

War God 491

Chapter 491 I Don't Find It Funny!

Everyone was struck by lightning.

General Instructor of the Southeast Military Academy!

Su Qing, of course, knew what these words meant. And what did the two bars and four stars represent? What was Lin Mu capable of to have reached this point?

The people present knew exactly what this meant. It was a position a full rank higher than Jia Jianguo! Just one more step, and he would be a Major General!

Shock, awe, disbelief, incredulity!

Su Yumei stood there, stunned. Just moments ago, she had looked down on Lin Mu and Su Rou, thinking Lei Chengjun was so impressive. But now, what right did she have to look down on Lin Mu and his mother? Her previous behavior was like a buffoon's act; she had made a complete fool of herself, slapping her own face. A Deputy Director? What a high-ranking official! About to become a Deputy County Magistrate? That was far from a done deal! And how old was Lei Chengjun? How old was Lin Mu? Who knew how far he would go in the future? The mighty Su Family? Could they compare with Lin Mu? Su Mingze? Su Mingli? Or her son, Lei Xinyang? None of them could! They weren't even fit to carry Lin Mu's shoes!

At this moment, Lei Chengjun was also stunned. He had never expected things to develop to this extent. Or rather, he had never even considered it!

The now-sober Su Mingze, Su Mingli, and Lei Xinyang looked at Lin Mu with indescribable shock, gazing at the cousin they had always looked down on since childhood. They had grown up together, often bullying Lin Mu when they were younger and treating him like a fatherless bastard. Lei Xinyang was the worst of them. As a child, he had bullied Lin Mu relentlessly, even pinning him to the ground and beating him on several occasions.

But what about now? Not only had Lin Mu crippled him, but he also realized the vast gap between them. Senior Colonel! That was a rank his own father, Lei Chengjun, hadn't reached, let alone him. Lei

Chengjun's future was limitless? Compared to Lin Mu's? Heh. There was no comparison at all. One was in the heavens, the other on the earth. A world of difference, as far apart as the clouds and the mud!

A fear rose from the depths of his heart. At this moment, Lei Xinyang was overwhelmed with intense regret.

Su Mingze and Su Mingli regretted it even more. Originally, Lin Mu was their cousin. If they had cultivated a good relationship with him, given Lin Mu's current status, he could have easily helped them. With just one word from him, they could have become the envy of everyone. What a pity. All of this became an illusion the moment they stepped into the wooden cabin.

But they weren't the ones who regretted it the most. It was Lei Chengjun!

Threaten the General Instructor of the Southeast Military Academy? Even shoot at him? Was I tired of living? Lei Chengjun was filled not only with regret but also with fear. A deep fear pervaded his heart.

He wanted to leave this place, to flee from it all, to avoid Lin Mu. But his legs went weak, and he couldn't even stand steady.

Even Su Qing, Su Dahai, and Su Dafu felt regret. The Su Family had produced a dragon! Although Lin Mu didn't carry the Su surname, half of his blood was from the Su Family! This was an unchangeable fact! If everyone had treated Lin Mu and his mother well when they returned, the Su Family could have soared to great heights, becoming not just the most esteemed clan in Wufeng County... but possibly in all of Handong Province! That would have been a true meteoric rise! But what had they done? They plotted against Lin Mu and his mother, had Lin Mu imprisoned, and humiliated his mother in the memorial hall. To prevent Su Rou from inheriting her portion of the estate, they even framed them for crimes! A mere Deputy Director of a county bureau dared to shoot at Lin Mu in public! These were unchangeable facts!

Among everyone present, Su Qing felt the deepest regret.

He was the Su Family Patriarch. He was also Su Rou's eldest uncle. Lin Mu's great-uncle! The Su Family had produced a dragon, yet what had the Su Family, and he himself, done to mother and son? Expelled them from the family! Calling her a "wretched servant" and him a "little beast"! He was the true sinner of the Su Family! A strong sense of guilt and remorse spread through his heart. Su Qing's body trembled slightly, and for a moment, his eyes went hollow.

"Hey, Second Sister, you kept something this big hidden even from us. What you did... it's..." Su Dahai started to say, but he couldn't continue. His face burned with shame.

Su Rou looked bewildered. Honestly, she was the most shocked person in the room. How could she not know what her own son was like? Completely ignoring Su Dahai, she looked thoughtfully at Lin Mu, her hands tightly gripping the hem of her clothes.

"Second Sister, this was your fault," Su Dafu said with feigned anger. "Now that Lin Mu has achieved so much, you didn't need to hide it from us. What, were you trying to give us a surprise? Ha! Second Sister, really, we're all family."

"Yes, Su Rou, we're all family," Su Yumei chimed in, her eyes darting around as she put on a sycophantic smile. "You and I had the best relationship growing up. When I had something good to eat, you were always the first person I thought of."

As she spoke, Su Yumei reached for Su Rou's hand, but Su Rou pulled away. Unfazed, Su Yumei continued with feigned concern, "Are you alright? I was wrong earlier, please don't take it to heart."

"Second Sister, your brother-in-law was in the wrong too. Please forgive him," Lei Chengjun said with a forced laugh, though his voice trembled slightly. He was truly terrified. Pointing a gun at the General Instructor of the Southeast Military Academy? That was a serious crime!

"Xiao Rou, I was in the wrong just now as well," Su Qing said, filled with regret. "I shouldn't have been so angry with Xiao Mu. This..." He had misjudged, and he had made a terrible mistake. Was Lei Chengjun the most outstanding son-in-law of the Su Family? Then what did that make Lin Mu?

"No need," Lin Mu suddenly said, his voice cold. "Didn't you all just expel us from the Su Family? There's no need for this charade."

His words instantly made the atmosphere excruciatingly awkward. Su Qing's face reddened all the way to the roots of his neck.

"Xiao Mu, what are you saying?" Su Dahai said with feigned indignation. "Your great-uncle was only joking with you! You can't take it seriously. No matter what, we are family. Even though you don't have the Su surname, we've always considered you a member of the Su Family."

Now that Lin Mu was the General Instructor, and so many important people had come for him, how could they possibly let him leave the Su Family? After all, Lin Mu was now a towering tree for the Su Family, a powerful backer. If they followed him, the Su Family was set to benefit immensely.

"Right, right, Xiao Mu! How could you take a joke so seriously?" Su Dafu added with a dry laugh. "You're too serious, kid."

The others joined in with forced laughter.

"You think this is funny? You think this is just a joke?" Lin Mu did not laugh. His tone was indifferent as he said, "I don't find it amusing at all. I think it would be best for us to sever all ties and never interact again."

Chapter 492: Severing Ties, Settling Old Scores!

"Xiao Mu, what are you saying?" Su Dahai said angrily. "Don't you dare act out of spite!"

"Spite?" Lin Mu smiled coldly. "Do you think I'm acting out of spite? Are you even worthy?"

"Humiliating my mother, targeting us, setting traps... after all these despicable stunts you've pulled on us, you still want me to stay? Is that even possible?"

Su Dahai said anxiously, "Second Sister, you have to talk to Xiao Mu! We're a family, we can't let ourselves become a laughingstock."

"A laughingstock?" Su Rou laughed, but her smile was cold and full of disappointment. "When you stopped me from paying my respects to Dad, weren't you worried about being laughed at? When you were bullying my son, didn't you think you were being a laughingstock? Why are you trying to persuade me now?"

Su Qing and the others looked embarrassed. How did the tables turn like this? Who knew Lin Mu's identity was so terrifying? If they leave, the Su Family will suffer a huge loss.

"Since the words have been said, let's leave it at that." Su Rou shook her head, not wanting to say anymore. She was truly disappointed in these so-called relatives.

When you're down, they look down on you, humiliating and targeting you. But when you're on top, they turn around and flatter you, urging you to be magnanimous. Why bother? It's better to sever such family ties sooner rather than later.

"Second Sister, are you really going to leave the Su Family?" Su Qing's previous arrogance was gone, replaced by a hint of pleading in his voice.

After all, Su Rou—or rather, Lin Mu—was now the key to the Su Family's prosperity.

"The words have been spoken. There's no taking them back!" Lin Mu sneered. He raised his arm, made a grabbing motion toward the family register in Su Dafu's hands, and clenched his fist.

The family register immediately shot into Lin Mu's grasp. Seeing this, even Guan Xinhe's eye twitched.

Instructor Lin is really in a league of his own, he's no ordinary person! In the old days, a move like that would have been enough to intimidate anyone. Seizing an object from a distance... a true Martial Arts Grandmaster!

Holding the family register, its pages fluttered open as if caught in a breeze, stopping at a specific page. Then, in front of everyone, with a loud RIP, Lin Mu tore the page out.

This single tear signified that Su Rou was severing all ties with the Su Family, drawing a clear line between them. At the same time, it meant they had dropped all pretenses with these people.

His expression fell. Su Qing said, "Xiao Rou, won't you reconsider?"

"There's nothing to reconsider." Su Rou had seen the true colors of the Su family members and shook her head indifferently. "Since the Su Family won't have us and looks down on my son and me, so be it. We will leave!"

Su Rou's words were like a slap to the face of every Su family member.

Su Dahai grew very anxious. "Second Sister, listen to me, hurry and talk to Xiao Mu! He's still just a kid. You've always been the sensible one, don't follow him in this foolishness."

"Foolishness?" Su Xiaomei finally spoke, her voice dripping with sarcasm. "When Su Yumei was bullying Second Sister, why didn't you stop her? When Lei Chengjun pointed a gun at Xiao Mu, why didn't you call that foolishness? When the Clan Leader was about to expel Second Sister from the family, weren't you all thrilled and excited? And now you have the nerve to call them foolish? Have you no shame?"

Su Xiaomei's words made Su Qing's face flush crimson with embarrassment. How could I have known that the mother and son I'd always despised had such a terrifying background? If I had known earlier, I never would have made that decision.

"Su Xiaomei, shut up!" Su Yumei said frantically. "This is not your place to speak! Be quiet!"

Pointing a gun at Lin Mu was an act whose severity depended entirely on the circumstances. In the past, they could have killed Lin Mu, pinned any crime on him, and no one would have dared to say a word. But now, he was the Chief Instructor of the Southeast Military Academy. For a mere deputy bureau chief to point a gun at him... that was a major crime!

"What? Instructor Lin, is this true?" Guan Xinhe's expression turned grave. "According to the law, that is a serious crime, punishable by imprisonment!"

"I didn't do it!" Lei Chengjun panicked, looking at Lin Mu with a pleading expression. "Xiao Mu," he said, "your uncle was just joking with you. You can't take it to heart."

"Joking?" Jia Jianguo suddenly whipped out his own gun and pressed the barrel to Lei Chengjun's head. "I'm joking with you now. Will you take it to heart?"

He had personally witnessed Instructor Lin annihilate the Fire Cloud Sect. This man was ruthless. He held a Dragon Guard Order, and even after killing Liu Xiu, nothing happened to him. And this deputy bureau chief from some backwater county dared to point a gun at him? He must have a death wish!

"I..." Cold sweat streamed down Lei Chengjun's face, which was a mask of terror.

"Xiao Mu, please, talk to him! I really didn't mean it!" Lei Chengjun's legs gave out, and his face was deathly pale.

"Is Instructor Lin's name something you're qualified to say?" Jia Jianguo jabbed Lei Chengjun's head with his gun, his expression murderous. "Address him as Instructor Lin!"

"Yes, yes, yes!" Lei Chengjun stammered, raising his hands in a panic.

The Su family was terrified; this man was frightening.

"Instructor Lin, you're a bigger man than me, please forgive me just this once. I truly know I was wrong," Lei Chengjun begged, on the verge of tears. "Second Sister, please, talk to him! I really know I was wrong! I'll never do it again!"

"You won't dare?" Lin Mu rubbed his wrists. "You've got plenty of nerve for a deputy bureau chief, colluding with gangsters to try and have me killed. How should we settle that score?"

"I..." Lei Chengjun's expression fell. In the past, he could have been careless about this. But now, everyone here was someone he couldn't afford to provoke.

County Chief Lu, Mayor Fei, the bigwigs from the Military Department... any one of them could have him killed with ease.

"Lei Chengjun, you have some nerve!" As expected, County Chief Lu erupted in anger. "Daring to point a gun at Instructor Lin is blatant insubordination!"

Fei Xiang shot a cold glare at County Chief Lu. "Lu Yiming, is this the kind of subordinate you manage? Colluding with criminal elements and using force against Instructor Lin? You owe me an explanation for this!"

"Yes, yes, Mayor Fei! I'll investigate this thoroughly and ensure he is punished severely!" County Chief Lu was terrified. This Lei Chengjun is going to be the death of me!

"Investigate?" Fei Xiang roared. "The facts are right in front of you! What is there to investigate?"

"Yes, I know what to do." County Chief Lu trembled. "I am dismissing Lei Chengjun, effective immediately! This man is unfit for his position. I am relieving him of all duties. Men, arrest Lei Chengjun! Give him the sentence he deserves!"

Lei Chengjun was seized instantly. The harshest of sentences awaited him.

"No!" Lei Chengjun shrieked. "County Chief Lu, you can't do this to me! I was wrong, I really know I was wrong!"

"Take him away!" County Chief Lu didn't even spare him a glance, his hatred for the man palpable.

"Wait," Lin Mu said suddenly.

The faces of Su Qing and the others lit up. Is he changing his mind?

"Now that we're no longer relatives, it's time to settle some scores." Lin Mu's expression was impassive, but his eyes glinted with cold, murderous intent.

Chapter 493: Waited Too Long!

"Xiao Mu, what are you going to do?"

Lei Chengjun was so frightened that he shuddered, a sudden sense of unease washing over him.

"Do what?"

Lin Mu gave an indifferent smile. "You'll find out soon enough."

Lin Mu slowly walked toward Wei San.

Wei San had long since been scared to the point of trembling, and at this moment, he was lying on the ground playing dead.

Sensing someone approaching, Wei San's eyes snapped open, only to see Lin Mu looking down at him with an indifferent expression.

"Lin... Instructor Lin, don't kill me! Don't kill me! I really didn't know you were an instructor; I wouldn't have dared even if I had ten times the courage."

Wei San shrieked in terror, frantically shaking his head. "It was all Lei Chengjun and the Su Clan Head! They're the ones who sent me to deal with you. It has nothing to do with me!"

"Don't worry. None of them will get away."

Lin Mu's lips twisted into a smile. "So," he said, "you can go first."

"No!"

Wei San shook his head frantically. "I'm Elder Xie's man! You can't kill me..."

"Wei San, you're fucking looking for death!"

Just then, a furious shout was heard. Xie Tuzi strode forward, his face cold with killing intent. "Mr. Lin, Wei San has offended you due to my lax supervision. I, Xie Tuzi, owe you an explanation!"

With an outstretched hand, his men immediately passed him a steel knife.

"THWACK!"

Xie Tuzi's face turned fierce. He suddenly chopped off one of his own fingers, biting back the pain as he spoke. "If Mr. Lin is still not satisfied, you can take my life as well."

Everyone else was taken aback. They hadn't expected that even this big shot from Handong Province would have to resort to such means to atone in front of Lin Mu.

Wei San was even more stunned, and a wave of utter despair washed over him.

Lin Mu gave a slight smile and flicked his finger lightly at Wei San.

"BANG!"

Wei San's head instantly exploded, and his entire body followed suit!

Those present felt a chill of horror, too frightened to speak. It was too terrifying.

With a single flick of a finger, he had blown a man apart!

It was horrifying!

Giving Xie Tuzi an indifferent glance, Lin Mu turned to look at Wei San's underlings.

"Ah, run for it!"

Wei San's lackeys, long since scared out of their wits, turned to flee.

"Trying to leave?"

A fierce glint flashed in Lin Mu's eyes. He immediately unleashed an astonishing aura. This aura swept out like a shockwave, engulfing the area.

The fleeing thugs froze, their bodies trembling uncontrollably. They found themselves completely paralyzed, and terror flooded their faces.

Then, their bodies began to rapidly disappear—first their hands, then their heads.

In the space of a single breath, all the thugs vanished into thin air.

Silence. A deathly stillness descended.

Seconds later, an outcry erupted from the crowd, their faces etched with intense shock.

"Hiss!" Guan Xinhe couldn't help but gasp, thinking his eyes were deceiving him.

Is this the power of a Grandmaster? To kill without a trace, to eradicate enemies in the blink of an eye!

Unbelievable... simply unbelievable!

Guan Xinhe knew Lin Mu was strong, but he had never imagined he would be this powerful!

The others were even more stunned, their minds buzzing in disbelief.

The scene was too horrific. That had been dozens of men. Even if it were dozens of pigs lined up for slaughter, it would have taken half a day, right?

Yet, in the blink of an eye, they were gone.

This Lin Mu's methods were terrifying! So cruel!

Ignoring everyone else, Lin Mu turned his head to look at Lei Chengjun.

"Lin Mu, what are you going to do?"

Lei Chengjun took a step back in fright, his fat face instantly turning deathly pale.

"As if you don't know!" Lin Mu snorted, a sharp light flashing in his eyes. In that instant, Lei Chengjun exploded like a volatile bomb.

"No!"

Su Yumei collapsed to the ground, her face stricken with terror as her body trembled uncontrollably.

Fear consumed Su Qing and the others, their limbs turning to ice.

Lin Mu had even killed Lei Chengjun! He actually dared to!

"He got what he deserved! Good riddance!"

Someone suddenly shouted, their voice filled with glee.

It was Xu Yao.

Seeing everyone's gaze turn to her, Xu Yao timidly hid behind Su Xiaomei but still said in a strained voice, "He just tried to shoot Brother Mu! He wanted to kill him, so he got what he deserved."

"Xu Yao, you little bitch, shut your mouth!"

As if provoked, Su Yumei scrambled to her feet and charged toward Xu Yao.

"I'm going to tear your mouth apart!"

Su Yumei had only taken a few steps when a cold snort sounded out, followed by a slight tremor of the ground.

"Ah!"

With a shrill scream, Su Yumei's knees burst, and she collapsed violently to the ground.

"You should be grateful your surname is Su, which is why I'm not killing you," Lin Mu said coldly. "But you insulted my mother. That is a price you need to pay."

Seeing Su Yumei crippled, a cold dread filled everyone's hearts. This Lin Mu is truly vengeful.

With her husband dead, her son a cripple, and now crippled herself, Su Yumei might as well be dead. But no one sympathized with her. Su Yumei had brought this fate entirely upon herself.

"Mom, let's go," Lin Mu said, taking Mother Lin's hand, ready to leave.

"Xiao Mu, your grandfather..." Su Rou had intended to leave, but her heart ached at the sight of Old Master Su's spirit tablet.

"I'll take care of Grandfather's funeral." Lin Mu nodded, then looked toward County Chief Lu.

County Chief Lu shivered and hurriedly said, "Instructor Lin, rest assured. I will personally select a site with good feng shui for the old master and see to it that he receives a grand burial."

"You have my thanks."

Lin Mu nodded, then turned to Su Qing and the others. "You don't have any objections, do you?"

The members of the Su Family all shook their heads. How could they dare object? Lin Mu had killed so many people in public. He was like the Demon King incarnate—who would dare to oppose him?

Watching Lin Mu leave, a bleak gloom settled over the entire Su Family. Old Master Su's funeral had turned into a funeral for so many others.

As soon as Lin Mu left, Guan Xinhe gestured with his hand, and Jia Jianguo immediately led his men to carry Old Master Su's spirit tablet away to prepare for the grand burial.

"Second Sister, tomorrow is Dad's burial day. Since you have nowhere to go, why don't you stay at my place for the night?" Su Xiaomei called out, rushing to take Su Rou's arm.

Xu Yao hid behind her, constantly stealing glances at Lin Mu, her eyes filled with tiny stars. Brother Mu is so handsome!

Lin Mu nodded and said, "Mom, let's rest at Second Aunt's house tonight. Tomorrow, I'll go with you to pay our respects to Grandfather."

"Okay."

Su Rou nodded, wiping a tear from her eye.

"Yay! Brother Mu is so powerful!"

Xu Yao jumped for joy.

The group headed to Su Xiaomei's house. They had a simple, plain meal, but when he saw his mother gradually begin to smile, comforted by his second aunt and cousin Xu Yao, Lin Mu finally breathed a sigh of relief.

Early the next morning, Jia Jianguo came to inform Lin Mu that everything was ready and the burial ceremony was about to begin. Lin Mu and his party rushed out the door.

In the largest cemetery in Wufeng County, Su Rou and Su Xiaomei knelt before Old Master Su's tombstone, weeping inconsolably. It was a long time before their tears subsided.

Guan Xinhe lit a stick of incense and came to stand behind Lin Mu. "Instructor Lin, you'll need to report to the Southeast Military Academy in one month."

Lin Mu nodded.

Guan Xinhe suddenly added, "Instructor Lin, people from the Eight Extremes Gate have been seen in Jiangling recently. They seem to be looking for you, so you should be prepared."

"Eight Extremes Gate?"

Lin Mu's eyebrows raised. He remembered Chang Wei and the Wang Family, and a cold glint flickered in his eyes.

After waiting for so long, they've finally come! Since they're seeking death, I'll be happy to oblige them!

Chapter 494: Venerable Master Returns, You Must Die!

"Lin Mu, where are you?"

Song Wenrou called, her voice tense. "There's been an incident at Coiling Dragon Bay. The Wang Family sent a messenger saying they have evidence that you wiped out the entire Jiangling Fang Family. They even have a video recording. Now they're threatening to release the evidence and report you."

The news of Lin Mu wiping out the Jiangling Fang Family had already caused a massive uproar in Jiangling. This was especially true after Lin Mu had publicly declared at the Fang Clan Clubhouse that he would annihilate the Fang Family. When the Fang Family was indeed wiped out later, the Wang Family seized upon this to threaten him.

If the Wang Family were to release this news, who would dare to buy a property at Coiling Dragon Bay?

"The Wang Family said that if you come forward to admit your guilt and hand over Coiling Dragon Bay, they would consider settling this privately," Song Wenrou added, clearly nervous. As a young woman facing such a situation, she had no idea how to handle it and could only call Lin Mu.

"Let them," Lin Mu sneered. "I'll take care of things here and then return to Jiangling. I'd like to see for myself if the Wang Family can really turn the world upside down!"

Evidence? What evidence could the Wang Family possibly have? It's just someone stirring up trouble, trying to threaten me. And I, Lin Wudi, will never be threatened!

"What's wrong, is there trouble?" Guan Xinhe asked.

"It's nothing, just a minor issue."

Lin Mu offered a faint smile. No sooner had Guan Xinhe informed him that the Eight Extremes Gate was coming for him than the Wang Family showed up. It seemed they believed that by joining forces, they could make him, Lin Mu, submit.

What a pity. I am no ordinary person.

Guan Xinhe nodded, not taking it too seriously. Given Lin Mu's current status and position, ordinary matters indeed couldn't affect him.

"Instructor Lin, once things here are settled, I'll head back first," Guan Xinhe said, adding a final reminder. "Don't forget to report to the Southeast Military Academy when the time comes."

After Guan Xinhe left, Mother Lin and Su Xiaomei's family came over.

"Xiao Mu, things have come to this. Your aunt's family can't stay in Wufeng County anymore. They want to go to River City with me. What do you think?" Su Rou now instinctively sought Lin Mu's advice on any major issue. She was worried about leaving Su Xiaomei's family in Wufeng County.

"That's fine," Lin Mu said. "I heard Yaoyao just got into Jiangling University. You can all head directly to Jiangling. I have a house there; you can just move in."

"Ah, Xiao Mu is becoming more and more successful, even owning a house in Jiangling," Su Xiaomei said, patting Su Rou's hand with a look of contentment. "Second Sister, you'll have it easy from now on."

Su Rou was also pleased. "I just hope this kid hurries up and gives me a grandchild to look after."

"Wait, Xiao Mu is married? How come we didn't know?" Su Xiaomei asked in surprise.

Su Rou gave an awkward laugh but offered no explanation. After all, her own son was merely a live-in son-in-law. Although Luo Li was filial, a live-in son-in-law was still a live-in son-in-law, a status that was ultimately somewhat disgraceful.

"Brother Mu, I have a sister-in-law? I want to see her!" Xu Yao exclaimed, grabbing Lin Mu's hand and shaking it.

"Yaoyao, stop messing around," Xu Xiaotian reprimanded her. After last night's events, he was somewhat fearful of Lin Mu.

"It's fine, Uncle," Lin Mu said with a smile. "Alright, let's head back to River City first, pick up Luo Li, and then go to Jiangling together."

"Yay, yay!" Xu Yao clapped her hands excitedly.

Xu Xiaotian was somewhat helpless, but a smile touched his lips when he heard Lin Mu call him Uncle.

Just as they finished speaking, Lin Mu's phone rang again.

"Mr. Lin, something terrible has happened!" It was Zheng Mingye calling. "The people from the Eight Extremes Gate have shown up in River City!"

Zheng Mingye had clearly gotten wind of something and was tipping Lin Mu off.

"Oh?" Lin Mu's eyes narrowed. "They actually found their way to River City. They do have some skills."

"Mr. Lin, you need to be careful. Although they're only delivering a formal challenge this time, I think they're coming specifically for you," Zheng Mingye said, his voice laced with worry. "I also heard that the Eight Extremes Gate has invited a master to preside over this, and they're just waiting for you to appear."

「Meanwhile, at the River City Grand Hotel.」

In a presidential suite, a man with an arrogant expression sat on a sofa, rolling two steel balls in his hand. His aura was restrained, as stable as Taishan; just from his demeanor alone, one could tell that explosive power was contained within him. The two steel balls in his hand were equally capable of horrific destruction.

Several other people stood in the room, each with an imposing air and a significant presence.

"Brother Zhao, we're troubling you to make this trip personally," someone in the room said respectfully.

"It's a trivial matter," Zhao Xu snorted. "I want to see who dares to oppose my Eight Extremes Gate! He killed Chang Wei, and for that, I will tear him limb from limb!"

Contempt filled Zhao Xu's face, and a flicker of murderous intent flashed in his eyes. Chang Wei was his sworn brother; the two had met at the Eight Extremes Gate and had hit it off immediately. According to the Wang Family, a brash young kid had killed him.

Preposterous!

"Brother Zhao, this is no small affair. If that person could kill Chang Wei, he is certainly no simple character," a young man standing to the side reminded him. To deliver this challenge, the Eight Extremes Gate had sent Zhao Xu specifically to ensure that nothing went awry.

"This time, we are only here to deliver the challenge; we can't afford any complications," the young man said again, worried that Zhao Xu would act recklessly.

"Is that really necessary?" Zhao Xu's expression was once again disdainful. "If the other party is just all show and no substance, why would my master need to act personally? I'll just cripple him and throw him at my master's feet. Then, whether he lives or dies will be up to the old man to decide!"

"But Brother Zhao, if he really is the one who killed Chang Wei, his strength cannot be underestimated," the young man said with concern. Their only mission this time was to deliver the challenge. He truly feared that Zhao Xu would lose control, start a conflict, and disrupt their entire plan.

"Wang Zhuo, when did you become such a coward? And do you really believe someone could kill my sworn brother, Chang Wei? In my opinion, the other party only succeeded by taking advantage of the situation. After all, it's said that the man had a follower with him who killed my sworn brother's top disciple with a single punch," Zhao Xu said, rolling the steel balls as murder glinted in his eyes.

"Otherwise, with his own strength, he probably couldn't even touch my sworn brother's clothes!"

Clearly, Zhao Xu refused to believe that Lin Mu had killed Chang Wei. He was convinced that Lin Mu had merely taken advantage of the chaos, as Chang Wei had been challenging several of Jiangling's major figures at the time.

"Brother Zhao, I still hope you won't act impulsively," Wang Zhuo urged anxiously. "After all, the Eight Extremes Gate and our Wang Family..."

"It's not your place to tell me how to do things," Zhao Xu interrupted as he stood up. "Bring them in. Since I'm in River City, I should collect some interest first!"

The door opened, and two bloody, mutilated figures were dragged into the room and thrown onto the floor. It was Cheng Bugui and Qiao Tianhao.

Zhao Xu walked over and planted his foot on Cheng Bugui's chest. "I hear River City is now the territory of that Lin Mu fellow, and you all revere him as your Venerable Master?"

"From now on, I'm taking over River City!"

Cheng Bugui spat out a mouthful of blood and snarled viciously, "When the Venerable Master returns, you're dead!"

Chapter 495: Learn to Keep a Low Profile in the Next Life!

"Dead?"

Zhao Xu snorted coldly, grabbing Cheng Bugui by the hair. "I'd like to see how your so-called 'dog master' plans to kill me."

"It's not that I'm looking down on him, but if I, Zhao Xu, were to act, killing him would be easier than crushing an ant!"

With a murderous look, Zhao Xu continued, "How much could he have possibly achieved at such a young age?"

"I began my martial arts training at five, only crossed the threshold at eighteen, and now at thirty-five, I train diligently every day without slacking. Even so, I've only reached the realm of Inner Strength."

Zhao Xu then declared proudly, "But even with that, I'm called a genius! Countless people will never reach my level of achievement in their entire lifetime!"

"How old is that kid? Twenty-six? That's a full decade younger than me. How many years of training could he possibly have?"

A sneer crossed Zhao Xu's face. "Even if he started cultivating in the womb, I doubt he's even reached External Strength by now, has he?"

With his hair being yanked by Zhao Xu, Cheng Bugui replied through the pain, "You can never imagine the Venerable Master's power. I guarantee you will die, and it will be a gruesome death!"

"Oh, really?" Zhao Xu laughed menacingly. "We'll just have to wait and see!"

"I may have come to deliver a letter of challenge, but I see no need for such formalities. I'll just cripple him and show him how formidable I am!" Zhao Xu's voice was full of pride. "After all, my reputation is well-earned!"

It wasn't that Zhao Xu was arrogant; he truly had the strength to back up his words. Within the Eight Extremes Gate, he was considered one of the top experts. In fact, he had already been designated as the next Sect Leader. Zhao Xu of the Eight Extremes Gate could kill a tiger with a single punch. At his level, although he was a step below a Grandmaster, ordinary experts were no match for him. For a practitioner of Inner Strength, a release of their Internal Energy was as deadly as a bullet. His power had long surpassed the limits of an ordinary person. Therefore, it was only natural that he didn't take Lin Mu seriously.

Cheng Bugui clenched his teeth, his eyes filled with scorn as he stared at Zhao Xu's prideful expression.

"Take them away," Zhao Xu waved his hand dismissively. "I want them to watch with their own eyes as I cripple that boy."

CRACK!

With a sudden exertion of force, the two steel balls in Zhao Xu's palm shattered into fine powder.

Seeing this, the faces of Cheng Bugui and Qiao Tianhao changed dramatically.

This man's strength is incredible!

After Cheng Bugui and Qiao Tianhao were led away, Wang Zhuo asked with some concern, "Brother Zhao, are you really going to do this?"

"What else?" Zhao Xu said coldly. "My sworn brother's death cannot be in vain!"

The next day, Zhao Xu arrived at Qin Zhu Courtyard. With the combined influence of the Eight Extremes Gate and the Wang Family, finding Lin Mu's home had been no trouble at all.

Cheng Bugui and Qiao Tianhao were also brought along. Zhao Xu wanted them to witness him cripple Lin Mu with a single punch.

"Who are you? What are you doing here?" Qin Luoli had received word and rushed out. When she saw Cheng Bugui and Qiao Tianhao covered in blood, her expression hardened, knowing they came with ill intent.

"What am I doing?" Zhao Xu said coldly. "I'll count to ten. Get Lin Mu out here. Otherwise, he can come and collect the corpses of these two dogs!"

Cheng Bugui and Qiao Tianhao were thrown to the ground, both appearing to be severely injured.

Qin Luoli's expression changed. Just as she was about to speak, a figure appeared on the second-floor balcony.

"Whose corpse are you asking me to collect?"

It was Lin Mu.

"So you're Lin Mu?" Zhao Xu sneered as he studied him. Dressed in casual clothes just like in the photos, he looked nothing like an expert. The mockery in Zhao Xu's eyes deepened, and his killing intent intensified.

"And you're from the Eight Extremes Gate?" Lin Mu looked at Zhao Xu indifferently. He had arrived in River City at dawn the previous day. He hadn't even had a chance to look for this Zhao Xu, yet the man had already come to his doorstep.

"That's right." Zhao Xu nodded arrogantly. "I am Zhao Xu, a disciple of the Sect Leader of the Eight Extremes Gate and the sworn brother of Chang Wei!"

"I must say, for a naive brat like you to kill my sworn brother... you must have taken advantage of him when he was vulnerable, using some trickery, right?" Zhao Xu waved his hand dismissively. "Whatever, I can't be bothered to waste my breath on you. Now, break your own arms and legs and come with me to see my Master!"

Dressed in training clothes with his hands clasped behind his back, Zhao Xu exuded the air of a true expert.

"Break my own arms and legs?" Lin Mu cracked a smile. "You should break your own legs now, while you still have the chance. You won't get another one once I make my move." This Zhao Xu dares to tell me to sever my own limbs? How utterly arrogant!

"You ungrateful wretch!" Zhao Xu laughed coldly. "If I have to act myself, it won't just be you. All of you will die!"

He would not let Lin Mu off easy for killing his sworn brother. In his eyes, Lin Mu was just a greenhorn. Even if he knew some kung fu, it was surely just flashy, ineffective techniques, incomparable to someone from a genuine sect like himself.

"Why don't you try me?" Lin Mu narrowed his eyes, his gaze fixed on Zhao Xu as if looking at a dead man.

"Young man, you are far too ignorant!" A cold glint flashed in Zhao Xu's eyes. "Do you have any idea who you're speaking to? Do you have any idea of the kind of existence that stands before you?"

"Oh? And you?" Lin Mu retorted. "Do you have any idea who you're speaking to? Even if the Sect Leader of the Eight Extremes Gate himself were here, he wouldn't dare be so presumptuous!"

Lin Mu's words made Zhao Xu laugh out loud. Even Wang Zhuo shook his head slightly. This Lin Mu really is too full of himself. Does he think he's an Invincible Grandmaster? He doesn't even spare Zhao Xu of the Eight Extremes Gate a second thought. He clearly doesn't understand the gap between them.

"Insolent brat who doesn't know his place!" Zhao Xu snorted, murderous intent blazing in his eyes. He stomped on the ground, his body instantly shooting toward Lin Mu.

Lin Mu was on the second floor, at least five or six meters up, yet Zhao Xu effortlessly leaped and landed directly on the balcony in front of him. This feat alone was enough to stun Qin Luoli and the others.

"Kid, remember this for your next life: be a little more humble!"

Zhao Xu moved, throwing a punch at Lin Mu without hesitation. The fist carried immense Inner Strength; even a wall of iron and bronze would be shattered by its force. If it landed on a person, it would turn them into meat paste. This single punch was enough to prove Zhao Xu's strength was several times greater than Chang Wei's.

But unfortunately for him, he was facing Lin Mu.

The man known as the invincible Lin Wudi.

Lin Mu didn't move an inch. A mocking smile played on his lips as he raised an arm and sent a palm swatting forward. It was a light, casual slap, completely devoid of any earthly ferocity.

Seeing this, Zhao Xu was overjoyed. This kid is simply courting death!

"Kid, I'll show you what true martial arts are!" With his Inner Strength flowing and Internal Energy surging, the power in Zhao Xu's fist intensified. "This fist contains thirty years of my training! It's more than enough to smash you into a pulp!"

The punch descended.

BANG!

An invisible shockwave radiated outward, cracking the surrounding walls.

Zhao Xu's expression twisted in utter disbelief.

Lin Mu had not only stopped his punch, but the rebound force had shattered his entire arm.

Yet, Lin Mu's palm continued forward unabated, slapping against Zhao Xu's body.

"Remember: in your next life, learn how to be humble."

Chapter 496: Reward for merits, punishment for faults!

"Ah!" Zhao Xu screamed as he was sent flying.

Before he even hit the ground, this expert from the Eight Extremes Gate had already drawn his last breath. By the time he landed, the man who had once boasted he would cripple Lin Mu with a single punch had been reduced to a puddle of gore.

The members of the Eight Extremes Gate and Wang Zhuo were instantly drenched in cold sweat.

Zhao Xu! A disciple directly under the Sect Leader of the renowned Eight Extremes Gate! He couldn't even block a single move and was slapped to death? Who would believe such a thing?

But it had truly happened.

In the Martial Arts World, Zhao Xu was also known as the Little Boxing King and was even called the foremost of the Three Sons of the Eight Extremes Gate. In the region of Yongzhou, the name Zhao Xu alone was enough to intimidate many. To now die so ignominiously in River City was simply unbelievable.

Lin Mu's expression was indifferent as he looked down coldly from the floor above. In that moment, his mere glance was enough to make the men from the Eight Extremes Gate break out in a cold sweat, their hearts filled with terror.

Then, with a light tap of his toes, Lin Mu's figure floated down like a falling leaf, descending gracefully from the second floor to the ground without stirring a speck of dust.

Instantly, the men from the Eight Extremes Gate and the Wang Family retreated, exclaiming in shock. Wang Zhuo swallowed hard and hurriedly presented a gilt-edged letter of challenge.

"Mr. Lin... Mr. Lin, this is..." Wang Zhuo couldn't even complete his sentence, his voice filled with nothing but raw fear of Lin Mu.

At that moment, he dared not show the slightest contempt or disdain toward Lin Mu, only the terror and humility one would feel before a primeval beast. This young man, who appeared to be under thirty, had proven everything with his strength.

Lin Mu accepted the letter, a cold smirk gracing his lips.

This was the third challenge letter he had received.

The first was from Yun Xu, and he died.

The second was from Chang Wei, and he died too.

This was the third: a challenge from the Sect Leader of the Eight Extremes Gate. The man was summoning Lin Mu to a battle in Jiangling one month from now. This letter had even been distributed to

numerous other sects, including Tai Chi, Emei, and Xingyi. Clearly, the Eight Extremes Gate was treating this challenge as a grand event, one destined to attract widespread attention.

After all, the Sect Leader of the Eight Extremes Gate was a monumental figure in the Martial Arts World. He, too, was a Martial Arts Grandmaster.

Wen Lie, ranked twenty-fourth on the Heavenly List.

To ensure victory, Wen Lie had even invited a mysterious expert to help preside over the battle. Given Wen Lie's status, the person he invited would certainly be no weaker than him, and likely another powerhouse on the Heavenly List.

But Lin Mu couldn't care less. With his current cultivation level, it made no difference how many opponents he faced. At his realm, numbers could not change the outcome.

As for these people from the Wang Family...

"Go back and tell your Wang Family that if they don't want to suffer the same fate as the Fang Family, they'd better behave themselves," Lin Mu said indifferently, his hands clasped behind his back. "Otherwise, I don't mind wiping out the Wang Family as well."

Lin Mu did not kill Wang Zhuo and the others. To him, they were nothing more than insignificant ants.

Seeing that his life was spared, Wang Zhuo breathed a huge sigh of relief. He and his men fled in a panic, scrambling away like stray dogs. Only after they had run a considerable distance did they dare to slow down, gasping for air.

"That scared me to death! My god, that was terrifying!" the man who had flattered Zhao Xu at the hotel exclaimed, slapping his chest, his face pale with lingering fear.

"I know, right? Who could have known he was so powerful? Luckily, he's wary of our Sect Leader's strength, so he didn't dare kill us," another chimed in, his arrogance returning as his fear subsided.

"Exactly. It seems that even though he killed Senior Brother Zhao, he knows he's no match for the Sect Leader. That's why he didn't dare to offend the Eight Extremes Gate too badly."

"He knows his place. But now that Senior Brother Zhao is dead, there's no way the Sect Leader will let him off the hook!"

The men from the Eight Extremes Gate, accustomed to arrogance, began speaking insolently the moment they felt safe.

Standing to the side, Wang Zhuo was dumbfounded. Have these Eight Extremes Gate members practiced martial arts until their brains turned to mush? Do they really think he was afraid to kill them?

But then he considered the standing of the Eight Extremes Gate in Yongzhou and thought they might have a point. Though he knew little about the Martial Arts World, he understood the significance of the title "Grandmaster." At this thought, Wang Zhuo felt a flicker of reassurance.

As long as the Sect Leader of the Eight Extremes Gate makes a move, Lin Mu is a dead man! Besides, the Wang Family has its own masters as backing. That's how we've maintained our foothold in Jiangling for all these years.

"Venerable Master, we... we have disappointed you."

As soon as the men from the Eight Extremes Gate had gone, Cheng Bugui sighed in relief, his face filled with shame. Qin Zhu Courtyard was the Venerable Master's home, yet they had been confronted at their doorstep. If the Venerable Master hadn't returned, who knew what might have happened?

"This isn't your fault," Lin Mu consoled them. "You've already done very well."

Seeing the pitiful state Cheng Bugui and Qiao Tianhao were in, Lin Mu gave a faint smile. He moved like lightning, striking each of them with a palm. A jolt ran through them, and the severe pain wracking their bodies instantly vanished. Their injuries were mostly healed.

He took out an Elixir and tossed it to Qiao Tianhao. "You've handled matters well recently. I operate on a simple principle: merit is rewarded, and faults are punished. Take this Elixir. You will soon understand its benefits."

His tone shifted slightly as he added, "This medicine can increase the chances of your wife getting pregnant."

At this, everyone, including Qin Luoli, gave Lin Mu a peculiar look.

But Qiao Tianhao was overjoyed. "Thank you, Venerable Master!" he said, bowing deeply.

What did Qiao Tianhao want most right now? A child! Qiao Zishan was dead, and he now served Lin Mu. His fate was sealed, so he might as well accept it. He had tried countless methods to conceive a child, but nothing had worked. He was also getting older, and his stamina was beginning to wane. This Elixir from Lin Mu was like rain in a drought, filling his heart with immense gratitude.

"Rest assured, Venerable Master," Qiao Tianhao promised, his respect for Lin Mu deepening. "I will manage the foundation meticulously and ensure there are no mishaps!"

Cheng Bugui hesitated for a moment before asking tentatively, "By the way, Venerable Master, about the Yan Family..."

"As I've said, merits will be rewarded, and transgressions will be punished," Lin Mu stated coolly. "Since the Yan Family revealed my address to the Eight Extremes Gate, let them vanish."

A shiver ran down Cheng Bugui's spine, but he didn't dare object. "As you command, Venerable Master!" he replied respectfully.

Qiao Tianhao's heart trembled. The Venerable Master is truly the Venerable Master, as ruthless as ever. He would exterminate an entire family without a second thought. But the Yan Family brought this upon themselves. After receiving the Venerable Master's favor, they dared to betray him by revealing his residence. It was a crime that deserved death.

Chapter 497: You Dare to Run Wild on My Turf!

「The Yan Family.」

"Dad, you must save me! I really don't want to die!"

Yan Chao was the direct heir of the Yan Family, and his father, Yan Shiming, held the position of Family Head, wielding great power over the clan. Consequently, Yan Chao had developed the character of a spoiled brat who looked down on everyone.

As for Yan Shiming, his mentality had also changed. Upon receiving his son's call, he flew into a towering rage. "Son, don't be afraid! Your father is coming to rescue you right now!"

Over the past year, by following the Venerable Master, the Yan Family had evolved from a second-rate clan into a first-rate family. Their prestige now surpassed even that of the former Luo Family. Moreover, their future looked incredibly bright. As the Yan Family grew stronger, its disciples were respected everywhere they went.

But Yan Shiming knew that the Venerable Master had granted all of this to his family. A single word from the Venerable Master could elevate the Yan Family to an untouchable status, but a single word could also plunge them into utter ruin. Therefore, Yan Shiming had always been extremely cautious, daring not to show the slightest negligence toward the Venerable Master. He had even warned his kinsmen to always show the Venerable Master the utmost respect. Yan Shiming deeply understood that only by following the Venerable Master could the Yan Family endure and thrive.

But Yan Shiming never imagined that in River City, a place already under the Venerable Master's rule, someone would still dare to lay a hand on his son.

To dare and touch my son... they must be tired of living!

"Men, follow me!" Yan Shiming roared.

At his command, a dozen attendants immediately followed him out of the main gate. Several Yan Family members trailed behind them as well.

"Family Head, no matter who they are, if they dare to bully the Young Master on our turf, we must teach them a lesson!" the captain of the Yan Family's security team said coldly. "Family Head, you need not get involved. I will handle it."

"Mm, very good," Yan Shiming said, patting the security captain's shoulder in satisfaction. "My Yan Family's trust in you has not been misplaced."

「Four Directions Grand Hotel.」

This was once a Luo Family property. After the family's fall, the Four Directions Grand Hotel was given to the Yan Family as a reward. Lin Mu still remembered being blocked from entering by Luo Jinping when he had first come here.

The Luo Family could never have imagined that their assets would be completely carved up like this.

The Yan Family had not disappointed Lin Mu. They managed the Four Directions Grand Hotel efficiently, generating a substantial income every month. Of course, as per their arrangement, the Yan Family also gave Lin Mu a significant portion of the monthly profits as tribute.

At this moment, Yan Chao was locked in a private room, covered in blood and barely clinging to life. Clearly, he had just been taught a "profound" lesson.

The door to the private room swung open. Lin Mu walked in, pulled up a chair, and sat down to look at Yan Chao.

"Do you have any idea who I am? You dare to touch me? I guarantee you're all dead!" Yan Chao gritted his teeth, his eyes filled with venom as he glared at Lin Mu.

These people are unbelievably audacious! To attack me on Yan Family territory... they're simply courting death!

"Dead?" Lin Mu said with an indifferent expression. "It seems the Yan Family has forgotten who truly rules River City."

"What did you say?" Yan Chao let out a savage laugh, as if he had just heard the funniest joke in the world. "Boy, it seems you don't know who stands behind my Yan Family. He is an existence you cannot afford to offend!"

"And do you know who I am?" Lin Mu's eyes narrowed. It seems that during my absence from River City, some people have forgotten their place. Today, I'll have to make an example of someone to serve as a warning.

"I don't care who you are!" Yan Chao threatened. "If you know what's good for you, release me now! Otherwise, I guarantee you won't live through the night!"

"Insolent!" Xu Shanhu roared, lashing out with a kick that sent Yan Chao flying.

Just as Xu Shanhu was about to press his attack, Lin Mu stopped him.

"Has Yan Shiming arrived yet?" Lin Mu asked ominously. "If he's not here in ten minutes, tell him to come collect his son's corpse."

"Yes!" Xu Shanhu replied respectfully. Just then, a subordinate reported that the Yan Family had arrived.

"Haha, you're all dead men!" Yan Chao's face was covered in blood, but he laughed maniacally. "Once my dad gets here, all of you will die! How dare you touch me? I'll make you pay a terrible price!"

"Is that so?" Lin Mu said nonchalantly, casually picking at his nails. "I'm quite eager to see just how your Yan Family will make me pay."

Xu Shanhu shot Yan Chao a mocking look. This fool is completely full of himself, daring to offend the Venerable Master. Does he not realize that even Yan Shiming wouldn't dare speak like that in the Venerable Master's presence?

BOOM!

At that moment, the private room door was kicked open. The Yan Family's security captain stood in the doorway and announced coldly, "You dare lay a hand on our Young Master? I think you're looking for death!"

"Wu Da, save me!" Seeing the security captain, Yan Chao's face lit up with joy. He scrambled to his feet and sneered at Lin Mu. "Kid, I told you you were going to die an ugly death! Wu Da, break this man's legs first! I want to torture him properly!"

Wu Da nodded. "As the Young Master wishes."

He started walking toward Lin Mu with a cold sneer. This kid looks unfamiliar and young. He must think he can run wild on Yan Family turf just because his family has a few connections. If that's the case, I'll just have to cripple him!

"Wu Da, I advise you not to court your own doom," Xu Shanhu said eerily, just as Wu Da was about to make his move. "Otherwise, you won't even know how you died."

"Hm? Brother Hu?" Seeing Xu Shanhu, Wu Da was slightly taken aback. Of course, he recognized Xu Shanhu. Both the Yan Family and Cheng Bugui served the Venerable Master, so they had met before.

"Three breaths. Scram or die," Lin Mu stated flatly.

Wu Da's expression changed. He looked at Xu Shanhu and asked, "Brother Hu, what is going on here?"

"Two breaths."

Xu Shanhu didn't dare speak, but Lin Mu's words made Wu Da's gaze sharpen.

If I hadn't seen Xu Shanhu, I would have crippled this kid without a second thought. But now...

"Wu Da, what are you waiting for?! Make your move!" seeing his hesitation, Yan Chao shouted in a rage. "Remember, you belong to the Yan Family!"

"One breath."

Wu Da took a deep breath. "Regardless, this man laid a hand on our Young Master. I have a duty to answer to the Family Head."

Xu Shanhu sighed softly. What an idiot.

The moment Wu Da moved, Lin Mu simply pointed a finger at him.

BANG!

Wu Da's entire body exploded into a bloody mist.

"I warned you," Lin Mu said coldly, his voice carrying out of the room. "Yan Shiming, if you don't show yourself soon, prepare to collect your son's corpse."

Yan Chao, already horrified by Wu Da's death, shrieked, "Dad, come save me!"

Instantly, an enraged shout echoed from outside, and a figure burst into the room.

"You've got some nerve, kid! How dare you run wild on my turf?!"

Chapter 498: Killing the Chicken to Warn the Monkey!

"No matter who you are, if you dare to lay a hand on my son, you will die today!"

The next moment, Yan Shiming stormed out of his private room. But when he saw Lin Mu, he froze. His face turned deathly pale, and a look of terror washed over him.

"Dad, it's this little bastard! He dared to hit me and even killed Wu Da! Dad, kill him quickly!" Yan Chao sneered, "No, don't kill him yet. Keep him alive for now. I want to torture him to death slowly!"

However, Yan Chao noticed his father hadn't said a word. Instead, something terrifying happened.

THUMP!

Yan Shiming's knees buckled, and he dropped to the ground. "Yan Shiming pays his respects to the Venerable Master!"

Venerable... Venerable Master? Yan Chao felt like his brain had short-circuited. His father, the mighty head of the Yan Family, was calling that kid Venerable Master? What in the world is happening?

"I'm very curious how you plan to torture me to death." Lin Mu's eyes flashed with a cold light. "Yan Shiming, explain yourself. If you can't give me a perfect reason for this, I will annihilate your entire Yan Family today!"

When he heard this, even Xu Shanhu was shocked. The Venerable Master... such ruthless methods! It seems the Yan Family has truly enraged him. So he's planning on making an example of them by killing the chicken to warn the monkeys.

"Venerable Master, this is a grave misunderstanding!" Hearing Lin Mu's threat, Yan Shiming was terrified. Still half-kneeling, he cried out, "Venerable Master, I didn't know it was you! If I had, I wouldn't have dared, not even if you gave me ten times the courage!"

"Wouldn't dare?" Lin Mu's tone was glacial. "Did I mishear, then? Your son kept saying he wanted to kill me, and you, Yan Shiming, claimed this was your turf. Come now, tell me. Since when did River City become the Yan Family's territory?"

Yan Shiming's expression changed drastically. River City belongs to the Venerable Master! They had all sworn an oath! Everything the Yan Family has today was granted by him. How could I ever dare to claim it as my own?

Yan Chao finally realized who he had provoked. He was so terrified his limbs gave out, and unable to stand, he too fell to his knees with a THUMP.

"Venerable Master, there must be a misunderstanding," Yan Shiming pleaded, his face pained. "My son, Yan Chao, though a bit of a libertine, has always been well-mannered and reasonable. He would never do anything to displease you. This has to be a misunderstanding."

"A misunderstanding?" Lin Mu sneered. "Your son leaked my home address to the Eight Extremes Gate. Is that also a misunderstanding?"

"What?" Yan Shiming genuinely didn't know about this. He had heard that the Eight Extremes Gate sent men to deliver a challenge to the Venerable Master, but he never imagined his own son was the one who gave them the address. This... All information about the Venerable Master is top secret in River City. Not a single detail is allowed to be revealed. And my son leaked it to an enemy?

"I... I didn't know it was you! I truly didn't know!" Yan Chao finally knew fear, crying out, "If I had known they were looking for you, how would I have dared? Venerable Master, please, don't kill me! Don't kill me!"

He had provoked the very person who propped up his family. The Yan Family had only reached its current position because of Lin Mu. The scale of the disaster he had just brought upon them was unimaginable. To make matters worse, he had even boasted about torturing Lin Mu to death.

"Venerable Master, he is my only son. Now that he knows he was wrong, please spare him this once," Yan Shiming promised. "Rest assured, Venerable Master, I will take this rebellious son back and discipline him strictly!" He then roared at his son, "You ungrateful whelp, get on your knees and confess to the Venerable Master immediately!"

The Venerable Master has always been lenient with his subordinates. As long as I'm sincere in my apology, he's sure to let this slide. That's what Yan Shiming believed.

"Venerable Master, I know I was wrong! Please, just let me off this once," Yan Chao kowtowed frantically. "I'll never dare again! I truly won't!"

Unlike his earlier arrogance, Yan Chao was now consumed by genuine fear. He could never have imagined Lin Mu's identity was so terrifying. The Venerable Master! He was the sky over River City! Forget the Yan Family; not even the combined forces of every family in River City could afford to provoke such a ruthless man.

"You still think there'll be a next time?" Lin Mu's expression was glacial. "It seems my leniency has made you all forget your place. In that case, I'll be happy to remind you!"

Yan Chao shrank back, his face a mask of terror.

"No, don't kill me! Please, don't kill me..." Scared out of his wits, Yan Chao lost control of his bodily functions. "Someone put me up to this! I didn't mean to do it!"

Lin Mu arched an eyebrow. "Speak. Who?"

"I don't know! I only know his surname is Lu. He said he was from Jiangling and part of the Martial Alliance!" Panicked, Yan Chao no longer dared to hide anything and spilled everything.

"Lu Tong?" Hearing the name, a surge of murderous intent flared within Lin Mu. That damn Lu Tong. He hadn't even gone looking for him, yet here he was, courting death. Lu Tong vanished right when the Fang Family was destroyed. He clearly knows something. In that case, his head is mine for the taking!

"You little beast, you've doomed the Yan Family!" Yan Shiming scrambled to his feet furiously and struck Yan Chao across the face with a heavy slap. "Do you have any idea what you've done?"

Yan Chao looked bewildered. "I... Dad, I really didn't know! The man gave me an address and told me to give it to the people from the Eight Extremes Gate. How was I supposed to know...?"

"You... you beast! I'll kill you!" Yan Shiming roared, knowing perfectly well his son had been used.

"Venerable Master, my son was used by someone else. Please, spare him this one time," Yan Shiming said, his voice laced with terror. "I'm willing to give you everything the Yan Family owns, as long as you spare my son."

Lin Mu leaned back in his chair. "Yan Shiming, everything your family has, I gave you. And as I've said before, anything I can give, I can also take away."

"If you've done wrong, you must be punished!"

As the words fell, Lin Mu pointed his finger.

In the next moment, everyone in the private room watched in horror as Yan Shiming aged at a visible rate. In the blink of an eye, the middle-aged man became a decrepit elder, exuding an aura of death.

Lin Mu had once given these men an Essence Cultivating Pill, which not only made them martial experts but also extended their lives.

But now, he had taken it all back.

"No..." Yan Shiming collapsed to the ground, his eyes filled with sheer terror. But as he opened his mouth to speak, his teeth began to fall out one by one. In an instant, the once-vital man lay motionless on the floor.

Seeing Yan Shiming die, Xu Shanhu felt a chill of horror. The Venerable Master's methods are simply terrifying.

"I'll leave the rest to you." Lin Mu stood up and walked toward the exit.

"I don't wish to see this sort of thing happen a second time. You all know what to do."

After saying this, Lin Mu left the hotel without another word.

「That night.」

The entire Yan Family of River City was annihilated.

When the Liang Family, the Song Family, Cheng Bugui, Qiao Tianhao, and the others heard the news, they were deeply shaken.

The Venerable Master... he was making an example of them!

Chapter 499: Someone's Causing Trouble!

「Jiangling.」

「The Wang Family.」

"Uncle, that's the situation. The man named Lin Mu... he's just too formidable."

When he thought of Lin Mu, a lingering fear gripped Wang Zhuo's heart.

To kill Zhao Xu with a single slap... how could an ordinary person possibly do that?

"Are you telling the truth?" Wang Family Head Wang Changrong asked, his expression growing serious.

"If that's the case, then this matter is rather tricky."

"Tricky? What's so tricky about it?"

With a cold snort, Wang Ru strode into the room. "Brother, Zhao Xu was an expert from Yongzhou, known as one of The Trio of Eight Extremes. How could that Lin Mu possibly be his opponent?"

"I think that little bastard must have used some despicable means, and that's how Zhao Xu fell into his deadly trap!"

With her husband and son dead and the Fang Family annihilated, Wang Ru wanted nothing more than to tear Lin Mu apart with her own hands. Now that she was the sole survivor of the great Fang Family, how could she face her ancestors if she didn't avenge their extermination?

"Aunt, what I said is true." A look of terror flashed in Wang Zhuo's eyes. "Many people saw Zhao Xu die with their own eyes. I'm really not lying."

Wang Changrong's expression turned grim.

Deep down, he didn't really want to avenge the Fang Family.

But on the one hand, he was swayed by his younger sister Wang Ru's pleas. On the other, the Fang Family was still a prominent clan in Jiangling, with financial and material resources far beyond that of ordinary people. For the Wang Family, this was a massive fortune. It could save the Wang Family decades of struggle. A family with a legacy spanning hundreds of years was guaranteed to have a considerable foundation. Not only that, but Coiling Dragon Bay was now the hottest real estate project in all of Handong Province. If he could get his hands on it... he, Wang Changrong, would even gain some influence in the Capital.

At this thought, a resolute look appeared in Wang Changrong's eyes. He turned to the young man sipping tea beside him. "Young Master Wen, what are your thoughts on this matter?"

The young man exuded a calm and composed demeanor. Just by sitting there, he radiated a presence so potent it was not to be underestimated. This was Wen Hao, the son of the Eight Extremes Gate's Sect Leader. He was also one of The Trio of Eight Extremes, known as the second-strongest expert in Yongzhou. As for the strongest, that was his father, Wen Lie.

This was why even the esteemed Head of the Wang Family, Wang Changrong, had to address Wen Hao respectfully as Young Master Wen.

"I think Brother Wang Zhuo is exaggerating a bit," Wen Hao said, setting down his teacup. "Although Senior Brother Zhao had not yet reached the Grandmaster realm, his strength was nearly on par with one. The power of The Trio of Eight Extremes is well-known throughout Yongzhou. Unless a Grandmaster intervened, it's impossible that he was killed in a single blow."

Wen Hao offered a faint smile. "And how old is this Lin Mu? Only twenty-six, a year younger than me. Don't tell me he's already a Grandmaster?"

Hearing Wen Hao's words, Wang Changrong had a sudden realization.

That's right. Wen Hao is hailed as a martial arts prodigy, and even he isn't a Grandmaster yet. What chance does that Lin Mu have? This whole story is too much of an exaggeration.

"But I saw it with my own eyes... Could it be that person wasn't Lin Mu himself?" Wang Zhuo began to doubt his own memory. Could I have been mistaken?

"We'll find out soon enough whether it was him or not," Wen Hao said with an indifferent smile.
"Regardless of Lin Mu's origins, now that he has accepted the written challenge, he is as good as dead."

"But Young Master Wen, do you really think Lin Mu will dare to show up for the fight? What if he doesn't come?" Wang Changrong asked, a hint of worry in his voice.

"He'll dare!" Wen Hao sneered. "According to the rules of the Martial Arts World, once a challenge is accepted, one must fight. Or what, does he take the Martial Alliance for a mere decoration?"

A touch of arrogance crept onto Wen Hao's face. "Furthermore, this time, our Eight Extremes Gate has invited sects like Wudang and Emei to observe the duel. People from the Martial Alliance will also be there to witness the battle. You could say that, aside from the battle between Lin Wudi and Yun Xu over a year ago, this fight is set to be a grand event in the Martial Arts World!"

Wang Changrong was overjoyed. "In that case, isn't Lin Mu doomed?"

His only fear was Lin Mu not showing up. As long as he dared to come, Jiangling would be his burial ground!

"Once this Lin Mu is dead, everything he owns will belong to the Eight Extremes Gate."

Wang Changrong smiled, his heart finally at ease.

Wen Hao also gave a slight nod.

These were the rules of the Martial Arts World. In a life-and-death duel, one's life and fortune are on the line! No matter how many assets Lin Mu possessed, the moment he died, the Eight Extremes Gate would take it all.

"Thank you all, exalted masters of the Eight Extremes Gate." Wang Ru wiped a tear from her eye. "As long as you can avenge my husband and son, I will give my word that half of the Fang Family's assets will be unconditionally gifted to your esteemed Sect!"

"Mm, that's very thoughtful of you."

Wen Hao nodded. This was the very reason he had come to the Wang Family. The Eight Extremes Gate never acted for free.

Wang Changrong's expression shifted slightly. Coiling Dragon Bay was already destined for the Eight Extremes Gate. If half of the Fang Family's assets were also given away, how much would be left for the Wang Family?

However, Wang Changrong was not an ordinary man, and the Fang Family was no ordinary clan. Half of their assets was more than enough. If they took too much, he worried the Wang Family wouldn't be able to hold onto it. Innocence is no defense when you carry a treasure! Besides, forging an alliance with a major power like the Eight Extremes Gate was a profitable deal for the Wang Family.

"Wang Zhuo, you can spread the news now," Wang Changrong said with a cold laugh. "This time, I'll make sure that kid has no chance of making a comeback!"

...

"Wow, Brother Mu, Sister Luoli, you live here?" Xu Yao's eyes sparkled as she gazed at the picturesque Coiling Dragon Bay.

"That's right, Yaoyao. Do you like it?" Qin Luoli took Xu Yao's hand and smiled. "If you do, you and your family can live here from now on."

"Wow, really?" Xu Yao clapped her hands in excitement. "It's so beautiful here! I love it! But... can we really live here?" she asked, her expression turning conflicted. "It must be very expensive, right?"

"Not too bad," Lin Mu said. "It's just over a hundred thousand per square meter."

"That's not too... HUH? Over a hundred thousand per square meter?" Xu Yao was stunned. She counted on her fingers and finally gasped, "Doesn't that mean a single unit would cost tens of millions?"

The properties in Coiling Dragon Bay were all at least one hundred square meters, so a single unit did indeed cost tens of millions.

"What's that to be concerned about?" Qin Luoli smiled and gestured at the vast development before them. "Everything you see here is part of your Brother Mu's property. So, for just one house, your Brother Mu won't be stingy."

"Huh?"

Not just Xu Yao, but Xu Xiaotian, Su Xiaomei, and Mother Lin were all in shock.

"This... all of this belongs to Xiao Mu?" Xu Xiaotian, a simple and honest man, understood the implications and stammered out the question.

"Uncle, it's true," Qin Luoli laughed. "This is indeed Lin Mu's property."

"Uncle, Aunt Xiaomei, please don't make such a big deal out of it," Lin Mu said. "Just pick whichever unit you like and tell Luoli. She'll arrange everything for you."

"No... we can't accept this, we really can't," Xu Xiaotian said, waving his hands frantically. Even Su Xiaomei was overwhelmed.

"Uncle, please don't refuse," Qin Luoli said with a smile. "We're all family. Besides, Yaoyao is going to be studying in Jiangling now. Do you really want her living in a school dormitory? Just think of it as a gift from Lin Mu to his elders."

"Xiaomei, Xiaotian, listen to Luoli," Mother Lin interjected. "You can't refuse the children's kindness. If you do, you're saying you don't consider me your elder sister."

"Sister, I..." Su Xiaomei was at a loss for words, feeling deeply moved.

Those snobs in the Su Family... they have no idea what they've missed out on.

Just then, Lin Mu's phone rang.

"Lin Mu, bad news! Someone's spreading rumors online that Coiling Dragon Bay is hiding a large number of corpses. People are already heading over there, probably looking to stir up trouble."

It was Song Wenrou on the line. She was now in charge of not only property management at Coiling Dragon Bay but also involved in some of its operational aspects.

"It's fine. Let them come," Lin Mu grinned. "I'd like to see who has the gall to cause trouble in Coiling Dragon Bay!"

Chapter 500 Shut your stinky mouth and bulge your dog eyes!

Jiangling Television Station.

Wang Yu sat before a computer, puffing on a cigar and wearing sunglasses, a cold smirk playing on his lips. Just a moment ago, he had spread negative news about Coiling Dragon Bay, and now the internet was in an uproar. Even people who had been interested in buying a home there were now openly celebrating their narrow escape.

"Coiling Dragon Bay?" Wang Yu sneered. "I'd like to see how you sell a single house now!"

So far, not even ten houses had been sold at Coiling Dragon Bay, and he had more tricks up his sleeve.

"Are you there yet?" Wang Yu said into his phone. "Remember, no matter who tries to stop you, just barge in and start snapping photos. I want every dirty secret of Coiling Dragon Bay exposed!" After hanging up, his smile grew even more triumphant.

Coiling Dragon Bay had always been notorious, and not for anything good. After all, too many people had died there. Any citizen of Jiangling looking to buy a house would certainly hesitate and avoid the place. Most people still believed in feng shui. If a place's feng shui was bad, living there was just asking for disaster.

The previously announced redevelopment of Coiling Dragon Bay had attracted a lot of attention online, but that was in the past. Now, as the director of Jiangling Television Station, Wang Yu could manipulate the news however he liked, and no one would ever catch him.

Because he was Wang Yu, a man of the Jiangling Wang Family.

Coiling Dragon Bay's predecessor, Haiyuan Tiancheng, was a project he and the Fang Family had deliberately set up. Through internal manipulation, they could embezzle unlimited funds. With his connections, he could hype up a property or reduce it to a failed development. In Jiangling, every businessman feared him. No matter how sterling your reputation, it couldn't withstand Wang Yu's spin. He could destroy it overnight.

Killing with the pen was Wang Yu's specialty.

Moreover, the people he had dispatched this time were from Jiangling's largest media company. Even if someone suspected him, what could they do without evidence?

BANG!

Suddenly, the office door was thrown open, and Xu Bing stormed in, her face flush with anger.

SLAP!

She slammed her hand on the desk in front of him. "Wang Yu, what is the meaning of this? On what authority did you delete all of my reports? Do you have any idea how much work I put into them?"

Xu Bing had been following the Coiling Dragon Bay story closely, and her work had garnered significant attention. She never imagined that the news she had worked so hard on would simply be erased by Wang Yu. It was completely gone from the internet, replaced by nothing but negative stories about the development.

"Xu Bing, watch your tone," Wang Yu said, his expression turning cold. "I am the director now."

"You..." Xu Bing's face was crimson with rage. She ripped her work badge from her neck and threw it at him. "As of today, I'm done with you! I quit!"

With that, she turned and stormed out of Jiangling Television Station. She had to tell Lin Mu. A promising development like Coiling Dragon Bay couldn't be destroyed by the likes of Wang Yu.

Watching her leave, a fierce light glinted in Wang Yu's eyes.

"Damn her," he muttered, viciously grinding his cigar into the ashtray. "I thought you were smart enough to offer yourself to me; I might have even promoted you. But you had to be so damn ungrateful! The audacity!"

Picking up the phone, Wang Yu dialed another number. "Are you ready? Remember, there can't be any mistakes. This time, I'm going to destroy that kid!"

He paused, then added, "Also, get a big screen set up across from the Coiling Dragon Bay sales center. I want a live broadcast for the entire city!"

Wang Yu knew too many of Coiling Dragon Bay's secrets: the structures built by the Corpse Raising Sect, the countless bodies buried there. Things an ordinary person could never detect.

"You want to fight my Wang Family?" he sneered, standing up and striding out of the office. "I'll make you pay a painful price!"

He was going to watch the show in person. After preparing for so long, he wouldn't be satisfied if he didn't see it for himself.

At that moment, a large group of reporters was rushing toward Coiling Dragon Bay. They had received a tip that a vast number of bodies were buried on the property, along with some sinister buildings. This was a massive story. With Coiling Dragon Bay now officially open for sale and making waves in Jiangling, any scandal they could unearth would attract incredible attention.

The power of an online mob has always been terrifying. It could destroy not just a product but a person, hounding them to their breaking point. So what if it was all lies? If enough people spread a rumor, it becomes the truth. Many keyboard warriors would even call you thin-skinned for not being able to handle the pressure. It's not like you could crawl through the internet cable to fight them. You could only accept your fate.

And so, thanks to the news Wang Yu had spread, the Coiling Dragon Bay sales center was utterly deserted.

Inside the entire building, there was only one young man. He was reclining in a lounge chair next to a small table where a pot of tea was brewing.

It was Lin Mu.

"Well, if it isn't President Lin? You seem to be in high spirits," a voice drawled.

At some point, Yu Fei had arrived. As someone in the construction business, he naturally kept a close eye on major projects. Besides, he'd received a tip, which was why he was here.

"How are the sales going?" Yu Fei sneered. "Looks like business is a little slow."

"None of your damn business," Lin Mu said flatly, feeling not an ounce of goodwill toward him.

"Tsk, tsk, such a temper," Yu Fei said with a grin. "I heard there was some trouble at Coiling Dragon Bay today. As an old classmate, I just came to show my concern."

"Haha, President Yu is right," Peng Qin chimed in as he walked over. "Lin Mu, don't be so ungrateful. We were classmates, after all."

Not only him, but Gu Jie, Wen Xiaojuan, and others had also shown up. They even brought friends, all of them here for the express purpose of seeing Lin Mu humiliated. Lin Mu had shamed them last time, and today, they were here to settle the score.

"Get lost," Lin Mu uttered, his voice cold and distant.

"So, Xiaojuan, this is really your old classmate?" a girl in sunglasses said with a pout, her eyes full of disgust. "He's just like you said—not much to look at, but he's got quite a temper."

She had heard many bad things about Lin Mu from Wen Xiaojuan, but it had all been secondhand. Seeing him in person confirmed her opinion.

"Xiaojuan, I'm so happy for you," the woman continued in a shrill voice. "It's a good thing you cut ties with him. Otherwise, I'd feel sorry for you." Her words dripped with contempt for Lin Mu.

"Yes, I'm very glad I did," Wen Xiaojuan said, nodding with a sweet smile. "Ya Wen, you have no idea. Some people are just so full of themselves. They think they're so great, but in reality, they're nothing but a freeloader who lives off his wife!"

Apparently, Wen Xiaojuan had discovered Lin Mu's status as a live-in son-in-law. At her words, the entire group burst into laughter.

"Are you finished?" Lin Mu asked calmly. "If you are, then shut your stinking mouths, open your damn eyes, and watch."