

The Beauty 1151

Chapter 1151 Touring the Clubhouse

Passing through the vermilion gates, Ling Chen and Tong Zhentian arrived at the martial arts arena. Over the past few days, Ling Chen had already set up the arena. At one end, there hung a massive character "Martial," flanked by two rows of weapon racks. Swords, spears, sabers, halberds, axes, clubs, and staffs, the eighteen types of weapons were neatly displayed, exuding an impressive aura.

Tong Zhentian nodded as he observed, praising, "Not bad, well arranged. It seems you've put a lot of thought into it."

Ling Chen smiled and said, "If we are to do it, then we must do our best. Elder Tong, come, I'll show you around." With those words, Ling Chen led the way, guiding Tong Zhentian into the main building.

To match the style of the Martial Arts Academy, the decor of the entire building exhibited an antiquated charm. On the snow-white walls hung several calligraphy paintings, all works of ancient masters. Of course, these were replicas, not originals. Although Ling Chen was wealthy, he didn't want to waste money on useless things.

Genuine calligraphies and paintings are very expensive these days, casually fetching prices in the tens of millions, making it unnecessary to waste money.

Tong Zhentian glanced around and asked, "You especially called me over, not just to look at these, right?"

Ling Chen's lips slightly curled upward, subtly flattering as he said, "Nothing escapes Elder Tong. Elder Tong, please follow me." Before long, the two stepped into an elevator.

After entering the password and scanning his fingerprint, Ling Chen took out an identification card, gently swiping it across the device. Instantly, the red button turned green. This elevator was the only access to the second basement level, and due to its importance, Tang Guolun had specially enhanced the security system. Three layers of passwords were required to activate the elevator. Moreover, they must be entered completely within half a minute. Otherwise, the building's alarm would sound, and the elevator would seal shut. No one would be able to escape.

Though somewhat troublesome, it must be said that this ensures the security of the second basement level is foolproof.

Before long, Ling Chen and Tong Zhentian took the elevator down to the second basement level. Exiting the elevator, a solid explosion-proof door blocked their path.

Ling Chen stepped forward, looked at the security camera atop the door, then placed his hand on the recognition device beside it. Shortly, the door produced a soft click and slowly moved aside, revealing a passage wide enough for two people.

This explosion-proof door cannot be opened from the outside; it can only be unlocked by identity confirmation from the first basement level's technical staff.

"Elder Tong, didn't you say last night that it's impossible for me to reach the heights of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion within three years? What I want to tell you is that it's not an impossible task. Come, let me show you."

Passing through a few meters of passage, Tong Zhentian followed Ling Chen to the well-protected library.

Upon entering the library, Tong Zhentian was stunned by the vast collection of books before him. As book titles met his gaze, Tong Zhentian slightly parted his lips, his eyes finally replaced by a hint of shock.

"These... all of these are..." Despite his worldly experiences, Tong Zhentian found himself stammering.

Ling Chen nodded with a smile and said, "You're not mistaken; every book here is a martial arts manual, some containing lost skills." As he spoke, Ling Chen walked to a bookshelf, carefully selecting a tattered, yellowing book, and handed it to Tong Zhentian.

"Elder Tong, you are knowledgeable and should recognize the contents of this book."

Tong Zhentian did not hesitate, eagerly opening to the first page. As he read the large characters written on the first page, he couldn't help but exclaim, "This is... the Nine Yang Qiankun Step, Elder Su's Absolute Skill."

"Indeed. Besides the Nine Yang Qiankun Step, there are many treasured martial arts manuals here. Elder Tong, I wonder if you have ever visited the Book Collection Pavilion of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?"

"No, outsiders are not allowed into the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's Book Collection Pavilion, even though I have good relations with them, they wouldn't permit it. However, Elder Su once mentioned the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's library to me. He said it contains various martial arts manuals, totaling hundreds, with over a dozen being precious ones. When Elder Su mentioned this, I was indeed surprised, but now I've discovered that the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's collection is nothing compared to yours, truly a small affair in comparison."

Ling Chen grinned and said, "Elder Tong, perhaps now you'll believe I wasn't exaggerating."

Tong Zhentian nodded, saying seriously, "With such a foundation of books, surpassing the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion in three years might be ambitious, but equaling their stature is feasible. Ling Chen, can you tell me where you found all these books?"

"Elder Tong, I apologize; I would like to tell you, but it involves personal privacy and secrets, so it's inconvenient to disclose. However, I can assure you these martial arts manuals were not stolen by me; they are inherited from our ancestors." Ling Chen replied.

The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion may have a history spanning hundreds of years, but the Ling Family's history dates back even further, by several centuries. Therefore, in terms of heritage, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is no match for the Ling Family.

"Since it's inconvenient for you to say, I won't press further. Ling Chen, what do you plan to do? Do you intend to store such a multitude of martial arts manuals away? If so, that would indeed be a pity."

Ling Chen chuckled, understanding Tong Zhentian's thoughts well. Tong Zhentian desired the revival of Huaxia's Martial Arts but found himself thwarted at every turn, unable to find a viable method. Now, seeing so many precious martial arts manuals, it was impossible for him not to be intrigued.

However, Ling Chen knew Tong Zhentian's character; he wouldn't harbor devious intentions, at most he would persuade Ling Chen to contribute to Huaxia's Martial Arts.

"Elder Tong, don't be hasty; the reason I asked you here is to discuss this. This is not the place to talk about it; let's move somewhere else to continue our conversation."

In the guest room on the first floor, Ling Chen brewed a cup of tea for Tong Zhentian and asked, "Elder Tong, what do you think is the biggest problem with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?"

Tong Zhentian thought for a moment and said, "Hoarding it all."

"Precisely! That's the biggest problem with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and our only exploitable flaw. Hence, after thorough consideration, I've realized that to gain an advantage, we must start there."

Tong Zhentian asked with interest, "What do you plan to do?"

"The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion treats those martial arts manuals like treasures, keeping them hidden. Since that's the case, why not do the opposite, releasing these manuals to the public for everyone to train with? Thus, the so-called historical foundation of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will cease to exist. At that time, do you think the people of the Martial Arts world will come to my Dragon Tiger Hall or go to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?"

Chapter 1152 Martial Arts Hall Master

Tong Zhentian's eyes brightened, unable to suppress his excitement, he asked, "You... you really willing to do this?"

"Why not?" Ling Chen smiled slightly, "My purpose in doing this, besides reducing the influence of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, is also to contribute a little to Huaxia's Martial Arts. I know that now Huaxia's Martial Arts world is gradually declining, and many styles have already lost their lineage. As you said, if no action is taken, in decades or even a hundred years, Huaxia's Martial Arts might really turn into mere flower fists and embroidery legs. I think this is not the outcome we wish to see."

"Well said." Tong Zhentian said with great interest, "Many practitioners regard their Martial Arts as a valuable treasure, reluctant to pass it on to others. But when this treasure becomes worthless, who

would painstakingly keep it? Ling Chen, I was not wrong about you, your idea is excellent, if nothing unexpected happens, the next fifty years will be the most glorious time for Huaxia's Martial Arts world."

"Elder Tong, it's too early to say this now. Whether Dragon Tiger Hall can rise, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is key." Ling Chen didn't speak plainly, but with Tong Zhentian's experience, he should understand his meaning.

If the rise of Dragon Tiger Hall harms the interests of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, they certainly won't stand by silently but will take action. Therefore, if this issue cannot be resolved, Dragon Tiger Hall might be strangled by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

Tong Zhentian obviously realized this difficulty too, his face darkened, and he remained silent for a long time.

After a while, Tong Zhentian's gaze suddenly became determined. He looked at Ling Chen and said, "This is a rare opportunity for Huaxia's Martial Arts world, I won't let anyone ruin it, not even the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion only considers its own interests, never thinking about the future of Huaxia's Martial Arts world. As the saying goes, different paths cannot run together, if the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion dares to do anything that harms the interests of the Martial Arts world, I absolutely won't sit idly by. Ling Chen, if you think this old man still has some use, why not arrange a position for me in Dragon Tiger Hall? Anyone who dares to trouble Dragon Tiger Hall should weigh if they are up to it."

Hearing this, Ling Chen couldn't suppress his joy and asked, "Really?"

Tong Zhentian nodded and said, "What you are doing is a good deed, a great cause benefiting Huaxia's Martial Arts world, and it's also my life-long goal. I thought I might not live to see the day Huaxia's Martial Arts rise, but you let me see hope. However, let me put the ugly words first, if I find out your actions are different from what you said, then don't blame me for being impolite."

"Elder Tong, rest assured, I won't disappoint you." Ling Chen hurriedly promised.

That's wonderful!

This is definitely a pleasant surprise. Initially, he just wanted to invite Tong Zhentian to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony of Dragon Tiger Hall. For this, he had been worrying, not knowing how to persuade Tong Zhentian. After all, Tong Zhentian's relationship with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was well-known. But what he didn't expect was that Tong Zhentian not only would attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony but also voluntarily requested to hold a position at Dragon Tiger Hall. What does this mean?

Starting today, Tong Zhentian will become the Heavenly List master stationed at Dragon Tiger Hall. Anyone intending trouble for Dragon Tiger Hall must weigh their own capabilities. Moreover, with Tong Zhentian and Ji Gang, Dragon Tiger Hall will have two Heavenly List masters. Currently, there are only three or four Heavenly List masters in the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen is filled with confidence in the future of Dragon Tiger Hall.

"Elder Tong, since you are willing to join Dragon Tiger Hall, then you must assume the position of Martial Arts Hall Master, you definitely cannot decline."

"I can become the Martial Arts Hall Master, anyway I'm just here to boost your prestige, but let me declare, I'm not taking care of things. I'm too old now, and don't have much energy."

"Of course, Dragon Tiger Hall has specialized people to manage, you just need to occasionally guide everyone. The guidance of a Heavenly List master will surely attract many Martial Arts enthusiasts."

Hearing this, Tong Zhentian couldn't help but laugh and scold, "You little rascal... so quickly you begin to dig into my value."

Ling Chen rubbed his nose, embarrassed, and smiled, "We have limited resources now, naturally we must make the most use of them."

"Alright! I won't bicker with you about these things, when do you plan to open Dragon Tiger Hall?"

"In a couple of days. Since you've assumed the position of Martial Arts Hall Master, we must publicize it well, expand the influence, and let more people know. Moreover, I still have many things to prepare."

"Alright, remember to inform me on the day of the ribbon-cutting, I'll be staying at the hotel these days."

After driving Tong Zhentian back to the hotel, Ling Chen made several calls instructing Tang Guolun to prepare what was needed for the ribbon-cutting day. In addition, Ling Chen specifically called Qiu Yong.

During this period, Qiu Yong and others have been busy helping with the promotion. The eight peculiar figures are very famous in the Martial Arts world and have wide connections, with their help in promotion, it's twice the result with half the effort.

Arranging everything, Ling Chen let out a long sigh. Thinking about the imminent opening of Dragon Tiger Hall, Ling Chen's heart did not feel excited, but rather anxious. As for the object of his anxiety, there is no doubt it is the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

With the intelligence network of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, they must already know about Dragon Tiger Hall, wondering what actions they might take.

After consultation, Ling Chen and others decided to hold the ribbon-cutting ceremony three days later. If it were before, Ling Chen could only rely on promotion to attract the attention of Martial Arts enthusiasts. But now it's different, with Tong Zhentian as the Martial Arts Hall Master of Dragon Tiger Hall, any Martial Arts enthusiast must give Tong Zhentian face.

Moreover, Tong Zhentian instructed Ling Chen that there are still quite a few significant figures in the Martial Arts world, although not comparable to him, their influence is not weak. According to Martial Arts rules, invitations must be delivered to these notable figures personally.

Having to deal with these miscellaneous matters, Ling Chen hasn't returned home for several days, eating and sleeping at Dragon Tiger Hall.

Fortunately, Ling Chen has many people to command, with everyone's efforts, the venue was arranged in less than two days, and everything was ready.

Meanwhile, Martial Arts enthusiasts coming to attend the ribbon-cutting of Dragon Tiger Hall are arriving in East Sea City one after another.

At the airport, station, Ling Chen has assigned personnel specifically for reception, providing dedicated transport. Through Nanrong Wanqing's connection, Ling Chen even reserved the most luxurious five-star hotel in East Sea City, just to give guests the most comfortable treatment.

"Ling Chen, tomorrow morning, several important figures will arrive in East Sea City, don't forget to greet them personally," Tong Zhentian explained over the phone.

"Elder Tong, rest assured, I've noted it down, such important matters definitely won't be forgotten," Ling Chen replied.

Chapter 1153 An Unexpected Interference

The important figures arriving tomorrow are all grandmasters from the martial arts world, either sect leaders of reputable schools or highly esteemed teachers with disciples all over the world. If it weren't for Tong Zhentian's influence, probably only the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion could invite them.

The more guests arrive, the greater the pressure on Ling Chen. So many people practically represent the entire martial arts world, and if any mishap occurs, it would be a tremendous blow to the Dragon Tiger Hall.

Night falls.

Having been busy the whole day, Ling Chen returned home. He intended to stay at the Dragon Tiger Hall, but after much persuasion from Tang Guolun, Qiu Yong, and others, he agreed to go home and rest. Moreover, with important guests arriving tomorrow, he needed to spruce up and change clothes.

At home, Nanrong Wanqing and the other women were there, some watching TV, others playing on the computer, all engrossed in their own activities.

Seeing Ling Chen return exhausted, Tang Shiyun immediately put down her phone, quickly ran to him, and wrapped her arms around his, saying, "Ling, where have you been these days? We haven't even caught a glimpse of you."

Ling Chen smiled slightly, "I've been really busy lately."

"No matter how busy you are, you should still come home," Liu Xiyao chimed in, "Don't tell me you dislike us for taking over your house, so you won't come back?"

Upon hearing this, Nanrong Wanqing and Zhu Xiaozhu couldn't help but look up at Ling Chen.

Cough!

"Uh... Xiyao, aren't you overthinking it? How could I dislike you? I've genuinely been busy lately. I'm not lying to you guys."

"Is it because of that Dragon Tiger Hall?" Nanrong Wanqing suddenly asked, "I heard Nanrong Hao mention it. What's this Dragon Tiger Hall? And why such an odd name?"

Ling Chen chuckled, "It's just a martial arts academy, no need for an elegant name."

"A martial arts academy?" Liu Xiyao asked with interest, "What made you suddenly want to open one? Hey! When is your academy opening? We should come and support you."

"The day after tomorrow, if you're interested, I'll arrange for someone to pick you up."

"Alright, it's a deal then." Since the day after tomorrow is Sunday, everyone can go to the Dragon Tiger Hall without much else to do.

Early the next morning.

Before the women woke up, Ling Chen was already dressed and driving to the airport alone.

At eight-thirty, Ling Chen arrived punctually outside the airport. At this time, the five luxury cars arranged by Tang Guolun for the reception had also arrived. In preparation for hosting guests from all over, Ling Chen had rented over fifty luxury cars, with daily expenses reaching millions.

"Chen!"

Seeing Ling Chen, everyone greeted him. The drivers were subordinates of Jiang Hao and Zhao Zhengxiong.

"Thank you for your hard work."

The group headed to the airport exit, silently waiting for the distinguished guests to arrive.

At this moment, a large passenger plane slowly landed at the East Sea International Airport. As the cabin door opened, a man over fifty with graying hair was the first to walk down. Following him were four elders in their sixties and seventies. Despite their age, the elders were bright-eyed and sprightly, showing no signs of frailty.

Each elder was accompanied by two young disciples, tasked with serving and handling the luggage during their travels.

"Master, the Dragon Tiger Hall's people are waiting outside the airport exit. Shall we go?"

"Alright."

Just then, several Rolls-Royces suddenly drove over and stopped beside the plane. A young man stepped out of the car and walked directly toward the elders.

"Elder Liu, Elder Yang, Sir Chen, Elder Yuan, Elder Huang." The young man cupped his hands and smiled, "It's a pleasure to meet you, esteemed figures of the martial arts world."

The elders scrutinized the young man and asked, "Are you Ling Chen?"

"You must be mistaken; I'm not Ling Chen. Let me introduce myself; my name is Wang Hao, a disciple of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, under Master Su He."

After hearing this, the elders were momentarily stunned. Weren't the people from the Dragon Tiger Hall supposed to pick them up? How did a disciple of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion appear instead? Moreover, Su He's disciple... that title carries weight.

One of the elders was the first to react, smiling and saying, "So, you're Elder Su's esteemed student. What's the purpose of your visit, Mr. Wang?"

"My master knew you all would be coming to East Sea City, so he specifically sent me to welcome you. Your accommodations have been prepared. Please, get in the car!"

The elders exchanged puzzled glances, not quite understanding the situation. They had been invited by the Dragon Tiger Hall and were also scheduled to meet Tong Zhentian. Now, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's unexpected intervention put them in a dilemma.

If it were anyone else, they wouldn't bother, but the person in question was from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and Su He's disciple at that. Wang Hao's presence undeniably represented Su He. Refusing Wang Hao would be akin to refusing the entire Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Few in the martial arts world dared to do so.

Despite being highly respected martial artists, they didn't dare voice such refusal.

At this moment, one elder suggested with a smile, "Gentlemen, since there's still time, why not accompany Mr. Wang for a while, then head to the Dragon Tiger Hall later? What do you think?"

The other elders nodded in agreement, finding this an optimal solution that wouldn't offend either side.

Wang Hao secretly chuckled. These old foxes are quite adept at plotting, but once they're in the car, they'll lose their freedom to decide.

"Please, step into the car."

Outside the airport exit, Ling Chen checked the time; it was already nine-thirty, yet the distinguished guests hadn't appeared. According to the flight information, their plane arrived in East Sea half an hour ago. Logically speaking, they should have come out by now, but there wasn't a sign of them yet.

Thinking it over, Ling Chen decided to call Tong Zhentian. Tong Zhentian had provided the flight information, so maybe there was an error.

"They couldn't have gotten it wrong. I asked them, and they all took the same flight. Ling, don't panic; perhaps something delayed them. I'll give them a call to find out."

A few minutes later, Tong Zhentian called back, his tone tinged with concern.

"I can't reach them by phone."

"All five of them?"

"Yes, it's unlikely a coincidence. They likely encountered some trouble. Ling, go investigate their whereabouts and ensure nothing happens," Tong Zhentian instructed.

"Alright, I'm on it." Without delay, Ling Chen headed to the airport security department.

It didn't take long for Ling Chen to discover the whereabouts of the distinguished guests.

They were picked up by car?

How is that possible? Ling Chen frowned, contemplating. Besides him, who else would send a car to pick them up? Could it be Tang Guolun? No, arrangements were clearly made for him to personally come to the airport, and there's no way Tang Guolun would make such a rookie mistake.

Chapter 1154 - 1161: The Means of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion

"Mr. Ling, I just checked the records. Half an hour ago, several Rolls-Royces entered the airport right when that flight arrived. I wonder if you arranged it wrong, sending out two teams to pick up the guests." The security staff asked.

"Impossible." Ling Chen thought for a moment and asked, "To enter the airport tarmac, a registration is required. May I ask who registered?"

"Hold on, I'll find out for you." The staff pulled up the information from the computer, glanced at it, and said, "Mr. Ling, the registered name here is Liu Yang. Do you know him?"

"Liu Yang?" Ling Chen slightly frowned, having never heard this name before. Thinking carefully, those people took the guests away before him, clearly intending to oppose him.

Could it be the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's doing? But, they wouldn't resort to such low-level tactics against him. Forget it! The opponent must be well-prepared, and there's no point in investigating further. Rather than wasting time here, it's better to return to the Dragon Tiger Hall and discuss with Tong Zhentian how to handle the matter.

An hour later.

Having received the news, Tong Zhentian had already rushed from the hotel to the Dragon Tiger Hall. Upon hearing that Ling Chen had returned, Tong Zhentian, accompanied by Tang Guolun and others, immediately went to the entrance.

"Ling Chen, how did it go? Have you found them?" Tong Zhentian asked anxiously.

"Elder Tong, I'm sorry, I didn't find them; they were picked up ahead of time." Ling Chen replied.

Tong Zhentian spoke worriedly, "I've called them countless times, but no one answered. I'm really worried something might have happened to them."

Ling Chen tried to reassure him, "Elder Tong, please don't worry just yet. It's unlikely anything has happened to them. They're all Masters in Martial Arts—skills far beyond ordinary capabilities. Moreover, the five of them combined can challenge even Heavenly List experts. What I'm wondering is who could have done this? Tomorrow is the Dragon Tiger Hall's opening ceremony, with Martial Artists from all over gathering in East Sea City. It's a grand event for the Martial arts world. Someone causing trouble now clearly has ill intentions, aiming at our Dragon Tiger Hall, making things difficult for us. I

initially thought it might be the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. But, given our unresolved conflict, they have no reason to hinder me at this time."

"It must be the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion," Tong Zhentian said sternly. "Don't think too highly of them; after all these years dealing with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, I know what kind of people they are. They may show brotherhood on the surface, but when their own interests are involved, they'll not give you any face. Moreover, making five experts disappear without a trace—no one else could achieve this except the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Hmph! Ling Chen, this opening ceremony has become quite the spectacle."

"Elder Tong, what do we do now?"

"Since it's the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's doing, we shouldn't confront them head-on. As long as the opening ceremony proceeds smoothly, let's avoid conflict with them for now. As for the VIPs for the ceremony, I'll try finding replacements," Tong Zhentian said.

The five invited Martial Arts experts were meant to attend the opening ceremony. Including Ling Chen and Tong Zhentian, there are seven people in total. With five important figures missing, Tong Zhentian must find five reputable experts in the Martial Arts community before the ceremony tomorrow—a significant challenge even for Tong Zhentian given his status and influence.

Ling Chen felt troubled; the importance of the ceremony guests is undeniable. The more influential and renowned the Martial Arts experts, the greater the impact and publicity. For this reason, Tong Zhentian pulled strings to invite the five Martial Arts masters.

Now, thinking back, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion must have anticipated this, intervening early to take those five Martial Arts masters away.

A night passed.

The next morning, Ling Chen woke up before five o'clock. The pressure from the Dragon Tiger Hall kept him awake. More importantly, there was still no news from Tong Zhentian, indicating the guest lineup for the ceremony wasn't finalized.

With about six hours left until the opening ceremony, Ling Chen hadn't felt such heavy pressure in ages.

After six in the morning, Tong Zhentian finally called. As soon as the call connected, Ling Chen heard Tong Zhentian swearing furiously. Ling Chen was somewhat surprised; for Tong Zhentian, with his refinement and cultivation, to be provoked to this extent—evidently not a trivial matter.

"Elder Tong, calm down first. Let's talk it through," Ling Chen said.

"Those bastards at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion—they'll pay for this. Just wait and see, one day I'll make them regret it," Tong Zhentian vented his anger.

Ling Chen offered some words of comfort and finally understood the reason behind Tong Zhentian's anger.

Since yesterday, Tong Zhentian made numerous calls inviting people to the opening ceremony. Thanks to his reputation, by evening he finally confirmed five new guests for the ceremony.

Tong Zhentian had been waiting for them, but just recently those individuals called, citing urgent matters as reasons they couldn't come to East Sea City.

If it's just one or two people, it's manageable. But when all five say the same, it's suspicious. Finally, under pressure from Tong Zhentian, one confessed that the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion had called overnight instructing him to refuse Tong Zhentian's invitation.

Faced with a choice between a Martial Arts icon and a dominant force ruling the Martial Arts for centuries, any smart person would pick the former.

This incident made Tong Zhentian, despite his years of self-cultivation, unconsciously curse.

Taking a deep breath to suppress his anger, Tong Zhentian said, "Ling Chen, seems the ceremony guests are a lost cause. You'll need to figure something out and find a few people to stand in."

"That's how it must be," Ling Chen agreed. He had planned in advance that if guests couldn't be found, they'd have Qiu Yong and others take the stage.

The 'Eight Oddities' may not be widely renowned, but their names are notable. Especially Zhang Zhongfeng, with the title 'Arrow God,' is known by all in the Martial Arts world.

After the call, Ling Chen sighed helplessly. At this moment, he truly felt the terrifying influence of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, as no one dared oppose it.

"Son, you look worried. Facing difficulties?" Yang Qingling asked from the dining table.

Ling Chen forced a smile and replied, "Nothing much, just a bit of trouble. I can handle it." After finishing his porridge, Ling Chen got up and said, "Mom, I have things to attend to, so I'm heading out. Later, when Wanqing and the others wake up, have them go straight to the Dragon Tiger Hall."

Chapter 1155 - 1162: Turmoil at the Venue (1)

"Okay, be careful on the road."

After Ling Chen left, Yang Qingling took out her phone and dialed a number.

"Hello! It's me. Your son is in trouble. As his father, don't you intend to help?"

At this moment, if Ling Chen heard this, he would probably be stunned. Ling Chen always thought that his dad and mom hadn't met yet, let alone communicated. But what he didn't know was who Ling Kun really was. Over the years, Ling Kun knew everything about his every move. Now that Yang Qingling has returned, how could Ling Kun not know?

As soon as Ling Chen went out, Ling Kun had secretly met with Yang Qingling. In Ling Kun's words, he didn't give Ling Chen his contact information because he wanted to cultivate his son's independence, to let him find ways to solve problems on his own when he encountered difficulties, rather than always seeking others for help.

"I know you want him to be independent. Isn't he independent enough now? Over the years, how much have you cared for him? What kind of father are you?" Yang Qingling said irritably, "I can see that Ling

Chen has encountered significant difficulties this time and is under a lot of pressure. I don't care what excuse you find. In short, if you don't help our precious son, don't expect to see me again."

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Dragon Tiger Hall.

From eight o'clock in the morning, Dragon Tiger Hall gradually became lively as martial arts enthusiasts who arrived a day or two early in East Sea City began to gather at Dragon Tiger Hall.

For today's opening ceremony, Ling Chen had prepared thoroughly. The entire martial arts venue was well-organized, capable of accommodating hundreds of guests without issues. In the center of the venue, dozens of professional waiters were weaving through the guests with fruit platters and wine, creating a lively atmosphere.

Everyone was from the martial arts community, having many common topics, and most of them knew each other. Thus, many groups were chatting in threes and fives in the martial arts venue.

As the deputy hall master of Dragon Tiger Hall, Ling Chen's primary task was to greet guests at the entrance. Ling Chen had a smile on his face for every arriving guest, exchanging polite words. Within less than an hour, Ling Chen's mouth was dry and his facial muscles were almost stiff.

At this point, He Ziyun walked over from the side, patting Ling Chen on the shoulder, saying, "Tired? Go rest for a bit, I'll help you entertain the guests."

When Dragon Tiger Hall was first established, Ling Chen had thought of He Ziyun. Being a skilled master on the Earthly List for decades, He Ziyun had some fame in the martial arts world. At Ling Chen's invitation, he finally persuaded He Ziyun to accept the position of deputy hall master of Dragon Tiger Hall.

Switching places with He Ziyun, Ling Chen, without taking time to rest, headed directly to the backup base on the second basement level by elevator. At this moment, led by Hu Fei, more than twenty technical personnel were busily working.

On the large screen in the center of the base, more than a dozen frames displayed scenes, monitoring every corner of Dragon Tiger Hall in real-time, to prevent any unexpected occurrences. Of course, the main concern was to guard against the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

Since the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion had already made a move, Ling Chen couldn't help but worry whether they might try to disrupt today, this important day.

"Fatty, how are things looking?"

"Everything's normal, no anomalies detected as of now." As he spoke, Hu Fei's gaze remained fixed on the screen. In one of the monitoring frames, a green box was scanning a guest's face. Beside it in the information bar, the guest's details quickly appeared.

Ling Chen curiously asked, "Fatty, what are you doing?"

"Didn't you say someone might cause trouble at the event? I'm helping you check these people's identities to see if there's anyone suspicious." Just as he finished speaking, a technician suddenly pointed at the screen and said, "Mr. Hu, this person seems to have an issue."

Ling Chen and Hu Fei looked up, where the green box had locked onto a man in his thirties. He was wearing a suit, holding a wine glass, leisurely mingling in the crowd. However, after a few minutes, he didn't engage in conversation with anyone. Moreover, with Ling Chen's extensive experience, he sensed that the man was stealthily observing the layout and arrangements of the martial arts venue.

"Check that person's information," Hu Fei said.

Soon, a string of question marks appeared in the screen's information bar next to it.

"Fatty, what does this mean?"

Hu Fei smirked and said, "It means there's no record of this person in the database. It seems our judgment was correct; this person indeed has a problem." After speaking, Hu Fei picked up the walkie-talkie and issued a command: "Number Three, Number Four, there's a man in his thirties wearing a suit

in your left front. Detain him and escort him to the interrogation room. Remember, keep it low-key, don't draw other guests' attention, or it'll cause chaos."

"Roger!"

Soon, through the surveillance screen, two young men in waiter uniforms approached the target from both sides. "Turn the audio receiver to maximum," Hu Fei instructed.

One young man walked in front of the middle-aged man, handed over the wine tray, and politely asked, "Sir, would you like more wine?"

The middle-aged man smiled gently, raising his wine glass, saying, "Thank you, but not for now."

While talking, the other young man quietly circled behind the middle-aged man, pretending to pass by from behind. However, as the two came close, the young man subtly leaned towards the middle-aged man. Instantly, the middle-aged man's expression changed slightly. Before he could speak, his body tipped forward.

The two young men standing nearby reacted swiftly, quickly supporting the middle-aged man's body, and called out, "This gentleman's had too much to drink, let's help him inside to rest."

Watching as the middle-aged man was escorted out of the venue, Ling Chen patted Hu Fei on the shoulder and smiled, "Well done."

"Will you handle the interrogation yourself or let Boss Tang do it?"

"I'll go. There's nothing pressing right now. You keep an eye on the venue and see if there are any other suspicious individuals. Identify them all. Today is the most important day for Dragon Tiger Hall, and I don't want anyone stirring up trouble." After finishing, Ling Chen turned and entered the elevator.

Shortly, Ling Chen arrived alone at the interrogation room.

Pushing the door open, the middle-aged man was tied to a chair, now fully conscious. Seeing Ling Chen enter, the middle-aged man spoke in a deep voice, "Mr. Ling, what is this about? Is this how you treat guests?"

Ling Chen replied with a blank expression, "If you genuinely came to celebrate, I would warmly welcome you. But the problem is, you seem to have another agenda. There are no outsiders here; why don't you tell me what you're really after?"

The middle-aged man frowned and said, "Mr. Ling, I don't quite understand your meaning. I only came by invitation to attend the Dragon Tiger Hall opening ceremony. If you don't welcome me, you could have told me directly, and I wouldn't have stayed here to impose."

Chapter 1156 - 1163: Conference Turmoil (2)

"Okay, if I'm wrong, I'll definitely apologize to you. You just said you were invited to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony, so what's your name? I'll have someone check if you're on the invitation list."

"Ling Chen, you're insulting me!" the middle-aged man shouted angrily, "You'd better let me go and apologize to me. Otherwise, I'll expose your actions to the public and let everyone know your true face."

Ling Chen smiled faintly, directly ignoring the other's threat, and said, "Unwilling to speak, are you? Or are you guilty, afraid I'll discover your real purpose and thus don't dare to tell me the truth?"

"I did not." The middle-aged man's tone was firm, but a flash of panic appeared in his eyes.

"A wise man knows when to adapt. Actually, even if you don't say it, I can guess your background. Humph! The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion sure values me highly. But if you wanted to come and congratulate me, you should have come openly. I wouldn't refuse. Why act so sneaky like a thief hiding in the dark?"

"What Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, what on earth are you talking about?"

Ling Chen chuckled nonchalantly, "It doesn't matter if you don't admit it. I didn't expect you to. I just want to know, besides you, how many others did the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion send to infiltrate?"

The middle-aged man replied coldly, "I don't know; I have nothing to do with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Ling Chen, don't slander me."

"I couldn't tell, you're quite loyal to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. But do you think I'm so easily fooled? Do you think as long as you insist you have nothing to do with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and refuse to admit it, I can't do anything to you? That I'll let you go after the ribbon-cutting ceremony?"

The middle-aged man's gaze shifted, but he said nothing.

Ling Chen continued to smile to himself, "Did the people from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion tell you that I'm a soft-hearted person, wouldn't use harsh methods on you, and that even if you got caught, there's nothing to fear? Ha! You really are naive. Now it seems, if I don't use some methods, you'll probably still think of me as just a good guy." Saying this, Ling Chen walked to the interrogation room door, opened it, and instructed the person standing outside with a few words.

In less than five minutes, the person outside brought in a metal briefcase.

Ling Chen tapped on the metal briefcase, staring straight at the middle-aged man, "Before I open the case, you still have one more chance. Will you talk or not?"

The middle-aged man kept his mouth shut, ignoring Ling Chen's words as if he hadn't heard them.

Seeing this, Ling Chen chuckled, his eyes glinting with a cold light.

"Buddy, if you knew about my past work, you'd definitely regret your decision just now." With that, Ling Chen didn't hesitate any longer and opened the metal briefcase.

In less than ten minutes, the time felt like torture to the two young men outside the interrogation room.

During these ten minutes, screams of torment never ceased from inside the interrogation room, each one worse than the last, making the young men feel chills down their spines. If not for the orders to stand firm and hold their posts, they would've already wanted to leave. Who would have thought that

normally gentle and harmless Ling Chen could be so ruthless? No wonder Jiang Hao and Zhao Zhengxiong treated Ling Chen with such respect – now they understood why.

A few more minutes passed, and finally, the screams from the interrogation room subsided. At the same time, the door opened from the inside, and Ling Chen, holding a rag, wiped the blood from his hands and instructed, "Drag him to the elevator."

"Yes!"

After Ling Chen left, the two young men hurried into the interrogation room. Instantly, a stench hit their noses. They saw the middle-aged man covered in blood, with a puddle of yellow liquid beneath him, and the odor was coming from his crotch.

Damn! This guy is so scared he lost control of his bladder and bowels. Not caring about the dirt, the two young men, one on each side, grabbed the middle-aged man's arms and dragged him out of the interrogation room.

It wasn't long before the middle-aged man was brought to the control room on the second basement level. Seeing the middle-aged man battered and bloody, Hu Fei clicked his tongue and said, "You were quite ruthless."

Ling Chen shrugged and said with a helpless expression, "I didn't want to be. I initially planned to have a nice chat with him, but he wouldn't cooperate and forced me to act. I said he'd regret it, but he just wouldn't listen. Who can be blamed for that? Enough talking! Pull up the surveillance."

Through Ling Chen's torture methods, the middle-aged man's mental defenses had already collapsed. At this moment, whatever Ling Chen said, he cooperated obediently, without a hint of wishful thinking.

Before long, under the middle-aged man's testimony, Hu Fei identified seven suspicious individuals. Quickly, those few suspects, hidden among the guests, were all brought to the interrogation room by the staff.

"Fatty, the rest is up to you, handle it as you see fit. The ribbon-cutting ceremony begins in two and a half hours; I need to keep an eye on the venue."

"Alright."

Upon leaving the control room, Ling Chen hadn't completely calmed down. Just as he suspected, these people were from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, intending to disrupt the event and cause chaos, preventing the ribbon-cutting ceremony from proceeding smoothly.

More surprising than this to Ling Chen was that the mastermind behind it all was Wang Hao.

Su He actually employed Wang Hao, which Ling Chen hadn't expected. Considering his history with Wang Hao, the other party certainly wouldn't let it go and likely had other strategies in place. Before the ribbon-cutting ceremony concluded, he had to remain vigilant to prevent any unexpected occurrences.

Returning to the venue, Ling Chen helped welcome guests while mentioning the recent incident to Tong Zhentian. Today, without a doubt, Tong Zhentian was the busiest. As the Martial Arts Hall Master and a Martial Arts legend, he naturally drew a crowd. From the time Tong Zhentian entered the venue until now, he was always surrounded by thirty or forty people, with groups coming and going.

"As long as the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion takes no further action, there's no need to worry for now. But if they really dare to cause trouble at the Dragon Tiger Hall, I won't hold back," said Tong Zhentian.

"Ling Chen!"

At this moment, a familiar voice called out. Ling Chen turned his head, immediately putting on a smile.

"Mr. Ye, long time no see. I thought you wouldn't come."

Ye Liangyong smiled and said, "I heard from Master that you opened a Martial Arts Academy, so I had to come and show support. Not bad, Master didn't misjudge you. Your potential for development is enormous. In such a short time, you've built such a large force."

"Thanks to Mr. He's guidance and Mr. Ye's help, of course."

"Haha! When did you learn to say such courteous words? Alright, since you put it that way, if you ever need me for anything, just let me know. Although my connections aren't as wide as yours, getting you some investment shouldn't be a problem." Ye Liangyong's meaning was clear: he might not have manpower, but money was not an issue.

"Then I'll thank you in advance, Mr. Ye."

"Alright, I imagine you're very busy today, so I won't take up your time. Go ahead, I'll wander around and catch up with some friends."

Chapter 1157 - 1164: Guests from All Directions

"Ling!"

A melodious voice resonated, and Ling Chen turned to see Tang Shiyun, Nanrong Wanqing, Liu Xiyao, and Zhu Xiaozhu arriving at the Dragon Tiger Hall. Along with them, Zhong Wei and Liang Zhao Hui followed closely behind, ensuring the safety of the women.

"You're here." Ling Chen greeted with a smile.

"Ling, it's so lively here." Tang Shiyun looked around with her big eyes. Nanrong Wanqing and the other women were also slightly surprised as they perceived Dragon Tiger Hall as just an ordinary martial arts academy, not expecting it to be such a draw, with almost two hundred attendees.

"Captain Zhong, the security here is fine, no need to worry too much. Feel free to grab a drink."

Zhong Wei nodded, saying nothing. Yet, in his heart, he was rather moved. In earlier days, Ling Chen was just part of his team. Now, while Zhong Wei remains unchanged, Ling Chen has soared to great heights, completing a transformation.

"Wanqing, do you know anyone here?" Liu Xiyao glanced around at the guests, all unfamiliar faces, not a single acquaintance.

"I don't see anyone I know." Nanrong Wanqing was also puzzled, being the chairman of the Hongyu Group and somewhat of a celebrity in the business world. However, in Dragon Tiger Hall, not a single person she recognized. Moreover, observing the curious gazes of others, it seemed they were unaware of her identity, only admiring their beauty.

"Ling Chen, who are all these people you've invited?" Liu Xiyao asked curiously.

"They're all martial arts enthusiasts, different from your circle." Ling Chen explained with a smile: "Dragon Tiger Hall is a martial arts academy, so naturally, we wouldn't invite business people."

As they spoke, several guests approached, stopping in front of Nanrong Wanqing and the others.

What are these people here for? It seems I don't know them.

Just as the women pondered, the guests cupped their fists and greeted: "Miss Zhu, glad to meet you."

Zhu Xiaozhu offered a gentle smile, nodding lightly in return: "I'm pleased to meet you too, esteemed guests."

"Miss Zhu, I've yet to repay you for saving my life back then. Should you need anything, please let me know, and I'll assist to the best of my ability."

"You're too kind, esteemed guest. I'm a doctor; healing is my duty, there's no need to thank me."

"But that won't do. We martial arts folks believe in repaying kindness with kindness, and grudges with grudges. Not repaying this favor makes me uneasy."

"Alright then." Zhu Xiaozhu, unable to decline further, agreed: "I'll let you know if I need any help."

"That's perfect." After a brief chat, the guests departed without further disturbances.

In less than ten minutes, over twenty martial arts individuals approached Zhu Xiaozhu for greetings, astonishing the three women nearby.

"Xiaozhu, do you know these people?" Tang Shiyun asked curiously.

"Not exactly know them, just helped treat their ailments."

Ling Chen understood the reason. Zhu Xiaozhu learned from Shi Su, and the Shi Family is renowned in the martial arts world for their medical expertise, especially for unique treatments on internal and external injuries of martial arts practitioners. If one suffered internal injuries, consulting the Shi Family offers better results than a hospital.

Zhu Xiaozhu mastered Shi Su's teachings and aided many martial artists. Additionally, given the Shi Family's special status, Zhu Xiaozhu is considered a martial arts figure herself.

"Ling, congratulations, congratulations, I never expected you to keep such a low profile. Looks like I'm fortunate to have met a notable figure." A voice came, and Ling Chen looked over, smiling. It was none other than Tian Hanzhong, whom he met a few days ago at the hotel.

"Tian, I'm not really a notable figure, but thank you for showing your support."

"Hey! Ling, Zhou Qian and Ren Han from the Martial Arts Association are here. I noticed they seemed off at the entrance; should you check it out? Today is an important day for Dragon Tiger Hall; you don't want any trouble." Tian Hanzhong whispered a reminder.

Zhou Qian and Ren Han are here too? Ling Chen was slightly startled. Those two have poor character and don't suit his preferences, so he didn't invite them to Dragon Tiger Hall's ribbon-cutting ceremony. Unexpectedly, they arrived uninvited, likely due to Tong Zhentian's influence.

Tong Zhentian mentioned the other day that he resigned from his honorary president position at the Martial Arts Association to focus on managing Dragon Tiger Hall, forsaking time with Zhou Qian and his associates.

Tong Zhentian's presence is undoubtedly a significant support for Zhou Qian and Ren Han. Now that this support shifted elsewhere, they must feel displeased. Oh well! Since they're here, why not meet them? With that thought, Ling Chen headed straight to the entrance.

At the moment, Zhou Qian and Ren Han were exchanging pleasantries with He Ziyun at the entrance. All three were skilled from the Earthly List, not very familiar, but had heard of each other.

"President Zhou, Chairman Ren, what brings you two here?" Ling Chen greeted with a smile.

If Ling Chen saw himself now, he would be astonished. This progress is remarkable, even his insincere smile appears sincere.

"Mr. Ling." Zhou Qian smiled: "Apologies for coming uninvited, hope you don't mind."

"President Zhou, don't mention it; you're all esteemed guests. I intended to invite you personally, but Elder Tong mentioned you were preoccupied with the Martial Arts Association meeting and couldn't attend the ceremony, so I didn't send invites. If there's any oversight, please forgive me."

Upon hearing Ling Chen's words, He Ziyun's mouth curled slightly, his eyes gleaming with amusement. Knowing Ling Chen for so long, he never observed such eloquence. Amazingly, now he can converse accordingly with anyone, tell lies with no hesitation, truly remarkable.

Ren Han laughed: "Mr. Ling, no need to say that, the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Dragon Tiger Hall, overseen by Elder Tong, is not something we would miss."

"President Zhou, Chairman Ren, please come inside!"

The three walked into the venue side by side, all smiles. However, internally, they cursed each other. Especially Zhou Qian and Ren Han, despite outwardly smiling, internally they cursed Ling Chen fiercely.

A few days ago, Tong Zhentian suddenly approached them, announcing his resignation as honorary president of the Martial Arts Association. Despite their persuasion, it was fruitless. Later, they discovered that Tong Zhentian became the martial arts master at Dragon Tiger Hall.

Upon learning that Ling Chen was Dragon Tiger Hall's deputy master, they realized it was Ling Chen's doing, enticing Tong Zhentian away. Losing Tong Zhentian as a formidable support, Zhou Qian and Ren Han couldn't help but hate this. Yet, due to Tong Zhentian's influence, they dared not express their anger, burying it inside. They came today particularly to see the remarkable aspects of Dragon Tiger Hall that could attract Tong Zhentian, making him willing to be the martial arts master.

Chapter 1158 - 1165: Support or Sabotage (1)

Time ticked by, minute by minute, and in half an hour, the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Dragon Tiger Hall would begin.

Before the ceremony started, Tang Shiyun was invited to warm up the event.

It must be said that the allure of a star knows no bounds. Even these older martial arts enthusiasts had heard of Tang Shiyun's fame. As Tang Shiyun sang, the audience erupted into enthusiastic applause and cheers.

Ling Chen stood by the side of the stage, checking the time, about ten minutes left.

"Big brother, it's up to you guys in a bit."

"Don't worry, it's just a ribbon-cutting; nothing will go wrong," Qiu Yong said with a smile.

At 11:30 in the morning, amidst the crowd's farewell, Tang Shiyun stepped down from the stage. Up next, the main event of the day.

Under the gaze of everyone, Tong Zhentian led Ling Chen and the others to stride onto the stage. As the Martial Arts Hall Master of Dragon Tiger Hall, Tong Zhentian stood at the center of the seven people, with Ling Chen and He Ziyun beside him, and Qiu Yong, Xu Ming, Yuan Yun, and Zhang Zhongfeng on either end.

Because of Tong Zhentian's presence, the demeanor of the others was overshadowed, and all eyes focused on him. Qiu Yong and the others didn't mind; they were there as backup, making up the numbers. The protagonists today were only Tong Zhentian and Ling Chen.

Surveying the crowd below the stage, Tong Zhentian pressed his hands down, signaling everyone to quiet down.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to first thank you all for coming. Today, on this joyous occasion of the opening of Dragon Tiger Hall, your presence brings great honor. Although Dragon Tiger Hall is a martial arts academy, it's not an ordinary one. In due time, I believe Dragon Tiger Hall will become the most unique entity in the martial arts world."

"Elder Tong, what do you mean by 'unique'?" someone from the audience asked.

Tong Zhentian smiled and said, "The purpose of Dragon Tiger Hall is to revitalize the Huaxia martial arts world. I believe many who hear this will be skeptical. Indeed, revitalizing Huaxia's martial arts is no easy task, not something achieved overnight, but I have confidence. Here, I want to announce that any member who joins Dragon Tiger Hall will have an opportunity for advanced training. Some might ask what exactly this 'advanced training' entails. I might as well tell you, despite just opening, Dragon Tiger Hall has a deep foundation, with not only a wide variety of martial arts to choose from but also many lost martial arts manuals."

These words caused a stir, with everyone's eyes filled with astonishment.

"Elder Tong, is what you said true? Can you really practice freely just by joining Dragon Tiger Hall?" someone eagerly asked.

"Of course it's true. However, it's not about picking anything at will. As martial artists, you should clearly understand that not everyone is suited to practice the most formidable techniques. The more powerful the martial arts manual, the higher the requirements for talent and comprehension. If the aptitude isn't there, even the most potent cultivation technique would lead to nothing. So, we will personally assess one's aptitude and then recommend the most suitable technique. Of course, there's no such thing as a free lunch; there will undoubtedly be some restrictions. As for the specific details, I won't elaborate right now. If anyone is interested, you can find out from Dragon Tiger Hall staff after the ribbon-cutting ceremony."

Hearing this, someone in the audience joked, "Elder Tong, aren't you afraid that those martial arts manuals might leak out?"

Tong Zhentian laughed and said, "I understand what you mean, and I'm sure most people think the same. But I want to tell you, revitalizing Huaxia's martial arts world isn't just empty talk, nor is it boasting. Today's martial arts world is already in decline, and many martial arts essences have been lost in the rivers of history, which is a huge loss to our Huaxia martial arts. Because too many people hold back, not willing to pass on their knowledge, it has resulted in the loss of valuable treasures. If we don't rectify this, a hundred years from now, Huaxia martial arts might become mere flowery boxing. As martial artists, this is a responsibility every martial artist must shoulder."

"Therefore, we're not afraid of martial arts manuals being leaked. On the contrary, I hope more and more people will join our ranks. Only by making martial arts a pursuit for all can we restore the glory of Huaxia's martial arts world."

Thunderous applause.

However, more than half of this applause was out of respect for Tong Zhentian. Everyone still held a skeptical attitude towards his words. After all, martial arts manuals are secrets of various schools, no one would leak them; that would be like destroying one's own livelihood.

As the saying goes, a unique skill can make a living everywhere. If there aren't a few secret tricks, who would come to learn? Moreover, if the secret skills are passed on to others, how could one survive in this business?

"Elder Tong is right, revitalizing Huaxia's martial arts world is indeed a responsibility we martial artists must fulfill," a sudden voice reached everyone's ears.

Turning towards the voice, everyone's expressions changed as they looked at the newcomer in surprise.

Isn't that... Su He? The Old Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, why is he here!

Apart from Su He, everyone recognized the several elders behind him, all renowned in the martial arts world. It was said that these martial arts notables would attend Dragon Tiger Hall's ribbon-cutting ceremony, but now they appeared with people from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. What does this mean?

Behind the group of elderly, there was a young man following. Others might not be familiar, but Ling Chen recognized him, Wang Hao!

Ling Chen frowned slightly, the worry finally turned into reality. He just didn't expect Su He to show up in person and bring along those renowned martial arts elders too.

What's this about? Is it a demonstration?

Ling Chen, despite his thoughts, followed Tong Zhentian off the stage and quickly went to greet them.

Tong Zhentian laughed heartily, saying, "Old Su, why are you here without giving me a heads up so I could send someone to meet you?"

"No need for the trouble, although old, my two legs can still walk," Su He replied indifferently, "I heard Dragon Tiger Hall is opening today, as an old friend, of course, I had to come support."

"Well, thank you then."

"Elder Su!" Ling Chen stepped forward, slightly bowed, greeting Su He with a disciple's salute. No matter what, Su He could still be considered his master. As long as the fragile veneer between them wasn't torn, he had to respect Su He as a disciple would.

Su He looked Ling Chen over, nodded, and said, "Not bad, I wasn't wrong about you; you indeed have potential. Now that you're with Elder Tong, make sure to work hard and strive to reach even greater heights."

"Old Su, I don't like what you're saying. What do you mean by he's with me? He's your student, not mine, so why should I teach him?" Tong Zhentian joined in.

Chapter 1159 - 1166: Support or Sabotage (2)

As soon as these words were spoken, everyone at the scene was once again taken aback; no one expected Ling Chen to have such an identity. Being a disciple of Su He, this is no small matter. Especially

Zhou Qian and Ren Han, although they guessed that Ling Chen might be related to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, they didn't think it would be this profound.

The two exchanged a glance, feeling somewhat relieved. Fortunately, they hadn't impulsively sought trouble with Ling Chen; otherwise, they wouldn't even know how they died.

Su He glanced at Tong Zhentian, but did not respond to him.

"Elder Tong, you must be mistaken." Wang Hao, who had been standing at the back, spoke up: "Master only has me as a disciple. When did Ling Chen become a disciple of Master? Elder Tong, you must clarify, you can't say such things lightly."

At this point, Wang Hao fixed his gaze on Ling Chen, with a slight smirk on his lips and a hint of provocation in his eyes.

Master? Disciple?

Ling Chen's heart sank; it seemed Wang Hao had already become Su He's disciple as he wished. It showed that Su He had completely abandoned him. With a rapid turn of thought, Ling Chen smiled slightly and said, "Elder Su once guided me, but my aptitude is rather dull, and I did not have the honor of becoming Elder Su's formal disciple. Nevertheless, in my heart, I have always regarded Elder Su as my master."

Upon hearing Ling Chen's response, a smile appeared in Tong Zhentian's eyes. This kid's reaction was quite clever, his words impeccable.

"Old Su, since you're here, why don't you join me in the ribbon-cutting?" Tong Zhentian extended the invitation.

"I'm just a guest, mainly here to witness the event today. You all go ahead, don't mind me."

With the conversation at this point, Tong Zhentian certainly wouldn't insist. He then signaled to Ling Chen and, with Qiu Yong and others, returned to the stage to prepare for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Looking at the people on stage, Wang Hao sneered, "Didn't they say the Dragon Tiger Hall has deep foundations? How come, besides Elder Tong, there's not even a single heavyweight guest for the ribbon-cutting?"

Wang Hao's voice was not loud, but everyone present could hear it clearly.

Provocation!

It was definitely provocation!

Who didn't know that the five martial arts celebrities brought by Su He were originally guests for this ribbon-cutting ceremony, but were intercepted by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion on the way and dared not attend. Wang Hao speaking up at this moment was undoubtedly a mockery and provocation towards the Dragon Tiger Hall.

Ling Chen smiled faintly and said, "Elder Tong, as the Martial Arts Hall Master of the Dragon Tiger Hall, is the leading figure today. We are all supporting roles and naturally cannot steal Elder Tong's spotlight."

"Smooth talk, but in my view, it's all excuses. I think, you just couldn't get anyone to attend."

A slap in the face! And it's an unrelenting one in full view of everyone.

Wang Hao spoke up repeatedly, and even if those present were somewhat dull, they now understood. The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion didn't come to congratulate this time but to cause trouble.

This added unexpected amusement to the originally bland ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion picking a fight with the Dragon Tiger Hall, nobody knew which was more formidable.

In terms of foundation and strength, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was undoubtedly superior, but Tong Zhentian, as a martial arts titan, the only master comparable to Su He, was not easily bullied.

With two tigers fighting, everyone was curious about the outcome. After all, this was the Dragon Tiger Hall's home ground and the most important ribbon-cutting ceremony. If not handled well, not only would the people of Dragon Tiger Hall lose face, but they would also be suppressed by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and become a laughingstock in Martial Arts.

At this point, Zhou Qian and Ren Han were amused. They initially thought Su He was here to support, but it turned out he was here to ruin things. Humph! It's good to see Ling Chen suffer.

Dragon Tiger Hall, what a lousy martial arts academy, let it close down on its very first day.

At one end of the crowd, the four women of Nanrong Wanqing watched the standoff with anxious expressions.

"Xiaozhu, will Ling Chen and the others be alright?" Liu Xiyao asked. Among the four of them, only Zhu Xiaozhu knew the situation well; the others were unclear about what was happening.

Zhu Xiaozhu lightly bit her thin lips and said, "Ling Chen and the others are in a rather tricky situation."

"Sister Xiaozhu, are those people coming to cause trouble very powerful?"

Zhu Xiaozhu glanced at Tang Shiyun, who asked the question, and nodded, "More than powerful. In Martial Arts, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is the largest force; no one dares to oppose them."

"What should we do then?" Nanrong Wanqing was very worried.

"I don't know; these kinds of things can only be resolved by them. We can't help."

At this moment, Ling Chen squinted slightly, looking at Wang Hao below the stage, and said, "We originally invited several heavyweight guests. Unfortunately, they couldn't make it at the last minute, so we had to make temporary arrangements. However, this doesn't mean any loss to us. On the contrary, the real loss belongs to those guests."

Upon hearing this, someone curiously asked, "Mr. Ling, they just didn't come to the ribbon-cutting ceremony, how could there be any loss?"

Ling Chen smiled slightly, "We prepared generous gifts to give as a token of thanks to the guests. Since they couldn't attend, these gifts are now nullified."

"Just a thank-you gift, what kind of loss could it be?"

"Indeed, who would care about such things," the people below discussed.

However, amidst the discussion, someone couldn't help but ask, "Mr. Ling, since you talk about losses, these thank-you gifts must be extraordinary."

Ling Chen smiled and nodded, "That's right." With that, Ling Chen waved towards the backstage. Soon, two young men came up with two trays. On those two trays, there were a total of five exquisite wooden boxes, but it was unclear what was inside.

Ling Chen glanced at the crowd and said very deliberately, "These gifts are worthless to ordinary people, but to martial artists, they are treasures beyond reach." With that, Ling Chen opened one of the wooden boxes, took out a manuscript, and raised it above his head, saying, "This is a set of boxing techniques created by a Grandmaster of boxing two hundred years ago, named the Heavenly Gang Fist, known for its vigor. I believe some present have heard of it. Sadly, this set of techniques was lost over a hundred years ago."

Upon hearing this, everyone's eyes focused beside Su He. The old man beside Su He was renowned in the martial arts world for his boxing techniques. Moreover, anyone familiar with him knew this martial arts celebrity had once obtained some remnants of the Heavenly Gang Fist and had long wished to restore the complete technique through his own efforts. But after more than ten years, he had made no progress.

If not for the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's interference, the Heavenly Gang Fist manual in Ling Chen's hand would have already been his.

Feeling the gaze of those around, the old man remained indifferent, his old eyes fixed on the Heavenly Gang Fist manual in Ling Chen's hand, eager to fly forward and grab it immediately.

Years of aspiration, seemingly within reach, thwarted by... thinking of this, the old man looked bitterly at Su He.

Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion!

All a bunch of bastards!

Chapter 1160 - 1167: Arrow from the Sleeve (1)

Putting down the Heavenly Gang Fist manuscript in hand, Ling Chen picked up another wooden box. Relatively similar, it was also a martial arts manuscript that had been lost for centuries. Moreover, Ling Chen selected these martial arts manuscripts specifically to target the skills of those guests. There were boxing techniques, swordsmanship, and blade techniques.

Watching as Ling Chen introduced each lost martial arts manuscript one by one, the eyes of the audience were tinged with envy. Only at this moment did everyone realize Tong Zhentian wasn't joking; Dragon Tiger Hall possessed a rich foundation not inferior to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Although Dragon Tiger Hall was newly established, lacking in talent compared to Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, given time, with such a robust foundation, Dragon Tiger Hall could definitely become a major force alongside the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

This trend was undoubtedly something everyone delighted in seeing.

Throughout, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion had dominated Martial Arts, akin to a one-man show, where whatever they said could not be contested. Now, with the emergence of Dragon Tiger Hall, not only could it curb Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion in certain aspects, but also diminish their influence.

Among the people present, there were many sensible individuals. They understood well that a monopolized Martial Arts world had no future prospects. Only continual competition could bring infinite possibilities to Huaxia's martial arts realm.

At this moment, five martial arts elders stood by Su He, lowering their heads, wearing grim expressions. From their gaze, it was clear that each harbored a burning anger within.

Those were lost martial arts manuscripts! Rarely glimpsed in a lifetime. Now they had a chance to obtain them, yet it was foiled by Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

Others took pleasure in their misfortune, watching the five martial arts elders. It was often said following Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion brought benefits, but now not only had they not received those benefits, they lost a piece of enticingly succulent meat, surely they regretted it immensely.

In contrast, Su He appeared much calmer, with a faint expression, always maintaining his composure, as if what was happening around him had nothing to do with him.

Wang Hao gritted his teeth in hatred. He hadn't expected Ling Chen to have such a method, not only preserving the reputation of Dragon Tiger Hall but also giving him a hard slap, shaming him thoroughly.

Ling Chen didn't pay attention to Wang Hao's anger; his goal was already achieved. Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion had forcibly detained the five guests they had invited earlier, creating trouble for them. Since that was the case, fine, I'll casually throw out a few lost martial arts manuscripts and see if those martial arts elders aren't tempted. Even if they don't say it, they're surely resenting Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion in their hearts.

As long as a rift appeared in their relationship, the future would be easier to manage.

"Everyone!" Ling Chen cleared his throat and said with a smile, "Earlier I mentioned that these five lost martial arts manuscripts were meant as a token of appreciation for the ribbon-cutting guests. Although those guests can't come due to certain reasons, I can't just put these gifts back. So, if anyone wishes to join Dragon Tiger Hall, I'll select five individuals to pass on these manuscripts to. If anyone is interested, be sure not to miss the opportunity."

Upon hearing this, the audience immediately became excited. This was an opportunity not often seen, at least Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion wasn't so generous.

For a moment, the most frequent question in the venue was how to join Dragon Tiger Hall.

Seeing the audience's enthusiasm, Tong Zhentian quietly gave Ling Chen a thumbs-up. He had to admit, without Ling Chen's intervention, the reputation of Dragon Tiger Hall would have been greatly affected.

"Alright! Everyone, please don't rush. After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, we will arrange for staff to assist everyone."

Tong Zhentian's words finally quieted down the venue.

As the ribbon-cutting ceremony officially commenced, Wang Hao couldn't help clenching his fists. He originally wanted to create trouble for Ling Chen but hadn't expected Ling Chen to easily resolve it. At this point, speaking out again would likely incur displeasure. Some things must stop when appropriate; continuing would just make Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion appear petty.

He glanced at the silent Su He beside him, the latter maintaining his calm and silence, not even looking at Tong Zhentian and Ling Chen, as if his thoughts were entirely elsewhere.

Others may not understand Su He's actions, but Wang Hao did. This was a test for him! Previously, Su He had called him over, asking if he wanted to become his disciple. Becoming Su He's disciple had been Wang Hao's lifelong dream. Precisely because of this, upon learning Ling Chen's identity, he intentionally made things difficult, always trying to outdo. He wanted to use this opportunity to show Su He he was much better than Ling Chen.

That day, Su He said only one simple sentence to him.

Prove yourself, prove you're better than Ling Chen! Only then is he qualified to become Su He's disciple. Rightly so, because if he couldn't surpass Ling Chen, what face would he have to become Su He's disciple.

Being the number one Heavenly List expert in the world, Su He's expectations would be high rather than lowering because of him.

This was the first game between him and Ling Chen today, and losing would definitely reduce his qualification in Su He's eyes. Thinking of this, a cold glint flashed in Wang Hao's eyes.

He was willing to do anything to crush his enemy for victory! Furthermore, in previous confrontations, Ling Chen had always had the upper hand, which rankled him. As the focus of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's cultivation, the youngest Earthly List expert, heaven's favored son, he didn't believe Ling Chen was stronger than him.

His subordinates placed within Dragon Tiger Hall had lost contact, seemingly Ling Chen had discovered them early and dealt with them hiddenly.

However... huh! Wang Hao smirked. Did Ling Chen think he only had these tactics? If that was the case, then he was sorely mistaken.

At this moment, Tong Zhentian had finished his opening remarks, and the ribbon-cutting ceremony was about to begin.

On stage, under everyone's watchful eyes, Ling Chen stood beside Tong Zhentian, holding the scissors, ready to cut the red ribbon. Just then, a sharp cold gleam pierced the air, suddenly rushing onto the stage.

A warning arose, Ling Chen abruptly looked up to see an arrow quickly shooting towards him, aiming straight for his brow. This unexpected scene left everyone present stunned. In the critical moment, Ling Chen didn't hesitate, swinging the scissors in his hand, gently flicking the sharp arrow away, letting it fall onto the floor beside him.

"Who dares act violently at Dragon Tiger Hall? Such audacity." It wasn't Ling Chen who rebuked, but Tang Guolun. Before the ribbon-cutting ceremony began, Tang Guolun had brought dozens of men, blending into the crowd, maintaining order to prevent accidents.

Due to the sudden change on stage, the venue became chaotic, everyone looking around, fearing the assailant was right beside them.