him to half-lie on the cushion and take a short nap.

About two hours or so.

Jason rarely slept soundly; though this nap wasnt long, it was enough to make him feel refreshed.

Upon waking up, Jason stood up and stretched lazily.

Crack, crack.

All the joints in his body began to pop, and his over two-meter-tall body, with strong muscles, quivered accordingly.

Mysteriously, a fierce aura permeated everywhere.

Like a predator at the top of the food chain waking up and wanting to eat, the oppressive feeling made the insects inside the Martial Arts School scatter quickly.

And at this time, it was just as the days martial arts training for the apprentices was about to end.

They all witnessed this scene.

"Why are there so many insects?"

"What's going on in the backyard?"

"Could it be the school master?"

The apprentices looked at each other, eyes filled with surprise, while Jia Youcai, who had taken the afternoon off and continued to practice punches in the Martial Arts School, seriously said: The school master must have made further progress, unable to control his own aura, slightly leaking it out, scaring these insects, causing them to instinctively flee.

"The school master has already perfected Bone Tempering, one step further... hss!

Those around gasped, faces full of shock.

As apprentices of the Martial Arts School, they came from well-off families; they were aware of the three realms from martial artist basic training to muscle, bone tempering, and skin training.

They also knew that in Mountain City, there hadn't been a martial artist achieving skin training in nearly a century.

A martial artist perfected in Bone Tempering is extremely rare in Mountain City's history.

Mountain City is too small.

So small that it's merely a county under Zhoufufu's jurisdiction.

Shallow waters can't raise a dragon!

And when shallow waters do produce a dragon, it changes the situation of that shallow water.

Its influence could even extend to surrounding counties or even to Zhoufu.

Finished!

The other Martial Arts Schools in Mountain City have no chance!

After the Martial Arts Street competition, with Li and Zhao killed by Jason, the schools of Li and Zhao did not close, supported by a group of indoor disciples; Peng Liang and Zhang Mings schools were in the same situation.

But how could a group of indoor disciples, who haven't even truly achieved muscle, fight against a martial artist who has stepped into the skin training realm?

Not to mention this martial artist possesses Innate Divine Strength!

Joining the Mu-style Martial Arts School right away was indeed the right choice.

Others really made the wrong choice.

However, in the future in Mountain City, the Mu-style Martial Arts School might dominate.

With very complex emotions, these Martial Arts School disciples left after the time was up.

They had to inform their families about this news, to prepare early.

Whether to leverage their current relationship and get on the Mu-style Martial Arts Schools ship now.

Or quickly distance themselves.

Jia Youcai didnt think so much, having taken the day off and didnt need to return to the government office, he waited until the sweat dried, then put on his coat, picked up a machete, and headed home.

Along the way, he bought braised meat, chicken feet, ribs, shrimp dumplings, and caterpillar fungus chicken soup.

He had been promoted to the arrest officer of Eastern City, not only did his salary increase by more than three times, but the respect and offerings from subordinates exceeded ordinary expectations.

Therefore, every time he returned home at night, he would buy some good food.

Not only because he practiced martial arts now and needed to eat well but also because of his old mother at home.

He wanted his mother to eat well too.

His mothers eyesight wasnt good, and a few years ago, she couldnt cook anymore, so every day he would buy food in the morning and leave it on the stove before heading out.

Perhaps I should find a maid to care for my mother?

Probably would get scolded by her for wasting money.

The neighbors would also gossip.

Or move closer to the government office? Its also closer to the roll-call time, the environment nearby is good, though the money falls short, and who knows if mother would want to move?

Jia Youcai, carrying dinner, walked into an alley on the east side of Eastern City.

He didnt meet anyone along the way, which made Jia Youcai incredibly comfortable.

Back when he was a ruffian, those people didn't show him any kindness, and even his mother suffered grievances because of it. But when he got promoted to an arrest officer, they all came one by one, trying to curry favor.

Chapter 1294: Harmonious Jia Youcai (3)

He can imagine how this group will behave once the news of his promotion to Eastern City's chief arrest officer spreads.

It makes him feel nauseated.

But there's nothing he can do about it.

This is life.

It's a mess, but what can you do.

Sigh!

Unconsciously, a sigh escaped him.

"Son, why are you sighing out of the blue?"

Not far away, under a large locust tree, an elderly woman dressed plainly, with grayed hair and leaning on a cane, was sitting there. Even with her eyes squinting, she could only make out blurry figures.

But she recognized her own son.

And his voice was familiar as well.

Jia Youcai saw his mother sitting there and couldn't help but gently tug at his own mouth, then hurriedly took three steps in two to support his mother who was about to stand up.

"Oh, mother, why are you waiting for me out here? You should wait in the home courtyard. It's getting dark, and your eyesight isn't good. What if you fall?"

"I've walked the path home for fifty years; how could I fall?"

The elderly woman said, taking Jia Youcai's hand and leading him back to their yard.

An ordinary little yard, which in the early years had chickens and vegetables growing.

But as the elderly woman's eyesight worsened, they gradually vanished.

"Why did you buy all this food again? Don't waste money. Even if you become the chief arrest officer, you still need to save up a bit."

Looking vaguely at Jia Youcai arranging the dishes on the dining table, the elderly woman couldn't help but complain.

"Mother, it's alright. The salary of the chief officer is high, it's more than enough."

Jia Youcai said with a grin.

"Such a smooth talker. If it weren't for this attitude of yours, those marriage proposals would have been settled long ago, instead of dragging on until now. I've heard there's a daughter of Widow Li by the Eastern gate who's quite good. She's quick and treats people well. Why don't you take some time to meet her? You're not getting any younger. Even with the status of chief arrest officer, you can't be too picky, or you'll miss out if you're too choosy."

Li's urging for marriage began once again as part of her daily ritual.

Jia Youcai just smiled, not responding, and simply placed shrimp dumplings onto his mother's plate.

He wouldn't tell his mother that the daughter of Widow Li weighed over 200 pounds, nor that she was fierce enough to brawl with men in the street with bare arms, and on top of that, she ran a gambling den.

He wouldn't say any of this.

Just listening quietly was enough.

At first, he found such nagging and marriage pressure annoying.

But he didn't know when he started getting used to it.

Was it the day his father passed away?

Without his father, only his mother's nagging remained, and he actually thought it was quite nice.

"I'll go light an incense for my father."

Jia Youcai picked up a plate with the food he'd set aside and headed towards the corridor. His house was a typical three-room arrangement, with rooms on the east and west, separated by a corridor.

His mother lived in the east room, he lived in the west, and the corridor held some miscellaneous items, with the kitchen outside.

His father's memorial tablet was placed at the far end of the corridor, kept clean and tidy around it.

Three sticks of incense, three bows.

"Father, time to eat."

After speaking, he took the food from the morning placed in the kitchen, reheated it simply, and returned to the dining table.

The food purchased in the morning hadn't spoiled.

Still edible.

He didn't waste it.

"Son, why did you just sigh?"

"Did something troubling happen?"

Just as he sat down, Li asked.

"No, nothing!"

"I was just lamenting that practicing martial arts is tiring!"

Jia Youcai told a well-intentioned lie.

"Even so, you must persevere. Lord Li values you so much, and that Master Mu is sincerely teaching you. You can't let them down."

Li advised.

"Of course."

Jia Youcai said assuredly.

He couldn't possibly let either Li Deshang or Master Mu down.

They were two people who genuinely cared about him.

Lowering his head, as Jia Youcai gnawed on a rib, two unusual sounds came from the courtyard.

That was the sound of someone leaping over a wall and landing.

Jia Youcai, from the market, who had been a constable for so many years, was too familiar with it.

"Mother, keep eating, I'm going to the outhouse."

Saying this, Jia Youcai quietly grabbed his bladeless sword and slowly moved towards the door.

At this moment, an unprecedented coldness arose in Jia Youcai's eyes.

That's right, the intent to kill.

Everyone has untouchable points.

For Jia Youcai, his old mother is that point.

Someone climbing over the wall at this time, obviously isn't just coming for him.

You should know, by routine, at this time, he should just barely be heading home from the yamen.

What does this person want by climbing over the wall into his home?

Nothing more than trying to kidnap his old mother to threaten him.

If there's any issue, come for him directly, even if it means death, Jia Youcai would have no complaints.

But kidnapping his old mother.

He would chop that scum to pieces.

Holding the knife, he silently approached the door, that person was using a wire to slip it through the door crack, trying to pick the lock.

Clearly, this was a professional.

With just one move, the latch was opened.

Jia Youcai didn't shout or scream, he just stood silently behind the door, watching a figure come in, the broadsword in his hand slowly approached the intruder, and when it was no more than a fist's distance from the intruder's back, he thrust with force.

Thud!

The blade pierced horizontally into the intruder's back, puncturing the heart.

As the intruder was about to scream, Jia Youcai clamped a hand over his mouth.

"Son, what's going on?"

Li's voice rang out.

"Mom, it's nothing, just a rat."

"I'll chase this rat away and come back."

With these words, Jia Youcai dragged the corpse out of the courtyard, closing the door casually, yanked the broadsword out from the corpse, squinted his eyes, and stared at another shadow in the courtyard, step by step approaching.

The person was startled.

They just came to tie up an almost blind old lady.

They never expected to run into Jia Youcai.

Even more unexpectedly, Jia Youcai actually killed someone.

Looking at the corpse on the ground, and that bloody knife, this person's legs began to cramp.

"Chief Jia, I..."

"Keep your voice down, don't let my mom hear."

Jia Youcai interrupted the other person, spoke in a low voice.

"Yes, yes, yes."

The person stammered.

"Who sent you, speak."

Jia Youcai asked,

Judging from this person's demeanor, they can't be the mastermind.

"It's Li the Cripple from Northern City."

The other immediately said.

"Li the Cripple?"

Jia Youcai paused.

He knew Li the Cripple, a gambling den operator, a loan shark.

No connection with him.

Why would he kidnap his old mother?

"Are you fooling me?"

Jia Youcai bluffed the other.

"Honestly, Chief Jia, it was Li the Cripple who gave us ten silver coins, asking us to kidnap your old mother and deliver her to him..."

Thud!

As the person spoke and lowered his head to take out the ten silver coins from his pocket, Jia Youcai took the opportunity to get close, raised his knife and ended the person.

Then, he dragged the body to the side, straightened his coat, and returned to the room.

"Mom, I just remembered, it's my turn to be on duty today, I need to go back to the yamen."

"These damned rats, I just stomped on two, such a bloody mess, and I just saw, there are quite a lot of them, you better temporarily stay at a friend's place tonight."

"Otherwise, if the rats injure you and you need a doctor, it will cost a lot."

Jia Youcai knew how to persuade his old mother.

Sure enough, upon hearing Jia Youcai's words, Li nodded immediately.

Then, Jia Youcai turned around, took his father's memorial tablet, tucked it into his bosom, and from a secret compartment behind the tablet, took out a money pouch, turned and grabbed his knife, supporting his old mother heading straight to the Mu-style Martial Arts School.

This place was definitely no longer safe to stay.

Mu-style Martial Arts School was currently the safest place.

He felt at ease arranging his old mother there.

And then?

He was going to make Li the Cripple a dead cripple.

Chapter 1295: I rush toward you, you are the stars and the sea!

After the martial arts apprentices dispersed, the two robust old women swiftly cleaned the training ground, wiped down the wooden dummy posts, weapon racks, and towel stands, and emptied all the dirty water in the basin before they waved goodbye to Jason and Dou Bao and left.

In Mountain City, earning three Silver Coins a month is not insignificant, but to find such leisure while working part-time is quite rare.

The two old women naturally cherished it greatly.

After securing the martial arts schools front door, Dou Bao went into the small storeroom next to the backyard kitchen and took out a well-shaped ginseng root to start a stew.

Dinner had already been prepared by Dou Bao in the afternoon.

Now, Dou Bao was making a late-night snack.

When Jason previously asked about having a late-night snack, Dou Bao remembered it, so she prepared a snack every night. Especially these ginseng roots sent by Li Deshang, although typical in age and merely wild ginseng, when paired with astragalus, polygonatum, and goji berries to stew a soup, it was truly ideal.

Her mother used to make soup like this for her father every day.

Never missing a day.

However, the meat used in the soup would change.

Today, naturally, it was beef bones and beef.

Dinner was also beef offal soup and baked buns.

The two robust old women helped bake the buns, making a good hundred of them.

Palm-sized buns, one would fill up an ordinary person, two for the dock workers, but Jason ate them all, and the remaining half bun was used to wipe the pan.

This made Dou Bao smile.

She really liked watching Jason eat.

Especially food that she cooked.

With each beef bone added in and some beef quickly changing color in the boiling broth, Dou Bao added another batch of firewood, wiped her sweat, covered the pot, and walked out of the kitchen holding the boiling kettle.

Stewing soup is like this.

As long as the ingredients are well-prepared, and the fire is sufficient, the rest is just about time.

At this moment, Jason, who had eaten to satisfaction, was sitting at the small table.

On the table were a teapot and two large bowls.

Uncovering the teapot lid, Dou Bao poured in the hot water.

Instantly, a fragrant aroma wafted through the air.

There was a floral scent of jasmine and the sweetness of oolong, and throughout, the freshness of green tea was pervasive.

"I bought this fine tea at the entrance of Martial Arts Street, one penny for a big bag.

"When there were fewer apprentices before, drinking water was okay, but now there are more people, its better to brew tea.

Dou Bao said.

The apprentices who came to the martial arts school, although they were not provided with meals, were given tea, especially because after hard training and sweating, one would feel extremely parched in the afternoon.

Having a cup of tea to moisten the throat was indeed great.

Before, the Mu-style Martial Arts School simply provided water.

Now there are more people, and fame has risen.

Plain boiled water just wouldn't do; at least it should be tea.

That fine tea was indeed a pretty good choice.

As for the best choice?

It would naturally be herbal tea.

Not only does it quench thirst and reduce heat, but it is also suitable for the local climate.

However, brewing herbal tea is really too labor-intensive and requires a specialist to make it, and Dou Bao was reluctant to spend that money.

After all, her household master was too good at eating.

Not to mention other things, today's two cows cost forty Silver Coins.

Although money was more abundant now, with her household master's appetite, if they didn't save a little, even mountains of gold and silver could be consumed, so saving where they could was important.

After all, they were just apprentices, not in-house disciples.

Large bowls of tea were already good enough.

Jason, drinking this large bowl of tea, found it quite satisfying.

"Next time let's use big tea mugs.

Jason suggested.

"Alright, Ill finish up and find two big tea mugs, before, when I was in the Northern Capital, I saw many people drink like that.

Dou Bao nodded with a smile.

"Dou Bao, youve been to the Northern Capital?

Jason was surprised, though he never inquired deeply into Dou Baos background, he remembered that Dou Bao should have come from the other side of Zhoufu, far from the Northern Capital.

"Yes, when I was little my parents took me to visit their friends in the Northern Capital, a bunch of grumpy old men.

"However, the Northern Capitals roast duck, bean juice, stewed pig offal, fried liver, exploded tripe, door nail meat pies, sesame seed buns, almond tofu, pea yellow, rolled donkey, and noodle tea are really delicious.

"Its a pity that when I wanted to go later, my parents said their friends whole family died of plague, so there wasnt much to visit.

Dou Baos face was full of disappointment.

"Roast duck, huh?

"When theres a chance, lets go together.

Jason said.

"Really?

Dou Bao looked at Jason in surprise, and Jason nodded firmly.

"Really.

This was truly honest, as Jasons reputation had grown very difficult to further after it surpassed 200 in the main storyline, clearly hitting a bottleneck.

Breaking through that bottleneck naturally required a bigger stage.

Only by spreading his fame to places like Zhoufu, the Northern Capital, and Shu Capital could he find that breakthrough.

Staying in Mountain City and expecting to spread fame was clearly unrealistic.

Unless something earth-shattering happened.

It definitely wasn't because he was tempted by Dou Bao mentioning how tasty the Northern Capitals roast duck, bean juice, stewed pig offal, fried liver, exploded tripe, door nail meat pies, sesame seed buns, almond tofu, pea yellow, rolled donkey, and noodle tea were.

Hearing Jason's promise, Dou Bao was overjoyed, her eyes turning crescent-shaped as she smiled.

She looked at Jason, almost as if returning to their first meeting on the streets of Mountain City.

Hungry?

Here's a bun for you.

Want some water?

Dont have enough money, do you?

Let me give you my coat.

Chapter 1296: I rush toward you, you are the stars and the sea! (2)

Did they bully you?

Ill help you.

The gaze of their dojo master has always been so clear, just like before, without a trace of distraction.

As brilliant as the stars.

The closer she got, the more she could feel the brilliance within.

Walking towards their dojo master was like heading to the sea of stars.

Jason keenly noticed that Dou Baos gaze seemed a bit off, so he cleared his throat lightly.

"This is for you.

Jason handed the bottle with six Nourishing Essence Pills to Dou Bao and, without waiting for her to speak, continued: Achieving Muscle Training is just the beginning for a Martial Artist. Its impressive in Mountain City, but outside, its not enough. At least when Muscle Training is perfected, theres some self-preservation ability.

"Mm.

Dou Bao nodded, swallowed back words of refusal, and took the porcelain bottle.

On her way to Mountain City, she had seen too much.

She knew, it was for her own good from the dojo master.

Only with strong strength, could she freely go wherever she wants.

Just like her... parents.

As if thinking of something, Dou Bao couldnt help but smile again.

That smile carried memories and sweetness.

Jason, looking puzzled, picked up his teacup and started drinking.

While Dou Bao began practicing her punches on the side.

Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh!

Just a few moves later, the backyard was filled with the sound of punching wind, and Dou Baos momentum was fierce, like a tiger descending the mountain.

Mu Family. Tiger Fist is originally an imitative fist, focusing on momentum.

At this moment, Dou Bao truly grasped the essence of it.

If someone closed their eyes and stood next to Dou Bao, they would have the illusion of a tigress softly growling.

Then, the sound grew louder and louder.

Dou Baos punches became faster and faster.

When it reached an extreme

Roar!

A tigers roar erupted from Dou Baos mouth, her whole bodys muscles trembled continuously with the roar; these muscles quickly tore and reorganized, even the tiny muscles did the same.

Once everything was complete, Dou Baos whole body muscles became tighter, especially the back muscles, which had a distinct angular feel, entirely integrating with her entire bodys muscles, creating a feeling of pulling the whole body with a single action.

Vigor!

This is what Martial Artists refer to as vigor!

With every punch and kick, she could harness the power of the whole body to strike.

Of course, this is the most perfect expression of a Martial Artist.

In fact, because the practice of martial techniques differs, the amount of full-body muscle power that can be mobilized also varies; mostly, being able to mobilize half is already mainstream in secret martial arts techniques.

Being able to mobilize more than sixty percent is considered top-notch.

And unable to mobilize even thirty percent is considered substandard.

With each punch and kick, the whole body muscles exert force accordingly and become knotted.

Moreover, with the perfection of Muscle Training, Bone Tempering, and Skin Training, some special martial techniques can bring about special effects.

For example: Mu Family. Tiger Fist.

Achieving Muscle Training allows one to possess Tiger Power, rumored to be the strength of a tiger, without losing agility.

There's naturally exaggeration in this, but as Jason watched Dou Bao punching with the appearance of a roaring tiger, he had some speculations.

Maybe at the level of Skin Training, it might really be like a tiger.

With Jason's current understanding of mysterious knowledge, he had already realized that the so-called Secret Martial Arts Techniques are a process of transforming oneself.

Secret techniques inheritance is similar.

However, Secret Martial Arts Techniques start from the body, and the secret techniques he encountered before started from deeper within, from the heart.

One from outside to inside.

One from inside to outside.

Which is superior?

Jason couldn't tell yet.

But there's one thing Jason is sure about.

No matter how he changes, he's still human.

A normal person.

Whoosh!

Dou Bao let out a heavy breath, standing still and silently sensing the changes in her body, then raised her hand and lifted a stone lock in the backyard.

The dojos front yard had training equipment, and so did the backyard.

The front yard was for apprentices, and the backyard was used by Mu Bai before.

Hence, not only well-made but also heavier.

Dou Bao had tried before, with this 100-pound stone lock, she could at most lift it to her waist, then couldnt continue.

But now?

Easily lifting it above her head, flipping her wrist back and forth.

Even tossing it up two or three meters, she could catch it steadily.

After a few times, Dou Bao looked at Jason, excitedly saying.

"Dojo master, Ive mastered it!

"Well done.

"Keep it up.

Jason praised, his gaze looking towards the front yard.

Familiar with Jasons behavioral habits, Dou Bao immediately understood that there was a guest.

Wiping her sweat with her phone, she walked towards the front yard.

Having just mastered vigor, Dou Baos steps were now like the wind of a tiger, not just fast but also effortless.

Bang, bang bang.

Li Deshang, carrying a food box and knocking on the door, was waiting for it to open. Little did he expect that just after the knock, the dojo gate opened.

This made Li Deshang pause.

Upon seeing Dou Bao, however, he was surprised.

"Miss Dou Bao, have you become a Martial Artist?"

Li Deshang was a knowledgeable person; seeing Dou Bao's eyes shining with bright light and breath boiling over, he immediately thought of something. But because of this, he found it even harder to believe.

Being a Martial Artist is not easy.

It requires talent, perseverance, and money.

Truly, none of these should be lacking.

Li Deshang was not short of perseverance, nor money to an extent, but he lacked talent, with his body being extremely frail. If not for the careful care from the elders at home when he was young, he would have perished early.

Chapter 1297: I Run to You, For You are the Stars and the Ocean! (3)

But his longing for martial artists made him unable to resist inquiring and searching.

Then, he felt increasingly powerless.

He could not become a martial artist.

Or rather, most people cannot become martial artists.

As he grew older, Li Deshang had long recognized reality, but still had a moment of confusion when looking at Dou Bao in front of him.

How long has Dou Bao been practicing martial arts?

Even with Mu brother's meticulous guidance, it was really too fast.

By the way, did Mu brother share a good amount of the secret medicine with Dou Bao?

Thinking of this, Li Deshang sighed lightly in his heart, feeling quite bitter.

But then, Li Deshang quickly adjusted his mindset.

"Dou Bao girl, you have good fortune encountering Mu brother, make sure never to let him down."

Li Deshang advised.

"Of course."

Dou Bao nodded.

How could she disappoint her own master?

Even if mountains crumbled and the world overturned, she would not.

He is her stars and sea.

He is the life she looks forward to.

After closing the door, Dou Bao led Li Deshang towards the backyard.

"Gousheng brother."

Jason stood up and greeted, his gaze however was fixed on the food box.

"Drunken Fairy Tower's 'Drunken Fairy Chicken,' last time was too rushed, didn't get to eat the authentic one, I specially ordered it from that chef for you ahead of time."

As he spoke, Li Deshang placed the food box on the table.

Jason immediately opened the food box.

Inside was what seemed like an ordinary roasted chicken, but as the chicken was torn open, a tender pig trotter was revealed, still steaming.

Jason unhesitatingly grabbed the pig trotter and chomped down.

Seeing Jason's straightforward behavior, Li Deshang couldn't help but laugh.

After recent interactions, Li Deshang thoroughly understood the preferences of his Mu brother.

He doesn't love gold, nor silk clothes, even less beautiful wives and concubines.

He loves nothing but food.

Such a hobby is truly simple.

And brings joy.

But also because of this, Li Deshang felt increasingly guilty towards his Mu brother.

Immediately, this smile turned bitter.

Not disturbing Jason's meal.

Until Jason chewed and swallowed the last chicken bone, Li Deshang stood up again and bowed deeply, saying, "Mu brother, as your brother, I apologize to you, Northern Capital, the Northern Li Family refused..."

Li Deshang didn't finish his sentence, his face turned red.

He was both ashamed and angry.

Because he wasn't asking for help with mere words, but with his position as the main affairs officer in the local area as assurance, then he also sent over two antique vases he cherished.

After previous incidents, it was only a matter of time before he became the Mountain City's main affairs officer.

Being the main affairs officer, not just one of them.

Not only did his authority increase, but also with a bit of luck and effort, managing for ten years, he might even catch a glimpse of the Zhoufu main affairs officer's position.

And because of this, Li Deshang felt he was substantial enough.

Hence, he wrote to the Northern Li Family for assistance.

And those two antique vases were considered treasures, the most precious in Li Deshang's collection, selling them for tens of thousands of silver coins was impossible, but five to six thousand silver coins was more than sufficient.

With such a premise, Li Deshang didn't expect the 'big medicine,' but exchanging for some 'Ginseng Toad Pill' or similar 'secret medicine' should be enough.

Not to mention the 'Ginseng Toad Pill.'

Even the 'Tiger Blood Strong Yuan Powder' wasn't available.

All that was given was a set of 'Health-preserving Fist' to 'strengthen the body.'

Not some secret technique.

Just ordinary.

Many places, anyone who knows a little martial arts, knows it.

The only thing worth mentioning, maybe, is that this piece of 'Health-preserving Fist' is an early printed edition.

"Aren't they being too much?"

"Just dismiss people like this?"

Dou Bao, listening on the side, was very indignant.

Being supported by Jason and seated again, Li Deshang felt increasingly helpless.

"In the Northern Li Family's eyes, those who aren't martial artists are ultimately useless."

"Me?"

"Being able to send a set of 'Health-preserving Fist' is already considered extraordinarily gracious."

Li Deshang spoke, the bitterness on his face becoming more intense.

Jason didn't mind.

When Li Deshang sought help from the Northern Li Family, he didn't hold much hope.

If the other party truly cared about Li Deshang, Li Deshang's previous situation wouldn't have been so difficult.

And now, it was just confirmed.

However, Jason was curious about that 'Health-preserving Fist.'

"Gousheng brother, may I take a look at that 'Health-preserving Fist'?"

Jason asked.

"Of course."

"But don't expect too much from this 'Health-preserving Fist,' it is widely spread but its effect is very minimal."

As Li Deshang spoke, he took out the 'Health-preserving Fist.'

This was a 'Health-preserving Fist' recorded on parchment.

Judging by the time, it was already very old.

And as Jason received the 'Health-preserving Fist,' unexpectedly, the text in front of him flickered

[Discovered special legacy item 'Health-preserving Fist,' assessing...]

[Barehanded Combat level assessed as Master, assessment passed!]

[Want to consume 200 satiety to list as an extra option?]

...

200 satiety?

Seeing this value, Jason couldn't help but squint.

According to the rule where the higher the satiety requirement, the stronger the extra option, this 'Health-preserving Fist' seemed not simple.

"Gousheng brother, can I borrow it to study for a period of time?"

Jason inquired.

Although obtaining extra options is an instantaneous process, this is better not being excessively observed.

Death, and resurrection.

To most people, it is unacceptable.

He planned to return to his room to learn more.

"No problem."

Li Deshang was touched looking at Jason.

He knew, his Mu brother was giving him a way out.

Afraid he would be too embarrassed, hence choosing the 'Health-preserving Fist' as repayment.

Watching Jason, contemplating the Northern Li Family again.

Li Deshang felt increasingly close to his brother.

What Northern Li Family?

Couldn't compare to his own brother.

Thinking and feeling aggrieved, combined with being moved, Li Deshang's eyes turned red.

At this moment, a knock at the door sounded again

Knock, knock!

"Mu master here? I'm Jia Youcai!"

Chapter 1298: Gloom!

Creak.

The door hinges turned within the door frame, and the door of the martial arts school was slowly opened by Dou Bao.

"Sister Dou Bao.

Jia Youcai, who was supporting his aging mother, greeted her, then turned around and respectfully said, Master Mu, sir.

In the absence of outsiders, Jia Youcai always addressed Jason as Master Mu, only formally calling him the head of the school when others were present.

As for Li Deshangs appearance?

Jia Youcai wasnt surprised.

He could recognize whose carriage it was parked outside at a glance.

"There are rats in the house, and I have to be on duty tonight, so Im really stuck. I can only ask Sister Dou Bao and Master Mu to help take care of my mother.

Jia Youcai said, with a pleading look in his eyes.

"Rats?

"That cant be underestimated.

"Jia Youcai, after your duty tonight, take some people specifically to check it out.

Li Deshang covered for his subordinates excuse.

This official of Mountain City now highly valued Jia Youcai.

Although Jia Youcai usually seemed unreliable, his stepping up at critical moments several times was enough for Li Deshang to understand that he was someone he could depend on, even could be his confidant.

Therefore, he not only promoted Jia Youcai beyond the norm but also urged Jia Youcai to learn martial arts.

Given Jia Youcais age, its nonsensical to think hed achieve anything significant in martial arts. Without some major elixir to change his constitution, reaching proficiency in muscles and bones alone would be considered a decent talent.

However, becoming a martial artist was better than knowing nothing at all.

"Yes, sir.

Jia Youcai folded his hands in respect.

Then, he looked towards Jason.

Jason's gaze first swept over the saber with bloodstains not yet entirely removed, and then he used a sense of death energy to probe.

Just killed someone?

Or two people?

"Dou Bao, go make arrangements for the old lady.

Jason instructed.

"Auntie, come with me.

Dou Bao nodded, then supported the Li woman as they headed into the martial arts school.

Watching his mother enter the martial arts school, Jia Youcai gratefully folded his hands towards Jason and Li Deshang.

"Save the pleasantries for now.

"What happened?

Li Deshang waved a hand, lowered his voice, and asked.

"Heres the situation...

Jia Youcai quickly relayed the events.

As his words concluded, Li Deshangs expression became serious.

"Is it remnants of the Transmigration Cult?

"Or...

"The original six big families of the city?

The voice of this Mountain City official was low, carrying a chill.

Regardless of whether it was the former or latter, to Li Deshang, they were already enemies.

Enemies of the life-or-death kind.

Originally, he hadn't expected it, but he hadn't thought these people would appear so quickly and dare to target his people.

Jason also frowned slightly.

He was now quite certain that the incident where Jia Youcai's mother was almost kidnapped was orchestrated by the city's original six big families since it was too coincidental. Just after he denied Xu Dashan from Red Fragrance Alley the favor, Jia Youcai's mother almost got into trouble that night, and Jia Youcai was involved throughout the entire process.

Just that...

Were these big families too audacious?

Or did they have some backing?

Jason looked up at Li Deshang, just as Li Deshang also gazed back at Jason.

The moment their eyes met, they understood each others thoughts.

"Ill go back and gather the soldiers to surround those big families houses.

"Jia Youcai, send a team straight to Li the Cripples place, capture him for me, alive.

Li Deshang spoke directly without hiding anything.

"Yes, sir.

Jia Youcai folded his hands in respect, then walked towards the carriage.

A few seconds later, the original driver and several constables acting as bodyguards ran towards Martial Arts Street.

Watching his subordinates leave, Li Deshang turned and bowed to Jason.

"If any unforeseen events occur later, Ill have to rely on you again, Brother Mu.

"I'm truly grateful, Brother Mu.

"Honestly, I didn't want to say such words, but not saying them would make me not know what to do, so I'll say it once more.

Li Deshang said, bowing once again.

He knew about the events that happened in the martial arts school today.

His heart was full of gratitude.

And thus, even more guilt.

Because he felt he hadn't helped Jason but instead, Jason had helped him repeatedly.

Just like at this moment.

This official of Mountain City felt a mix of guilt and gratitude that left him unsure what to do.

He originally wanted to bury this debt in his heart.

But now, he couldn't keep it silent.

"Then treat me to a meal afterward.

Jason said this.

The momentarily conflicted Li Deshang, unsure what to do, immediately nodded upon hearing these words, saying, No problem, even if I have to sell my pots and pans, I'll treat Brother Mu to a meal.

After saying that, Li Deshang had a pained expression on his face.

Inviting this Brother Mu for a meal indeed made him feel the pinch.

At least his small stash would not be safe.

The things he secretly saved up would also have to be sold off.

Yet, he didnt regret it.

Even if he had to wash dishes at the Drunken Fairy Tower, he wouldnt regret it.

This was a debt he owed to this Brother Mu from the outset.

Seeing Li Deshangs pained expression made Jason smile.

The reason he was willing to continue cooperating with Li Deshang, aside from Li Deshangs integrity, was precisely this personality trait if he owed someone, Li Deshang would surely repay them, even if it pained him to the core.

What could be better than a partner who doesnt renege on their debts?

Naturally, its someone who repays their debts twofold.

Li Deshang is just such a person.

"Brother Gousheng, would you be willing to go with me to Red Fragrance Alley?"

Chapter 1299: 37 Shadows! (2)

Jason invited.

"Of course.

Li Deshang smiled.

Although it couldnt be determined whether the current situation was related to Red Fragrance House, since the old owner of Red Fragrance House had acted as a mediator once, it was likely they knew something about the matter.

The carriage remained in place.

Jason and Li Deshang walked side by side.

Jia Youcai wiped his saber clean and followed behind.

Red Fragrance House was also on Martial Arts Street, and it didnt take much time to walk from Mu-style Martial Arts School to Red Fragrance House.

Moreover, it seemed that because Xu Dashan had just returned today, the secretive market at Red Fragrance House had not opened, and at this time, besides the lanterns at the door, there was only a faint candlelight inside.

Bang, bang bang!

Jia Youcai stepped forward to knock and announced his identity.

A moment later, Xu Dashan personally came out to greet them.

He led Jason and the others into the living room, and tea and snacks were quickly served.

"Lord Li, Master Mu, what brings you both here in the middle of the night?

Xu Dashan asked.

His gaze darted back and forth between Li Deshang and Jason, trying to guess their purpose.

Neither Jason nor Li Deshang spoke, the latter only said lightly.

"Jia Youcai, tell Mr. Xu what just happened.

Jia Youcai immediately stepped up and recounted everything in detail.

As Jia Youcai spoke halfway, cold sweat broke out on Xu Dashans back.

Damn it!

Curse it!

The old owner cursed inwardly.

He had speculated about many things just now, wondering what issue could bring Jason and Li Deshang here together.

But he had not expected it to be such a matter.

He also didnt expect those six major households in the city, who had been begging him, to do such a thing. Yet, at this moment, Xu Dashan could not worry about that.

"Apologies, Officer Jia.

Xu Dashan bowed first to Jia Youcai and then to Li Deshang, saying: Please forgive me, Lord Li, I have nothing to do with this matter.

Jia Youcai sidestepped, avoiding such a salute.

He had an old mother, and he absolutely could not accept a salute from someone around her age.

He was not afraid of shortening his own life.

What he feared was implicating his mother.

Li Deshang remained seated, unmoved.

He had accepted Xu Dashans salute in his capacity as the chief of Mountain City.

"Then tell me the whole story.

Li Deshang sat there looking at Xu Dashan.

"I previously received some information that the Transmigration Cult has been causing trouble recently, so I prepared to temporarily take refuge in Zhoufu. Upon my return, your purging the universe was something I agreed with, but the six major households in the city used to have a good relationship with me, and a few of them I know well. When they pleaded with me, I had a moment of compassion and couldnt help but mention it to Master Mu.

"The whole sequence of events is like this. I was just soft-hearted for a moment, with no interest involved, and I received no promises either.

Xu Dashan stated righteously.

Li Deshang looked at Xu Dashan, and he fundamentally did not believe a word from the old owner of Red Fragrance House.

What compassion.

What moment of weakness.

What no interests.

It should be that the six major households in the city offered substantial benefits, and then the old owner of Red Fragrance House couldnt resist being tempted and took the risk to try.

Moreover, his opponent was quite cautious.

They didnt come to him but to his brother Mu.

If they came to him and he refused, there would be no turning back.

If they came to his brother Mu, even if refused, there was still room to negotiate.

Truly an old fox.

Handling things so meticulously.

But tonights event...

Li Deshang gently tapped the armrest of the chair several times, staring intently at Xu Dashan.

"Regarding Officer Jia and his mothers matter, I have no knowledge at all.

"This should have been the decision of those households themselves. They wanted to reclaim what was lost but dared not act too excessively, so they chose Officer Jia as their target.

Xu Dashan said and bowed apologetically to Jia Youcai once again.

Jia Youcai dodged once more.

Xu Dashan was about to bow again but was interrupted by Li Deshang.

The chief of Mountain City sneered, saying coldly: Not daring to act too excessively? Its only because I stay long in the office and my brother Mu is highly skilled that they didnt dare to act, so they chose Jia Youcai. Hah!

Saying this, Li Deshang sneered again.

Murderous intent surfaced in his heart.

He originally planned to give other households a way out, but now it seemed that he was too soft-hearted.

Wildfire cannot burn them out, the spring wind will bring them back to life!

Must completely eradicate them!

Li Deshang clenched his fist within his sleeve, making up his mind.

Watching Li Deshang, though Xu Dashan didnt see the clenched fist under the sleeve, he noticed the chilling gleam in Li Deshangs eyes clearly and couldnt help but sigh inwardly.

He knew the six major households in the city were doomed this time.

If they had a slim chance before, now it truly seemed like a dead end.

Li Deshang has such a strong killing intent!

Why didnt I see it before?

He seemed just like a scholar.

As Xu Dashan sighed inwardly, Jason, who had remained silent, suddenly asked.

"The Transmigration Cult causing trouble?

"Yes, the Transmigration Cult is not only in Mountain City but also has followers in Zhoufu, and its even rumored to exist in the Northern Capital and Shu Capital.

"They form secret societies, with unified secret codes, making it difficult for outsiders to intervene. Even trying to secretly investigate is hard; the Empire has sent several spies, but none have returned.

Chapter 1300: - s Shades! (3)

"Especially the altar masters of each Zhoufu. Every single one of them is a highly skilled martial artist."

"And, and..."

Xu Dashan, who had been speaking smoothly, suddenly started to stutter.

"And what?"

Li Deshang pressed on.

Xu Dashan didn't speak immediately but instead got up, closed the hall door, and then returned to the three of them, speaking in a lowered voice, "And there are 'Divine Envoys'!"

"Divine Envoys?"

It was the first time Li Deshang had heard this term.

Jia Youcai looked even more puzzled; he didn't even know that the 'Transmigration Cult' existed in the Zhoufu, only thinking that it was an emerging cult force around 'Mountain City.'

But Jason remained calm.

In fact, he seemed to be faintly looking forward to it.

After all, the taste of [Blood Mist Evil Spirit Bead] was quite good.

"Yes, Divine Envoys, rumored to come and go without a trace, able to take lives undetected some say that the imperial spies sent out were all never to return because of these Divine Envoys!"

Xu Dashan spoke in a voice only a few could hear.

"These?"

"There is more than one Divine Envoy?"

Li Deshang caught the key words.

"Right!"

"Based on some information we gathered from Red Fragrance Alley, there are at least four Divine Envoys of the 'Transmigration Cult,' as we have gathered, but as for whether there are more, I cannot be sure."

Xu Dashan stated truthfully.

And without waiting for Li Deshang to ask further, he added.

"These four Divine Envoys are three men and one woman, with their specific ages unknown, but all are ruthless characters."

"Except for the woman whose strength is not clearly displayed, among the three male Divine Envoys, one can spew flames and melt gold and iron, another sends frosty blasts with his fists and feet, freezing living beings instantly, and the remaining one is the most troublesome, not only is he mysterious and elusive, but he can also seize souls and kill invisibly."

"The four have never appeared simultaneously."

"But each time only one appears, it stirs up a lot of commotion, leaving people shocked and scared."

As Xu Dashan spoke, Li Deshang frowned.

He had never heard of any Divine Envoys.

But what Xu Dashan was saying sounded unbelievable to him.

Spewing flames and melting gold and iron.

Sending frosty blasts with fists and feet, freezing the living.

Also seizing souls and killing invisibly.

Isn't this something that even a martial artist who has mastered 'skin training' couldn't achieve?

Perhaps in legends, martial artists can reach a higher level?

But is it possible?

Does the 'Transmigration Cult' have such experts?

Li Deshang pondered internally, his expression turning serious once more.

He thought he had already overestimated the 'Transmigration Cult,' but still, he had underestimated them.

'I must petition Zhoufu Office again.'

'It requires strict defense!'

Li Deshang mused internally.

Jason suddenly understood, realizing that the Divine Envoy with the [Blood Mist Evil Spirit Bead] he encountered earlier was likely the most troublesome among the three male Divine Envoys mentioned.

'I wonder what 'food' the remaining three Divine Envoys will bring.'

Jason speculated about the taste of the food.

His gaze turned towards the outside of the hall.

Footsteps, swift ones, sounded as a constable stumbled and rolled his way in.

"Sir, Chief, Mr. Mu, something terrible has happened!"

"Dead, they're all dead!"

"And, and..."

The constable spoke with a sobbing tone.

His voice was stuttered, unable to complete his sentences, clearly frightened.

In an instant, all four present stood up.

"Calm down, what happened?"

Jia Youcai asked his subordinate.

"Chief, the six families that the adults had us surround are all dead!"

"And, and..."

"Come with me and you'll see."

The constable said, casting a frightened glance at Jason, then led the way without daring to speak further.

Jason was the first to step forward.

There was no malice on this constable, nor any deathly aura; his heart was just pounding rapidly, coupled with the panic on his face and the look he gave Jason, it was enough to indicate he had seen something terrifying.

Moreover, it was something related to him.

Li Deshang and Jia Youcai followed without hesitation.

Xu Dashan hesitated for a moment before following.

He didn't want to go.

But Xu Dashan knew very well that he was already caught up in it.

Going could give him a bit of an initiative.

If he did nothing and just waited here, then he would truly fall into passivity.

As a fairly successful businessman, Xu Dashan was very clear about the importance of taking the initiative.

He waved a hand towards his attendants.

Immediately, a dozen strong men armed with clubs emerged, dividing into two teams, one to guard Red Fragrance Alley, and the other followed behind Xu Dashan.

Li Deshang and Jia Youcai glanced briefly, saying nothing.

Both knew what Red Fragrance Alley was about.

Having those people was expected.

As for bringing some along?

That was also understandable.

After all, with Mu Bai there, they weren't worried.

Moreover, they weren't without their own resources.

A team of twenty musketeers followed behind the carriage as it left Martial Arts Street, with the men holding clubs following a bit further back, and at the front was a team of five constables holding torches.

Jia Youcai drove the carriage, while Jason, Li Deshang, and Xu Dashan sat inside.

The journey was unimpeded, and the group arrived at the mansion of the Zhang Family in the city.

The constables and yamen runners had it surrounded on all sides.

Seeing Jason step out of the carriage, they, like the previous constable, displayed a flash of fear in their eyes.

Jason frowned.

Without pausing, he walked straight into the mansion.

Bodies!

From the corridors to the hall, the way was lined with bodies!

Bodies forcibly blasted to pieces!

And on the wall next to the garden gate of the second courtyard, blood spelled out five large characters

The killer is Mu Bai!