

The Beauty 1441

Chapter 1441 Struggle for the Family Head (Part 3)

"Ling Song, I must admit your preparation is quite thorough. However, you made a mistake in one thing." Ling Chen stared into Ling Song's eyes and said, "You can make trouble for others, but you shouldn't have bothered us. Do you think I'm the kind of person who is so easily bullied?"

At this point, Ling Chen turned his head to look at Ling Jun and said, "You should be aware of my strength. Although you're a Heavenly List expert, in my eyes, Heavenly List experts are nothing special. If you leave now and don't interfere in the Ling Family's affairs, I'll forgive what just happened. But if you continue to be stubborn, then don't blame me for being rude. No matter the outcome of today's events, as soon as I walk out the door, I will immediately summon Heavenly List experts to hunt you down. As long as you're confident you can evade the pursuit of three Heavenly List experts in the future days, then go ahead."

Upon hearing this, Ling Jun's expression finally changed. When Ling Song found him, he only said it was to help him seize the position of Family Head. Faced with the benefits Ling Song proposed, he was ultimately tempted. He thought it was just dealing with Ling Kun alone, never expected Ling Chen was also here. When he did the final duel with the Southern Ling Family, he had personally witnessed Ling Chen's immense power.

"Elder Ling, don't listen to his nonsense." At this moment, Ling Song said in a deep voice, "Are Heavenly List experts so cheap for him? Three Heavenly List experts... Hmph! Ling Chen, you actually dare to say that."

Ling Chen said indifferently, "He should know best if I have this capability."

"Elder Ling." Ling Song turned his head to look at Ling Jun and saw the latter's solemn expression. Ling Song's heart sank, is it true what Ling Chen said?

After a brief contemplation, Ling Jun seemed to have made a decision and said, "Ling Song, sorry, seems like this matter can only be handled by you alone this time." After saying that, Ling Jun turned and walked towards the door. Initially, he still held onto a bit of wishful thinking, but Ling Chen's attitude left him no choice but to back off. Although he liked living a life of riches, he needed to have a life to enjoy them.

Seeing Ling Jun leave, Ling Song's expression changed instantly, hurriedly catching up with Ling Jun's pace and reaching out to grab him. However, Ling Jun's speed was not something he could match. In the blink of an eye, Ling Jun disappeared at the Ling Family's gate.

Losing the biggest support, Ling Song stood frozen at the scene. After much effort to invite Ling Jun over, yet Ling Chen scared him away with just a few casual threats.

"Ling Song, what other cards do you have up your sleeve? You might as well show them all."

Upon hearing Ling Chen's teasing voice from behind, Ling Song's complexion turned extremely unpleasant.

"Hmph! Ling Chen, don't be so happy so soon, you father and son. Fine! I don't want the position of Family Head. From now on, I'll sever all ties with the Ling Family. Don't expect me to give you another penny." Saying this, Ling Song glanced at everyone present and said, "Everyone, you have seen, it's not me being unkind, it's them being unjust. We've worked hard all these years, and in the end, what did we get? All the benefits were taken by the Martial Sect people, we the Wen Sect are no different from laborers."

"That's right, we're also done." For a moment, everyone responded in unison.

Watching the shouting crowd, Ling Chen and the other two sneered slightly. These people must have planned it, wanting to join forces to resist the Martial Sect.

"Have you all had enough to say?" Ling Tao coldly watched the bustling crowd and spoke, "You all may leave the Ling Family, I'm not stopping you. However, let me remind you, once you leave the Ling Family, your assets will be taken back by the Ling Family."

Upon hearing this, everyone's complexion couldn't help but change, and they started shouting, "Ling Tao, what right do you have to take back our assets?"

"Your assets?" Ling Tao said coldly, "All your assets belong to the Ling Family, I can reclaim them anytime."

"Ling Tao," Ling Song shouted angrily, "Do you want to force internal strife within the Ling Family?"

"Since we are reorganizing the Ling Family, naturally we have to clear out all discordant elements." Ling Chen chimed in, "I'll make it clear today, whoever wants to leave the Ling Family, fine, but hand over all your assets. Otherwise, I'll make sure you don't see the sun tomorrow."

"Ling Chen, we live in a society ruled by law now, if you dare harm us, I won't let you have a good time."

Faced with Ling Song's threat, Ling Chen chuckled lightly, "If I want you dead, there are at least a dozen ways. When the time comes, you wouldn't even know how you died. Alright, I've said what I needed to say, now you choose for yourselves."

Many people at the scene operated in Beijing and naturally understood Ling Chen's capabilities, knowing he wasn't bluffing. For a time, they looked at each other without saying a word.

However, some treated Ling Chen's words as empty threats. A few men discussed among themselves, then turned and walked out, not leaving a single word behind.

In no time, nearly a dozen people left from the dozens in the hall.

Ling Chen quietly watched those people without making any move to stop them. Anyway, he had made himself very clear. Since they wouldn't listen, there was nothing he could do.

At this moment, most people's gaze was on Ling Song, as if waiting for his decision. After contemplating for a moment, Ling Song said, "Fine, I will hand over all the Ling Family assets to you all. From now on, I'll have nothing to do with the Ling Family."

"You want to sever ties with the Ling Family? Alright, in that case, besides returning the Ling Family's assets, every penny you've made from the Ling Family's assets over the years must be relinquished. Just now, Uncle Ling mentioned your fortune was over a billion, wasn't it?"

"Ling Chen," Ling Song said coldly, "Don't push me too far."

Ling Chen shrugged and said, "I never intended to make things difficult for you, it's you who want to sever ties with the Ling Family. You've enjoyed the benefits of the Ling Family for so many years, now that you've made your fortune, you wish to cut all ties with the Ling Family? In this world, there are no such easy deals."

Pausing for a moment, Ling Chen shifted his gaze to the others present, "Besides Ling Song, the same applies to everyone. Anyone who wants to sever ties with the Ling Family, no problem, but you must leave with nothing. If you can't do that, then serve the Ling Family honestly."

"Ling Chen, do you really want to go this far?"

"The choice is yours, decide for yourself."

Feeling the gaze of everyone, Ling Song bit his lip, a hint of hesitation flickering in his eyes.

"Dad, why are we afraid?" At this moment, Ling Dan shouted, "If he dares to mess with us, I definitely won't let him get away with it."

Ling Song glanced at his son, shook his head secretly. He needed to consider not just Ling Chen, but various aspects, such as everyone present.

Chapter 1442 Dust Settles

"Ling Song, still haven't thought it through?" Ling Chen asked.

"Ling Chen, although I owe my achievements to the Ling Family's support, without my own efforts, I wouldn't have so many assets." Ling Song said solemnly, "If you have a problem with me, just come at me. I've lived long enough not to be bullied by others."

Leaving those words behind, Ling Song immediately took his son and father and walked out. Upon reaching the door, Ling Song suddenly stopped, dumbstruck by the people outside. At this moment, standing at the entrance were two people: Yang Qingling and Nanrong Wanqing. Yang Qingling was worried about Ling Chen's situation, so she came to check, naturally accompanied by Nanrong Wanqing.

"Miss Nanrong..." Ling Song looked at Nanrong Wanqing, slightly stunned, finally coming to his senses and hurriedly greeted her.

"Mr. Ling?" Nanrong Wanqing was visibly surprised, not expecting to encounter a business partner here.

"Miss Nanrong, why are you here?" Ling Song was very surprised. He was very familiar with Nanrong Wanqing, the chairman of Hongyu Group. The companies he secretly managed profited substantially due to their cooperation with Hongyu Group. However, truth be told, it was Hongyu Group eating meat while they drank soup. Even so, he was quite satisfied.

Hongyu Group is now a domestic business giant. As long as he can maintain the partnership with Nanrong Wanqing, he'll have a continuous influx of money.

"My boyfriend is here, so I came along." Saying this, Nanrong Wanqing glanced at Ling Song's side at Ling Dan, "Mr. Ling, who is this?"

Ling Song hurriedly introduced, "This is my son Ling Dan, and I hope Miss Nanrong will support him in the future."

"Support?" Nanrong Wanqing looked expressionlessly at Ling Dan, and her cold gaze caused Ling Dan to panic internally. Damn! This... This woman is actually the chairman of Hongyu Group, Nanrong Wanqing. Thinking of his behavior in the parking lot earlier, Ling Dan's heart was crushed.

"I think Mr. Ling doesn't need my support. Mr. Ling, wouldn't you agree?"

Upon hearing Nanrong Wanqing's meaningful words, Ling Song asked strangely, "Miss Nanrong knows Ling Dan?"

"No, we just happened to meet in the parking lot. He almost hit me with his Ferrari, and instead of apologizing, he acted frivolously and teased me in front of my boyfriend. Mr. Ling, you've truly raised a good son."

Ling Song's face changed, casting a furious glance at Ling Dan beside him, and even everyone around could feel his anger. Ling Dan shivered involuntarily, apologizing with a smile, "Miss Nanrong, I'm truly sorry, ignorance is no excuse, I hope you can forgive me."

"Wanqing, so you know each other." Before Nanrong Wanqing could respond, Ling Chen's voice suddenly came from the hall.

Watching Ling Chen walk over, Nanrong Wanqing smiled lightly and said, "I've had business cooperation with Mr. Ling's company."

"Ling Song, since you already know each other, I won't introduce further. This is my girlfriend." Pausing for a moment, Ling Chen changed the subject: "Wanqing, they're in a hurry to leave, don't delay Mr. Ling."

Nanrong Wanqing glanced at Ling Song, nodded slightly without saying much, and stepped aside willingly. Ling Chen's straightforward calling of Ling Song's name immediately alerted the keen Nanrong Wanqing to something amiss. Looking at Nanrong Wanqing in front and then at Ling Chen beside her, Ling Song suddenly regretted. He didn't expect Nanrong Wanqing to have such a relationship with Ling Chen. Having offended Ling Chen publicly today, with Ling Chen's relationship to Nanrong Wanqing, it's unlikely that the latter will let him off easily, and those partnerships will be out of the question.

For a moment, Ling Song stood motionless, caught awkwardly between staying and leaving.

"Why aren't you leaving? Do you want me to ask you to leave?" Ling Chen's tone gradually turned cold.

Upon hearing Ling Chen's urging, Ling Song gritted his teeth and finally took a step outside. As Ling Song and others left, Ling Chen turned his head, looking at the others present, and asked, "Anyone else want to leave? Don't blame me for not giving you the chance to choose."

People looked at each other, but none moved their feet. Indeed, many people wanted to break ties with the Ling Family just now, but seeing Nanrong Wanqing's appearance, almost everyone abandoned the thought. Leave now? That's suicide. A joke, who is Nanrong Wanqing? The chairman of Hongyu Group. What is Hongyu Group? A leading enterprise in the country.

If they leave through that door today, they surely won't have good days ahead. Moreover, they could all see Ling Song hesitated before leaving. With Nanrong Wanqing's appearance, Ling Song undoubtedly regretted. However, even if he regretted, there's no way out; he couldn't eat his own words. If someone had stepped out to give Ling Song a step down, he would have surely chosen to stay.

Watching everyone stand still, Ling Chen's lips curled slightly, he smiled and nodded, "Great! Since no one is leaving, then we're still family. Now let me ask, is there anyone who opposes my father becoming the family head?"

At this moment, who would dare say half a no? That would be self-sabotage.

"Dad, congratulations on becoming the new family head of the Ling Family." Ling Chen said cheerfully, his task done. Next up were Ling Kun and Ling Tao as the main actors. Seeing there was nothing left for him, Ling Chen took Nanrong Wanqing and Yang Qingling back to the villa.

"Why didn't you keep Ling Song just now?" Sitting on the sofa in the living room, Yang Qingling asked, "As long as your attitude softened, he definitely would have stayed."

"Why keep him?" Ling Chen replied with a smile, "The gun strikes the forefront bird, Ling Song is the most powerful among the Wen Sect; as long as he's dealt with, who else would dare cause trouble? It's not that I don't want to keep him, but I need a target to let everyone know our stance."

"What are you planning to do with Ling Song afterward?"

"There's no rush, isn't Ling Song doing business with Wanqing? Let Wanqing terminate their cooperation first. By then, Ling Song will naturally panic. If the Ling Family joins forces with the Nanrong Family against him, even if his influence is vast, it'll be useless. So, if I'm correct, once Ling Song can't withstand the pressure, he'll surely yield and come to us to reconcile. While Ling Song's ambition is a bit large, his capability is indeed remarkable, managing the Ling Family's industry very well. With his help, the Ling Family will surely prosper."

Chapter 1443 Future Daughter-in-law

"No problem." Nanrong Wanqing nodded and said, "Although Ling Song collaborates with Hongyu Group frequently, besides them, we have many other partners to choose from, so it won't cause any loss to Hongyu Group anyway."

"Alright, if there's really any loss, I'll compensate you later." Ling Chen joked.

As they spoke, Ling Tao walked in from outside. "Uncle Ling, how did it go?" Ling Chen asked.

"Not bad!" Ling Tao nodded with a smile and said, "Thanks to your intervention just now and Miss Nanrong showing up, those people don't dare to cut ties with the Ling Family, fearing retaliation from you. Except for Ling Song, everyone else supports your father as the Family Patriarch. Now, your father's position is secure."

"That's great, finally one big issue is resolved." Ling Chen relaxed and said, "Uncle Ling, now that everything's taken care of, I'll head out."

"No rush, it's rare to be so cheerful today. Later, let's go out for a meal, your dad has already arranged the restaurant. It'll be a chance for the whole family to get together. Also, you're the son of the Ling Family Patriarch, so you should get familiar with the family and make some connections."

Since Ling Tao said that, Ling Chen naturally couldn't refuse. By noon, Ling Chen and Nanrong Wanqing accompanied Yang Qingling and Ling Gengqiu to the restaurant.

By the time they arrived, Ling Kun and Ling Tao were already at the restaurant, hosting family members from the Ling Family Wen Sect. Ling Tao had prepared seats for them at the restaurant. To make the gathering lively, Ling Kun chose to have the banquet in the main hall rather than a private room.

After sitting down, it wasn't long before the waiter brought dishes that looked, smelled, and tasted great to the table. Ling Chen had barely taken a few bites before Ling Tao pulled him aside to propose a toast. Even Nanrong Wanqing was brought along.

Faced with Ling Tao's invitation, Nanrong Wanqing was momentarily stunned, her face flushed as she softly said, "Uncle Ling, I'm not a member of the Ling Family, occasions like this don't seem suitable for me."

Ling Tao laughed heartily and said, "No need to be shy, though you're not now, you'll sooner or later be part of the Ling Family."

Ling Chen smiled slightly, held Nanrong Wanqing's hand, and said, "Come with me."

Seeing Ling Chen's smile, Nanrong Wanqing's face blushed, but her heart felt sweet. She got up and followed beside Ling Chen, walking towards Ling Kun together.

Seeing Ling Chen and Nanrong Wanqing approaching together, Ling Kun's smile became even more radiant.

"Come, let me introduce you to everyone." Saying this, Ling Kun led them, proposing toasts table by table.

"Patriarch, when will we be able to attend your son's wedding?" someone teased. Ling Kun laughed heartily and said, "Soon, soon, I'll definitely let you know."

After a few drinks, whether from the alcohol or for other reasons, Nanrong Wanqing's delicate face was as red as a ripe apple, standing adorably beside Ling Chen, looking shy in a way rarely seen.

Two hours later, the meal finally ended amid laughter and cheers from everyone. Despite being a bunch of insincere people, at least on the surface, both hosts and guests seemed satisfied.

Leaving the restaurant, Ling Chen didn't follow Ling Kun back to the Ling Household.

"Alright, since you have matters to attend to, you go ahead and take care of them." Ling Kun nodded and said, "As for the martial arts association issue you mentioned last time, I'll try to find a way to secure a couple of spots for you."

"Dad, don't push if it's really not feasible, I'll figure it out on my own."

Ling Kun smiled and patted Ling Chen's shoulder, saying, "We're father and son, so we'll handle things together, of course." Then, Ling Kun suddenly lowered his voice, looking at Nanrong Wanqing in the distance teasingly, "Treat my future daughter-in-law well."

Back in the car, Ling Chen asked, "Where are you headed? Back to the company or to my place?"

Nanrong Wanqing checked the time and shook her head helplessly, "I can't, I still have to return to the company to host a meeting, how about another day? I'll likely be in Beijing this week."

"Okay, I'll ask you out next time we have some time."

After dropping off Nanrong Wanqing at Hongyu United Investment Company, Ling Chen directly returned home, as he had an appointment later in the afternoon regarding the martial arts association spots.

Arriving at the office, Ling Chen had just entered when Dong Ying knocked and came in.

"Chairman, the guest you invited has arrived, I've arranged for him to be in the reception room."

"Great, I'll head over right away."

Shortly after, Ling Chen went alone to the reception room, opened the door, and saw a middle-aged man in a suit sitting by the table drinking tea. Ling Chen quickly walked over, smiled, and greeted, "Mr. Ye, sorry to keep you waiting."

"You've finally returned," Ye Liangyong said with a squinting smile.

"I was with the family, so it's a bit late." Ling Chen paused, then shifted the topic, asking, "Mr. Ye, how's the development of Qingyun Martial Arts Hall going lately?"

"Not bad, Qingyun Martial Arts Hall has gained a good reputation in Beijing. We've enrolled several hundred students over half a year, and I'm planning to open two branches." Speaking of business, Ye Liangyong said seriously, "Ling Chen, Master has talked to me, wanting me to run for a position on the martial arts association committee. Honestly, although Qingyun Martial Arts Hall is doing well now, I'm wondering if my experience is enough qualification?"

"Mr. Ye, Qingyun Martial Arts Hall is just a reference point, the most crucial factor is your network." Ling Chen said, "I heard from Mr. He that you often help martial arts community people with problems, so you have many friends in martial arts circles."

"That's not much, just some effort I could extend. Some martial arts folks are engrossed in martial arts and lack other life skills, so I provide them with some funds to help them out of difficulties, but really, they're just small favors."

"They may seem minor, but they can be impactful at key moments." Ling Chen smiled and said, "Mr. Ye, people in martial arts circles value loyalty and will repay kindness. You might as well seek help from those people, I believe they won't reject you."

Ye Liangyong contemplated for a while, then nodded, "Alright, I'll give it a try, but I can't guarantee success."

"No worries, it's about effort, as long as we try our best." At this point, Ling Chen seemed to recall something and asked, "By the way! Mr. Ye, I almost forgot to ask, how's Little Hua doing?"

Because He Ziyun was busy managing Dragon Tiger Hall, he had sent Little Hua to Beijing for Ye Liangyong to take care of. Thinking back, Little Hua had been with Ye Liangyong for almost half a year, and Ling Chen found himself missing her a bit.

Chapter 1444 - 1752: Rectification Conference (Part 1)

"Little Hua?" Ye Liangyong said with a smile, "That little girl is doing very well now, you don't need to worry about her. If you have time, you might as well come by to visit; she often talks about you."

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Sure, I'll definitely visit if I get a chance."

After chatting with Ye Liangyong for a while, because he was also a company chairman with a lot on his plate, they didn't talk for long. After seeing Ye Liangyong out of the room, Ling Chen returned to his office and took out his phone to call Hu Fei.

"Hey! Fatty, did you manage to sort out what I talked to you about last night?"

"It's a bit tricky," Hu Fei's voice came from the other end of the phone, "I tried several times; the other party's security system is very tight, almost at a military level. Unless we have someone on the inside, I can't hack into their system."

Hearing this, Ling Chen frowned slightly and said, "Does this mean there's no way at all?"

"No way," Hu Fei's tone was very firm, "I think you should give up on this, the place has such strong backing, we might get ourselves into trouble if we aren't careful."

"Alright," Ling Chen said helplessly, "Since that's the case, let's leave it for now." After hanging up the phone, Ling Chen rubbed his temples and sighed to himself. He originally wanted Hu Fei to breach the security system of the research institute in North County, to find out Zhu Hong's whereabouts and to see what kind of agreement he had reached with them.

For some reason, Ling Chen felt a strong sense of unease in his heart. He knew Zhu Hong's character well, a person who seizes every opportunity. Moreover, Zhu Hong had a very strong will to survive. Otherwise, after being bombed like that, he wouldn't have held on to life. As long as there was a glimmer of hope for survival, Zhu Hong would definitely seize the opportunity by any means possible.

Alas! It's a pity there's no way to get information about Zhu Hong.

Ling Chen shook his head and decided not to think about it anymore. Besides Zhu Hong, the Martial Arts Association was the top priority.

In the blink of an eye, it had already been three days since arriving in Beijing.

These past few days, Ling Chen spent most of his time at the Dragon Tiger Hall's branch in Beijing. The branch leader hadn't been determined yet, and was currently managed by Tian Hanzhong. They had initially discussed letting He Ziyun take charge of the Beijing branch. After all, being the capital of Huaxia, the importance of this branch was no less than that of the Dragon Tiger Hall in East Sea City, and it required a person of stature to oversee it.

Additionally, with Ye Liangyong in Beijing, it was quite convenient for the master and disciple to manage many affairs in the same place.

"Hey! Ling Chen, we'll be heading to Beijing tomorrow."

Receiving a call from Tong Zhentian, Ling Chen was a bit surprised and asked, "Elder Tong, is there something going on?"

"We just received an invitation to attend a meeting hosted by the Martial Arts Association in Beijing. This time the meeting is organized by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Aside from us from Dragon Tiger Hall, many martial arts celebrities have also been invited."

"Why didn't I receive an invitation?" Ling Chen curiously asked.

"The invitation was sent directly to the Dragon Tiger Hall. You're on the list as well, so join us then."

"Alright, I'll pick you up at the airport tomorrow."

As soon as the phone call ended, news came from Ye Liangyong's side as well; he had also received an invitation from the Martial Arts Association.

The next day.

After meeting up with Ye Liangyong, Ling Chen drove straight to the airport. After picking up Tong Zhentian and He Ziyun, the four of them found a place to have a quick lunch and then headed straight to the Martial Arts Association.

After parking the car, Ling Chen and the others arrived at the entrance of the Martial Arts Association, where a middle-aged man immediately approached them with a smile, "Elder Tong, Mr. He, Mr. Ling, Mr. Ye, welcome!"

Tong Zhentian nodded and asked, "Is everyone here?"

"Almost everyone has arrived. Elder Tong, let me escort you inside." The middle-aged man was very respectful, staying slightly bowed in front of Tong Zhentian.

Soon, under the guidance of the middle-aged man, the four of them arrived at the large conference room of the Martial Arts Association. Upon entering, they saw that the huge meeting room was already packed with people. With a quick glance, Ling Chen roughly estimated that at least forty to fifty people were present. Including the guests who hadn't yet arrived, there should be over sixty participants for this meeting.

With the arrival of Tong Zhentian and the others, everyone turned their eyes towards them and approached with smiles to greet them. Considering Tong Zhentian's status, nobody dared to be ambiguous. Additionally, there was another significant reason: everyone was already aware of the candidate for the chairman of the Martial Arts Association. Thus, taking advantage of this opportunity, everyone wanted to build a good relationship with Tong Zhentian.

Apart from Tong Zhentian, the most sought-after person was probably Ling Chen. After all, Ling Chen had once saved the whole Martial Arts community, earning the gratitude of many people.

From the moment he entered the meeting room, Ling Chen was busy dealing with everyone's enthusiasm, barely having a chance to sit down, his mouth almost stiff from smiling.

After more than ten minutes, the conference room door opened again as Du Kang walked in from outside. As the top expert on the Heavenly List, second only to Tong Zhentian in the Martial Arts world, Du Kang was also surrounded by everyone.

"Mr. Du, long time no see," Tong Zhentian approached Du Kang with a smile to greet him.

"Old Man Tong, it's been a while, you seem to have aged quite a lot."

"Can't be helped, your Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion keeps pressuring us, and as the Martial Arts Hall Master of Dragon Tiger Hall, I hardly get a decent night's sleep; how can I not age?"

Apart from the disputes, these two have been old friends for many years, speaking quite casually with each other. Seeing them in conversation, the others wisely refrained from interrupting.

"Elder Du," at this moment, Ling Chen approached, greeted Du Kang with a fist salute, and inquired.

Although the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and Dragon Tiger Hall are currently competitors, Ling Chen still held great respect for Du Kang. Back then, when his relationship with Su He hadn't broken down, Du Kang had done him many favors, and he always kept this kindness in mind.

Du Kang nodded towards Ling Chen and said, "It's rare for everyone to gather; how about I host a drink tonight?"

Ling Chen smiled slightly and said, "I shouldn't let Elder Du host. As the younger generation, it should be my treat."

"Alright, Beijing is your territory, as the host, it's only right for you to treat us."

Ling Chen glanced around and asked, "Elder Du, why haven't I seen Miss Su? Isn't she attending the meeting today?"

"The Pavilion Master hasn't been feeling well these past few days, so she can't attend; I'm handling this meeting entirely."

"Alright, since everyone's here, let's get started quickly. Let's not waste time, so we can wrap up the meeting early and find a place to drink," Tong Zhentian replied.

Du Kang agreed, immediately summoning two subordinates and quietly giving them instructions. Soon, everyone in the conference room took their seats, and the entire venue became extremely quiet.

Chapter 1445 - 1753: The New Chairman

As Ling Chen and the others took their seats, Du Kang, who was in charge of hosting the meeting, stood in the center of the room, looking at everyone present and said, "Everyone should know the reason for inviting you here this time. Over the years, the Martial Arts Association has completely become a tool for others' interests, only seeking personal gain without contributing to the martial arts community at all. Thus, this time, led by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, we decide to change this situation, reorganize the Martial Arts Association, and make it a genuine organization contributing to Huaxia martial arts."

After pausing for a moment, Du Kang glanced at everyone present before continuing, "Everyone here is a significant figure in the martial arts world with a certain level of influence and leadership. This time, we invited you mainly to seek your support in reorganizing the Martial Arts Association. Does anyone have any opinions?"

Hearing Du Kang's words, everyone echoed in agreement, and no one opposed Du Kang's proposal. In fact, those who came here are supporters of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. If there were anyone who didn't support it, they wouldn't be here. Therefore, what Du Kang said was just a formality.

"The main reason for inviting everyone today is to decide on an important matter through voting." Du Kang said, "A snake doesn't move without a head, and the previous President and Vice President of the Martial Arts Association have already resigned. So we need to elect a new President to lead us in reorganizing the Martial Arts Association. Does anyone have a good candidate?"

As soon as the words fell, someone immediately responded, "Elder Du, I think Old Man Tong is the most suitable candidate for the President of the Martial Arts Association. With his influence as a senior figure in the martial arts world, I believe no one will oppose him leading the association."

Du Kang nodded and asked, "Are there any other candidates? Everyone is free to express their opinions and thoughts."

Everyone exchanged glances, thinking there's nothing to say about this. Among all present, besides Tong Zhentian, who else is qualified to be the President? As for Du Kang himself, it's not that he isn't qualified. However, since he's from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, if they were to appoint someone as President, it should be Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master Su Mei.

"Alright." Du Kang said, "Since no one has any objections, we will nominate Old Man Tong as the President of the Martial Arts Association." As he finished his words, Du Kang turned his gaze toward Tong Zhentian, smiling as he said, "Old Man Tong, it seems you're the right choice for President. Do you have anything to say?"

Tong Zhentian didn't decline, as they had already anticipated this; the position of President belonged to him. He stood up confidently, cupped his fists before everyone present, and said loudly, "First of all, thank you all for your support. Since you all believe in me, I won't refuse. From now on, I will dedicate

myself to leading the Martial Arts Association, and together we will elevate the Huaxia martial arts world."

In less than ten minutes, the President of the Martial Arts Association was smoothly elected. Everyone knew it was just a formality, and there was no need to make it complicated.

"Since the President has been decided, now let's talk about the Vice President candidates." Du Kang said, "After discussions, the reorganized Martial Arts Association will have two Vice Presidents and six committee members, making a total of nine people including the President. In the future, all major decisions of the Martial Arts Association will be determined by the nine-member vote. Besides the President, the other eight members will be selected from the candidates. In the next half month, please actively sign up to participate. We will review all applicants over the half month and select the qualified ones."

Du Kang emphasized again, "Please remember, you have only half a month, don't miss the opportunity."

After announcing the important matters, the atmosphere of the meeting instantly became relaxed. Everyone chatted casually for a while before leaving.

Ling Chen, along with the other three and Du Kang, left together as they had arranged to find a place to drink. Guided by Du Kang, Ling Chen soon found a slightly secluded restaurant. As the five entered, a middle-aged man immediately greeted them with a smiling face, "Elder Du, long time no see."

"I've rarely visited Beijing recently, so I haven't been able to stop by your place. Today, I've brought some friends, bring out your best wine for us."

"No problem." The middle-aged man grinned, "Please follow me."

In the private room, the five each found a seat. After just finishing a cup of tea, the restaurant owner brought in three jars of wine. These wine jars were nearly half a meter tall, each containing about ten pounds of wine.

Du Kang was not polite, directly pouring a jar of wine into his bowl and quickly finishing it. After emptying the bowl, Du Kang wiped his mouth, said with satisfaction, "It's been a long time since I tasted

such good wine. Old Man Tong, we're all friends here, so I won't stand on ceremony. Serve yourself, there's no one here to serve you."

Tong Zhentian laughed heartily, not minding Du Kang's words at all. On the other side, Ling Chen and Ye Liangyong each picked up a jar and filled the bowls of Tong Zhentian and He Ziyun.

After a bowl of wine, Ling Chen felt his body burning, as if all his blood was boiling. Such strong wine! Ling Chen licked his lips, feeling a slight burn in his throat but finding the taste quite pleasurable, especially when the alcohol surges.

Soon, the five silently drank five or six bowls of wine among themselves. Du Kang and Tong Zhentian were unaffected, while He Ziyun's face showed a hint of wine-red but remained normal, but Ye Liangyong was probably the worst off. After a few bowls, his whole face was red like the face of Red-Faced Guan Gong, constantly hiccuping.

In contrast, Ling Chen handled it much better than Ye Liangyong and He Ziyun. His alcohol tolerance was personally developed by Du Kang, so these few bowls were nothing.

After two more bowls, Ye Liangyong finally couldn't continue, setting down his bowl, and He Ziyun also reduced the frequency of picking up the bowl, leaving only Ling Chen and the other two continuing to drink.

Over ten minutes later, before the restaurant owner's dishes were served, the three jars of wine were all emptied.

"Refreshing!" Du Kang set down his bowl, wiping his mouth, "It's been a long time since I've indulged like this." He paused and looked at Ling Chen and Tong Zhentian, smiling as he said, "The rarest thing is finding a few drinking buddies with good tolerance."

"Elder Du, feel free to call me if you want to drink, I'll definitely join."

Originally expecting Du Kang to nod and agree, surprisingly, he shook his head and said, "I dare not casually invite you for a drink, you're from Dragon Tiger Hall, and I'm from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. If someone sees us drinking together, who knows what they might say."

Ling Chen smiled, "Elder Du still worries about that? I thought Elder Du feared nothing."

Chapter 1446 - 1754: Drinking Contest

"I'm not afraid of anything." Du Kang said to himself, "But with so many people in the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, even if the innocent are naturally cleared, it's inevitable that some petty people will gossip behind our backs."

Ling Chen nodded. "That's true. Oh right, Elder Du, I heard that some time ago someone broke into the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and rescued that prisoner you were holding, Wang Hao. It's been so long now—have you caught the person yet?"

"No, we don't have any clues for the time being." Speaking of this, Du Kang gave Ling Chen a meaningful look and said lightly, "Some things don't need to be spelled out too clearly. We're all smart people here, as long as you understand it in your heart."

Hearing this, the corners of Ling Chen's mouth lifted slightly. So Du Kang had already guessed who that intruder was. The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion issuing the Heavenly Mechanism Order was just for show; no one was actually going to investigate this seriously.

"Elder Du, I advise you to grasp the limits properly, otherwise it'll be hard for anyone to step down gracefully when things blow up." Ling Chen's words were both a reminder and a warning. If the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion kept up its relationship with Su He and continued to help him in secret, then he would have no choice but to take measures.

"I'm not the one who calls the shots in the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Telling me this is useless. But I will relay your words to the Pavilion Master."

"Alright!" Off to the side, Tong Zhentian spoke up, "It's rare that we're out drinking, so let's not talk about such serious topics. Old Man Du, it's been many years since you and I had a proper drink together. Today we don't go home until we're drunk, how about it?"

Du Kang laughed and replied, "I can't guarantee anything else, but when it comes to drinking, I'll definitely keep you company to the end." As he finished speaking, Du Kang called the restaurant owner over again and had him move several jars of liquor into the private room.

Even though the restaurant owner had prepared a big table of dishes, almost nobody touched them; they were all focused on drinking. The drinking session went from noon all the way into the evening, and there were a full ten empty wine jars lined up in the private room.

Even with Ling Chen's decent tolerance, after finishing three jars he had no choice but to surrender. As for Tong Zhentian... he was purely relying on his deep internal energy to hold out.

After downing the last bowl of liquor, Du Kang said with satisfaction, "Today's drink was really satisfying."

Ling Chen smiled and said, "We'll get together again when there's a chance."

"Sure, but you'd better work on your tolerance. Don't be like Old Man Tong here, cheating even when it comes to drinking." Pausing for a moment, Du Kang suddenly changed the subject. "You all should be more careful in the next few days."

Be more careful? Ling Chen was slightly stunned, not reacting for a moment. He quickly asked, "Elder Du, what do you mean by that?"

Du Kang acted as if he hadn't heard Ling Chen's question. He stood up on his own and headed toward the door of the private room. Watching his retreating back, Ling Chen wanted to chase after him to get a clear answer, but was stopped by Tong Zhentian.

"No need to ask. He's already said everything he can. Even if you catch up, you won't get anything out of him. I know Old Man Du. Since he put it that way, there must be danger. We should all be more careful."

Ling Chen nodded, but in his heart he was still mulling over Du Kang's warning.

Du Kang was part of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. If it was the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion that intended to do them harm, he definitely wouldn't have warned them. Which meant that the ones they needed to be wary of weren't the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, but... Su He? Ling Chen's brows furrowed slightly. Most likely only Su He and Su Cheng'en had the ability to threaten their safety.

Could it be that Du Kang also knew about Su Cheng'en's existence?

After leaving the restaurant, Tong Zhentian and He Ziyun went straight back to the Beijing branch. The main purpose of He Ziyun's trip to Beijing this time was to take over management of the branch, and he still had a lot to deal with. As He Ziyun's personal disciple, Ye Liangyong naturally accompanied him the whole way.

Returning to Falcon Company, Ling Chen headed straight to his own room. Not long after he entered, he heard a series of knocks at the door from outside.

"Come in."

As Ling Chen's voice fell, the door was pushed open from outside. Seeing Dong Ying walk in, Ling Chen asked, "Assistant Dong, do you need something from me?"

"Chairman, it's like this—I just received an anonymous email."

"Anonymous email?" Ling Chen asked in puzzlement, "What does it say?"

Dong Ying opened her mouth, hesitated a moment, then took a sheet of paper from the folder she carried with her and handed it to Ling Chen.

"Chairman, it's better if you read it yourself."

Ling Chen skimmed through it, and his expression immediately changed. He asked in a deep voice, "When was this anonymous email sent?"

"Fifteen minutes ago."

"Can we still trace the IP address it was sent from?"

Dong Ying shook her head. "I tried to track the sender's signal, but they're very professional. They used multiple IPs to relay the connection. I couldn't lock onto a specific location." After speaking, she asked worriedly, "Chairman, should we call the police?"

"No need." Ling Chen said, "I'll handle this. Just pretend you don't know anything."

Before Dong Ying could say anything else, Ling Chen grabbed his jacket and rushed out of the dormitory.

After more than twenty minutes of driving, Ling Chen arrived at a pork processing plant in the urban area of Beijing. It was already dusk by now. The main gate of the processing plant was tightly shut, and there wasn't a single light on outside. Ling Chen circled the plant once, then climbed along the wall up to a window.

"No one..." Looking at the pitch-black processing plant, Ling Chen frowned slightly. Had the bastard tricked him?

After thinking for a moment, Ling Chen pushed open the window and slipped straight into the plant.

Taking in his surroundings, Ling Chen pulled out his phone, turned on the built-in flashlight, and slowly walked forward. After passing through a large doorway, a pungent, bloody stench immediately hit him. Ling Chen swung the beam of light around and found that this was a slaughter room, splattered with blood everywhere, not cleaned.

From the ceiling of the slaughter room, many freshly butchered pigs were still hanging, row after row, looking especially terrifying in the darkness.

All of a sudden, Ling Chen's expression changed as he was checking the place, his gaze locking onto the very center of the slaughter room. Hanging in the middle of those rows of pig carcasses... was actually a person.

"Xiaozhu!" Ling Chen cried out in shock and hurriedly ran toward Zhu Xiaozhu.

But just as he took a step, the lights in the slaughter room suddenly flared on. At the same time, the overhead conveyor slowly began to move, turning Zhu Xiaozhu's body along with it.

Seeing this, Ling Chen's gaze swept around. He grabbed a butcher's knife from nearby and hurled it at high speed, aiming to cut the rope around Zhu Xiaozhu's wrists. However, before the knife could reach her, it was blocked by one of the moving pig carcasses.

At this moment, sharp-eyed Ling Chen noticed that those pig carcasses were being carried by the conveyor belt toward a meat grinder. Not only that, Zhu Xiaozhu was extremely close to the grinder—at most twenty seconds or so, and her body would be turned into minced meat.

Chapter 1447 - 1755: Processing Plant

"Xiaozhu!" Ling Chen shouted, trying to wake up Zhu Xiaozhu. However, the latter seemed to be unconscious, and no matter how Ling Chen shouted, she had no reaction at all.

Seeing Zhu Xiaozhu's situation becoming increasingly dangerous, Ling Chen dared not delay any longer and hurriedly rushed towards her position.

Whoosh!

At this moment, a sound of something slicing through the air suddenly came over. Ling Chen focused his eyes and saw a sharp butcher's knife rapidly approaching. With no choice, the butcher's knife blocked his way, forcing Ling Chen to stop his steps, quickly turn around, and dodge the attack of the butcher's knife.

As the butcher's knife hit the ground, the conveyor belt suddenly stopped moving. At this moment, Zhu Xiaozhu was less than ten meters away from the meat grinder.

Seeing this, Ling Chen did not rush to rescue Zhu Xiaozhu. He knew that the opponent had deliberately stopped the conveyor belt. If he made a move, not only would someone stop him, but the conveyor belt would also restart.

"You've gone to great lengths to lure me here, I suppose it's not just to let me watch her die. Since I'm here, why hide? Is it that you don't even have the courage to face me directly?"

"Ling Chen, don't be so arrogant."

The voice came, and Ling Chen's heart stirred as he immediately recognized the voice of the opponent.

"Wang Hao! So it's you. You're really bold, escaping from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion with difficulty, and you still dare to come looking for trouble with me. Last time, I spared you for Su Mei's sake and handed you over to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion for their disposal. Otherwise, I would've taken your life long ago."

"Pity you couldn't kill me, it's the thing you'll regret most in your life." Wang Hao said coldly. As his voice sounded, Ling Chen turned his head to the left and saw Wang Hao walking out alone.

"Is it just you alone?" Ling Chen mocked, "Why not call out everyone else as well."

"Isn't one of me enough?"

Ling Chen shook his head and said, "Wang Hao, you and I both know that you're not my match alone. Since you've lured me here, you must have set up an inescapable trap."

"You're indeed clever." Wang Hao sneered and made a gesture. Immediately, a dozen strong men appeared around the slaughterhouse. All these men were shirtless, enormously tall and muscular, each holding two butcher's knives, exuding an invisible pressure.

After glancing at the enemies around, Ling Chen once again focused on Wang Hao and said, "Is it just these people? Where's your master, is he not going to show up?"

"You're enough to deal with, my master has more important things to do, no time for you."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's heart sank sharply. Thinking of Du Kang's reminder today, could this be the danger?

As thoughts flashed through his mind, the dozen butchers began slowly approaching Ling Chen.

Taking a deep breath, Ling Chen glanced at Zhu Xiaozhu hanging on the conveyor belt, slightly furrowing his brows, and quickly strategized in his mind.

"Ling Chen, the game has started, let's see if you can save her." As Wang Hao's voice faded, he took out a remote control and pressed it lightly. Instantly, the conveyor belt that had stopped started again, with Zhu Xiaozhu's body slowly approaching the meat grinder.

Without time to think much, Ling Chen tapped the tip of his foot, disappearing from the spot like a gust of wind. At this moment, the dozen butchers swarmed in, forming a wall of people, blocking Ling Chen's path.

Nine Yang Qiankun Step! With a slide of his foot, Ling Chen's body immediately turned into a shadow, attempting to slip through the gaps among those butchers. However, at this moment, a stream of liquid suddenly sprayed from the top of the slaughterhouse.

Fire extinguisher? Ling Chen was slightly stunned and quickly looked up. It was indeed a fire extinguisher, but the spray was not water, it was a red liquid. In the blink of an eye, Ling Chen had no chance to avoid it, and his whole body was covered with the red liquid.

Huh?

In an instant, Ling Chen realized what this red liquid was.

Strong glue! Because both the ground and his body were covered with red liquid, when his feet touched the ground, they were instantly affected by the strong glue, restricting his speed.

The Nine Yang Qiankun Step relies on speed, and if the speed can't be exerted, this martial art loses its effect. As he pondered, the butchers around him, all wielding butcher's knives, rushed over and slashed directly at Ling Chen's head.

If he were hit by these butcher's knives, even nine lives wouldn't be enough for Ling Chen to survive.

Noticing the agile movements of the opponents, Ling Chen raised an eyebrow, these guys... They clearly had red liquid on them, why were they not affected at all?

In the blink of an eye, as the blades attacked, Ling Chen slightly moved his body to avoid a critical slash. Before the butcher could retract his knife, Ling Chen gathered all his strength in his legs and kicked hard. Instantly, his body forcibly soared a meter high. Taking this opportunity, Ling Chen twisted his waist, reaching from behind to grab the butcher's neck with both hands, then securing it with his legs around the opponent's waist.

No matter how the opponent struggled, Ling Chen stuck to his body, not moving an inch.

Seeing their companion subdued by Ling Chen, the other butchers immediately swung their knives at Ling Chen's back.

"Off you go!" Ling Chen shouted, controlling the butcher's body to quickly turn around, blocking the attacks with the butcher's knife in his hand.

With one successful move, as the other butchers closed in, Ling Chen didn't stay put, tapping the tip of his foot, leaping directly over the butcher's body to land on another butcher's shoulder.

Because there was strong glue on the ground, if he touched down again, his actions would surely be restricted, putting him in real danger.

After continuously avoiding the encirclement of several butchers, Ling Chen cast a glance at Zhu Xiaozhu, who was still steadily moving. At this moment, Zhu Xiaozhu was less than five meters away from the meat grinder.

No more delaying!

Ling Chen shouted, stepping on a butcher's head to launch himself, soaring five to six meters away. At this time, with no other surfaces for support, Ling Chen had no choice but to land on the ground, exerting all his strength to rush towards Zhu Xiaozhu's position.

"Ling Chen, too late!" With Wang Hao's voice coming over, Ling Chen's expression changed dramatically. Turning his head, he saw Wang Hao was already close to him.

"Die!" Wang Hao struck with both palms, charging straight for Ling Chen's face, blocking his path.

If it were anyone else, Ling Chen might have confidence in dodging, but Wang Hao was different from those butchers; he was an Earthly List master, with a strength not much weaker than his own. To break free of Wang Hao in just a few seconds and save Zhu Xiaozhu was nearly an impossible task.

"Wang Hao, if something happens to her, I will make sure you wish for death." Ling Chen shouted angrily.

Chapter 1448 - 1756: Divide and Conquer (1)

Facing Ling Chen's roar, Wang Hao didn't pay it any mind, "Don't rush, when she dies later, you'll soon join her. Ling Chen, see how good I am to you, specially arranging a woman to accompany you by your side."

Ling Chen gritted his teeth, focusing all his attention on that meat grinder. Watching Zhu Xiaozhu's body slowly approaching the grinder, his heart ached intensely.

"Go to hell!" Ling Chen lightly tapped his feet, his body fiercely leaping forward, charging directly at Wang Hao. Seeing Ling Chen closing in, Wang Hao didn't dare to be careless, knowing that Ling Chen's strength was not weak.

However, just as Ling Chen was about to reach him, he suddenly turned and circled to the left. In a fight between masters, not a single flaw can be shown, or it could mean life or death. But by doing this, Ling Chen completely exposed his back. Wang Hao didn't hesitate, quickly turning around and striking a fierce palm at Ling Chen's back. Instantly, with a 'puff' sound, a mouthful of blood spurted from Ling Chen's mouth.

Struck by that force, Ling Chen stumbled and fell to the ground.

As his body hit the ground, Ling Chen didn't pause at all, rolling awkwardly to a table. In the next moment, disregarding his own pain, he swiftly stood up and grabbed a butcher knife from the tabletop.

Seeing Ling Chen's actions, Wang Hao's expression changed slightly and he rushed forward immediately. However, Ling Chen seemed oblivious to his approach, turned around, and quickly hurled the butcher knife.

Clang!

With a crisp sound, the knife landed right beside the meat grinder, severing an electric wire. Deprived of power, the rotating meat grinder immediately came to a stop.

At this moment, Zhu Xiaozhu, who was hanging on the conveyor belt, also fell into the grinder. Fortunately, the machine stopped a second early, sparing Zhu Xiaozhu's body from harm.

Although he successfully saved Zhu Xiaozhu, Ling Chen had also sustained severe injuries.

"Hmph!" Wang Hao sneered, looking at Ling Chen, "You're really desperate, willing to risk your safety for a woman."

Ling Chen remained silent. At this moment, the surrounding butchers converged, along with Wang Hao, making over twenty people. If he could use the Nine Yang Qiankun Step, Ling Chen would have more than a fifty percent chance of escape. Now, the Nine Yang Qiankun Step was restricted, and with Zhu Xiaozhu needing rescue, his situation was extremely dangerous.

"Where... where am I?" At this moment, Zhu Xiaozhu, who had fallen into the grinder, slowly regained consciousness. She rubbed her temples, glanced at her surroundings, and was instantly startled.

"How did I end up here!" Zhu Xiaozhu exclaimed, hurriedly climbing out of the grinder.

"Xiaozhu, run quickly!" Hearing Ling Chen's voice, Zhu Xiaozhu turned her head. With her intellect, she immediately understood the situation.

"Ling Chen, you..." Zhu Xiaozhu wanted to say something, but Ling Chen interrupted her.

"Run!" Ling Chen urged. With his repeated urging, Zhu Xiaozhu finally reacted and hurried toward the exit of the slaughter processing plant.

In her current state, staying would only be a burden, not only unable to help Ling Chen but also causing him more trouble. Seeing Zhu Xiaozhu about to escape, Wang Hao waved his hand and commanded, "Grab her, don't let her escape."

A few butchers responded and immediately grabbed their knives to chase after her.

Seeing this, Ling Chen's eyes widened, and he shouted, trying to block the butchers' path. However, Wang Hao had anticipated Ling Chen's actions, blocking him first.

"Ling Chen, our feud isn't over yet, I..." Before Wang Hao could finish talking, the slaughterhouse suddenly plunged into darkness as all the lights went out.

"What's going on?" Wang Hao was momentarily stunned and immediately shouted.

In the pitch-black environment, Ling Chen was only briefly dazed before quickly reacting. It was obvious that, apart from Zhu Xiaozhu, no one else would help him.

This was a rare chance, and Ling Chen didn't want to waste time tangling with Wang Hao and the others. He felt his way toward the exit of the processing plant. He hadn't gone far when beams of light suddenly shone from behind. Turning to look, Ling Chen found that Wang Hao and his men were using their cell phone flashlights to search for him.

Time was tight, and Ling Chen didn't hesitate, speeding toward the factory's main gate. Soon, Zhu Xiaozhu appeared in his line of sight. At the moment, Zhu Xiaozhu was using a chair to smash the door forcefully.

"Xiaozhu."

Hearing the footsteps behind her, Zhu Xiaozhu quickly turned around, seeing the fast-approaching Ling Chen, her face filled with joy.

"Are you okay?"

Ling Chen shook his head, glanced at the locked door, and said, "Step aside." Then, he took a deep breath, gathered his Inner Strength, and with a soft shout, his steel fist slammed into the door panel.

Bam!

The heavy door was directly blasted open by Ling Chen's Inner Strength. Meanwhile, Wang Hao and his men had caught up to the doorway.

"Quick, go!" Ling Chen grabbed Zhu Xiaozhu's wrist and hurriedly fled outside. However, Zhu Xiaozhu's body was too frail, and it wasn't long before she was out of breath. With no other choice, Ling Chen picked up her delicate body and ran forward together.

Soon, the two reached the place where the car was parked. After getting in the car, watching Wang Hao and the others approaching quickly from behind, Ling Chen didn't hesitate and floored the gas pedal, the car speeding off, disappearing around a corner.

Watching Ling Chen's car fade into the distance, Wang Hao couldn't help but curse, his face full of resentment. Such a good opportunity, yet Ling Chen managed to escape.

Huff!

Inside the car, Ling Chen panted continuously, and after the car distanced itself from the processing plant, he gradually slowed down, parking it by the roadside.

"Xiaozhu, how are you, are you hurt?" Ling Chen asked with concern.

"I'm fine," Zhu Xiaozhu asked puzzled, "Who were those people just now? I don't know them, why did they capture me?"

"Those people were after me. They wanted to lure me in, so they used you as bait. I'm sorry, I didn't expect you to get involved."

"It's okay, don't worry about it. Blame those scoundrels for using such lowdown tactics," Zhu Xiaozhu said, looking at the blood on Ling Chen's lips, she asked worriedly, "You're injured, should we go to the hospital?"

Ling Chen waved his hand, "No need, it's not that serious." After a pause, he continued, "I'll take you home first."

Wang Hao's sudden attack this time was definitely premeditated. The key thing was, throughout the confrontation, only Wang Hao appeared, while Su He and Su Cheng'en were nowhere to be seen.

Chapter 1449 - 1757: Defeating Them One by One (2)

Given Ling Chen's understanding of Su He and the other person, these two would never act alone, leaving Wang Hao to operate independently. So, Su He and Su Cheng'en likely have other plans.

At this moment, outside a nightclub in Beijing. Ling Gengqiu emerged with Jiang Yunkai accompanying him, who courteously opened the car door and said with a smile: "Qiu, get in the car."

Ling Gengqiu nodded and directly sat on the back seat, "You are Jiang Yunkai, right? Thanks for the hospitality tonight, I am very satisfied."

"As long as it's to Qiu's satisfaction," Jiang Yunkai said with a smile. "Next time you want to come out and have fun, just let me know, and I'll dispatch a car to pick you up."

"Alright."

After a brief chat, Jiang Yunkai instructed the driver with a few words and then watched Ling Gengqiu drive away.

Sitting inside the car, Ling Gengqiu leisurely swayed his head, still reminiscing about the taste of the ladies just now. Ling Chen, that boy, is truly outstanding, knowing his preferences, and specially arranged for him to relax at a nightclub.

While he was thinking, the driver in the front suddenly turned around and said: "Qiu, there are people trailing us from behind."

Following? Ling Gengqiu immediately looked out the rear window, only to see a business car persistently tailing them from behind. Because the lighting was too dim, he couldn't see the people inside the business car.

"Stop the car." Ling Gengqiu spoke immediately without even thinking.

"Qiu, isn't this unsafe? Why don't we call Kai instead?" the driver suggested.

"No need, just some clowns, don't bother, let me handle it." Ling Gengqiu said confidently, jokingly. Who does he think he is, how could he be scared by such a small scene?

The driver had no choice but to park the car on the roadside. Ling Gengqiu opened the car door, saying: "You wait inside, I'll be back shortly."

After saying that, Ling Gengqiu set his eyes on the slowly approaching business car. As soon as the business car stopped, Ling Gengqiu immediately walked over. But, having just walked out not too far, Ling Gengqiu suddenly halted, with his eyes gradually growing solemn.

After a brief silence for a few minutes, Ling Gengqiu finally spoke: "Since you're here, come out. Why hide inside like a turtle bastard?"

As the words fell, the business car door was pushed open from inside. Next, a middle-aged man emerged from the vehicle.

"Ling Gengqiu, we meet again."

"Unfortunately, I don't want to see you." After saying that, Ling Gengqiu looked at Su He who got off the business car, expressionless, "What is it? You fled alone last time, did you specially bring helpers to deal with me this time?"

"Ling Gengqiu, the grievance between you and me has lasted for hundreds of years, it's time to resolve it. What do you think?"

"If you want to fight, then fight, why all the nonsense, it's still uncertain whose head will rule. " With that, without waiting for Su Cheng'en to speak again, Ling Gengqiu lightly tap with his toes, turning into a fleeting shadow, rushing towards Su Cheng'en.

Facing Ling Gengqiu's assault, Su Cheng'en didn't move, still standing in place. Suddenly, he swung his right arm, and a fist instantly appeared in front of him. However, under his defense, that fist didn't hit his body.

With just one move, the bystander Su He was already stunned.

This speed... Su He was secretly aghast, questioning his Nine Yang Qiankun Step as the top-ranking movement technique in the Martial Arts, but when compared to Ling Gengqiu and Su Cheng'en, his Nine Yang Qiankun Step fell completely inferior.

With only his own power and no movement technique, Ling Gengqiu could easily surpass the speed of the Nine Yang Qiankun Step, showcasing terrifying strength.

At this time, Ling Gengqiu and Su Cheng'en had already exchanged over ten moves, mostly with Ling Gengqiu on the attack. That speed was like a rapid gust of wind, even Su He couldn't capture Ling Gengqiu's figure. In contrast, Su Cheng'en's movements appeared very slow, seemingly casual waves of his hands. However, each of his strikes could easily defend against Ling Gengqiu's attacks.

A few minutes passed, the two exchanged blows back and forth, with neither gaining the upper hand. At this time, Ling Gengqiu, who had been on the offensive, suddenly withdrew, to a position two meters outside of the attack range.

"Why not continue?" Su Cheng'en asked, looking at Ling Gengqiu.

"I thought of a question." Ling Gengqiu said, "Why can you live for so long?"

"Don't you think this question is unnecessary? Since you can live for so many years, why can't I?"

"If I'm not mistaken, when you were over eighty, I saw you once. At that time, you had not yet reached that realm, so you couldn't have, like me, achieved immortality. The last time I saw you was during your ninetieth birthday, where you were very weak, unable to move your hands and feet. Furthermore, from you, I clearly felt the dead aura, indicating your end was near. The year after your ninetieth birthday, news of your passing was released by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. When I learned of this news, I did not verify it because I believed, given your situation at the time, it was impossible to survive, so you were truly dead."

Su Cheng'en sneered: "There's something called miracles in this world."

"Miracles exist, but never happened to you. So, seeing you appear that day, I was very curious, how did you stay alive?"

"You really want to know? Maybe when you die, I'll tell you." As the words fell, Su Cheng'en stepped forward. Having been on the defensive for so long, it's time to take the offensive initiative.

"Hey! Kai, where's Qiu?"

"I just dropped him into the car, he should be home by now." Jiang Yunkai replied over the phone.

"I called him but got no answer, I also asked his family, and he hadn't returned home." Ling Chen's tone carried a bit of urgency.

"Is that so? Then wait a moment, I'll make a call to ask the driver, he should know where Qiu is."

After two minutes, Jiang Yunkai dialed Ling Chen's number again, "Chen, I reached out, but no one answered the phone. I'm afraid they might be in trouble."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen thought the matter was indeed troubling. Ling Gengqiu and the driver's phones were on, yet no one answered, this was evidently suspicious.

"Kai, which road were they headed?"

"Jinhong Road."

"Alright, I got it." Hanging up, Ling Chen immediately turned the car around, driving in the direction of Jinhong Road. Since the driver was to drop Ling Gengqiu home, searching along Jinhong Road should reveal their whereabouts.

At this time, at the parking spot, Su He glanced at the driver's lifeless body lying on the ground, then dug out the ringing mobile phone from his pocket.

"Ancestor, it's best we evacuate immediately, their people will arrive soon."

"Why rush?" Su Cheng'en coldly snapped, "They haven't arrived yet, let's kill him first."

Chapter 1450 - 1758: Defeating Them One by One (3)

While speaking, Su Cheng'en accelerated his attacks, fully suppressing Ling Gengqiu, leaving him with no chance to counter.

"Ling Gengqiu, after all these years, is this the best you can do? Truly disappointing," Su Cheng'en mocked coldly.

Ling Gengqiu dismissed Su Cheng'en's words as nonsense, paying them no mind. At this moment, he had no extra energy to think much. Su Cheng'en's strength was formidable; if he were in his peak condition, Su Cheng'en's attacks would be nothing, easily deflectable.

But now, missing a leg, his strength was greatly diminished. If it were someone like Su He from the Heavenly List, he could deal with them single-handedly. However, Su Cheng'en was more formidable than a Heavenly List expert; a slight mistake could be life-threatening.

Watching Ling Gengqiu retreat step by step, Su Cheng'en showed a hint of a smug smile. Years ago, he wasn't a match for Ling Gengqiu, but now he could finally dominate him.

As he pondered, Su Cheng'en roared and hurled his fist forward, coinciding with Ling Gengqiu's punch. With a muffled sound, both bodies quickly separated.

However, judging by their retreating distances, Ling Gengqiu's strength was slightly inferior, retreating half a meter more than Su Cheng'en.

At this moment, Ling Gengqiu's expression became extremely solemn, having felt a strong sense of crisis from the earlier exchange. The last encounter saw Su Cheng'en retreat due to concerns; however, this time, he was clearly prepared.

Just as Su Cheng'en was about to attack again, a beam of strong light suddenly shone. The three focused their gaze, only to see a car rapidly approaching. As the car drew near, the body suddenly swerved, moving sideways to directly collide into Su Cheng'en.

The car moved very fast, closing in an instant.

Facing this sudden twist, Su Cheng'en didn't choose to dodge but extended his arms, bracing forcefully against the side of the car.

Incredibly, Su Cheng'en managed to stop the car's impact with sheer force. Even Ling Chen, who was driving, found this unbelievable.

Damn! Is this guy even human? Such immense power. If he landed a punch, it'd be fatal.

"Kid, what are you staring at? Hurry and get down."

In a daze, upon hearing Ling Gengqiu's voice, Ling Chen snapped out of it, quickly scrambling out of the driver's seat, hastening to Ling Gengqiu's side.

"Brother, how are you? Are you hurt?"

"Not now, but who knows later," Ling Gengqiu frowned and said, "Su Cheng'en is very strong; I don't have the confidence to defeat him one-on-one."

"What do we do then?"

Scanning the surroundings, Ling Gengqiu said gravely, "Of the Thirty-Six Strategies, fleeing is the best. We'll split and run." Finished, Ling Gengqiu didn't pause, charging down the street.

Once Ling Gengqiu left, Ling Chen didn't dare linger either, quickly fleeing in the opposite direction.

Su Cheng'en and Su He pursued in different directions. Hearing the footsteps behind, Ling Chen dared not look back, concentrating all his strength into his legs, increasing his speed.

However, trailing him was a Heavenly List expert skilled in the Nine Yang Qiankun Step. In mere ten seconds, the footsteps grew closer. Judging by the sound, the pursuer was less than ten meters away.

What to do?

Ling Chen glanced at the street sides, thoughts racing for a solution. Just then, a car drove up from the front, stopping before him.

Help? Ling Chen felt a surge of hope inexplicably. But when the car door opened, despair replaced his hope.

He thought someone was there to help him, but it was Wang Hao who arrived.

At this moment, Wang Hao and his men blocked Ling Chen's path, and with Su He, Ling Chen was trapped, unable to escape.

"Ling Chen, I told you, you won't live past tonight," Wang Hao sneered.

Ling Chen furrowed his brows, looking at the approaching Su He, unsure of what to do. With only Wang Hao, he was confident in breaking through, but against Su He, even as a Heavenly List expert now, he wouldn't necessarily have a chance.

Could it be that he really wouldn't survive the night?

"Master, let me handle him."

Su He nodded and said, "Finish quickly, don't waste time."

Wang Hao acknowledged, advancing step by step toward Ling Chen. Watching Wang Hao approach, Ling Chen's body suddenly relaxed, exhaling deeply.

"What, thinking of surrendering?" Wang Hao asked noticing Ling Chen's demeanor.

"Surrender would be too much; ultimately, it's just death. Out in the world, debts must be paid. I've prepared myself," Ling Chen smiled faintly, "I'm just thinking, if I die, I want to die worthwhile."

"Worthwhile death?" Wang Hao was slightly stunned, not yet grasping Ling Chen's meaning when Ling Chen suddenly accelerated, charging toward him.

Humph!

Seeking death... Wang Hao chuckled disdainfully. Ling Chen, already gravely injured at the factory, wasn't a match for him in his current condition, so he felt no concern.

Two meters... one meter... as the distance between them shrank, Ling Chen abruptly shouted, "Explosion!"

Instantly, a powerful force erupted from Ling Chen's body, condensing in his steel fist.

Feeling the sudden surge in Ling Chen's aura, Su He's expression changed, quickly reminding, "Be careful!"

Unfortunately, Ling Chen's attack was swift; even with Su He's warning, Wang Hao couldn't adjust his defense in time.

Boom!

With Ling Chen's steel fist strike, Wang Hao's body produced a loud sound, and then, he flew from the ground, drawing a parabola in the air before crashing heavily to the ground.

Thud!

Spitting blood, Wang Hao's face paled like paper, collapsing into unconsciousness.

Seeing Wang Hao knocked down, Ling Chen breathed heavily, his body trembling slightly, legs shaking as if he might fall any moment.

"I underestimated you."

A voice emerged, as Ling Chen turned with difficulty, speaking to Su He standing before him, with a wry smile: "Go ahead and kill; I have no strength left to resist."

"I said long ago you were a fine talent. If only you served me, your future would be limitless. Pity, you decided to stand against me."

"If you hadn't done so much wicked and harmful things, perhaps I would've stayed by your side as your apprentice. Pity, this world lacks 'ifs'.

"You're right! So I must send you off personally."