

## 259 First City [3]

'Karma plays a great role in each person's fate. And as for what I observe, despite having a huge number of negative karmic points, I still don't have an ill-fated life. In which case, I can assume that fate was still kind to me. But, it doesn't mean that harming others would just mean negative points for me.' 1

'People with negative points can be my way of having a positive one. Hence, killing people doesn't mean that my karmic points will be added negatively. So, these White Lead people, what should I do to them?'

Lucas then scratched his nape and approached one of them. It was just a newcomer, but the arrogance around him was something unpredictable. He'd act humble one moment, then laugh at them the next when they let down their guard.

"Wahaha! Do you think you deserve my respect? Fuck off!"

An innocent vendor ran away from this man as he was kicked in the buttocks while being laughed at. And as Lucas observed the vendor, he couldn't help but smile as his eyes were shouting with anger, which the man didn't notice.

He had a smug face, which was common for those who had an arrogant nature. And as Lucas approached him, he had the intention of learning how to exploit the same people like him.

'It is not necessary for me to do some experiments. I can just go directly to him, but I don't want things to escalate. I still don't know if the citizens are in favor of the White Lead. In rare scenarios, there would always be one who idolizes tyrants, which I can't understand. So, before I make sure that everyone will be in favor of me, I will gather White Lead people in my sight and attack them in one go.'

"Excuse me, but I am a warrior from the Quanzhi Province. I am not sure what kind of power you hold, but it seems that you have something close to being an executive."

'First, compliments. By showing a mysterious identity from another place, the other party will be wary of me. And as they become wary, they will also consider the opportunities and things they can get from me by being friendly.'

"Oh, who am I speaking to?" The man sounded respectful, which made Lucas confident that he was taking the mark.

"Lucas Wei. I am a well-known person in Quanzhi Province, but I just don't know if I am known here. But it is not necessary... I am a bit

confused in this place, so I am searching for help."

The man whom Lucas was talking to was just an average warrior who had average robes and an average face. He thoroughly looked at Lucas, assessing him, and gave it a thought.

'Expensive clothes... good sword... and also a stiff yet proud stance. This man is not a joke. I might get rewarded if I help this man.'

The man Lucas was speaking with took a positive attitude towards him as he considered how to benefit from the conversation. He was respectful, and Lucas made certain that everything was in order at this time.

'I just have to make sure that people see a hint that I am trying to help them. A wink will mean something, right?' Lucas thought.

"How can I help you then, Lord Wel?"

"Nothing serious. Can you help me with becoming familiar with this place? And also to your comrades. I am thinking of hiring some mercenaries and someone pointed me to you."

That being said, the man's eyes flickered with joy as he pleased Lucas the way he knew.

"I am grateful that someone noticed my worth. I am Kalus, Lord Wel, and I am from White Lead."

"R-Really? You are from the White Lead, the famous mercenary group and rumored to be the authority in the Wu Region?" Lucas asked, acting clueless about the thing.

Some people were passing by that were starting to recognize Lucas. And as he was talking with someone who was known to be a tyrant, even though he had just come here recently, they couldn't help but feel nervous. Lucas, noticing it, winked at them and gave a short smile, giving them assurance so that they wouldn't be suspicious of him. If that happened, all his hard work would be put to waste. He could not let it happen.

A few hours later, Lucas went with the man named Kalus, as he was his target to get known to other members of White Lead. Even though White Lead members were not close with each other, they had some ways to recognize each other and learn that they were sworn brothers by their mercenary group. And as Lucas started to learn each one of them, he was now sure who to target with his word techniques.

"I am thankful for the time that you spent helping me. Then, please accept this little amount. "

Smoke appeared on his nose as if he was overjoyed with the amount of money he had received from Lucas. Lucas simply ignored him

after that and spent the night thinking of what to do with what he learned. The problem was not that serious; he could just solve them easily, but it would take time for him to do it one by one.

And so, he had an idea in mind that would surely work...

The next day, Lucas went to meet with Kalus, but he spotted him harassing someone else, who knew him. He tried to enlist Lucas' assistance, but Lucas shook his head and silently pleaded with him to bear it. While Lucas walked to Kalus's side, the man observed and did it.

"Sir Kalus, I am thinking of asking every White Lead member for a meal today. Would you help me with persuading them to gather?"

[Basics of Word Technique: Mental Manner]

Kalus took a moment to pause and blankly looked at Lucas. He was silent, and after a few seconds, he nodded and smiled.

"Of course! Those hungry bastards will like it for sure. Please wait a moment; I will get them all." And Kalus left.

Lucas took a breather and then faced the citizens around him. Some of them were already so curious about his scheme that they couldn't help but release the questions they had. And as Lucas saw nothing wrong with answering them,

as Kalus was already away, he then revealed his plan.

"I am gathering them here and you guys will give them the beating they deserve."

They gasped. "W-What? Can we do that? What if they fight back?"

"Don't worry. I will be protecting you. This is proof that I am on your side and I will do everything to free you from the tyranny that you are experiencing with the White Lead. It's a good thing that you endured the pain earlier. Now, you will inflict the pain on them."

It was ruthless. Lucas's look was both sly and roaring with malice. Everything in Lucas's mind was centered on a citizen's happiness. And, for some reason, visualizing their anguish couldn't help but make him smile and giggle. He then went about the work he had assigned to them.

"Gather everyone... this will be exciting!"

A few moments later, all of the White Lead members in the city arrived with enthusiastic expressions on their faces. They were looking forward to the invitation Lucas had given to them. And simply by giving it a cloudy atmosphere, Lucas gave them an uncertain look.

"Wow... if it will benefit you, you will all gather together. I can't believe that your faces were so

think that you were able to think that I would really buy you guys a meal." Lucas bluntly said, his words instantly breaking the optimistic expressions on their faces.

"What do you mean, Lord Wei? Didn't you ask Kalus to gather us here?"

"I did. But it didn't mean that I would really buy you all a meal. However, instead of doing that, I will just give you a gift." Lucas said.

"Even if you were acting strange, I would still believe in you. Then, your gifts must have something in exchange, right? Do you want us to get the people out of the city? We can do that. But it will cost you too much."

Lucas scoffed the next second after he heard what another person from White Lead blurted out. He was so positive with his words that he didn't even think about whether Lucas was alright with his suggestion.

'Look at how excited they are.'

"Then, I will give you the gift if you follow my orders today. I will surely pay you more than what White Lead could offer." With his cultivation being leaked, Lucas made an offer to them. He was intending to cause some fear, but, instead of having it, they were mesmerized by how persuading he was.

'Lord Lucas has a lot of money, and he is not giving us shortly. He is strong and handsome. It is not a mistake if we follow him. He will definitely seize the city while we are posing as members of White Lead. I can suggest that instead of publicly showing that we are not members of the White Lead anymore, we should act like the same but an outsider faction of the mercenary group.'

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