

War God 271

Chapter 271: Merge Black and White, Revere Me as King!

The Sky Star Grass, of course, was the purpose of Lin Mu's journey.

And this Mountain and River Cauldron was a legendary Divine Artifact from ancient times.

Legend has it that in ancient times, Da Yu forged the Nine Cauldrons to suppress Jiuzhou. Each of these smaller cauldrons possessed immense power, enough to connect heaven and earth. However, as ages passed and the world changed, the Nine Cauldrons either vanished into the river of time or went into hiding, becoming a rare sight for ordinary people.

This Mountain and River Cauldron was one of the Nine Cauldrons.

Of course, this particular Mountain and River Cauldron already showed signs of damage. Its Spiritual Energy had greatly diminished, and it no longer possessed the majestic power it once had to suppress an entire continent. However, Lin Mu was pleasantly surprised to find that its remaining functions were still of great use to him.

The main function of the Mountain and River Cauldron was to contain all things in existence. Although it no longer had such terrifying abilities, it could still hold a great deal.

With a wave of his hand, the Mountain and River Cauldron immediately fell into his grasp. Lin Mu examined it and confirmed its identity; its ancient and boundless aura could not be faked. His Divine Sense stirred slightly, probing into the Mountain and River Cauldron.

BOOM!

A terrifyingly vast aura surged toward him, causing even Lin Mu to nearly lose his balance and stumble back several steps.

"Master!"

"Mr. Lin!"

Li Xiaotian and the others' expressions changed, and they started to move forward.

"Stay back!" Lin Mu's eyes flashed as he commanded, "Everyone, retreat to the foot of the mountain! Without my permission, no one is allowed to come up!"

Li Xiaotian immediately responded, "Yes! We obey Master's command!"

"Go, hurry up and go!" Li Xuan said with even more gravity. "Everyone, leave this place. Anyone who disobeys will be treated as a traitor to the clan!"

Once the group had left, Lin Mu could no longer hold on and spat out a mouthful of blood. His Divine Soul had been struck, and he was injured.

However, the blood that sprayed onto the Mountain and River Cauldron quickly vanished as if it had been absorbed. At the same time, the cauldron began to tremble slightly, as if in resistance.

"Since you've fallen into my hands, do you still think you can escape?" Lin Mu chuckled softly. He then sat down cross-legged, took a deep breath, and a surge of even more powerful Divine Soul force gushed forth.

His Divine Soul force could be considered the greatest in the world. After all, he had managed to survive drifting through the universe for countless years. One could only imagine that his Divine Soul had long been tempered to be impervious to fire and flood.

If the Mountain and River Cauldron were at its peak, Lin Mu would still dare to confront it, let alone in its current state.

Atop the summit, an invisible, vast power suddenly radiated from Lin Mu.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Above the sky, thunderbolts suddenly roared, seeming to descend. But from within the Starry Sea, a Thunder Dragon hundreds of feet long shot forward. It let out a mighty roar, and all the thunder vanished.

With the appearance of the Thunder Dragon, all thunderbolts receded.

After an unknown amount of time, Lin Mu's eyes snapped open. He slapped his palm on the Mountain and River Cauldron.

"Rise!"

As his voice fell, the Mountain and River Cauldron floated up, transforming into a massive cauldron over three meters tall. With three legs and two handles, it exuded an air of simple grandeur and a sense of timeless immensity. Engraved upon its body were birds, beasts, mountains, rivers, and all of creation.

Lin Mu looked toward the Cold Pool again, pointed, and commanded, "Gather."

BOOM! BOOM!

A powerful suction force erupted from within the Mountain and River Cauldron, pulling the Jiaolong's corpse directly inside. The lid automatically sealed shut.

"Retract!" Lin Mu commanded. The Mountain and River Cauldron went WHOOSH, shrinking to the size of a grain of rice and flying into his body.

Within his Dantian, a wisp of purple flame burned eternally. Amidst the flames, a small, simple cauldron bobbed uncertainly.

Given time, as his Cultivation Level increased, he was confident he could restore the Mountain and River Cauldron to its full might. Then, this ancient Divine Artifact would finally see the light of day once again.

For now, however, the Mountain and River Cauldron could only serve as a magical treasure for storage, much like a storage bag. For instance, while Lin Mu had no immediate use for the Jiaolong's carcass, he could store it for the future when it might prove invaluable. The same went for the Sky Star Grass and everything else. It was incredibly convenient.

After Lin Mu finished tidying up, the Thunder Dragon roared down from the sky, circling around him as if it were quite pleased.

"I appreciate it." Looking at the Thunder Dragon, Lin Mu knew that this fellow had suddenly awakened to act as his protector.

"You've done well in your duties. Take this demon pill as a snack," Lin Mu said. As he spoke, he casually tossed out the giant python's demon pill.

The Thunder Dragon opened its mouth and swallowed it. CRUNCH, CRUNCH. A look of enjoyment appeared in its draconic eyes. Though it was merely a manifestation of the Thunder's Origin, it had developed intelligence and knew its master was genuinely good to it. The Spiritual Energy in the giant python's demon pill was hopelessly impure, making it useless to Lin Mu anyway.

After recalling the Thunder Dragon, Lin Mu glanced around. Seeing nothing else of interest, he started down the mountain.

「At the foot of the mountain.」

Li Xuan and the others from Bai Miao Village were in a standoff with another group. Judging by their opponents' clothes, they were from Heimiao Village.

"Xiao Zhan, what is the meaning of this? Do you really think bringing all these people here will make my Bai Miao Village afraid of you?!" Li Xuan narrowed her eyes, staring intently at the middle-aged man opposite her.

This man was Xiao Su's brother, Xiao Zhan. His strength was at the Inner Strength level, making him a formidable expert. Standing behind him were members from all of the Nine Villages and Eighteen Caves; by blood, they were all branches of the Li Clan.

Although they were outnumbered, Li Xuan was not the least bit afraid. Since even the High Priest had died at Mr. Lin's hands, what was this rabble to be afraid of?

"Elder Li Xuan, you've misunderstood," Xiao Zhan said with a bitter smile. "We know everything. Xiao Su and the others were deceived by the High Priest. They violated our ancestral teachings by attacking Bai Miao Village and have already been struck from our clan records."

Li Xuan asked, puzzled, "Then what is this...?"

Xiao Zhan replied solemnly, "We heard that the Li Clan's traitorous High Priest has been executed and that the evil dragon of the Dragon Lair has been slain. We wish to meet the renowned River City Lin Wudi."

"You are here to see Mr. Lin?" Li Xuan inquired.

"That's right. We wish to proclaim Mr. Lin as the king of our Li Clan," Xiao Zhan said, and he did not appear to be joking.

At these words, the thousands of people present were utterly shocked.

King of the Li Clan? That would make him the Miao King!

As the name implied, he would be the king of all Miao Tribes!

Since the time of the Ancient God Chi You, besides the Twelve Ancestor Witches, the Miao Tribe had never had a true Miao King. That is why for so many years, the Miao Tribe has been fragmented and difficult to unite—all because it lacked a Miao King.

If there were a Miao King, which of the Miao people would dare disobey him? The position of the Miao King in the hearts of the Miao people was supreme!

"You wish to make me your king?"

Just then, a calm voice drifted down from the mountain path.

It was Lin Mu!

Seeing Lin Mu, Xiao Zhan and the others immediately knelt. "Clan Leader Xiao of the Li Clan humbly beseeches Mr. Lin to ascend the throne of the Miao King!" he proclaimed respectfully.

Li Xuan's expression flickered. She too hurriedly knelt, declaring, "I, Elder Li Xuan of Bai Miao Village, humbly beg Mr. Lin to ascend the throne of the Miao King!"

"I, Li Lai, the one hundred and fortieth Saintess of Bai Miao Village, also plead for Mr. Lin to ascend the throne of the Miao King!"

THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

Immediately after, everyone present fell to their knees. Their expressions were feverish, their voices deafening as they chanted.

"We earnestly request that Mr. Lin ascend the throne of the Miao King!!"

"..."

Chapter 272 Bestow the Law!

「At dusk.」

Lin Mu sat on a cliff overlooking Bai Miao Village, admiring the distinctive scenery.

DING, DING, DANG, DANG.

The crisp sounds came from behind. Without looking back, Lin Mu knew who it was.

Li Lai walked over gracefully and bowed. "Greetings, Miao King!"

Lin Mu nodded, glancing at her.

Li Lai had changed her clothes. She was still in the traditional attire of the Miao Tribe, but this outfit was far more luxurious and extraordinary than her last, complete with a pure silver crown on her head. It gave her a unique flair.

When Li Lai saw Lin Mu staring at her, her cheeks flushed slightly. This was an attire unique to the Miao Ethnic Saintess, and it was her first time wearing it. For the Miao Tribe, having a king was an immense honor for every member. And the Saintess was the Miao King's woman. The implication of her wearing this outfit was obvious.

"Let's go."

Lin Mu stood up and walked toward the center of the village. Li Lai hesitated for a moment before quickly following him.

That night, the entire Bai Miao Village held a grand bonfire party. Countless young people sang and danced around the bonfire, the silver ornaments on their clothing clinking together to produce a pleasant, ringing sound.

Surrounded like the moon by stars, Li Lai was the center of attention, her cheeks flushed red. But her gaze occasionally drifted to the young man in the seat of honor. He was leaning back with one hand on his forehead and the other holding a cup of wine, his eyes not looking her way. A pang of disappointment filled her.

Lin Mu sat in the Miao King's seat, silently watching it all unfold, but his heart was no longer there. He'd been away for a few days and had collected nearly all the ingredients for the Foundation Establishment Pill. It was time to go back. There were still matters awaiting his attention in River City.

The festivities wound down, and the crowd dispersed.

Compared to his previous accommodations, Lin Mu was now housed in the most luxurious and prestigious room in Bai Miao Village. Of course, given the village's humble conditions, the room wasn't truly luxurious. Still, it had all the living essentials. Li Xuan had even arranged for someone to build a new wooden tub, which was already filled with hot water. What amused Lin Mu was the layer of flower petals floating on the water's surface.

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK.

The sound of knocking came from the door.

"Miao King, are you asleep?" Li Lai's voice called from outside.

Lin Mu was slightly stunned. What was Li Lai doing here at this late hour? Puzzled, he opened the door.

The moment he saw her, Lin Mu immediately understood. Li Lai had changed her clothes again. She now wore a white nightgown and stood barefoot at his door, her face flushed, not daring to meet his eyes.

"Miao King, the Li Clan has a rule that the Saintess must serve the Miao King when he retires for the night." Li Lai's voice was as faint as a buzzing fly; if not for his keen hearing, Lin Mu would not have heard her at all.

Lin Mu was speechless.

"Go back. In my presence, there is no such rule," Lin Mu said flatly.

He wasn't sure if this was standard treatment for the Miao King, but in his eyes, Li Lai was just a child. Besides, his mind wasn't on such matters.

"But..."

Li Lai grew panicked, thinking the Miao King disliked her. Tears instantly welled in her eyes. "Miao King," she sobbed, "did I do something wrong?"

Lin Mu sighed and ruffled her hair. "Though I am the Miao King, I am an outsider. As the Saintess of the Miao Tribe, you should feel free to choose any of its warriors. They surely wouldn't refuse you."

Li Lai trembled, her eyes quivering as she looked at Lin Mu. "But the Miao Ethnic Saintess is meant to be the Miao King's woman. She is destined to marry no one else..."

Besides, who could possibly be more outstanding than the Miao King?

"I know what you're thinking," Lin Mu interrupted. "I even know that Li Xuan and the others likely put you up to this. But I'm telling you, it's impossible. If they insist on this, then I'd rather not be the Miao King at all."

"Miao King, please don't!" Li Lai cried, growing anxious.

Seeing Lin Mu's calm expression, Li Lai's own face fell. She lowered her head and said, "I understand." With that, she turned and left. A single, clear tear slid down her cheek.

Watching Li Lai's retreating figure, Lin Mu shook his head slightly.

He understood her feelings, of course. The Miao Tribe had always worshipped the strong. Since he was the first outsider she had ever met, it was only natural for her to be attracted to him. And the elders' intentions were even simpler. Though he was an outsider who had become their king, he couldn't possibly stay here forever. Having him leave a descendant behind was the most logical solution for them.

Many were destined for a sleepless night. Li Lai lay in bed, silently shedding tears. Li Tong and countless other young men of Bai Miao Village wore complex expressions, their eyes dull with disappointment and resentment. In her own room, Li Xuan could only let out a long, soft sigh.

...

「The next day at dawn.」

After getting ready, Lin Mu arrived at the council hall. People from both Bai Miao Village and Heimiao Village were present. Li Lai sat in a chair, her head bowed in silence.

His expression impassive, Lin Mu went directly to the head seat and sat down.

"Grandmaster, everyone has arrived," Li Xiaotian, sitting just below Lin Mu, said respectfully.

"Mm." Lin Mu nodded. His gaze suddenly shifted to Li Lai. "Li Lai, would you like to become my disciple?"

As soon as these words were spoken, the entire hall erupted into an uproar. Everyone's eyes turned toward Li Lai, filled with envy. After all, they had witnessed the Miao King's abilities. To say he was a Heavenly God descended to earth was no exaggeration. And now, the Miao King was actually planning to take Li Lai as his disciple. How could they not be envious?

Only a few people present understood Lin Mu's intentions, especially Li Lai herself.

"Ahem," Li Xuan coughed quickly, seeing that Li Lai was still stunned.

Li Lai silently rose, walked before Lin Mu, and knelt. "I am willing!"

"Good!" Lin Mu said. "I have always been strict in choosing my disciples. Xiaotian is one of them. From today, you will be my Disciple in Name. When the time is right, you will formally become my Disciple."

"Thank you, Grandmaster!" Li Lai prostrated herself, her voice trembling slightly.

"Mm. Then I shall transmit to you the Exterminate God Gu Sutra, which can command a myriad of Gu Insects. I will also transmit the Lightness Secret Record; this is a movement art which contains several secret techniques. You must cultivate it diligently."

Lin Mu touched a finger to Li Lai's forehead, transferring a stream of Mana into her body.

"Although you are a Disciple in Name, I will treat you as my direct disciple. Lastly, I bestow upon you one Nine-Star Bloodshadow Worm."

With a turn of his palm, a golden worm appeared in its center. Unlike ordinary Gu Insects, this Nine-Star Bloodshadow Worm shimmered with a golden luster, emitting not a scent of blood but a faint, pleasant fragrance.

"A Nine-Star Bloodshadow Worm?"

At the sight of the insect, everyone in the hall was shocked. This was a type of Gu King even rarer than the Soul Devouring Gu. They hadn't expected the Miao King to have cultivated one.

With a flick of his finger, the Gu Insect instantly entered Li Lai's forehead.

Lin Mu hesitated for a moment before adding, "In my absence, you will have full authority over the Li Clan!" He smiled lightly. "Now sit down. I will perform an attunement for you."

He once again touched his finger to Li Lai's forehead. Instantly, a seed of spiritual energy was implanted there, containing all the memories and experience required to practice the two Cultivation Techniques. Not only that, but a more ethereal and clear aura began to emanate from her body.

"From now on, no one below the rank of Grandmaster will be able to harm you in the slightest. With the Nine-Star Bloodshadow Worm I've given you, you can even hold your own against a Grandmaster."

Lin Mu sat back down with a smile, while the others were left staggered by shock.

He looked at the crowd and said, "Of course, I will also leave behind a physical cultivation technique for you all, so that the children and able-bodied youth of the tribe can practice it. Furthermore, I own a pharmaceutical company. The medicinal materials it requires will be supplied by you."

Li Xuan was overjoyed. "Thank you, Miao King."

"Mm." Lin Mu looked at everyone and said calmly, "Rest assured. Since you have honored me as your king, I will not treat you poorly. On the contrary, I will ensure you all grow stronger and stronger."

"Thank you, Miao King!"

Chapter 273: Director Lin, Where Are You?

Boheng Pharma.

The general manager's office was currently filled with people, all of them senior executives of the company. Worry was etched on everyone's faces, including Su Ke'er's.

Ren Xiaofei paced back and forth anxiously. "Has anyone been able to contact the chairman yet?" she asked, her voice strained. "Wanta Group only gave us three days, and today is the last one. We still haven't been able to reach him. What are we going to do?"

"That's right. Wanta Group is a huge corporation, and they have the powerful Jiangling Fang Family behind them. Maybe we should just..." a manager said cautiously.

The Wanta Group they spoke of was also a pharmaceutical company, but it was countless times larger than Boheng Pharma. Starting out in pharmaceuticals, Wanta Group was a natural rival to Boheng Pharma. In the past, Boheng Pharma was never on Wanta Group's radar, as its operations were confined to a much smaller circle, barely noticeable in the grand scheme of River City. However, Boheng Pharma had recently launched several major projects, expanding aggressively and securing significant resources and raw material production bases.

This encroached upon Wanta Group's interests.

The catalyst was a single project. Liu Zijian, from the company's business department, was negotiating for a new source of raw materials. As it turned out, Wanta Group was competing for the same contract. In the end, however, the supplier was impressed by Liu Zijian's earnest approach and awarded the contract to him.

This, of course, offended Wanta Group.

Two days ago, men from Wanta Group had forced their way into Boheng Pharma, demanding they sell the raw material contract to them. If the price had been fair, Boheng Pharma might have considered it and simply found a new partner. But the price Wanta Group offered was half of what Boheng had paid.

Naturally, Su Ke'er and the other senior executives refused.

In response, Wanta Group's representative issued an ultimatum: they had three days to reconsider, and if they refused, they shouldn't blame Wanta Group for resorting to any means necessary.

Now, the three-day deadline was nearly up.

As she watched everyone argue, Su Ke'er grew increasingly irritated.

"Enough!" Su Ke'er slammed her hand on the table. Her face was grim as she scanned the room. "I know what you're all thinking, but I'll make myself clear. I, Su Ke'er, will not agree to Wanta Group's terms. I refuse to believe they can do a thing to me!"

For the past two days, Su Ke'er had also been trying to contact Lin Mu, but to no avail. Buried under a mountain of company problems and conflicting opinions, she had delegated the task of contacting him to his secretary. Even so, she stood by her principles and refused to yield to Wanta Group's demands. This company wasn't just Lin Mu's; she had poured her heart and soul into it as well.

Besides, Su Ke'er knew exactly what Lin Mu was capable of. Without him, she would have died countless times over. Without him, her mother might have passed away long ago. So, even with Lin Mu absent, she would not back down a single inch.

"But..." a senior executive sighed. Perhaps the chairman already got wind of the news and went into hiding. After all, despite his impressive skills and methods, he's still too inexperienced compared to a behemoth like Wanta Group. Not to mention, they have the backing of the Jiangling Fang Family.

As they were speaking, Su Ke'er's phone rang. It was the security manager. "President Su... bad news! Men from Wanta Group are here, they're..."

"Stop them!" Su Ke'er's face darkened as she roared into the phone.

"ARGH..."

A pained scream was the only reply.

Su Ke'er was shocked. "Damn it!"

She shot up from her chair and strode toward the door. "Let's go! We'll go down and see what's happening!"

The others rose to follow.

"Heh, no need for that."

Just as they were about to leave, the meeting room door was violently burst open. The man leading the group was young and dressed in a suit, his expression arrogant, his eyes holding a sinister gleam. Behind him stood a crowd of fierce-looking men, clearly local thugs, all of them staring with hostile intent. With so many people storming into the room, no one dared to stand in their way.

Furious, Su Ke'er stepped forward to block him. "Fang Ming, what do you think you're doing? Causing a public disturbance? Believe me, I will call the police right now!"

"Call the police?" The young man, Fang Ming, sneered. "Manager Su, I'm surprised you're a senior executive. Since I dared to bring this many men here today, I'm obviously not afraid of you calling the police."

"You..." Su Ke'er's expression was stormy. "Where are the security guards?" she shouted. "Where the hell did they go?"

"Don't waste your breath." Fang Ming let out a strange laugh. "Your security guards? They're all taking a nap on the floor outside." He sized up Su Ke'er and whistled. "Honestly, your Boheng Pharma's security is truly pathetic. Not a single one of them could put up a fight."

At his words, one of Fang Ming's tall, burly men chuckled. That one security guard was supposedly skilled, but he still went down with a single punch.

Fang Ming waved his hand dismissively. "Alright, the three days are up. Have you considered my terms?"

"Fang Ming, you can give up on that idea. I will never agree!" Su Ke'er replied coldly.

"Is that so?" Fang Ming sauntered over to a chair and sat down. "And where's your so-called Director Lin? Tell him to get his ass out here to see me, not hide like a coward in his shell."

"Director Lin is not here! And I suggest you watch your language!" Su Ke'er's eyes flashed with anger.

Fang Ming smirked. "Fine. I didn't come here to waste my time with you people. Sign the contract now, or else..."

"In your dreams!"

A firm voice cut him off as a figure slowly entered the room. "I'm the one who negotiated that contract," the man said, limping as he walked. Despite his injury, his expression was firm as he fearlessly met Fang Ming's gaze. "If you have a problem, deal with it honorably. Stop resorting to these despicable tactics!"

It was Liu Zijian.

"Liu Zijian, what are you doing here?" Su Ke'er exclaimed, startled. Hadn't she told him to stay away from the company for a while?

"Liu Zijian! How dare you show your face here?" The same executive who had earlier urged Su Ke'er to give in now pointed a finger at Liu Zijian's nose. "Look at the mess you've caused!" he berated him. "If it weren't for you, our company wouldn't be in this situation!"

Liu Zijian replied calmly, "I am an employee of this company, and I follow the company's directives. If you have an issue, take it up with my superior."

"Liu Zijian, that's enough," his direct supervisor, a business manager, stepped in. "As of this moment, you're fired."

"You dare!" Su Ke'er raged. "Liu Zijian is an employee of this company! No one fires him without my permission!"

The manager stammered, "But President Su, these people from Wanta Group are..."

"What about them?" Su Ke'er's expression turned icy. "Are none of you afraid that Director Lin will return and settle accounts with you?"

At the mention of Director Lin, the manager immediately fell silent, not daring to say another word.

"If only Director Lin were here," someone murmured, a sentiment that echoed in everyone's hearts.

Yes, if only Director Lin were here. With his abilities, he could surely handle this, right? And even if he couldn't, he's the chairman. If anything went wrong, it would be his problem, not ours.

Chapter 274: I want to see how you're going to step on me!

Director Lin, where are you? This thought echoed in everyone's minds.

Fang Ming looked at the scene and suddenly laughed. "So this is Boheng Pharma? Doesn't seem all that impressive."

He grinned. "Alright, time's almost up. Hurry and sign the contract. I don't have all day to play games with you."

"I'll say it one last time..." Su Ke'er stared into Fang Ming's eyes. "I! Will! Not! Sign!"

"Fine!" Fang Ming snorted. "Since you refuse to do this nicely, you'll learn the hard way! Don't blame me for what happens next!"

"Smash it all!"

With a wave of his hand, his men charged forward.

"How dare you!" Su Ke'er quickly stood in their way. Unfortunately, she was only a young woman and stood no chance of stopping them.

"Move it, beautiful. Wouldn't want you to get hurt," a thug said, a lewd smile on his face as he shoved Su Ke'er.

Su Ke'er was not only beautiful but also a senior executive. Normally, these thugs would only dare to whisper about her behind her back. Given the opportunity for physical contact, this one wasn't about to pass it up.

"Get lost!"

However, just as the thug's hand was about to touch her, a large hand shot out and grabbed his wrist. Liu Zijian's foot flew up, kicking the thug squarely in the groin.

CRACK!

The thug's body went rigid. He let out a scream like a stuck pig before collapsing to the ground with a thud.

"Holy crap!" All the men present instinctively crossed their legs, a cold chill running down their spines.

"Bastard!" Fang Ming was furious. He pointed at Liu Zijian and roared, "Get him! Beat him to death!"

At his command, the remaining thugs swarmed forward, attacking people and smashing objects indiscriminately. The entire conference room was instantly filled with screams of pain.

"Try not to hurt anyone, just break things," Fang Ming said with a cold smile. "Remember, you're just here to collect a debt."

Violent debt collection would, at worst, just result in a fine, he thought. Not a big deal.

However, his gaze fell on Liu Zijian. He sneered, "This cripple is the exception. Break his arms and legs for me!"

A towering man behind him immediately stepped toward Liu Zijian. "Kid, you've got guts, hitting one of my men."

The man cracked his knuckles and lunged forward, his fist smashing into Liu Zijian's face.

BANG!

Liu Zijian was sent flying, crashing through several objects.

The man didn't let up. He strode over and began to pummel the downed Liu Zijian with a vicious flurry of punches and kicks. Liu Zijian curled up on the floor, shielding his face with his arms, refusing to make a sound or beg for mercy.

"Stop! Please, stop hitting him!" Tears streamed down Su Ke'er's face as she watched, her voice choked with desperation.

"This is what happens when you oppose the Wanta Group!" Fang Ming smiled coldly as he stepped forward and stomped on Liu Zijian's face. Looking over at Su Ke'er, he said, "I'll give you one last chance. Are you going to sign or not?"

Su Ke'er's expression wavered, her hands clenched so tightly her knuckles turned white.

"President Su, just agree to what he wants," a badly bruised executive pleaded.

"President Su, please agree quickly!"

"President Su..."

Hearing their pleas, Su Ke'er's face twisted in agony.

"Su Ke'er, if you don't agree, I'm resigning right now!" the business manager shouted.

"That's right! If you don't agree, we'll all resign! We're done!" Several managers began pressuring her directly.

"Don't sign!" Liu Zijian shouted desperately from beneath Fang Ming's foot. "Don't sign it! When Director Lin gets back, he'll get justice for us!"

"Justice?" Fang Ming sneered, grinding his foot down harder as he loomed over Liu Zijian. "Pah! Even if your precious Director Lin shows up, I'll stomp on him just the same. I'll make him howl and beg for mercy like a dog!"

"You're dead for saying that about Lin Mu!" Liu Zijian's mouth was full of blood, but he stared fiercely at Fang Ming and spat, "I guarantee you'll die a horrible death! None of you will get away with this!"

SLAP!

Fang Ming struck Liu Zijian hard across the face. His expression was icy as he said, "You seem to have a lot of faith in your Director Lin. But look around you..."

He gestured to the others cowering in the corner. "You're being stomped on like a dog, and they can only watch. They don't dare to make a peep, because in their eyes, you're as insignificant as an ant."

"And in my eyes, your Director Lin is only a tiny bit bigger."

Hearing this, the senior executives all lowered their heads, unable to watch. As for Su Ke'er, the earlier shove had injured her waist, making it difficult for her to even stand. She could only watch as Liu Zijian was humiliated, her beautiful eyes burning with rage.

"Fang Ming, remember what you said today. I hope you don't regret it," Su Ke'er glared at him, her gaze so intense it was as if she were branding his face into her memory.

"Hahaha!" Fang Ming roared with laughter. "Regret? From the day I was born, it's only ever been others who regret crossing me."

"They know who stands behind the Wanta Group. They know we command power they can't even begin to imagine."

Liu Zijian spat out a mouthful of bloody froth, his expression resolute.

Fang Ming patted Liu Zijian's cheek, but his eyes were fixed on Su Ke'er. "I'm advising you to be smart and sign the contract. Otherwise, what happened to him is just the beginning."

Su Ke'er's heart ached with indecision. Liu Zijian was her colleague; she couldn't just stand by and watch him get beaten. But Fang Ming's conditions were outrageous. Signing the contract would mean ruinous losses for the company.

"Have you made up your mind?" Fang Ming asked with a cold smile.

"Alright!" Seeing Liu Zijian's gaze starting to glaze over, Su Ke'er was terrified he was in real danger. "Let him go, and I'll sign right away!"

"If you were going to sign anyway, why bother holding out for so long?" Fang Ming chuckled as he took his foot off Liu Zijian. "Good. Now, sign the contract. I'm a very busy man."

Su Ke'er first had someone help Liu Zijian up. She could see he was grievously injured and barely conscious. "Let me take him to the hospital. I'll come back and sign after he's been examined," she said through clenched teeth.

"Why make things so complicated?" Fang Ming frowned. "He's not going to die anytime soon. Just sign the contract, then you can do whatever you want with him."

"But he can't hold on any longer!" Su Ke'er retorted angrily.

"You're just trying to stall for time," Fang Ming said, shaking his head. "I'd advise you to give up any hope you have in that Director Lin of yours. Even if he did show up, he's nothing to me. He'd end up just like you, trampled and humiliated under my foot."

It's a shame, Fang Ming thought with a hint of regret. The chairman of Boheng Pharma sure is lucky he's not here.

"Oh, is that so?"

Just then, a calm, indifferent voice drifted into the room.

"I'd like to see how you plan on trampling me."

Chapter 275: Leave Everything to Me!

A voice suddenly cut through the tension, and everyone hurriedly turned to look. A slender young man with his hands in his pockets was walking slowly toward them. He was handsome, with sharp, distinct features that bore an air of extreme indifference. It seemed as though nothing in the world existed in his eyes, yet at the same time, he appeared capable of taking in the essence of everything with a single glance. One look at him was all it took to leave a lasting impression.

"Director Lin!"

Everyone from Boheng Pharma cried out in unison. Tears of relief streamed down Ren Xiaofei's face. She rushed forward, her face a mixture of anger and elation. "Director Lin, they..."

"I know." Lin Mu nodded faintly, then walked directly toward Su Ke'er.

Su Ke'er was supporting Liu Zijian, her expression a mix of surprise and guilt as she looked at Lin Mu. "President Lin, I..." She tried to speak, but the words wouldn't come out, and her eyes reddened with unshed tears.

"Leave the rest to me." Lin Mu patted Su Ke'er's head with a faint smile.

This intimate gesture stunned Su Ke'er and caused the expressions of everyone present to shift.

Could it be... there's something between Director Lin and President Su?

As their gazes darted between the two, some of them began to understand. The faces of others, however, turned incredibly grim. Fang Ming was one of them.

"Kid, so you're this 'Director Lin'?" Fang Ming looked Lin Mu up and down, concluding that apart from being better-looking than him, there was nothing special about the man. The trace of surprise on his face quickly morphed into thick disdain.

Lin Mu, however, acted as if he hadn't heard a word, ignoring him completely. His attention was on Liu Zijian, who was cradled in Su Ke'er's arms. Liu Zijian's face was swollen beyond recognition, a truly pitiful sight. Most critically, his breathing was growing faint.

As if sensing Lin Mu's arrival, Liu Zijian struggled to open his eyes, but they were so swollen he could only manage a tiny slit. "Elder... Brother Mu?"

Lin Mu gently patted Liu Zijian's shoulder. "Don't talk. Just rest."

Hearing the familiar voice, a happy smile spread across Liu Zijian's face. If he weren't physically unable to stand, he would have pointed a finger right at Su Ming and the others and roared, "This is Director Lin, my brother!"

Seeing his brother's wretched state, a chill flashed in Lin Mu's eyes. He took a deep breath, placed his hand on Liu Zijian's wrist, and slowly closed his eyes.

While everyone watched in confusion, they felt a strangely refreshing aura emanate from Lin Mu. In the blink of an eye, something astonishing occurred before them. The swelling and bruising on Liu Zijian's face began to disappear at a rate visible to the naked eye, and his breathing gradually steadied. Finally, Liu Zijian's eyes flew open, and he coughed up a mouthful of dark, clotted blood.

After expelling the stagnant blood, Liu Zijian looked immensely relieved. Apart from his disheveled appearance, he seemed completely unharmed.

This scene left everyone utterly stunned.

What just happened? Director Lin gave him a pat and held his wrist, and Liu Zijian is fine? Even a Divine Doctor couldn't do that, could they?

Lin Mu had directly channeled his Spiritual Energy to heal Liu Zijian's injuries. Now that his friend was safe, it was time to start cleaning house.

"Elder Brother Mu!" Liu Zijian was visibly excited to see Lin Mu again.

"Don't talk for now. Get some more rest." Lin Mu offered a faint smile before turning to face Fang Ming, his expression now completely devoid of emotion. "You're the one who hit him?"

Fang Ming was already seething from being ignored and was itching to beat Lin Mu down. Hearing the question, he sneered, "That's right, I did it." He slowly pulled out a cigarette, lit it, and blew a puff of smoke in Lin Mu's face. "So what? What can you possibly do to me?"

Seeing Fang Ming's blatant arrogance, the employees of Boheng Pharma clenched their fists in fury. This was going too far!

In contrast, the men Fang Ming had brought with him let out a series of jeering laughs. So, the great Director Lin of Boheng is just a paper tiger after all. The disdain on Fang Ming's face deepened.

"Which hand did you use?" Lin Mu asked, his voice calm and unmoved by their reactions as he stared intently at Fang Ming.

Fang Ming had expected Lin Mu to back down or say something else entirely. He was caught off guard by the question and infuriated by the annoying, cold gaze fixed on him.

"I used my left hand," Fang Ming snarled, jabbing a finger toward Lin Mu's nose. "What are you gonna do about it, Lin? You think you can eat me alive? Let me tell you, I'm..."

Before he could finish, a piercing agony shot through his left arm. Fang Ming let out a horrifying shriek, the pain so intense it almost made him pass out.

In the next instant, a bloody, severed hand thudded to the floor. The room plunged into a deathly silence. Everyone stared, their eyes wide with shock and terror, at the stump of Fang Ming's shoulder, from which blood was gushing relentlessly. Even the formidable man who had been standing guard was frozen in fear.

What did we just see?

Fang Ming's arm had been torn clean off at the shoulder, yet no one had even seen Lin Mu move. It was brutal. It was savage.

Looking down at the miserable, wailing figure of Fang Ming clutching his wound, Lin Mu suddenly grinned. "Of course, there's not much I can do. Except cripple you."

The words were spoken so simply, yet they sent a chill down the spine of everyone who heard them.

"Ahhh!" Fang Ming writhed on the ground, his face twisted in a mask of pure agony. "You bastard! You dare cut off my arm?! I'll kill you! I swear I'll kill you! Your family, your friends, your loved ones—they're all going to die! The Fang Family will make you wish for death but find no release! I guarantee it!"

Lin Mu remained unmoved by the venomous threats, looking down on Fang Ming from above. "You think this is over?" He slowly shook his head. "If I recall correctly, you said something about trampling me under your foot?"

CRACK!

He lifted his foot and brought it down hard on Fang Ming's knee.

Fang Ming let out an animalistic howl, his eyes bulging from the blinding pain. Lin Mu had shattered his kneecap with a single stomp. He instantly fainted, only to be kicked awake by Lin Mu a second later, the agony washing over him anew.

"Is this how you were planning to trample me?" Lin Mu's voice was utterly devoid of emotion, as cold and sharp as ice.

Witnessing the scene, everyone felt their scalps tingle and their hearts pound in their chests. No one dared to even breathe too loudly.

"I'll kill you... I'll kill you with my own hands," Fang Ming sobbed, tears of pain streaming down his face. "My older sister... she'll never let you get away with this..."

"Good. I'll be waiting," Lin Mu replied with a detached nod. His gaze then swept over the men Fang Ming had brought. At his glance, they all instinctively took a step back. In their eyes, Lin Mu was more terrifying than any monster.

Lin Mu spoke again, his tone flat. "Take him and get out. While you're at it, deliver a message to the Wanta Group and the Song Family for me. Tell them his father and older sister are to come here by this time tomorrow to kowtow and apologize.

"Otherwise, I'll pay them a personal visit."

Chapter 276: Spare My Life, Venerable Master!

"Yes, yes, yes!"

The thugs Lin Mu had pointed at nodded hastily and quickly fled Boheng Pharma with Fang Ming in tow.

The director of Boheng Pharma is terrifying; he actually crippled Fang Ming's limbs.

The tall and burly man had also intended to leave, but a detached voice stopped him in his tracks.

"Did I say you could leave?"

The man was startled, and a cold look immediately appeared on his face. "What? Kid, you think you can stop me?"

"You think you can hit my brother and just walk away? It's not that easy."

There was not a trace of emotion in Lin Mu's tone, causing the man to break out in a cold sweat instantly.

He knew that if Lin Mu dared to cripple Fang Ming, he would certainly dare to do the same to him.

The man's expression became grim and volatile.

"Are you going to do it yourself, or shall I?" Lin Mu asked indifferently.

"I..."

Taking a deep breath, the man said, "Director Lin, right? This was all arranged by Young Master Fang. I was just following orders."

"Hmm." Lin Mu nodded. "I see."

WHOOSH!

Suddenly, Lin Mu stepped forward and kicked the man's knee.

CRACK!

A pitiful wail escaped the man as he was sent flying, smashing through a glass door.

Everyone gasped in shock.

Who knew Director Lin could be so violent! So terrifying!

"You..." Lying on the ground, the man's expression contorted.

Lin Mu's kick hadn't held back at all. It had completely disabled one of his legs.

Lin Mu slowly walked over and looked down at him. "Consider that kick just interest."

"Of course, if you have a problem with it, feel free to call for backup."

With that, Lin Mu turned and walked away.

"Fine!"

A vicious look flashed in the man's eyes as he immediately took out his phone and dialed a number.

"Third, bring some guys over. The place is Boheng Pharma. Bring more people!"

After hanging up, the man watched Lin Mu with a cold sneer. "Alright, kid, just you wait. My people will be here soon, and you'll get what's coming to you."

"Hmm, I'll be waiting."

Without turning his head, Lin Mu glanced at the terrified crowd and said, "Is everyone alright?"

Su Ke'er shook her head. "I'm fine, but you... breaking Fang Ming's limbs just because of a disagreement. What if they..."

"I'll handle it," Lin Mu said. "If Wan Ta is foolish enough to seek revenge instead of apologizing, then they can't blame me for being ruthless."

Everyone was shocked.

Director Lin, you've already broken the man's limbs. Isn't that ruthless enough?

But they dared not voice their thoughts.

Lin Mu paid them no mind and walked out of the conference room. He saw a group of thugs still smashing things around in the various offices, with many staff members cowering and trembling in the corners.

"Stop it, all of you!" Su Ke'er spoke up to intervene.

Lin Mu raised his hand. "It's alright, let them smash."

He squinted, the corners of his mouth lifting into a chilling curve. "Tell the employees to go home and rest. The company is taking a three-day holiday. They should use the time to be with their families or get a medical check-up if they need one."

"Elder Brother Mu, you intend to..." Liu Zijian seemed to catch on to something.

"Director Lin, shouldn't we call the police?" one of the supervisors asked cautiously.

"What? Are you teaching me how to do my job?" Lin Mu glanced at the man.

This person is Liu Zijian's supervisor. If I remember correctly, he was the one who planned to let my brother take the fall for everything.

"I... I don't dare," the supervisor immediately lowered his head as cold sweat trickled down his back.

Lin Mu said coolly, "You don't dare? From now on, Liu Zijian will take your place. If you're not willing, you can resign."

"Director Lin, please don't!"

The supervisor had long realized that the relationship between Liu Zijian and Director Lin wasn't simple—otherwise, why would Liu Zijian call him Elder Brother Mu? Hearing Lin Mu's words, he turned pale with fright. But Lin Mu simply paid him no attention and waved his hand for everyone to leave.

The supervisor wanted to say more, but he was pulled away by someone else.

Didn't they just see how Director Lin handled things? Picking a fight with him now would be suicide!

"Elder Brother Mu, let's just forget it, after all..." Liu Zijian sighed. He didn't really care about the supervisor position; he just knew Lin Mu's personality all too well. But we're talking about dozens of lives here.

"I have my own rules. Since Wan Ta dared to bring people to smash up my company, I can only send them to Hell," Lin Mu stated. "Do as I say."

Liu Zijian hesitated for a moment before nodding. "Alright."

Su Ke'er had long detested these people and immediately had the company staff led away.

As for Lin Mu, once everyone had left, he waved his hand, and several invisible sword lights quietly hid themselves in every corner of the office.

Shortly afterward, Su Ke'er, having just seen off the employees, returned to check on Lin Mu. However, no matter how she tried, she couldn't enter the office, nor could she hear a single sound from within. Her expression changed slightly; she seemed to have guessed something.

「A short while later.」

Lin Mu slowly walked out of the office, his expression calm.

"President... President Lin?" Su Ke'er's lips trembled as she looked at Lin Mu, seemingly wanting to know the answer from him.

Lin Mu shook his head. "Don't ask anything. I'll handle it."

Su Ke'er's face instantly turned pale.

Just as Lin Mu took out his phone, ready to call Cheng Bugui, a loud roar came from the entrance.

"Minghu, where are you?!"

A bald man holding a steel knife, brimming with murderous intent, rushed in. Behind him followed over a hundred underlings, each armed with weapons.

"Shanhu, I'm here..." a weak voice called out from a corner.

The bald man was startled and hurried over.

"Minghu, what happened to you? Who did this? Tell me, and I'll chop him to pieces!" The bald man couldn't hide the murderous intent on his face upon seeing the man's wretched condition.

The Three Tigers of River City were practically invincible in this city. But the White Tiger, Lu Minghu, had his leg broken? If word of this got out, how could he, Xu Shanhu, maintain his reputation?

"It was him!" Lu Minghu pointed at Lin Mu, who was walking over, and said through gritted teeth, "It's this brat, he dared... Shanhu, what's wrong with you?"

Before Lu Minghu could finish, he saw his brother standing frozen, trembling like a leaf in the wind, as the steel knife clattered to the ground.

"Venerable Master!"

When Xu Shanhu saw Lin Mu, his face went deathly pale. He fell to his knees with a THUD, the terror on his face impossible to conceal.

"Shanhu, what's wrong with you?" Lu Minghu grabbed Xu Shanhu and yelled.

"Shut your mouth! Are you trying to get me killed?!" Xu Shanhu bellowed back, then said in a trembling voice, "Venerable Master, I... I didn't know it was you. Please, spare my life!"

Not only was Lu Minghu stunned, but so were the underlings Xu Shanhu had brought. However, some of them recognized Lin Mu. He was the very same ancestor-like figure who had displayed such astonishing power back at the abandoned repair shop.

At this realization, countless thugs immediately dropped their weapons and fell to their knees.

"Please, Venerable Master, spare our lives!"

Chapter 277: No One Can Stop It!

The faces of the thugs were deathly pale.

They'd actually run into *this* ancestor. They were dead for sure!

Su Ke'er covered her mouth, her face a mask of shock.

Weren't these menacing-looking men here to cause trouble for Lin Mu? What's happening now...

"Venerable Master, I didn't know it was you! Please forgive me!" Xu Shanhu ground out, his voice trembling.

He was utterly terrified. It would have been one thing if they had provoked an ordinary person. But this man was someone even their true boss, Cheng Bugui, had to address as Venerable Master. For mere underlings like them to dare attack their boss's Venerable Master... wasn't that just asking to die? Even if Lin Mu didn't lift a finger, their boss would still kill them.

"Xu Shanhu, what are you doing?" Lu Minghu, still clueless, roared in anger. "I brought you here to kill this bastard, and you're kneeling to him? Are you even my brother anymore?"

"Lu Minghu, shut up!" Xu Shanhu wished he could slap the man dead. "I'm saving your life, don't you get it? If you offend the Venerable Master, not even the boss can protect you!"

This idiot is courting death, but why does he have to drag me down with him! Xu Shanhu felt like he was being dragged to his death by Lu Minghu.

"Have you lost your mind? Calling him 'Venerable Master'? Are you just putting on an act?" Lu Minghu laughed miserably, feeling betrayed.

Frightened to the point his face was deathly white, Xu Shanhu kowtowed repeatedly. "Venerable Master, I truly didn't know it was you. I have made a grave mistake, and I..." His eyes fell on a steel blade lying beside him. He snatched it up, gritted his teeth, and declared, "Venerable Master, Lu Minghu and I both follow Boss Cheng. But now, he has offended you. His crime is punishable by death!"

Taking a deep breath, Xu Shanhu raised the blade and walked toward Lu Minghu. "Brother, I'm sorry," he said, his voice laced with pain. "You've offended someone you never should have. You're not going to make it out of this alive."

Lu Minghu was aghast. "Xu Shanhu, you want to kill me? You actually dare to kill me? Aren't you afraid the boss will kill *you* for this?"

Xu Shanhu closed his eyes in agony and murmured, "Brother, can't you see? I'm saving you... If the boss finds out about this, it won't just be you who dies. Your family, your children—they'll all be killed!"

Lu Minghu's face drained of all color. "Impossible... that's impossible..." he muttered.

Xu Shanhu walked right up to Lu Minghu and leaned in to whisper in his ear, "Brother, do you have any idea who this is? Even Boss Cheng has to kneel and kowtow before him."

The sharp steel blade plunged into Lu Minghu's chest. "He is a Martial Arts Grandmaster," Xu Shanhu whispered.

Lu Minghu's eyes flew wide. He tried to speak, but only blood gushed from his mouth. He managed a bitter smile and glanced at Xu Shanhu. "Don't... involve my family."

With those last words, he collapsed to the ground.

"I promise," Xu Shanhu said, closing Lu Minghu's eyes. He then turned, knelt before Lin Mu, and said, "Venerable Master, Lu Minghu has paid for his offense against you. I beg you to spare his family."

Lin Mu remained silent.

Gritting his teeth, Xu Shanhu swung the blade and sliced off three of his own fingers.

"Third Brother!" one of Xu Shanhu's underlings cried, rushing forward.

"Stay back!" Xu Shanhu commanded, clutching his mangled hand. His face was drenched in cold sweat as he fought through the pain. "Minghu has an aging parent and a young child. His wife is also bedridden with a serious illness. I offer these three fingers in exchange for their lives. I implore the Venerable Master to accept!"

"Granted," Lin Mu said with a nod. "Clean this place up. Then call Cheng Bugui and tell him to get five hundred men on standby. When I give the word, I want Wanta Group erased from River City."

"Yes!"

Xu Shanhu immediately agreed. But he was also reeling from shock. He could feel the sheer killing intent radiating from the Venerable Master. Wanta Group was about to suffer a terrible fate.

He immediately called Cheng Bugui.

Upon hearing what had happened, Cheng Bugui flew into a rage, declaring he would kill Lu Minghu himself. When he learned Lu Minghu was already dead, he ordered, "Immediately send people to get Lu Minghu's family out of River City. They are never to set foot here again. If they're ever found, sink them all in the river! And as for his direct subordinates, kill every last one of them! Spare no one!"

The murderous intent pouring through the phone was so palpable that Xu Shanhu almost dropped it in fright. He knew the boss was furious enough to hack Lu Minghu to pieces. Since Lu Minghu was already dead, the boss could only vent his rage on his family and closest followers.

"Yes, Boss!" Xu Shanhu immediately went to carry out the order.

Meanwhile, Lin Mu took Su Ke'er and left the company, heading for the hospital.

"Director Lin, are you sure everything is alright?"

On the way, as Su Ke'er replayed the recent events in her mind, her face remained pale, refusing to return to its normal color. She knew Lin Mu had his methods and could be ruthless, but witnessing it firsthand had shaken her to the core.

"Don't worry about it," Lin Mu said coolly. "Your constitution is already unique, and now you're injured. Just focus on recovering at the hospital."

Su Ke'er had been knocked down and injured her lower back. Since it was an awkward place for him to treat directly, he had no choice but to take her to the hospital.

Su Ke'er fell silent. She knew, however, that Wanta Group was about to face a disaster.

After getting Su Ke'er settled in, Lin Mu went directly to the Guan family estate.

When he saw Lin Mu, Guan Chengye was a little surprised.

"Master Lin, what brings you here today?" Recently, after the eradication of River City's Dark Web, Guan Chengye had received high praise from the Military Department. They had even offered him his old post back, but he declined, giving the opportunity to his son instead. As a result, Guan Chengye was now living a very peaceful and comfortable life.

"Elder Guan, do you know of the Wanta Group?" Lin Mu asked. He had originally planned to ask Qin Luoli, but he didn't want to involve her in such matters.

"Wanta Group?" With the wisdom that comes with age, Guan Chengye instantly realized the group must have provoked Lin Mu. His expression turned grave. "Wanta Group is backed by the Fang Family. Furthermore, its current chairman, Fang Sihai, is the brother-in-law of River City's wealthiest man, Qiao Tianhao. The Fang and Qiao families are connected by marriage."

River City's richest man? Lin Mu was startled for a moment, then a cold smile touched his lips. The Qiao Family, is it? Looks like it's time to pay them a visit.

"Master Lin, there is something I feel I should say, though I'm not sure if it's my place," Elder Guan said, his expression sobering.

"Please, Elder Guan, speak freely," Lin Mu replied with a faint smile.

"Master Lin, although you are now all-powerful in River City and revered by thousands, there are still some powers it would be better not to provoke."

Guan Chengye sighed. "The first is the Qiao Family. For Qiao Tianhao to become River City's richest man, he is undoubtedly capable. But the crucial point is that his wife is from the Fang Family."

"The second is the Fang Family. They're said to be a branch of the prominent Fang Family from Jiangling. For reasons unknown, they came to River City, established the Wanta Group, and experienced explosive growth."

Guan Chengye frowned. "On the surface, the two families seem to have cut ties, but anyone with a discerning eye knows that the River City Fang Family is merely a pawn for the Jiangling Fang Family. And behind the Jiangling Fang Family, there seem to be some very deep connections."

"In fact, Liu Xiu of the Military Department has a wife who comes from the River City Fang Family."

Lin Mu was taken aback for a moment before letting out a cold chuckle. "This Fang Family certainly knows how to do business, using their women in marriage alliances to reap huge rewards. Unfortunately for them, now that they've provoked me, nothing and no one can stop what's coming!"

Chapter 278: I'm Going to Kill Him!

Be it the Fang Family of River City or the Fang Family of Jiangling, Lin Mu was determined to make them pay a heavy price. The time had also come to settle the score with Qiao Zishan.

A faint smile appeared on Lin Mu's face.

Guan Chengye suddenly felt a tremor in his heart. He felt that, no matter how much he tried to persuade him, Lin Mu had already made up his mind.

Thinking of this, Guan Chengye no longer tried to dissuade him. He only said, "If you're going to do it, then go ahead. But there are some things I still need to tell you."

"Jiangling is not the same as River City. For one, the number of Martial Artists in Jiangling far exceeds that of River City. Furthermore, the Martial Alliance is established there and has inextricable ties to the various local powerhouses."

Guan Chengye's meaning was clear: if the River City Fang Family were to bring out their Jiangling counterparts, Lin Mu would have to contend with more than just one family. He might even involve the Martial Alliance.

In response, Lin Mu simply laughed. "The Martial Alliance? If they dare to intervene, they can't blame me for being ruthless."

Guan Chengye's eyebrows twitched. Why did it feel like the more he tried to advise Lin Mu, the less Lin Mu seemed to care?

Thinking of this, Guan Chengye spoke with a wry smile, "Master Lin, that temperament of yours... you really ought to change it."

"I wouldn't dare call myself 'master' in front of you, Elder Guan."

Guan Chengye waved his hand. "Fine, just be careful. If anything happens, let me know. I'll help if I can."

"Thank you, Elder Guan."

Lin Mu stood up, took his leave, and went straight back to Qin Zhu Courtyard.

「...」

After the last incident, no one was foolish enough to dare cause trouble at the restaurant anymore. This success was partly due to Qin Luoli's methods, but Mother Lin's sincere management philosophy had also attracted many repeat customers. Of course, Lin Mu's deterrence could not be overlooked.

Now, the major figures in River City knew that Lin Mu backed Suqin Restaurant. To return past favors, they looked after the place from time to time. As a result, business was surprisingly good. Mother Lin was so busy every day that she had already hired quite a few more staff. Even so, she worked late every night. Because of this, she had found a new house near the restaurant two days prior and rarely came back.

When Lin Mu returned home, Qin Luoli was curled up on the sofa watching television. Seeing him, she didn't even turn her head.

A thought struck Lin Mu, and he immediately understood. This woman is probably sulking because I've been too busy to spend time with her these past few days.

With this in mind, Lin Mu walked over and sat beside her. He glanced at the television and couldn't help but chuckle internally. She's watching "Calabash Brothers." She must be incredibly bored.

"Ahem."

Lin Mu coughed deliberately, then wrapped his arms around Qin Luoli, pulling her tightly into his embrace.

"What are you doing?" Qin Luoli exclaimed, but she did not push him away.

Inhaling her faint, sweet scent, Lin Mu spoke softly, "I've been too busy lately. I'm sorry for neglecting you."

After taking the Ever Youth Pill, not only Qin Luoli's appearance but also her temperament had improved greatly. Moreover, the Ever Youth Pill was a miraculous medicine in itself; it didn't just preserve one's youth but also improved one's physical constitution. So, recently, Qin Luoli had been feeling her health getting better and better. Of course, this only made her wish Lin Mu would spend more time with her.

After all, now that she had become more beautiful, her first desire was to share it with the person she loved most. But Lin Mu had been elusive lately, rarely seen around. And now, he had basically been missing for several days.

"What could you possibly be so busy with? Did you find another woman?" Qin Luoli pouted, feigning the petulance of a little girl.

If an ordinary woman made such a gesture, it might seem contrived and annoying. But when Qin Luoli did it, it wasn't off-putting at all. Instead, it gave her a uniquely flirtatious and adorable charm.

Lin Mu felt a surge of heat in his heart. He suddenly bowed his head and kissed her lusciously tempting red lips.

"Mmm..."

Qin Luoli slapped Lin Mu lightly, but after a couple of taps, her hands slowly came to rest on him, and she hugged him back with all her strength.

「...」

The phone rang. A hand reached out, picked it up, and pressed the mute button.

Qin Luoli lay on the bed, her hair fanned out around her, a look of sweet satisfaction on her face. Lin Mu pulled the blanket over her, then walked out of the room with the phone.

"Venerable Master, I hope I didn't disturb your rest?" Cheng Bugui's voice trembled slightly. He had just finished making the arrangements and felt uneasy not reporting back to Lin Mu immediately.

"Speak," Lin Mu said indifferently.

Cheng Bugui's heart tightened, and he hurriedly said, "I've arranged for the manpower, but... are we really going through with this?"

The Wanta Group was one of River City's major conglomerates. If something were to happen to it, it could cause an earthquake throughout the city. Besides, the reason he was calling now was that his investigation had revealed a connection between the Fang Family of River City and the Fang Family of Jiangling. Although Cheng Bugui was now known as the biggest boss of the River City underworld, he was still insignificant compared to the powers in Jiangling. The thought of provoking the Jiangling Fang Family over an incident with the Wanta Group made his heart pound with fear.

"Just do your part. You don't need to teach me what to do," Lin Mu's voice was calm, but it nearly made Cheng Bugui drop the phone.

"This subordinate wouldn't dare!" Even over the phone, Cheng Bugui felt an instinctive fear of Lin Mu.

"Send someone to the Fang Family with a message. I want to see them here to apologize by tomorrow morning. Otherwise, I will pay them a personal visit."

Upon hearing this, Cheng Bugui was stunned for a moment, and then his face went pale. Although his contact with Lin Mu was limited, he knew the Venerable Master's temperament all too well. The kind of "visit" he spoke of was certainly not a friendly one.

When that time comes... the Fang Family will surely be bathed in blood!

"Also, have someone keep an eye on Jiangling. If the Fang Family there makes any move, inform me immediately," Lin Mu muttered. "I already warned them once. If they dare interfere in River City again, then they shouldn't blame this Venerable One for taking his sword to Jiangling and annihilating their entire family!"

Although the call had ended, Cheng Bugui couldn't stop the cold sweat from pouring down his back.

Take his sword to Jiangling and annihilate the entire Fang family! The Venerable Master's killing intent... it's too strong!

A cool breeze swept past. Cheng Bugui, standing on the balcony, shivered violently and hurried to send someone to the Fang Family with the message.

「Fang Family Residence」

Fang Ming lay in bed, his face deathly pale, though his injuries were finally under control.

"Dad, you have to kill that bastard!" Fang Ming cursed, his expression savage. "No, don't kill him right away! I want you to chop off his arms and legs first! Make him suffer the greatest pain imaginable before you kill him! I..."

Suddenly, Fang Ming's eyes rolled back, and he fainted again.

Standing beside the bed was a middle-aged man with an imposing presence. He was Fang Ming's father and the current Family Head of the Fang Family, Fang Cheng.

"Ming!" Fang Cheng's expression changed as he saw his son faint.

"Mr. Fang, please don't worry. Young Master Fang has just fainted," a doctor in a white coat said, wiping sweat from his brow.

Fang Cheng asked, "Can my son's arm be reattached?"

The doctor shook his head. "No, it can't. For some reason, it's difficult to even stop the bleeding from Young Master Fang's wound. The arm has already necrotized."

"What?"

Fang Cheng's body trembled, his gaze slowly turning bleak. A moment later, a roar filled with murderous intent erupted from the Fang residence.

"Boheng Pharma! Lin Mu! If I, Fang Cheng, do not kill you, I swear I am not human!"

Chapter 279: Blow it up for me!

In the main hall of the Fang Family's estate.

Two thugs stood trembling, not daring to lift their heads.

SLAP!

Fang Cheng walked downstairs and slapped one of the thugs across the face. "Speak. What exactly happened?!" he demanded.

This thug was the one who had brought Fang Ming home, so he knew exactly what had transpired at Boheng Pharma. Feeling Fang Cheng's murderous intent, the thug trembled and hurriedly recounted the events from start to finish. Of course, in his version of the story, Fang Ming had approached Boheng Pharma to discuss a partnership in good faith, but the company's chairman had been arrogant, despotic, and vulgar. Not only had he refused Fang Ming's offer, but he had personally crippled Fang Ming's arms and legs.

BANG!

Fang Cheng slammed his palm on the table, and several cracks instantly appeared on the pear wood surface.

"This is outrageous!" Fang Cheng gasped, his eyes filled with murderous rage. For a mere company owner to act so brazenly... he's got some nerve!

He knew his own son well. Although the thug's account was somewhat exaggerated, Fang Ming was his son, after all. Now that he was disabled, possibly confined to a bed for the rest of his life, Fang Cheng could no longer contain his fury.

The thug looked at Fang Cheng fearfully and said cautiously, "Mr. Fang, that man also said that you and Miss Fang must bring Young Master Fang to apologize, otherwise..."

"Otherwise what?" a proud woman's voice came from outside, the clicking of high heels on the floor announcing her arrival. "Does he really think he can devour my Fang Family?"

Her voice dripped with scorn and anger. The woman who entered was in her early twenties, dressed in expensive clothes with a limited-edition LV bag on her arm. She was tall with meticulously applied makeup, but her narrow eyes gave her a cruel and cold appearance. This was Fang Ming's sister, Fang Fei.

Standing before the thug, Fang Fei said coldly, "Speak. What exactly did that man say?"

The thug knew that Fang Fei was a truly ruthless person, even more merciless than the average man. Despite having only returned to River City a few days ago, she had already made quite a name for herself. Anyone who crossed her ended up either crippled or mysteriously vanished, with not even the Jing Fang able to find a trace.

"Feifei, your brother, he..." Seeing his daughter, Fang Cheng sighed heavily, his heart filled with sorrow.

Fang Fei's eyes were also slightly red, but she managed to control her fury. "Dad, calm down. I know what happened." She huffed, "I've already called our aunt. She'll be back tomorrow. I'd like to see who dares to run wild on my Fang Family's turf!"

「The next day at noon.」

For a rare change, Qin Luoli was not at work. This was because Lin Mu had promised to spend half the day with her. The two of them were leaning against the sofa, watching television.

Suddenly, Lin Mu glanced at the time, and his lips curled into a faint, cold smirk. Looks like some people insist on doing things the hard way, not stopping until they hit rock bottom.

"What are you muttering about?" Qin Luoli asked lazily.

"Nothing. I'm going to make a call."

Patting Qin Luoli, Lin Mu walked to the doorway and dialed Cheng Bugui's number.

"Begin."

After speaking, Lin Mu hung up and returned to the sofa to continue watching TV.

"That was fast. Are you done already?" Qin Luoli remarked curiously.

"Well, except for certain activities where being fast isn't a good thing, it's usually better to be quick," Lin Mu replied with a slight smile.

Qin Luoli paused for a moment, but when she saw the teasing smile on his face, she understood completely, and her cheeks flushed red. She raised a small fist and playfully thumped him.

"You're so annoying!"

「One-ten in the afternoon. Wanta Group.」

As a Fortune 500 company, Wanta Group naturally occupied a prime location. The entire Wanta Building belonged to them. Since it was lunchtime on a weekend, there weren't many people in the building—just a few security guards on their regular patrol and some staff working overtime.

Just then, a convoy of more than a dozen identical business vans pulled up in front of the building. Countless men in black tactical gear and sunglasses rushed out, aggressively storming into the Wanta Building.

"What are you doing?"

The security guard at the door was startled. Just as he was about to sound the alarm, one of the men in black stepped forward and smashed a fist into his face. The guard's eyes rolled back as he collapsed, unconscious.

Hundreds of men swarmed into the Wanta Building, smashing everything in sight and occasionally scattering some unknown substance. A few staff members turned pale with fright and scrambled out of their offices. Meanwhile, the alarm was triggered, echoing throughout the tower. Everyone ran out of the building in a panic, their faces tense and bewildered.

In the duty room, the on-duty manager watched the scene unfold on the surveillance monitors, his face turning pale with fear. Someone actually dares to cause trouble at Wanta Group? They must have a death wish!

Just as he reached for the phone to call for help, a deafening explosion ripped through the air, and the ground shook violently.

「Wanta Square.」

Everyone outside watched as the towering, multi-story Wanta Building exploded in an instant. Countless people fled in terror, afraid of being caught in the blast. When they finally stopped and looked back, they froze in horror.

The Wanta Building had been reduced to a pile of rubble.

What happened? The Wanta Building... was actually bombed? This is defying the heavens!

「At the same time.」

Rows of tall, suited men stood guard in front of the Fang's Villa as one luxury car after another arrived.

ROAR!

The sound of an engine announced the arrival of a bright red sports car, which stopped at the villa's entrance. A red high-heeled shoe emerged from the car, followed by a middle-aged woman in a leopard-print blouse and sunglasses. She held her head high like a proud swan, but her expression was frosty.

"Big Brother, where's Ming?" the woman asked as she walked toward the villa.

"Little Sister, you're here?" Seeing her, Fang Cheng finally managed a smile.

"Auntie!" Fang Fei also greeted her hurriedly.

This woman was none other than Fang Cheng's sister, Fang Ting—the wife of River City's richest man, Qiao Tianhao.

"My brother is still unconscious; his injuries are too severe," Fang Fei sobbed.

"What?" Fang Ting's expression changed. She said coldly, "What bastard dared to injure my nephew? Are they courting death?"

Just then, the Fang family's Butler ran in, his face pale. "Master, something terrible has happened! It's terrible!" he shouted.

"What are you panicking for? I'm not dead yet!" Fang Cheng roared.

Seeing Fang Ting was present, the Butler stopped at the doorway, wiping cold sweat from his forehead.

"Out with it. What happened?" Fang Cheng demanded in a deep voice.

The Butler hesitated.

"Speak!"

Seeing the Family Head's fury, the Butler dared not hide anything. "The Wanta Building... it's been bombed..."

"What?"

Fang Cheng shot to his feet. His expression shifted rapidly before he suddenly spat out a mouthful of blood.

"Dad..."

"Brother..."

Gasping for breath, Fang Cheng squeezed out a few words through clenched teeth, "You little beast, I'll chop you to pieces with my own hands!"

Chapter 280: Destroy the Fang Family Today!

"Ah!"

「Qin Zhu Courtyard.」

Qin Luoli suddenly let out a cry of alarm.

"The Wanta Building... was blown up?!" she exclaimed, pointing at the television. Her red lips were parted, and her pretty face was a mask of utter shock. "Who could be so audacious as to..."

Lin Mu just smiled faintly and said nothing.

No matter how hard Qin Luoli wracked her brain, she would never guess that the culprit behind the bombing of the Wanta Building was sitting right beside her.

"No, I have to get to the company right away!" Qin Luoli said, standing up in a hurry. She turned back to give Lin Mu a quick kiss. "I can't spend the day with you. Something's happened to the Wanta Group, and I need to attend a meeting."

The Qin Corporation and Wanta Group had always been business rivals. Now that a disaster had befallen Wanta Group, the Qin Corporation had to be ready to make its move.

"Go on, be careful," Lin Mu said, giving her a gentle pat.

He also had to deal with the aftermath and didn't have time to accompany her.

Today, I will destroy the Fang Family!

As news of the Wanta Building's bombing spread, all of River City, and even the neighboring city of Jiangling, was thrown into a state of shock. This was especially true for the local prominent families and major powers of River City.

What was the Wanta Group?

It was one of the most powerful enterprises in River City. Whether or not it was an official branch of the Fang Family, everyone knew the Jiangling Fang Family was backing it. Some were even aware that it was one of the Fang Family's own assets.

Now that it had been destroyed, everyone knew that River City would soon be plunged into turmoil. Countless people grew restless with anxiety. Many speculated about who could have been so daring as to bomb the Wanta Group. Those who knew the truth were first shocked, then fell into a stunned silence.

However, before anyone could fully react, two more pieces of major news swept through River City.

Fang Ming, the young master of the River City Fang Family and Fang Cheng's only son, had his limbs crippled. To make matters worse, the perpetrator demanded that the family apologize in person or face complete annihilation!

BOOM!

All of Jiangling erupted.

Who in the world was this brazen? This was taking courting death to a whole new level!

Doesn't he know that the River City branch of the Fang Family is supported by several major powers?

The Wanta Group chairman's younger sister was the wife of River City's wealthiest man, Qiao Tianhao. Behind the River City Fang Family stood the prestigious Jiangling Fang Family. And the Jiangling Fang Family not only had strong ties with the Jiangling Martial Alliance Branch but also had a daughter married to a high-ranking official in the Military Department.

All of these were the pillars supporting the Fang Family of River City. Even if they didn't act themselves, their reputation alone was enough to intimidate the common rabble. If someone truly dared to wipe out the River City Fang Family, the city's wealthiest man, Qiao Tianhao, would be the first to step forward. He would be followed by the Jiangling Fang Family, the Martial Alliance, the Military Department, and more.

Amidst the shock, everyone was consumed by a burning curiosity. Who was this incredibly audacious individual, so arrogant and bold?

Countless powers dispatched their people to gather information, determined to uncover this person's identity. In the end, the news they brought back left everyone astounded.

The man who had crippled Fang Ming was named Lin Mu, the chairman of Boheng Pharma. Although he was a chairman, his company was small, and Lin Mu was little more than a small-time boss.

This man... is he a fool? To provoke so many ruthless people! He's a dead man!

That was the thought in everyone's mind. In the eyes of giants like the Qiao and Fang families, wasn't crushing a minor boss like him as easy as swatting a fly?

However, a few admired his spirit. He had dared to blow up the Wanta Group simply because his employee was bullied and treated unfairly. Such fierce protectiveness made him a good boss in their eyes. But to act in such a way also made him an absolute fool.

For a time, discussion buzzed throughout the Three Rivers Area of Jiangling.

「Jiangling! The Fang Family.」

In the grand hall, the butler addressed the Family Head, Fang Tang, who was watching television. The broadcast was reporting on the bombing of the Wanta Group building.

"Family Head, should we send someone over to River City?" the butler asked, his head lowered.

Hearing this, Fang Tang picked up the remote, switched off the television, and stated calmly, "If he can't even handle a small matter like this, then sending Fang Cheng to River City all those years ago was indeed a wise decision." His voice was cold. "The Fang Family does not nurture the useless!"

This statement served as the final verdict.

The butler nodded. "And if... he can't resolve the situation over there?"

Fang Tang glanced at the butler and let out a soft chuckle. "No matter what mistakes Fang Cheng's father made in the past, he is still a member of my Fang Family."

His voice, calm yet filled with dominance, resonated as he started walking upstairs. "If Fang Cheng dies, we will avenge him. Exterminate the clans of everyone involved!"

As if remembering something, Fang Tang added, "When the time comes, handle both matters at once."

"Yes, sir."

The butler bowed, inwardly shocked at the Family Head's ruthlessness. Fang Cheng could die, and the Family Head wouldn't care in the slightest.

And there was more. Some time ago, a disciple sent to River City had met with an "accident" there. Someone had even sent a message to Jiangling, warning the Fang Family. At the time, the Family Head had merely remarked, "The Fang Family has many members. The death of one or two is insignificant. However, the family's honor must be upheld. Find an opportunity to identify the culprit, and destroying his entire clan will suffice."

For some unknown reason, the matter had been put on hold. Now, it was clear the Family Head had not forgotten.

The Fang Family was domineering, and with its deep connections and powerful background, no one dared to provoke them. As such, they had always considered themselves the supreme rulers of Jiangling. The minor forces in River City were nothing—they could be annihilated with a snap of the fingers.

Some people could be killed just as easily.

「The Qiao Family!」

BANG!

In the study, Qiao Tianhao was first stunned by the news, then erupted in a fit of rage. He smashed his favorite sculpture, a precious Pegasus Stepping on Clouds from Hanyang that he had spent a fortune on at auction. His assistant watched, heart pounding in his chest, knowing the chairman's fury must be immense.

"Send someone to investigate immediately!" Qiao Tianhao commanded, before suddenly changing his mind. "No, forget it. Send our people directly to the Fang Family's residence. Didn't that man say he was coming to settle accounts? Then we'll wait for him there!"

"Yes, sir!" the assistant complied, but then asked hesitantly, "Chairman, aren't you going in person?"

Qiao Tianhao merely glanced at him, his expression cold and unreadable. The silence was answer enough.

The assistant immediately broke out in a cold sweat. "I'll make the arrangements right away," he said quickly. The chairman's meaning was crystal clear; if he had pressed the issue, his career would have been over. Now that he knew his boss intended to wait and see, the assistant understood exactly what to do.

「The Fang Family.」

All afternoon, Fang Cheng sat in the main hall, his gaze fixed on the entrance. He wanted to see with his own eyes if that man would truly dare to show up as he had claimed.

"Family Head, everything has been arranged," the butler reported as he entered, his face a mask of cold fury. "If that person dares to come, I guarantee he will never leave alive!"

Fang Cheng waved his hand dismissively. "You may leave."

Once the butler had gone, Fang Cheng turned to his daughter, Fang Fei. "Fei'er, are you certain that 'he' will really come?"

Fang Fei's hands were tucked into her sleeves. Hidden within, a small red snake gently licked her skin, sending an occasional shiver through her body.

Hearing her father's question, she gave a cold, arrogant smile. "Dad, don't worry. Since Master has already given me his word, he will definitely come." A murderous glint flashed in her eyes. "No matter who this man is, he is going to die!"