

Y Master 491

Chapter 491 Challenge Hongwu Sect Alone (Part 2)

"That's not necessarily the case,"

Hong Lie said solemnly, "First, he killed Zorro from the Dark Council and then successively killed Yan Lei and Fang Han; it's almost certain he has the combat power of a Half-step Gang Qi realm. If he were to fight to the death, unless we use all our strength, we might not be able to subdue him."

"Hong Lie, we agreed not to harm Ye Fan, and the Elder Council has unanimously decided this. Moreover, Ye Fan is the disciple of the Evil Emperor Chu Xuanji. Once Chu Xuanji loses his temper, even our leader must yield three points. Hence, I advise you not to act recklessly," Xing Feng, seeing that Hong Lie was set on seizing the opportunity to deal with Ye Fan, admonished with a grim expression.

As he heard the name Chu Xuanji, Hong Lie's face changed, then he gritted his teeth, resolute and said, "If he dares to resist during our attempt to capture him, I will not spare him lightly! Afterward, whether it's the master or Chu Xuanji who asks, I will take responsibility myself!"

Hearing this, Xing Feng said nothing more. Instead, he turned his gaze out the window, thinking to himself, "Wenhao, all I can do to help is to prevent Hong Lie from fatally harming your son. I hope your son won't make a grave mistake and slaughter the Hongwu Sect. Even if Chu Xuanji is famously protective of his own, I trust Leader Yan would defend the authority of the Yanhuang Organization!"

...

Meanwhile, to prevent Ye Fan from slaughtering the Hongwu Sect, the Yanhuang Organization hastily dispatched two of its best, Hong Lie and Xing Feng, to Taiwan.

Taiwan, Hongwu Sect.

Knowing that Ye Fan was coming to slaughter his sect, Sect Leader Tong He, while confident in his recent advance to the Half-step Gang Qi realm and leading his disciples to kill Ye Fan without difficulty, kept pacing his room frenetically. The words of Zhang Yue, a member of the Yanhuang Organization, echoed in his ears like demonic whispers, unsettling his mind.

"Tong He, I advise you to immediately take your disciples and leave the Hongwu Sect; otherwise, there will no longer be a sect called Hongwu in the Hua Xia Cultivation World!"

Once again, Zhang Yue's reminder sounded in his ears, increasing Tong He's unease, leading him to stop pacing and pick up the walkie-talkie to give instructions, "Tell the patrolling disciples to stay vigilant at all times; immediately report any disturbances!"

"Yes, Sect Leader!"

Soon, the radio crackled with responses; the voice belonged to Tong He's oldest disciple, Lu Ning.

"What's gotten into the master? Even though that kid slaughtered the Qinghong Villa, our master has already broken through to the Half-step Gang Qi realm. Could he still be scared of that kid?"

After ending the call with Tong He, Lu Ning turned on the radio provided by Nanqinhong initially to reiterate Tong He's orders, "The Sect Leader commands that disciples patrolling the mountains must remain alert at all times. The moment any trace of Ye is spotted, it must be reported immediately!"

"Yes, Brother Lu!"

Quickly, six disciples responsible for patrolling the mountainside confirmed in turn.

After giving further instructions, Tong He mused thoughtfully, "The reason Zhang Yue said such things is probably because he doesn't know I've broken through to the Half-step Gang Qi realm. If he knew, he wouldn't think that kid had the strength to destroy my Hongwu Sect!"

"Yes, that must be it!"

Comforting himself in a manner akin to Ah Q, Tong He's unease lessened somewhat, but it did not completely disappear.

"According to Lin Tianyi, the troubles in Southeast Asia were orchestrated by Chen Feilian, who also personally went to Southeast Asia!"

Suddenly, Tong He's mind stirred, "With that in mind, Chen Feilian should likely know what the other high-level magic artifact in that wretch's hands is."

Thinking this, Tong He's eyes brightened. He immediately picked up the landline phone facilitated by the Qinghong Organization and dialed Chen Feilian's mobile number.

"Sect Leader Tong."

The call connected quickly, and Chen Feilian spoke first, his tone no longer as enthusiastic as before—previously, he used the Hongwu Sect to help Nanqinghong unify the Southern Huaxia Underground World. Now that Nanqinghong had been eliminated, the Hongwu Sect was of little use to him.

As for... killing Ye Fan, in his view, based on Tong He's unrivaled strength at Innate Perfection, thinking of killing Ye Fan was simply ludicrous—Yan Lei and Fang Han were clear precedents!

"Young Master Chen, that Ye wretch just slaughtered Qinghong Villa, killed the Yanhuang Organization Office's Chief Fang Han, and even threatened to attack my Hongwu Sect next!"

Tong He spoke irritably, then forcibly controlled his emotions and asked, "Young Master Chen, that kid was only at Early Innate six months ago; how did he suddenly become so strong? Could it be because of a high-level magic artifact?"

"How do you know he's going to attack the Hongwu Sect?"

Chen Feilian couldn't help but ask, as he had not received any news that Ye Fan was planning to attack the Hongwu Sect.

"I called the Great Elder Wu Shan earlier, and that damn brat answered the phone. He openly admitted to killing Wu Shan and even boasted that he would annihilate our Hongwu Sect!"

As Tong He spoke, he also explained to Chen Feilian the reason for the call, "Originally, I had broken through to the Half-step Gang Qi realm and felt confident enough to kill that boy, but I still thought it best to learn some more about his background, so..."

"You said you broke through to the Half-step Gang Qi realm?" Upon hearing this, Chen Feilian was first stunned, then, before Tong He could finish, he asked, "When did this happen?"

"Just recently."

"Since you've broken through to the Half-step Gang Qi realm, he's no match for you." With Tong He's affirmative response, a smile appeared on Chen Feilian's face.

"Are you certain, Young Master Chen?" Tong He immediately felt overjoyed.

"His Martial Arts cultivation is hardly worth mentioning. He can't even take a single strike from you. If he uses Magic Cultivation to launch a sneak attack, he might kill an enemy at the Innate Perfection level, but in a head-on fight, he might not even be able to defeat such an enemy." Chen Feilian explained in detail.

"Heh, I thought he was so powerful, but with such strength, daring to clamor about annihilating my Hongwu Sect, he is truly arrogant to the extreme!" Tong He scoffed coldly.

"That bastard has always been arrogant, but be wary of his Mind Power attacks and Flying Knife assassination. You must constantly guard your consciousness, and remember not to lose control of your mind."

Chen Feilian cautioned, "Also, if possible, Sect Leader Tong, don't kill him..."

"Why? He destroyed my disciple Yang Qing's Dantian, causing my disciple to commit suicide. Now he has also killed our sect's Great Elder, and he boasts about annihilating our sect, why shouldn't I kill him??" Tong Zhen was somewhat agitated.

"That scourge has bloody hands and is currently being pursued with all efforts by the Yanhuang Organization. Wouldn't it be more satisfying if his abilities were destroyed and he fell into the hands of the Yanhuang Organization to be punished?" Chen Feilian suggested maliciously.

"That's true!"

Feeling justified, Tong He coldly smiled, "Then I will spare his dog life, but not only will I cripple his skills, but I will also break his limbs, making him kneel at the entrance of our Hongwu Sect to repent!"

"That would be perfect. I look forward to good news from Sect Leader Tong."

Chen Feilian said with a smile, then exchanged a few more pleasantries with Tong He, and after ending the call, the gloom caused by the massacre at the Nanqinghong was lifted from his mind.

"Heh, you little bastard, I hope you're not just all talk!"

Meanwhile, Tong Zhen was smiling sinisterly, almost wishing Ye Fan would come to attack right away.

He was beside himself with joy.

At this moment.

He forgot a very important thing: he had only just broken through to the Half-step Gang Qi realm!

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Yangming Mountain is located in the northeast suburb of Taipei City near Shamiao Mountain, on the upper valley of Huangxi, originally named Cao Mountain. It is situated on the southern side of Qixing Mountain, the highest peak in the Datun Volcano Group, surrounded by Dream Lake and Bamboo Lake, creating a picturesque scene that blends the mountain with the sky.

The gateway of Hongwu Sect was positioned on Yinming Mountain.

The first Sect Leader of Hongwu Sect had chosen that location for the gateway because he discovered that the surrounding volcanoes on Yinming Mountain were rich in Fire Essence Qi, which harmonized with the Water Essence Qi from Dream Lake and Bamboo Lake, concentrating above Yinming Mountain, making it a blessed land for cultivation.

Near midnight, Ye Fan drove to Yinming Mountain and distinctly sensed the presence of six members of the Yanhuang Organization, including the aura of Ling Fei, the deputy director of the Taiwan Office. He noticed two cars had already been parked at the foot of the mountain.

This discovery didn't surprise Ye Fan.

After all, individuals like Ling Fei oversaw all cultivators in Taiwan and knew the base locations of all major sects and forces like the back of his hand, whereas Ye Fan, though knowledgeable about the location of Hongwu Sect's mountain gate, still took several wrong turns because it was his first visit.

"Ye Fan, I spoke to Elder He of the Martial Hall on the phone earlier," said Ling Fei as he hurried over to Ye Fan, who had just parked his car. "Elder He asked me to tell you not to make the same mistake again. Abandon your plans against Hongwu Sect, and you might still have a chance for survival!"

Ignoring him, Ye Fan opened his car door and stepped out, looking up at the buildings atop the mountain before starting up the stairs.

"Additionally, I must remind you, Elder Xing Feng of the Punishment Hall and Captain Hong Lie of the Law Enforcement Team are on their way here by helicopter—even if you manage to destroy Hongwu Sect, you won't escape!" Ling Fei, gritting his teeth, added.

"Swoosh—"

Without responding, Ye Fan propelled himself forward, his figure blurring like a shadow, shooting up towards the peak.

"Follow him!"

Seeing that Ye Fan completely ignored his party of six, treating his warnings as nothing, Ling Fei felt stifled but dared not erupt. Instead, he followed the instructions of He Yunting and did his best to keep an eye on Ye Fan.

Seemingly anticipating that Ling Fei and his men would follow, Ye Fan didn't seem surprised but deliberately slowed down so as not to lose them.

Hmm?

Sensing that Ye Fan had intentionally slowed down, Ling Fei felt puzzled but didn't overthink it and continued to closely follow with his men.

Halfway up Yangming Mountain, six disciples of Hongwu Sect, as instructed, positioned themselves in six different directions watching the foot of the mountain.

"There's the presence of martial artists, and more than one!"

Shortly after, as Ye Fan and Ling Fei's group were about to reach the mid-mountain, the strongest among those Hongwu Sect disciples sensed the presence of Ling Fei's group of six.

Since Ye Fan had activated the Ghost Ring perfectly concealing his presence, not just any Hongwu Sect disciple, but even Japan's top ninja Liu Chuanjun from that day couldn't detect him.

"Brother Lu, I've sensed the presence of six martial artists; the strongest among them is at the Innate Great Perfection Realm! At this moment, they are ascending the mountain, and it seems like some people from the Yanhuang Organization are among them!"

Although unsure if the incoming people were led by Ye Fan, that Hongwu Sect disciple still grabbed the radio provided by Nanqinghong and reported immediately.

"Keep watching them!"

Upon receiving the report, the senior disciple Tong He of Hongwu Sect, Lu Ning, was startled and immediately issued an order before leaping up to go and report to Tong He.

Although the Hongwu Sect's standing in the Huaxia Cultivation World was not high, initially supported by Nanqinghong, its gates had been built very imposingly. In front of the sect was a square about the size of a soccer field, with many stone pillars erected and combined with the Nine Star Bagua Formation. The ground was entirely paved with marble.

At the place where the square connected to the sect stood a huge rock over ten meters high, inscribed with the three large characters for "Hongwu Sect."

All the buildings of the sect were refurbished and reconstructed, with dozens of structures combining the power of the Nine Star Bagua Formation. They were ingeniously interconnected and corresponded to the stone pillars on the square, serving to gather the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi.

As the Hongwu Sect Leader, Tong He's residence was in the innermost and tallest building of the sect, giving it a commanding view of the surroundings.

When Lu Ning arrived at Tong He's location, Tong He was engaged in meditation cultivation, consolidating his Half-step Gang Qi realm. His body was surrounded by swirling Gang Qi, which made Lu Ning quite envious.

"Master, disciples halfway up the mountain have reported that six martial artists are ascending, one of whom is an Innate Great Perfection Stage Martial Artist," Lu Ning bowed in greeting upon seeing Tong He, then reported the information.

"Notify all disciples to assemble at the front of the mountain gate," Tong He suddenly stood up, the Gang Qi around him disappearing.

"Yes, Master!"

Lu Ning respectfully accepted the command, excited at the thought of Tong He demonstrating the prowess of a Half-step Gang Qi realm master soon.

Five minutes later, Tong He, dressed in a black martial arts uniform, floated down to stand before the mountain gate.

"Sect Leader!"

At the mountain gate, apart from the six disciples responsible for patrolling halfway up the mountain, including Lu Ning, all other disciples gathered together. Seeing Tong He, they bent in respect, their expressions extremely reverent.

"Later, I will personally eliminate that scoundrel called Ye Fan. You just stand and watch," Tong He stopped walking, his demeanor full of vitality as he spoke.

"Yes!"

The numerous Hongwu Sect disciples respectfully accepted the order, their expressions as excited as Lu Ning's had been earlier; they almost couldn't wait to see Tong He display his divine might.

Seeing this, the corners of Tong He's mouth couldn't help but lift into a smile.

Clearly, he could feel the disciples' anticipation and also understood that today's battle would not only allow him to avenge his disciple Yang Qing and the Great Elder Wu Shan but would also enhance the cohesion among his disciples and even greatly boost the reputation of the Hongwu Sect across the Huaxia Cultivation World—a true case of killing three birds with one stone!

About five minutes later, as Tong He and his disciples waited full of anticipation, Ye Fan, Ling Fei, and four other Yanhuang Organization members appeared at the entrance of the square.

Seven people?

Seeing a total of seven people approaching, Tong He's eldest disciple, Lu Ning, was slightly startled.

But Tong He was not surprised.

Because... he had learned that Ye Fan had slain disciples from the Ghost Sect and taken the Ghostly Gourd that could hide one's aura—If Ye Fan activated the Ghostly Gourd, his disciples naturally wouldn't be able to sense Ye Fan's aura.

Even he himself could not sense Ye Fan's aura or determine Ye Fan's true strength.

However, since he learned of Ye Fan's capabilities from Chen Feilian, he appeared calm and composed, not at all nervous.

"The guy leading the way must be the one who claimed he would annihilate our Hongwu Sect, right?"

"It should be!"

"The people behind seem to be from the Yanhuang Organization, what are they here for?"

"They must be here to witness the Sect Leader kill that kid, right?"

"Quiet!"

Hearing the remarks of the Hongwu Sect disciples beside him, Lu Ning snapped back from his astonishment and spoke out to stop them.

Meanwhile, Tong He covertly elevated his war intent, and an airflow formed around his body. His hair moved on its own without wind, and his black martial arts uniform rustled loudly.

As Tong He's war intent increased and his aura released, Ye Fan and Ling Fei, along with four other members of the Yanhuang Organization, detected it immediately.

The six, including Ling Fei, simultaneously changed their expressions, their faces filled with surprise.

For he clearly realized that Tong He's aura was stronger than Fang Han's!

And... according to the records of the Yanhuang Organization, Tong He was an invincible presence at the Innate Great Perfection realm, supposedly weaker than Fang Han.

Now, with Tong He's aura surpassing Fang Han's, there was only one possibility: Tong He had broken through to the Half-step Gang Qi realm!

Whoosh!

After the initial shock, Ling Fei and the other five simultaneously turned to look at Ye Fan, only to find his expression calm like a rippleless lake, with not even a hint of change—his stride didn't falter one bit!

"Could it be that he possesses the strength to kill a Half-step Gang Qi realm master?"

Ye Fan's composure deepened the surprise on the faces of Ling Fei and the others, prompting another question to arise in their hearts.

Impossible!

Immediately, including Ling Fei, all six members of the Yanhuang Organization dismissed this possibility.

Although they had witnessed Ye Fan killing Fang Han, they clearly remembered that Ye Fan had not exhibited any Gang Qi when he struck, confirming that he had not yet entered the Half-step Gang Qi realm.

As per the Martial Arts World's classification of strength, the Half-step Gang Qi realm and the Innate Great Perfection realm were entirely distinct concepts—generally, the latter had almost no chance of slaying the former, at best they could only save their own lives!

In their view, even if Ye Fan had the power to kill an undefeatable presence at the Innate Great Perfection realm, it would still be extremely difficult for him to kill a master of the Half-step Gang Qi realm!

Moreover, Ye Fan was facing the entire Hongwu Sect?!

Soon, before Ling Fei and the others could ponder why Ye Fan was so confident, Tong He led his disciples to confront them head-on.

"Director Ling, as I understand, this Ye surname scoundrel has been killing numerous people in Southeast Asia, including Yan Lei, the director of the Yanhuang Organization Southeast Asia Special Zone Office. Today, after arriving in Taiwan, he massacred Qinghong Villa, killing Director Fang!"

A few seconds later, Tong He, stopping thirty meters away from Ye Fan, boosted his Qi to his Dantian and loudly addressed Ling Fei, "Now, he even claims he will massacre our Hongwu Sect, and yet you members of the Yanhuang Organization not only do not stop him but have accompanied him here. Why is this?"

"They can't stop him, nor do they dare to."

Ye Fan also halted, squinted at Tong He, and slowly opened his mouth. His voice was not loud, yet it echoed across the entire square, clearly reaching everyone's ears.

Whoosh!

As the words of Ye Fan reached their ears, Ling Fei and the others felt as though they had been slapped in public, their faces turned red with embarrassment, yet they were powerless to retort.

Because.

What Ye Fan said was the truth: They indeed couldn't stop him, nor did they dare to!

"This kid is too arrogant, isn't he?"

"Right, he doesn't even regard the Yanhuang Organization!"

"That's because those people from the Yanhuang Organization are not as strong as him!"

"The members of the Yanhuang Organization can't handle him, but the Sect Leader can!"

"Sect Leader, kill him and avenge Brother Yang Qing and Elder Wu!"

"Kill him!!"

...

Hearing Ye Fan's arrogant words and seeing the embarrassed faces of Ling Fei and the others, the disciples of the Hongwu Sect initially murmured among themselves before they roared together. Their voices were thunderous, resounding through the entire Yinming Mountain.

"Director Ling, this person disregards Huaxia's laws and the rules of the Yanhuang Organization, wantonly kills the innocent, and commits heinous crimes. He deserves death by everyone's hand!"

Tong He proudly smiled, then waved his hand. After the shouting ceased, he looked righteously at Ling Fei and said, "Since you are powerless to stop him, let me act as the agent of heaven to eradicate this menace for the Huaxia Martial Arts World, how about it?"

"Just with you?" Ye Fan sneered.

"You scoundrel! As long as Director Ling nods, I assure you that within five breaths, you'll be kneeling in front of Hongwu Sect's gate begging for mercy!" Tong He glared furiously at Ye Fan, looking as though he would strike the moment Ling Fei gave the nod.

"No need for his nod; I give you this opportunity—I, Ye Fan, challenge the Hongwu Sect to a life-and-death duel!"

Ye Fan stood tall, his voice ringing out like a large bell.

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The night sky was pitch-black, with oppressive clouds overhead. Ye Fan's resonant voice echoed through the skies of Yinming Mountain, as if it could scatter the clouds above.

"Uh..."

Hearing Ye Fan's words, the members of the Yanhuang Organization, including Ling Fei, were stunned as they watched Ye Fan's proud silhouette.

Although they were aware that Ye Fan planned to annihilate the Hongwu Sect, they had all subjectively thought that Ye Fan wasn't aware of Tong He's breakthrough to the Half-step Gang Qi realm. At this moment, hearing Ye Fan declare he was going to challenge the entire Hongwu Sect to a life-and-death duel with his own strength, they were immediately engulfed by shock!

Compared to them, the disciples of the Hongwu Sect were even more horrified, beyond comparison.

Under the veil of night, they stared wide-eyed, looking at Ye Fan as if he were an alien, as if to say, "He wants to challenge the whole Hongwu Sect by himself??"

"This guy is way too arrogant!"

"That's right... He's simply not putting our Hongwu Sect in his eyes!"

"Sect Leader, kill him and let him know the power of our Hongwu Sect!"

"Kill him!!"

After their initial shock, the disciples of the Hongwu Sect shouted out one by one, as if greatly provoked, filled with excitement, almost wishing they could tear Ye Fan to pieces on the spot.

In the face of the disciples' raging anger, Tong He gestured with his hand for them to stop, and after the disciples ceased their roaring, he asked with a smile directed at Ling Fei, "Director Ling, you all heard it, right? He just said he wants to challenge our entire Hongwu Sect alone!"

"Ye... Ye Fan, are you sure you want to do this?" Upon hearing this, Ling Fei called out to Ye Fan's back.

"Sect Leader Tong, you're not frightened to the point of being too scared to accept the life-and-death duel, are you?"

With the inquiry coming from behind, Ye Fan did not turn around, but simply looked at Tong He with a calm face, deliberately provoking Tong He, which also served as an indirect reply to Ling Fei.

"Good, good, good. I would like to see just how capable you are to challenge the Hongwu Sect!"

When Tong He inquired earlier why Ling Fei and the others did not intervene, he was actually wishing Ling Fei would agree to letting him take on Ye Fan on behalf of the Yanhuang Organization. Now that Ye Fan had initiated the life-and-death duel, Tong He laughed, saying "good" three times, then waved his big hand and commanded, "Stand back, let me teach this ignorant little beast a lesson and show him that there's always someone better, that there are heavens beyond our heaven!"

"Follow me and stand back!"

Hearing Tong He's order, Lu Ning immediately shouted and led the other disciples of the Hongwu Sect to retreat.

"Stand back."

At the same time, Ling Fei also gestured for his subordinates to stand back, afraid they might be caught up in Ye Fan and Tong He's battle.

"You little beast, first you killed my disciple, then you killed the great elder of our Hongwu Sect, and now you spout wild words about challenging the entire Hongwu Sect. Killing you would be letting you off too easy—I will destroy your Dantian, cripple your Kung Fu, and make you kneel before the gates of the Hongwu Sect like a dead dog, full of remorse!"

Noticing that his disciples had stepped back, Tong He's blood ran thick with battle intent, and his aura surged to its peak as he looked at Ye Fan as if he was looking at a dead man.

"You talk too much!"

Facing the boiling battle intent of Tong He, Ye Fan was not in the least intimidated. Instead, he barked back, suppressing Tong He's voice.

As his words ended, he appeared!

Under the cloak of night.

Ye Fan seemed to have used an Instant Teleportation Technique, appearing out of nowhere right in front of Tong He. His right fist, donned with the Black Iron Fist set, swung up in a fluid motion and smashed down on Tong He's head!

A punch was thrown, and evil aura filled the air!

—— Qi Rushes to the Sky!

Once he made his move, Ye Fan immediately used the killing move from the Xuansha Fist!

Sensing Ye Fan's move, including Ling Fei, the six members of the Yanhuang Organization almost dropped their eyeballs in shock!

Although Ye Fan had previously gained a slight upper hand in martial arts cultivation during the fierce fight with Fang Han, the director of the Taiwan Office of the Yanhuang Organization, he ultimately defeated Fang Han with his magic cultivation!

This made them feel that Ye Fan's magic attack was more threatening than his martial arts attack!

In such a situation, when they discovered that Tong He had broken through to the Half-step Gang Qi realm, they all thought Ye Fan dared to continue the challenge solely because of his reliance on magic cultivation, aiming to catch Tong He off guard!

But now, Ye Fan abandoned magic attacks and used martial arts attacks, which was completely out of their expectations!

Did he want to die?

In their shock, Ling Fei and the other six all thought that Ye Fan was like an egg hitting a stone—utterly suicidal.

If even these six outsiders thought so, what about Tong He?

"You overestimate yourself!"

Facing Ye Fan's aggressive punch, Tong He did not dodge or flinch. He let out a disdainful snort and casually threw a punch of his own!

This punch, though seemingly careless, was one of the three treasures of the Hong Fist — the Gongzi Fuhu Fist.

"Crack! Crack! Crack!"

Upon the release of the punch, Gang Qi was dispersed in all directions, and the air seemed to burst like cracking sounds continually erupting.

"Boom——"

Immediately after, Ye Fan's right fist turned into a phantom, crashing into the Gang Qi emitted by Tong He's fist, like two high-speed flying boulders colliding with each other, producing a staggering impact.

Crackle and pop!

After the collision, the power within Ye Fan's fist erupted but was crushed by the Gang Qi. A terrifying rebound force shook towards Ye Fan's fist.

"Whoosh——"

Ye Fan's whole body trembled, his tiger's mouth split open, blood spurted out, and he was sent flying backward.

In the air, Ye Fan's fist felt as if it had been scalded by lava, a burning pain accompanying it. His arm lightly trembled as if electrified, his internal energy roiled, and even his internal organs felt slightly damaged.

Despite falling in the first blow, Ye Fan's expression remained as calm as still water, as if everything was within his predictions and calculations.

In mid-air, he channeled the Pure Yang Qi within his power to heal his injuries, while his consciousness tightly locked onto Tong He, ready to use a magic attack to block any potential pursuit by Tong He.

"Sect Leader is mighty!"

"Hongwu Sect is invincible!"

Witnessing this scene, the disciples of the Hongwu Sect shouted as if they were injected with adrenaline.

"Gang Qi, Gang Jin, though only a character different, their powers differ vastly——Did a donkey kick that Ye Fan's head? To actually dare to clash directly with Tong He?"

"Indeed, if Tong He had used the 'Tiger Crane Dual Form' from the treasures of Hong Fist just now, Ye Fan would have been either dead or seriously injured!"

As the Hongwu Sect disciples shouted excitedly, two Yanhuang Organization members started to discuss as well.

"Ye Fan made a sudden killing move, and Tong He was too late to use 'Tiger Crane Dual Form'. However, as you said, the difference between Gang Qi and Gang Jin is too great. Ye Fan was too conceited, and today he is likely to lose his life here!"

Ling Fei also spoke up; in his view, Tong He's advantage was simply too clear. As long as you use Gang Qi to protect your Consciousness, you can completely withstand Ye Fan's Magic Attacks. In this way, Ye Fan has almost no chance of winning!

As Ling Fei's voice trailed off, Ye Fan did a roll in the air and gracefully landed on the ground. Not only did the bleeding from the base of his thumb stop, but the previously rolling Qi and blood in his body also stabilized in a short period of time.

"Hey, I was wondering why you dared to fight me head-on, risking your life. It turns out you took Healing Medicine in advance, stored its power in your body, and could stimulate it at any time to recover from your injuries. What a clever plan!"

Noticing that Ye Fan's injuries were recovering rapidly, Tong He first showed a trace of surprise, then quickly made a subjective judgment and sneered, "But... do you think this will make you reckless? Next, I will let you know the true strength of a Half-step Gang Qi realm Cultivator!"

"Swoosh—"

As soon as he finished speaking, Tong He's figure blurred, and he rapidly swooped toward Ye Fan. The Gang Qi in his body surged wildly, making him seem both like a crane and a tiger.

—Tiger Crane Dual Form!

Perhaps because he had previously thrown down the gauntlet to end the fight within five breaths, Tong He had not made a move until now, but once he did, he brought out all his strength, aiming to defeat Ye Fan in the shortest time possible.

Swish!

In the instant that Tong He's figure moved, a golden light flashed between Ye Fan's eyebrows, and an invisible Mind Power surged out, rapidly shooting toward Tong He.

Mind Power Attack!

Only—

This attack, Ye Fan only used half the strength of a full-powered Mind Power move as if intentionally showing weakness.

Hmm?

Just as Tong He started moving, he felt a surge of Mind Power enter his body, rushing toward his Consciousness.

"Mind Power Attack? Useless!"

Tong He shouted loudly. While firming up his Martial Arts Will, he used Gang Qi to protect his Consciousness, then continued without stopping, advancing toward Ye Fan.

"Zoom—"

Ye Fan didn't dodge or hide. With a thought, the Xuanye Flying Blade shot out from his sleeve, turning into a streak of white light, whooshing toward Tong He.

"Humph!"

Tong He let out a cold laugh, swinging his left hand casually, a blast of Gang Qi shot out, striking the Xuanye Flying Blade. Although it did not knock the Xuanye Flying Blade down, it changed its course.

At the same time, Tong He's Consciousness and Mind locked onto Ye Fan. His right fist suddenly swung out like a cannonball, thundering toward Ye Fan!

"Pop! Pop! Pop!"

Once again, a series of sonic booms went off. The air in front of Ye Fan exploded, creating a vacuum.

Tong He's fist, like a burst of airflow, swept toward Ye Fan, resembling a ferocious tiger pouncing on its prey!

In a critical moment, Ye Fan's feet moved, and Power surged forth. With the enhancement of the Ghost Ring, his speed instantly reached its extreme!

"Whoosh!"

The next moment.

Ye Fan vanished into thin air, as if he had used a Spell, causing Tong He's tremendously powerful punch to hit nothing.

Where is he?

The Hongwu Sect disciples widened their eyes in disbelief, staring at the spot where Ye Fan had just been standing, seemingly incapable of believing that Ye Fan could avoid Tong He's full-force strike!

Where is he?

Shock also appeared on the faces of Ling Fei and the other five.

They had not expected Ye Fan to be able to dodge under such circumstances!

Where is he?

"Die for me!"

Having his full-strength attack miss, a flicker of surprise went through Tong He's eyes, and he quickly realized Ye Fan was to his right. Furious, he shouted and, with a sliding step and a spin, transformed his punch into a Hand Blade, chopping at Ye Fan's head.

Retreat!

Ye Fan's body leaned back slightly. As he saw Tong He's Hand Blade chopping down from above, his feet exploded with power, and he quickly retreated, instantly widening the gap with Tong He!

"Such fast speed!"

Seeing Ye Fan successfully avoid Tong He's attack again, shock went through Ling Fei and the others, and they soon came to a realization—Ye Fan dared to challenge Tong He, knowing he had broken through to the Half-step Gang Qi realm, not because of his Magic Cultivation, but... because of his speed!

Even Ling Fei and the others could see this point, let alone Tong He himself?

This is bad!

Tong He did not stop his attacks but realized something, his gaze sweeping toward his disciples.

"Uh..."

The Hongwu Sect disciples, one by one, stood shocked, their mouths agape and eyes bulging, like statues rooted to the spot, completely motionless, as if petrified by Ye Fan's terrifying speed.

"After today, the Hua Xia Cultivation World will no longer have the Hongwu Sect!"

On the silent square, Ye Fan's voice rang out again, and a dreadful intent to kill suddenly emerged from him, enveloping all the Hongwu Sect disciples.

After showing weakness, he was going to start a massacre!

Chapter 494 Solo Challenge Against Hongwu Sect Four

"You dare?"

Having already sensed that Ye Fan intended to make a move against his disciples, Tong He roared furiously when he heard Ye Fan's words, feeling the terrifying intent to kill emanating from Ye Fan, he became even more certain of his suspicion, "If you dare to kill my disciples, I'll never let you leave Yinming Mountain alive!"

"Whoosh!"

"Whoosh!"

The response to Tong He was two sharp sounds of piercing the air.

With the sound, the knives were drawn!

Two Xuanye Flying Blades shot out from the sleeves, whistling towards the dozens of Hongwu Sect Disciples led by Lu Ning.

"Pfft!"

"Pfft!"

As the knives were drawn, blood splattered.

The two leading Hongwu Sect Disciples, who had not yet recovered from their previous shock, had their throats pierced by the Xuanye Flying Blades and died on the spot.

"Ahh—"

The sudden scene frightened the remaining Hongwu Sect Disciples out of their shock, all of them screaming and scattering as if they had encountered ghosts in broad daylight.

But—

How could their speed of escape compare with the speed of Ye Fan controlling the Xuanye Flying Blades in an assassination?

"Whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh..."

Soon after, the sound of the air being torn filled the space, white flashes whistling, the two Xuanye Flying Blades like sickles wielded by the Death God, for each throw pierced through the throat of a Hongwu Sect Disciple.

"So that's how it is!"

Seeing Ye Fan slaughtering wantonly, Ling Fei and the other six members of the Yanhuang Organization were also taken aback at first, and then quickly understood why Ye Fan had earlier issued a life-and-death challenge to the entire Hongwu Sect—although Ye Fan was no match for Tong He, his terrifying speed left Tong He helpless, thus enabling the massacre!

"You're courting death!!"

Not only did Ling Fei and the six members of the Yanhuang Organization come to realize this belatedly, but Tong He's mind was also crystal clear, seeing several more of his disciples perish to the Netherworld, his face turned ashen with rage as he bellowed and lunged at Ye Fan.

"Swoosh—"

Prepared for Tong He's attack, Ye Fan dodged without engaging, his figure flickered, and he swiftly moved away, always maintaining a distance from Tong He.

While dodging, he divided his consciousness into two, using ninety percent of it to control his body and evade Tong He's attacks, while the remaining ten percent continued to manipulate the Xuanye Flying Blades to assassinate.

Although this meant that he could not exert his speed to the fullest, it was enough to dodge Tong He's attacks, and the speed and power of the Xuanye Flying Blades had also plummeted by ninety percent, but it was still sufficient to assassinate the weaker Hongwu Sect Disciples.

"Aaaaaahhhhh..."

Seeing Ye Fan avoiding a direct confrontation and continuously killing his disciples, Tong He howled in frustration, his solid consciousness was also somewhat affected, though he seemed unaware of this and continued to pursue Ye Fan with all his might, shouting loudly, "Lu Ning, take them back to the sect immediately, close the sect gates, hurry!"

"Everyone... follow me!"

Upon hearing this, Lu Ning immediately shouted at the Hongwu Sect disciples, who were so scared they were peeing their pants and in complete disarray, and was the first to rush towards the entrance of the Hongwu Sect.

"Swoosh——"

Seeing this, Ye Fan's consciousness moved, and the Ghostly Gourd turned into a streak of black light and flew out.

The Ghostly Gourd reached the gate before Lu Ning, hovering in the air, flickering with a dark light, and emitting Evil Yin Qi.

Hmm?

Including Lu Ning, all the Hongwu Sect disciples running towards the gate instinctively stopped in their tracks, staring at the Ghostly Gourd with terror, afraid to make a move.

The next moment.

Under the watchful eyes of Lu Ning and the others, the Ghostly Gourd suddenly emitted an intense black light, tilting sharply with its mouth pointing at them.

Woo woo woo! Woo woo woo!

The Ghostly Gourd was activated, a gloomy wind howled, turning into streams of Evil Yin Qi, like the wails of tens of thousands of Evil Ghosts, ominous and chilling.

"Steel your consciousness, stimulate your Blood Qi, and resist the intrusion of the Evil Yin Qi!"

As Tong He's senior disciple, Lu Ning was experienced and knowledgeable, immediately recognizing the magic at play. He stimulated his own Blood Qi to fend off the Evil Yin Qi entering his body and loudly alerted the other Hongwu Sect disciples behind him.

Hearing his words, the Hongwu Sect disciples woke up from their stupor, one after another emulating Lu Ning, stirring the Blood Qi within them.

Hmm?

Seeing this, Ye Fan knew that the Evil Yin Qi alone probably wouldn't be enough to kill the Hongwu Sect disciples led by Lu Ning. He steeled his heart and, while running away, waved his hands, casting a sealing gesture.

As the seal was formed, all the Evil Yin Qi gathered as if by command, morphing into a monstrous figure with three heads and six arms.

The monster stood over a dozen meters tall, with a ferocious expression, thick limbs, and billowing black smoke. The smoke transformed into tens of thousands of Yin Demons, each revealing a frightening face.

Evil Yin Demon!

Ye Fan, through his magic, had turned all the Evil Yin Qi into a terrifying Evil Yin Demon!

"Aaaahhhhhh..."

As soon as the Evil Yin Demon appeared, the boundless Evil Yin Qi enshrouded Lu Ning and the others; apart from a few powerful disciples of the Hongwu Sect with strong and robust Blood Qi like Lu Ning, the weak Blood Qi of the other disciples was instantly eroded by the Evil Yin Qi, cracking slowly like the shell of a broken egg.

"Whoosh!"

All of a sudden, under Ye Fan's control, the Evil Yin Demon leapt forward and pounced towards Lu Ning and the Hongwu Sect disciples, smashing down with its massive palm.

With that one strike, Yin Energy surged, and the few weaker Hongwu Sect disciples' Blood Qi was completely dispersed. The Evil Yin Qi seamlessly entered their bodies, smashing through their defenses in the blink of an eye and shattering their consciousness.

With their consciousness shattered, several of the Hongwu Sect disciples became like the walking dead, lifeless and hollow-eyed, standing motionless on the spot.

"Die!!"

Simultaneously, taking advantage of the moment when Ye Fan's speed had slowed due to summoning the 'Evil Yin Demon,' Tong He seized the chance to close in on Ye Fan for the first time, swinging his right fist in a punch aimed directly at Ye Fan's back.

Ye Fan seemed to have sensed it beforehand, abandoning control of the Evil Yin Demon at the exact moment Tong He made his move, and his speed shot up to the extreme once more, slipping away like a slippery eel.

"Slap! Slap! Slap!"

A burst of Gang Qi shot out from Tong He's hand, dispersing the air ahead and swirling towards the swiftly fleeing Ye Fan. But it failed to even graze Ye Fan's hair before vanishing without a trace.

Witnessing this scene, Ling Fei and the other six members of the Yanhuang Organization realized that Tong He, having just entered the Half-step Gang Qi realm, still had entry-level control over Gang Qi. Otherwise, with that opportunity just now, he could have definitely injured Ye Fan!

"Aaaaah..."

Seeing such a perfect opportunity slip by without killing Ye Fan, Tong He let out another furious yell. Then, seeing Ye Fan once again manipulate the Evil Yin Demon to slaughter his own disciples, he immediately gave up the pursuit of Ye Fan and lunged towards the Evil Yin Demon.

"Break for me!!"

As the shout burst forth, Tong He landed a punch on the Evil Yin Demon, merging Gang Qi with Blood Qi in one blow. The Evil Yin Demon was blasted apart, and numerous strands of Evil Yin Qi that touched Tong He's Blood Qi evaporated like vapor meeting molten lava, making a sizzling sound.

"Huff!"

Having dispersed the Evil Yin Demon with a punch, Tong He didn't stick around. He reached out to grab the Ghostly Gourd, aiming to snatch Ye Fan's Ghostly Gourd.

But—

Ye Fan was faster!

The moment he reached out, Ye Fan's consciousness stirred, and all of his Mind Power acted on the Ghostly Gourd. The Ghostly Gourd soared into the air, shooting towards the sky, which made Tong He grab at nothing. Then it turned into a dark light flying back into Ye Fan's hand.

Failing to grab the Ghostly Gourd, Tong He could only stabilize his posture. Looking around, he saw the bodies of his disciples strewn about, with over twenty fallen. The originally pristine white marble floor was nearly stained red.

Besides, the remaining thirty-odd Hongwu Sect disciples seemed to have been frightened by Ye Fan's tactics, all pale-faced and trembling.

They looked at Tong He with desperate eyes, as if saying, "Sect Leader, save us!"

"You... you little beast, have the guts to fight me head-on. What skill is there in targeting my disciples?"

Seeing a third of his disciples perish after merely one exchange, Tong He was so furious he almost coughed up blood, his eyes bloodshot as he glared at Ye Fan, as if he wanted to devour him alive.

"Whoosh!"

"Whoosh!"

Two sharp sounds cutting through the air were Tong He's only response.

On the ground, the two Xuanye Flying Blades that had fallen when Ye Fan lost control of them, suddenly flew up, turning into two streaks of white light that instantly pierced the throats of two Hongwu Sect disciples. Hot blood splattered on the faces of two nearby Hongwu Sect disciples.

"Aaaah..."

"Don't kill me!"

The two Hongwu Sect disciples were so scared they collapsed onto the ground, their hands over their heads as they knelt and begged for mercy. A yellow liquid uncontrollably flowed from between their legs.

"Huff!"

At the same time, Tong He flashed forward, reaching out to grab the two Xuanye Flying Blades.

"Whoosh! Whoosh!"

The two Xuanye Flying Blades, under Ye Fan's control, suddenly rose, causing Tong He to grab at nothing once more. Then, like two hawks diving for prey, they plunged downward, aiming for the two Hongwu Sect disciples.

"Puchi! Puchi!"

The two Hongwu Sect disciples didn't even have a chance to dodge before they were shot through the heart and fell into a pool of blood, dead on the spot.

After quickly killing four Hongwu Sect disciples, Ye Fan didn't pause and continued to maneuver the Xuanye Flying Blades to assassinate more.

The blade flew out, blood splattered!

One blade, one life!

For a moment, Ye Fan was like a Death God from Hell, frenetically reaping the lives of the Hongwu Sect disciples.

One, two, three...

On the square, white light whizzed by, blood splashed in all directions, and screams echoed. In just a few seconds, several more Hongwu Sect disciples lay in pools of blood.

Watching his disciples being slaughtered by Ye Fan like chickens, Tong He's eyes turned crimson with fury, like a wild beast provoked, heaving with heavy breaths.

He was very clear that if only he remained alive while all other Hongwu Sect disciples were killed by Ye Fan, then the Hongwu Sect would exist in name only!

If that happened, his life's work would be ruined!

"Everyone... get behind me!!"

In his rage, Tong He didn't go after Ye Fan but instead aimed to protect the lives of his disciples. He loudly roared at them— as long as the disciples took refuge behind him, his strength was more than enough to prevent Ye Fan from continuing the Flying Knife Assassination.

No response.

The remaining disciples, including Lu Ning, were utterly terrified. They lay on the ground, not daring to move, their bodies shaking violently as if electrocuted.

So vicious!

Witnessing this, Ling Fei and the other six members of the Yanhuang Organization couldn't help but feel a chill, also secretly acknowledging that the Magic Attacks were frighteningly unpredictable and indeed very terrifying.

"You... you all..."

Perhaps, not expecting his disciples to become so scared, Tong He was dumbfounded, his mouth slightly agape, as if he wanted to say something.

"Tong He, I said before that I am challenging the entire Hongwu Sect, and they are included."

Before Tong He could finish his words, Ye Fan interjected coldly, "I want to kill them one by one before your eyes, then take your dog life!"

"You... you..."

Upon hearing this, Tong He's eyes turned a bloody red as he looked at Ye Fan, about to say something. But rage overwhelmed him and before he could finish, his body suddenly shook, and a mouthful of blood surged up his throat, spilling from the corner of his mouth.

An opportunity!

Ye Fan's mind stirred!

Chapter 495 Solo Challenge Against Hongwu Sect Five

For Ye Fan, he had been waiting for this very opportunity he created for far too long.

Since he knew that Tong He had only recently broken through to the Half-step Gang Qi realm, he speculated that Tong He hadn't consolidated his realm and couldn't bring into play the full strength of a Half-step Gang Qi realm master. Therefore, he daringly launched a surprise attack, using "killing intent fills the sky" to clash head-on with Tong He.

In doing so, he never thought about succeeding with the ambush, he just wanted to reveal his strength to Tong He—showing himself as inferior—while ensuring that his own life wasn't in danger.

After the head-on clash, the first thing Ye Fan did was to heal his injuries, then he once again actively launched a Mind Power attack, but he concealed his true strength, using only half the force of his full attack. Consequently, the subsequent Flying Knife Assassination posed no threat to Tong He but confirmed in Tong He's mind that Ye Fan was no match for him, which put him in the mindset of a victor and caused him to lower his guard unwittingly.

However—

Just when Tong He thought he could easily defeat Ye Fan, Ye Fan suddenly burst forth with extreme speed, not only causing Tong He's lethal strike to miss, but also beginning to slaughter the Hongwu Sect Disciples!

This stark contrast threw Tong He's mind off balance, making him increasingly irritable as the fight went on, leading to an unstable state of mind.

By then, seeing his disciples dying one after another at the hands of Ye Fan, while he was powerless to stop it, made Tong He's mind completely fall into chaos. Driven by an outburst of rage from Ye Fan, he even vomited blood.

And all the trouble Ye Fan went through to 'attack the heart' was precisely to upset Tong He's mind and destabilize his consciousness, thus unleashing a killing blow!

At that moment, seeing blood seeping from the corners of Tong He's mouth, Ye Fan knew that the moment he'd been desperately waiting for had arrived. With a thought, a flash of golden light at his brow, he once again mobilized a Mind Power attack!

This time.

Ye Fan held nothing back and acted with all his might!

Swish!

Enraged to the extreme, Tong He was infuriated to the point of spitting blood, and just as he was about to stabilize his mind and vital energy, he sensed a telekinetic force far more terrifying than before invading his body, causing his complexion to change drastically!

Immediately thereafter, before Tong He could gather his thoughts or steady his vital energy, that terrible Mind Power converged and struck his consciousness like a cannonball.

Although Tong He had broken through to the Half-step Gang Qi realm, since he cultivated a second-rate Cultivation Technique, the 'Hong Fist,' he did not possess a mindset as strong or a Martial Arts Will as unwavering as those of Yan Lei and Fang Han, who were Innate Perfection invincible beings.

Previously deceived by Ye Fan's mix of genuine and feigned tactics, and having relaxed his vigilance, followed by being angered by Ye Fan, disrupting his mental state, Tong He was almost completely unguarded against Ye Fan's Mind Power attack.

Given this, how could he defend against Ye Fan's full-force Mind Power attack?

In an instant.

Tong He's consciousness was like a bell struck hard, shuddering violently, his awareness momentarily dazed!

Just then!

"Whoosh—"

The sound of breaking air rang out as the Xuanye Flying Blade turned into a streak of white light, aiming straight for Tong He's heart.

—Flying Knife Assassination!

Just like he had done many times before when slaying strong opponents, Ye Fan shattered Tong He's spirit, and in the moment of Tong He's bewildered consciousness, he decisively used Flying Knife Assassination.

"Puchi—"

White light appeared, and blood splattered!

The sharp Xuanye Flying Blade, like a Purple Swallow Through the Forest, pierced through Tong He's heart in an instant, with hot blood spurting out.

"Uh..."

The drastic change in the situation was completely unexpected for Ling Fei and the other six members of the Yanhuang Organization—they stared wide-eyed, motionless, at Tong He receiving the fatal blow, completely stunned.

If it weren't for the blood spurting repeatedly from the bloody hole in Tong He's chest, they wouldn't dare believe what they were seeing was real!

Even they were so, what about those Hongwu Sect disciples?

Although the Hongwu Sect disciples were scared out of their wits by Ye Fan, deep in their hearts, they firmly believed that Ye Fan was no match for Tong He!

After all, Ye Fan had previously been killed by Tong He without the power to fight back, fleeing everywhere!

But now, Ye Fan had killed Tong He in the blink of an eye; the horror it brought them was simply indescribable!

Under the night sky, they stared at Tong He as if they had witnessed the most unbelievable thing in the world, motionless, their minds completely filled with one thought: How... How could this be??

Without an answer, Tong He subconsciously stretched out his hands to cover the wound, trying to stop the bleeding, but it was utterly useless.

Then, he tried hard to move his head and looked at Ye Fan once again.

This time.

There was no anger or killing intent in his gaze, only disbelief!

It seemed... that even at this moment, he still couldn't believe that after breaking through to the Half-step Gang Qi realm, he would die at Ye Fan's hands.

However—

No matter how many reasons he had to deny everything, the continuously flowing blood told him it was all true!

After being forced to accept this cruel reality, all Tong He's hopes were completely shattered, and he fell to the ground with a crash.

On the ground, his body convulsed violently, while Chen Feilian's warning echoed in his ears.

"His Martial Arts Cultivation is not worth mentioning, he can't even take on a single move from you, but you must be wary of his Mind Power Attack and Flying Knife Assassination, you must always guard your Consciousness, and remember not to be disturbed."

"Not to be disturbed..."

Tong He muttered these six words in his heart and suddenly understood something. His emotions became agitated, and he hoarsely shouted at Ye Fan, "You planned everything from the beginning... Everything you did was to disturb my mind and launch a fatal strike, right?"

Without an answer, Ye Fan looked at Tong He with a pitiful gaze, as if looking at a pitiable creature.

"Tell... tell me... you... tell me!!"

Tong He's eyes widened, staring fixedly at Ye Fan, as if he wouldn't close his eyes in death without an answer.

This moment.

He forgot the bold statement he made earlier, about making Ye Fan kneel in front of the Hongwu Sect in less than five breaths' time to repent!

He also forgot, how full of vigor he was when he initially had the upper hand in the fight!

All he wanted was an answer!

"Did he... did he really plan everything from the beginning?"

At the same time, Ling Fei and six other members of the Yanhuang Organization, upon hearing Tong He's words, simultaneously looked at Ye Fan, their gazes filled with extreme fear—if Ye Fan truly had plotted all this from the start, then the scheming would be terrifying!

Is that so?

"Bang—"

Without an answer, Tong He's body violently convulsed, he vomited three mouthfuls of blood, then his head tilted, and he crashed to the ground, dying on the spot. His face bore deep regret and even more unwillingness!

Is that so?

"No... Please don't kill us!"

"Please... please spare us!"

Following Tong He's last breath, the Hongwu Sect disciples led by Lu Ning snapped out of their trance, pleading for mercy from Ye Fan like a pack of whining dogs.

Ye Fan shifted his gaze from Tong He's corpse slowly to Lu Ning, who was at the forefront.

"Bang—"

Lu Ning's heart skipped a beat out of terror, and without another word, he began kowtowing to Ye Fan with vigor.

"Bang!"

"Bang!"

"Bang!"

...

Seeing this, the other Hongwu Sect disciples followed suit, and suddenly, the sound of kowtowing filled the air.

It seemed as if they were using this silent gesture to atone and repent to Ye Fan, to make him spare them!

"If I remember correctly, when I was injured, you all were clamoring quite fiercely, dying to have Tong He immediately tear me to pieces."

Confronted with Lu Ning and the others' pleas for mercy, Ye Fan spoke up, his tone calm and unhurried, his voice soft yet frightening enough to stop Lu Ning and the others from kowtowing any further.

They felt as if Death himself had pronounced their death sentence, losing even the courage to beg for mercy and merely gazing at Ye Fan with faces filled with terror.

"Will he eliminate the entire Hongwu Sect?"

Witnessing this scene, Ling Fei and the other six Yanhuang Organization members couldn't help but silently question themselves.

"Huff... huff..."

The next moment.

Before Ling Fei and the others could come up with an answer, a whooshing sound pierced the air from afar, growing louder as it approached them.

Swish!

At the sound, Ye Fan hurriedly turned his attention, only to see a helicopter swooping over like a hunting falcon.

Not just Ye Fan, Ling Fei and the others also noticed the helicopter, instantly guessing the implications.

"Beep beep..."

Immediately afterward, the communicator on Ling Fei's wrist lit up.

Ling Fei regained his composure from his shock and immediately connected the communicator.

"Director Ling, tell Ye Fan to stop immediately!"

From inside the helicopter cabin, Hong Lie, with his terrifyingly sharp sensing power and excellent vision, had a firm grasp of the situation and instructed through the communicator, "Also, warn him not to even think about running away—now that Elder Xing and I are here, he won't be able to escape!"

"Okay... okay!"

Ling Fei responded instinctively, then turned to Ye Fan, "Ye Fan, Elder Xing and Captain Hong have arrived, and Captain Hong orders you to stop! He also says not to even think about escaping..."

"Slap—"

Ye Fan took a step towards Lu Ning as if Ling Fei's words were a mere fart.

Just one step.

It was enough to scare Ling Fei so much that he abruptly swallowed the rest of his sentence.

It also terrified all the remaining Hongwu Sect disciples, including Lu Ning, who fell limp to the ground!

Shortly after.

Before Ling Fei could recover, Ye Fan appeared in front of Lu Ning like a specter, grabbed his neck like one would a chick, lifted him up, and then... flung him upwards with force!

"Swoosh—"

Upon being hurled, Lu Ning shot towards the sky as if propelled by a dirt plane.

"Aaaahhh..."

As the wind howled by his ears and the ground receded further away, Lu Ning screamed in terror.

"Stop it!"

Shortly after, just as Lu Ning reached the peak of his ascent and began to fall due to Earth's gravity, Hong Lie opened the helicopter cabin door and bellowed down at Ye Fan.

"Whoosh—"

In response to Hong Lie was the sound of something tearing through the air!

The Xuan Ye Flying Blade emerged from the sleeve, soared skyward, and shot towards the rapidly falling Lu Ning!

"Thud—"

A blade to the throat!

Lu Ning's screams abruptly ceased as he plummeted to the ground.

Ye Fan narrowed his eyes, looking at the approaching helicopter as if countering Hong Lie.

"You... are utterly lawless. I will see you brought to justice!"

As the helicopter swooped down to hover over the square, Hong Lie roared, leaping from the cabin.

"Whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh..."

Breaking through the air, gleaming white and splashed with crimson, blood splattered sky-high!

Simultaneously, two Xuan Ye Flying Blades whistled out, and under the control of Ye Fan, they reaped the lives of the remaining Hongwu Sect disciples like harvesting wheat!

One, two, three...

Before Hong Lie could arrive, not a single soul among the Hongwu Sect remained alive!

Chapter 496 It's Time to Reveal the Trump Card!

Massacre!

A frenzied massacre!

In mere seconds, Ye Fan launched a frenzied slaughter against Hongwu Sect's disciples, leaving not a single survivor in the sect, completely eradicating their existence from the annals of Huaxia's Cultivation World!

Staring at body after body, at the crimson bloodstains, at Ye Fan's emotionless face, even Ling Fei and the five others, who knew that Ye Fan had initiated a life-and-death duel and had not broken the rules of the Yanhuang Organization, were shocked into a stupor.

If that was the case for them, who knew the inside story, what about Hong Lie who knew nothing?

Hong Lie, who was rapidly approaching the Hongwu Sect, saw all its disciples killed in a short period of time and couldn't help but halt in his tracks.

Whoosh!

Following that, he shifted his gaze from the corpses of the Hongwu Sect disciples to Ye Fan, his eyes sweeping towards him like blades.

Confronting Hong Lie's bone-chilling gaze, Ye Fan stood fearless, his body straight as a spear, proudly positioned before the Hongwu Sect's gates.

"Clap! Clap! Clap!"

Suddenly, Hong Lie moved.

He took long strides towards Ye Fan, with each step the marble beneath his feet burst into pieces, sending shards flying.

A terrible fury and killing intent surged from him, making him resemble a Killing God from Hell, with an imposing aura of death.

His gaze was fixed on Ye Fan, as if to say even if Ye Fan ran to the ends of the earth, he would still be slain!

Enraged!

Hong Lie was thoroughly enraged!

Once, due to Ye Fan crippling Ye Long's Kung Fu, Hong Lie was infuriated, wanting to make a move against Ye Fan but was ultimately stopped by Yan's orders.

Just now, he had Ling Fei pass a message to have Ye Fan stop the killing, but not only did Ye Fan ignore him, he killed Lu Ning in a flamboyant manner, as if provoking him.

Upon seeing that scene, Hong Lie was uncontrollably furious, flung open the cockpit door, roared and threatened Ye Fan, and yet... Ye Fan completely treated his threats as hot air, refusing to stop and instead killing all the Hongwu Sect disciples!

Ye Fan's actions were like a stomp on Hong Lie's heart, shattering the pride he had as the captain of the Yanhuang Organization Law Enforcement Team and the strongest person beneath the Gang Qi Realm in Huaxia's Cultivation World!

Seeing Hong Lie coming with intense killing intent, Ling Fei and the others were so intimidated by his aura they didn't dare even breathe deeply, standing rigidly in place.

Ye Fan also felt an unprecedented pressure, as if a mountain was pressing down on his chest making it difficult to breathe, and his consciousness was engulfed by a terrifying Death Aura, causing him to tremble!

"My heart is as firm as a rock!"

Moments later, just as fear began to spread in Ye Fan's heart, he suddenly shouted out loud.

With that shout, his consciousness stirred!

Ye Fan's martial arts will became firm again, and the fear in his heart vanished without a trace.

He straightened his spine once more, unwaveringly meeting Hong Lie's terrifying gaze!

Hmm?

Noticing the change in Ye Fan, Hong Lie's eyes flashed with surprise, apparently... he hadn't expected Ye Fan's will to be so resolute that he could completely ignore his pressure!

After a brief moment of surprise and doubt, Hong Lie's fury intensified. As he walked, he glared at Ye Fan with seething anger, his voice hoarse, "I told you to stop, didn't you hear?"

"You tell me to stop and I'm supposed to stop?" Ye Fan replied with a cold laugh.

"Good, good, good!"

Hearing Ye Fan's words, Hong Lie laughed in anger, repeating 'good' thrice, then suddenly changing his tone, speaking lowly and dangerously, "Do you think that just because you're Ye Wenhao's son and Chu Xuanji's disciple, you can do whatever you want? Or do you really think I wouldn't dare to make a move on you?"

As his words fell, killing intent erupted from Hong Lie, and Gang Qi instantly surged within his body.

He kept his gaze unflinchingly on Ye Fan, as if to say, if Ye Fan's answer didn't satisfy him, he would make him pay a terrible price!

"Hong Lie, you must not!"

Right then, a helicopter hovered overhead, whipping up a wild wind. Hong Lie stood as if nailed to the ground, unmoving while Xing Feng jumped out of the cabin, his voice thundering through the air before his feet even touched the ground.

"Crack--"

Quickly, Xing Feng landed, and the marble ground beneath his feet couldn't withstand the force, shattering apart.

Under the night sky, he stood in front of Ye Fan, looking sternly at Hong Lie, saying word by word, "Hong Lie, do not forget what I told you earlier. Do not strike him, let's talk about everything after returning to Beijing; the leader will personally handle this matter."

"Originally, I was planning to follow the Elder Council's decision, but just now I ordered him to stop, and not only did he not listen, but he also retaliated by killing everyone, completely lawless, trampling on the rules of the Yanhuang Organization and Huaxia's laws!"

Hong Lie said coldly, seemingly ready to defy the Yanhuang Organization Elder Council's decision and make a move on Ye Fan.

Hearing Hong Lie's words and thinking of Ye Fan's frenzied slaughter, Xing Feng couldn't help but sigh inwardly, at a loss for words.

"Hong Lie, don't act righteous after playing the harlot," said Ye Fan suddenly, his tone filled with mockery, "You want to make a move against me because I crippled your disciple Ye Long's Kung Fu that day and because you think I challenged your authority, trampling on your pride, right?"

"Elder Xing, you can see that he has no remorse. Such scum should not be left in the world!"

Ye Fan's words were like a sharp dagger, stabbing Hong Lie's sore spot, and Hong Lie's anger intensified a few degrees, "Rest assured, I won't kill him, but I will cripple his Kung Fu to prevent him from harming society in the future! And I will take responsibility for my actions!"

"Hong Lie..."

Seeing Hong Lie's resolved demeanor, Xing Feng's expression turned ugly as he wanted to persuade him once more.

However—

Before he could get his next words out, Ye Fan spoke up again, "By what right?"

"Xi—"

Hearing Ye Fan's words again, even Xing Feng felt Ye Fan was being utterly confrontational and disrespectful. His lips twitched in irritation as he anxiously turned to signal Ye Fan not to add fuel to the fire, suggesting that it would be best to avoid provoking Hong Lie further.

"By what right?"

At the same time, Hong Lie walked toward Ye Fan with a cold sneer, "Because you just went on a killing spree here, completely disregarding the rules of the Yanhuang Organization!"

"Slap!"

Upon seeing this, Ye Fan didn't back down; instead, he stepped forward, confronting him head-on, "Does going on a killing spree necessarily mean violating the Yanhuang Organization's regulations?"

Hmm?

A thought suddenly struck Xing Feng, who recalled how Ye Fan had skillfully navigated through the rules on previous occasions, evading the grasp of the Yanhuang Organization and all forces trying to catch him.

"Whether you're ignorant of the law or you're pretending to be stupid, it doesn't matter. After I cripple your martial arts, I will take my time teaching you the rules of the Yanhuang Organization!"

As he spoke, Hong Lie walked up to where Xing Feng stood, his tone leaving no room for doubt, "I'm sorry, Elder Xing, even if you intervene, I will still cripple him—you cannot stop me!"

Xing Feng's expression changed, anger flashing across his brows, but he didn't step aside.

"Teach me the rules of the Yanhuang Organization?"

Ye Fan took another step forward, standing shoulder to shoulder with Xing Feng, and returned the sentiment with a sneer, "I issued a life-and-death battle challenge to the Hongwu Sect, and they accepted the fight. How does that constitute breaking the rules of the Yanhuang Organization? It seems to me that you're the one breaking the law knowingly!"

"Uh..."

Although Xing Feng had suspected there might be a catch after he heard Ye Fan's statement and saw his composed demeanor, he was still left dumbstruck when he heard it said aloud.

Not just him, but Hong Lie was too!

In an instant, the anger on Hong Lie's face vanished, replaced by disbelief, "That's impossible!"

"You can ask them."

Ye Fan smiled, enjoying the changing expressions on Hong Lie's face, then gestured towards Ling Feng and the other six Yanhuang Organization members.

Whoosh!

Hong Lie glared coldly at Ling Feng and the other six Yanhuang Organization members, asking sternly, "Is what he's saying true?"

"Yes... it's true."

Sensing the cold killing intent and overbearing pressure from Hong Lie, Ling Feng's heart pounded, but he still spoke the truth, "Before he took action, he indeed initiated a life-and-death battle challenge with the Hongwu Sect, and Hongwu Sect Leader Tong He accepted the challenge!"

"Where's the life-and-death battle agreement?" Hong Lie was unwilling to give in.

"It was... just a verbal agreement," Ling Feng stammered out in response.

"Captain Hong, weren't you going to teach me the regulations of the Yanhuang Organization? From what I remember, a life-and-death battle agreement doesn't have to be in writing, a verbal agreement is also valid, provided that it is witnessed by members of the Yanhuang Organization."

Ye Fan sneered sarcastically, "Just now, those six were witnesses, which seems to comply with the regulations of the Yanhuang Organization, doesn't it?"

"__"

Hong Lie was left speechless, his complexion paling, and he soon tried to change the subject, "Even if what you did just now conforms to the Yanhuang Organization's regulations, earlier in Southeast Asia you killed numerous people, and later you massacred the Qinghong Group's Huaxia division. You even killed the head of the Yanhuang Organization Southeast Asia Special Zone Office Yan Lei, and the head of the Taiwan Office Fang Han—you can't possibly claim that these were also life-and-death duels, right?"

"Captain Hong, these cases are still under investigation, let's wait for the investigation results!" Seeing Hong Lie pressing the issue, Xing Feng's face showed displeasure.

"Elder Xing..."

"Captain Hong, until the case is completely clear, Ye Fan is merely a suspect, and according to the Yanhuang Organization's regulations, during an arrest, as long as the suspect does not fight back, we are not allowed to harm the suspect!"

Xing Feng interrupted Hong Lie coldly, a hint of anger in his tone, "Of course, if you want to break the law knowingly, as Ye Fan has suggested, I will not stop you!"

"Xi—"

Hong Lie took a sharp breath and glared furiously at Ye Fan, articulating each word, "You may escape now, but you won't escape forever—I assure you, no matter who comes out to protect you, I will bring you to justice!"

"Heh heh... how about we make a bet? If you can bring me to justice, I'll kneel and call you 'Grandpa'; if not, you kneel and call me 'Grandpa.' How about that?" Facing Hong Lie's threat, Ye Fan sneered.

"Alright."

Hong Lie agreed without a second thought, "I want to see whether your life is more important, or the dignity and sanctity of the Yanhuang Organization's laws!"

"Then let us wait and see!"

Ye Fan sneered, pulled out Lin Tianyi's communicator, dialed Chu Ji's private number, and said indifferently, "Tell the old man it's time to reveal our hand!"

Chapter 497 A Change of Heaven in Huaxia

"Tell the old guy, it's time to reveal our trump card!"

Under the cold moonlit sky, as the evening breeze blew by, Ye Fan's seemingly casual words clearly fell into the ears of Xing Feng, Hong Lie, Ling Fei, and the other six members of the Yanhuang Organization, causing a change in their expressions!

"What exactly is his trump card? Is it Chu Xuanji?"

Looking at Ye Fan's confident demeanor, whether it was Hong Lie, Xing Feng, or the other members of the Yanhuang Organization, the same question arose in their minds.

In their view, even though Chu Xuanji was second on the Dragon Ranking and a Taishan Beidou of the Hua Xia Cultivation World with a savior contribution, he would still be unable to protect Ye Fan.

After all, Ye Fan had too much blood on his hands!

"Heh, bluffing. I really want to see what your trump card is!"

After a brief moment of astonishment, Hong Lie seemingly didn't believe Ye Fan had any trump card that could turn the tide, and with a cold laugh, he then said to Xing Feng, "Elder Xing, there's no time to delay. Shall we take him back to Yanjing now?"

"There's no hurry, let's first go to the Taiwan Office and get a clear understanding of the situation here before returning to Yanjing," Xing Feng shook his head, dismissing Hong Lie's suggestion.

"Alright then."

Although Hong Lie was eager to see Ye Fan brought to justice, he knew that since they were going to trial Ye Fan, they needed to have solid evidence, which naturally required a thorough investigation of all the events that transpired in Taiwan. Therefore, he agreed with Xing Feng's proposal and then coldly looked at Ye Fan, "Will you go on your own, or do I need to assist you?"

"I advise you not to lay a finger on me until the final result is out," Ye Fan responded, sidestepping the question and threatening Hong Lie instead.

"You..."

Angered, Hong Lie's face changed color, ready to slap Ye Fan then and there, but remembering Xing Feng's earlier caution, he forcefully held back.

Meanwhile, Xing Feng couldn't help but take another glance at Ye Fan, his eyes filled with curiosity, as if to say: What exactly is this young man relying on to be so brazen and unbridled?

No answer came.

Ye Fan took the initiative to step forward, walking past Hong Lie with his head held high, towards the helicopter ahead.

"Captain Hong, you take Ye Fan up, Director Ling and the others will clean up the scene, I'll notify Elder He," Xing Feng said, his heart wryly smiling, and after a slight pause, made arrangements.

"Alright."

Hong Lie nodded and quickly followed Ye Fan, unable to suppress the rage inside him, seemingly ready to erupt at any moment.

"Alright."

Ling Fei immediately responded, his gaze, much like his five subordinates, fixed on Ye Fan's retreating figure, filled with lingering emotions — in their memory, no one in the Hua Xia Cultivation World had ever dared to look down on the Yanhuang Organization with such arrogance as Ye Fan!

Seeing that Ye Fan had no intention of fleeing, but instead boarded the helicopter willingly, Xing Feng relaxed and raised his wrist to contact Martial Hall Elder He Yunting using the Yanhuang Organization's special communicator.

"Elder Xing, have you stopped him?" The call was quickly connected, and He Yunting, who was in the Southeast Asia Special Zone, asked first, his tone slightly anxious.

"No."

Xing Feng, looking at the corpses strewn across the ground, replied with a bitter smile, "By the time we arrived, not a single person from the Hongwu Sect was left alive."

Whish!

Upon hearing Xing Feng's response, even He Yunting, who was the first authoritative elder of the Yanhuang Organization and had reached the Gang Qi Realm, stone-hearted as he was, was taken aback by the outcome.

"What is the exact situation?"

He Yunting promptly asked again, his expression extremely somber.

Just as he had said during his conversation with Ye Wenhao earlier, preventing Ye Fan from slaughtering the Hongwu Sect was a win-win situation for both Ye Wenhao and his son, as well as for the Yanhuang Organization. Conversely, if Ye Fan did carry out the massacre, the situation would become a dead-end with no way out!

"According to what Director Ling said, Ye Fan issued a life-and-death challenge to the Hongwu Sect, and Hongwu Sect Leader Tong He personally accepted the challenge."

Xing Feng sighed at Ye Fan's use of the rules as he replied, "Before Hong Lie and I got to the Hongwu Sect, he had already killed Tong He. And then, taking advantage of the time we disembarked from the helicopter, he slaughtered all the remaining Hongwu Sect disciples!"

"Uh..."

Hearing Xing Feng's reply again, even though He Yunting was deeply composed, he was once again stunned.

"Chu Xuanji has truly raised a ruthless and cunning disciple," He Yunting couldn't help but lament after the surprise, the heaviness on his face lightening a bit — although Ye Fan had massacred the Hongwu Sect, he had not violated the rules of the Yanhuang Organization, so there was still room to manoeuvre.

"Indeed."

Xing Feng agreed, then added, "Just now, Hong Lie wanted to take advantage of his authority to attack him, but not only was he fearless, he even confronted Hong Lie head-on and even made a bet!"

"Oh? What happened?" He Yunting's eyebrows rose.

"Just now..."

Xing Feng detailed the conflict between Hong Lie and Ye Fan from a moment ago.

"Warn Hong Lie to not act rashly; even if the Leader intervenes on his behalf, with Chu Xuanji's protective nature, he definitely won't let it slide!" After listening to Xing Feng's account, He Yunting cautioned.

"Hong Lie has seen the stakes clearly, so he shouldn't act foolishly," Xing Feng said. "Also, I plan to go to the Taiwan Office first, to thoroughly investigate what happened here before returning to Yanjing, what do you think?"

"That's fine, the Leader will also be out of seclusion by then, so let him handle it personally."

He Yunting agreed with Xing Feng's proposal and couldn't help but wryly smile, "Otherwise, we simply don't have anyone who can suppress Chu Xuanji. And judging by that young man's tone, Chu Xuanji is very likely to forcefully protect him!"

This time, Xing Feng chose silence, tantamount to acknowledging He Yunting's words — with Chu Xuanji's Dual Cultivation of Magic and Martial Arts at the Peak of Gang Qi, no one except Yan could suppress him.

"Alright, Ye Wenhao is here, I won't talk any longer, contact me if there is any update."

Seeing Xing Feng silent, He Yunting sensed Ye Wenhao's approach and quickly spoke, then without waiting for a response, hung up the phone.

"Bang bang—"

Two seconds later, there was a knock at the door.

He Yunting's consciousness stirred, he removed the soundproofing measures, and the Gang Qi that had enveloped him dissipated without a trace, before he finally said, "Come in."

Creak!

The door opened in response, and Ye Wenhao walked into the room, asking as he moved, "Elder He, is there any news from Taiwan?"

"Your son slaughtered everyone in the Hongwu Sect, leaving no one in armor." He Yunting deliberately provoked.

Ye Wenhao's expression changed, his body shook slightly, and he instinctively stopped in his tracks, his face growing increasingly anxious.

Even though Chu Ji had told him over the phone earlier that Ye Fan could turn the situation around, he had just racked his brains for a long time but still couldn't figure out how Ye Fan was going to turn the tables.

In such a situation, he could only hope that Ye Fan had not acted against the Hongwu Sect, and that through the private agreement reached with He Yunting, Ye Fan's life could be saved.

Now that He Yunting bluntly told him that Ye Fan had bloodily cleansed the Hongwu Sect...

This directly shattered the last glimmer of hope in his heart for rescuing Ye Fan!

"However, before he acted, he issued a life-and-death challenge to the Hongwu Sect, and the Hongwu Sect Leader, Tong He, accepted the challenge." Seeing that Ye Wenhao had been severely frightened, He Yunting found it somewhat amusing and spoke again.

"Phew~"

Ye Wenhao let out a sigh of relief, and then glared at He Yunting somewhat irritably, "Elder He, it's not very nice to scare people like that, is it?"

"Your son has caused a bloodbath, stirring up controversies all over Huaxia, making us in the Yanhuang Organization overwhelmed, and I haven't even said anything yet. A little scare to you, and you're unhappy about it," He Yunting said indifferently.

"Hmm..."

Knowing that he was in the wrong, Ye Wenhao did not dwell on the subject any further and instead asked, "Elder He, although Xiao Fan has annihilated the entire Hongwu Sect, he has not violated the rules of the Yanhuang Organization, so our previous agreement is still valid, right?"

"At this point, it's no longer up to me to decide, but I will strongly suggest it to Leader Yan. As for the specific resolution, it's still up to him to determine," He Yunting said somewhat awkwardly. He had previously proposed the agreement as a stalling tactic, though it was also what he had in mind.

"You..."

Ye Wenhao immediately felt a rising anger, but seeing He Yunting's embarrassed face, and recalling his words, he knew they were true, and swallowed back the words that were on the tip of his tongue.

"Wenhao, at this point, if it weren't for the Bai Family's meddling, and if the Ye Family were to stand up for you, with Chu Xuanji's status in the Huaxia Cultivation World and his contribution as a savior, it would be effortless to keep your son safe and unharmed,"

He Yunting hesitated and then said, "But as you know, the Bai Family is determined to nail you and your son at all costs this time, even trying to smear the Ye Family in the process. And the Ye Family has not only failed to defend you but has even publicly stated that Ye Fan has never been part of the Ye Family, and that your actions represent only yourself. Given this, even with Chu Xuanji supporting him, to preserve the big picture, Leader Yan would not likely let your son off easily. The most he might do is let Chu Xuanji take him away from Huaxia!"

"__"

Ye Wenhao was speechless, his face very unsightly.

Although he had known long ago that the relationship between the second generation of the Ye Family and Ye Fan was merely a business partnership, with each party getting what they wanted and that they would not truly protect Ye Fan, it still made him somewhat uncomfortable when the moment actually arrived.

"Buzz~"

Later, just as He Yunting was about to break the awkward silence, the sound of a phone vibrating suddenly rang out.

Hmm?

He Yunting was slightly taken aback.

Aside from being equipped with a Yanhuang Organization exclusive communicator, he also had a cell phone, but the number was highly confidential, known only to his family and a very few individuals.

With curiosity, He Yunting took out his cell phone, and to his surprise, it was a call from Ye Zhen.

This discovery made He Yunting's expression of doubt deepen, and then he glanced at Ye Wenhao, "It's a call from your dad."

"You take it."

Ye Wenhao looked at the cell phone, and ultimately declined to answer the call, seemingly unsure of what to say to Ye Zhen.

"Ye XX."

Upon hearing this, He Yunting directly answered the call and greeted first.

"I apologize, Elder He, according to organizational principles, I shouldn't be calling Wenhao, but his grandfather is gravely ill and wishes to see him one last time before passing, so I had no choice but to call you instead, to help convey the message," Ye Zhen said straightforwardly over the phone, his tone very somber.

Whoosh!

He Yunting's complexion changed dramatically!

As the Yanhuang Organization's most powerful elder, he knew all too well what it meant for the Ye Family and the entire Huaxia situation if Old Master Ye was to pass away given the current circumstances!

If even He Yunting knew this, what about Ye Wenhao, who had originally been the third-generation successor of the Ye Family?

Being an invincible existence at the Innate Great Perfection Realm, he heard Ye Zhen's words clearly—as if struck by thunder, he stood there stiffly, not moving an inch!

"Huaxia is about to change."

He Yunting thought to himself, then stood up and handed the cell phone to Ye Wenhao.

Chapter 498 Prison Disaster, Sacrifice Ye Wenhao!

The next morning, a line of cars with special license plates entered the 301 Hospital one after another, passed through multiple checkpoints, and arrived at the entrance of the inner courtyard.

When the cars stopped, highly influential figures from Huaxia stepped out, instructing their drivers to stay inside, and then entered the inner courtyard building together.

Security personnel inside the building saluted them upon their arrival, while doctors who stood at the pinnacle of medical practice in Huaxia made way for them.

On the third floor of the inner courtyard building, apart from Ye Wenhao, all members of the Ye Family had arrived; Ye Zhen was in the intensive care unit accompanying Old Master Ye, while the others stood outside the ICU, expressions of sadness and, more predominantly, worry on their faces.

Sadness stemmed from the imminent departure of a loved one.

Worry stemmed from the saying "When the tree falls, the monkeys scatter" — Old Master Ye was the stabilizer of the Ye Family, and his departure would shake the very foundations of the family!

Moreover, was the current situation not exceedingly against the Ye Family?

As the officials approached the intensive care unit together, members of the Ye Family glanced sideways, with Ye Wenhao gently pushing open the door to the ICU.

Inside the ICU, Old Master Ye, clad in a patient gown, lay on the bed with his eyes closed, his body connected to various machines and a respirator, and his mouth held an old ginseng, desperately clinging to life.

Ye Zhen stood solemnly in front of the bed. Hearing the noise of the door, he turned around, saw Ye Wenhai, and lowered the volume of his footsteps as he walked towards him.

"Dad, XX has arrived."

Ye Wenhai came closer to Ye Zhen, whispering.

Ye Zhen nodded slightly, then led Ye Wenhai out of the ICU.

"Ye XX, how is the old chief's condition?"

Seconds later, a dozen officials gathered at the entrance to the ICU, the leading figure speaking on behalf of everyone.

"The situation is very grim; treatment has already been ceased. Now, only the old ginseng sustains his last breath," Ye Zhen stated truthfully. At this point, there was no need to conceal the condition of Old Master Ye.

"Ah..."

The leading official sighed upon hearing this, while the others, whether genuinely or pretentiously, displayed expressions of grief and regret.

"Given the circumstances, we will not enter then," the leading official said after sighing.

"Mm." Ye Zhen nodded and said, "Thank you XXX and all for visiting the old master."

Upon hearing this, the many officials did not offer any unnecessary pleasantries and, with even deeper expressions of regret, followed the leading figure and left.

Two minutes later, as the officials were about to enter their cars, they saw a car bearing the Yanhuang Organization license plate speeding into the inner courtyard and racing towards the building.

Uh?

Seeing this, the security personnel at the door almost simultaneously sprang into action, with half of them shielding the officials and the other half blocking the path ahead.

In addition, several snipers at higher vantage points also aimed their rifles at the swiftly approaching car.

"Screech~"

Accompanied by a harsh sound of tires rubbing against the pavement, the car with the Yanhuang Organization's license plate stopped just three meters away from the first line of security personnel.

Ye Wenhao was the first to push open the car door and step out, followed closely by He Yunting.

Whooooosh—

Seeing that it was Ye Wenhao and He Yunting who alighted, the security personnel dispersed and returned to their original positions.

Facing a dozen leaders from various fields, Ye Wenhao merely glanced at them and did not greet them, but quickly headed towards the inner courtyard building.

Watching Ye Wenhao hurriedly leave, including the leading figure, everyone present sighed deeply.

They all knew that if not for the massive uproar caused by Ye Wenhao and Ye Fan, Old Master Ye would not have hastened towards Yama Palace, and likewise, Ye Wenhao would not have lost the aura of a third-generation successor and contender for the pinnacle of power, becoming the sinner of the Ye Family.

"XXX, according to organizational norms, Ye Wenhao should not meet with outsiders during the investigation period, but Old Master Ye wished to see him before departing," He Yunting quickly stepped forward and explained to the leading figure, "After consulting with Leader Yan, Leader Yan agreed that Ye Wenhao could meet Old Master Ye. After they have met, I will take him directly to the Yanhuang Organization headquarters to continue the investigation."

"Mm."

The leading figure nodded slightly, then left with the other officials.

While He Yunting pondered slightly, he did not choose to go upstairs but instead waited at the entrance of the inner courtyard building for Ye Wenhao.

Inside the building, Ye Wenhao smoothly reached the third floor and quickly walked towards the end of the hallway leading to the intensive care unit.

Whoosh!

With the arrival of Ye Wenhao, members of the third generation of the Ye Family led by Ye Wenhai, and the fourth generation led by Ye Long, simultaneously turned their gazes toward him.

Among them, Qin Yan and mother and son Ye Cang had complex expressions, filled with blame but even more so with loss and grievances.

As for the second generation led by Ye Wenhao and Ye Long, their feelings were comprised only of resentment!

They resented Ye Wenhao and even more so the 'prime culprit' Ye Fan!

As for the other fourth generation members of the Ye Family, due to their young age and the awe Ye Wenhao's authority usually inspired in their daily lives, they dared not blame Ye Wenhao openly, only silently resenting Ye Fan in their hearts.

Clearly... they all knew that if not for the trouble stirred up by Ye Fan, Old Master Ye would not have been angered into hospitalization, nor would he have headed to Yama Palace so swiftly.

Perhaps because Ye Wenhao also guessed that Old Master Ye's sudden departure from the world was largely related to recent events, the hallway, normally less than a hundred meters, seemed further to him than the distance from Earth to the Moon. He walked bent over, feeling as though centuries had passed before he reached the entrance to the intensive care unit.

"Wenhao."

"Dad."

Qin Yan, holding Ye Cang's hand, took a step forward.

Ye Wenhao glanced at them, said nothing, and walked past them.

"Third brother, you still know to come?"

Ye Wenling couldn't hold back any longer. Ever since Ye Fan had last returned to the Ye Family and caused turmoil, she had harbored a deep hatred for Ye Fan, as well as significant dissatisfaction with Ye Wenhao. Now that Ye Wenhao and Ye Fan, father and son, had caused the Old Master Ye to be on the verge of leaving this world, she could no longer contain her raging fury.

"Ah..."

As the leader of the second generation of the Ye Family, Ye Wentao opened his mouth, wanting to say something. However, sensing the guilt and sorrow between Ye Wenhao's brows, he ultimately didn't voice his thoughts and could only sigh in resignation.

"Third brother, I told you long ago that the kid was your bane, and you didn't believe me. Now look, he has even dragged the entire clan down with him!"

Ye Wenjun, ranked fourth among the second generation of the Ye Family, also couldn't help but speak up. Due to his work in the police force, he had never taken a liking to Ye Fan and had repeatedly warned Ye Wenhao not to jeopardize his career because of Ye Fan. Now, not only had Ye Wenhao lost his career, but the Ye Family was also facing a huge disaster, and he harbored resentment inside.

Without responding, Ye Wenhao merely lowered his head as he brushed past several people and was eventually stopped at the doorway by Ye Wenhai.

"You still have the face to see Grandpa?"

Unlike his usual subdued and silent demeanor, today's Ye Wenhai seemed like a changed person, not only speaking up but also using language far more vicious than the other second-generation members of the Ye Family.

Originally, after the Southeast Asia crisis, according to the elder's plans of the Ye Family, he would replace Ye Wenhao and aim for the pinnacle of red power for the Ye Family. However, before the Ye Family could take any action, Ye Fan's relentless killing spree in Taiwan gave the Bai Family the perfect opportunity to strike a fatal blow, catching the Ye Family off guard.

At the same time, this completely ruined Ye Wenhai's chance to reach the pinnacle of red power, and even becoming an elder was now in question.

"Grandpa wants to see me." Ye Wenhao didn't argue, his voice hoarse.

"Let him in."

As Ye Wenhao's voice fell, Ye Zhen's voice came from inside the sickroom.

Hearing Ye Zhen's words, though reluctant, Ye Wenhai did not dare to disobey and simply stepped aside to clear the way.

Ye Wenhao placed his hand on the doorknob, paused for a full three seconds, then finally twisted open the door and walked into the sickroom alone.

In the sickroom, Ye Zhen stood solemnly by the bedside, while Old Master Ye slowly opened his eyes.

Looking at Old Master Ye's pale face, and seeing the devices attached to him, Ye Wenhao, who had been cherished and cultivated by Old Master Ye since childhood, felt his guilt intensify.

With a face full of remorse, he stepped forward and then bent down, kneeling in front of the bed.

"Bang—"

The kneel was so forceful that it cracked the floor.

Hearing the harsh sound, Ye Zhen frowned, about to say something, but then he saw Old Master Ye slightly raising his hand, indicating that he wanted to speak.

Ye Zhen glared at Ye Wenhao, then stepped forward to remove the ventilator from Old Master Ye.

"Huff... huff..."

Once the ventilator was removed, Old Master Ye initially struggled to adjust, and his breathing became rapid.

"Grandpa!"

Seeing this, Ye Wenhao abruptly rose to his feet and rushed forward, grabbing Old Master Ye's hand.

"Dad!"

Ye Zhen was also nervous, fearing that Old Master Ye might pass away at any moment.

"Wenhao... although you have disappointed me, I still wanted to protect you before, at most letting you lose your career."

Old Master Ye looked at Ye Wenhao, adjusted his breathing for a full half-minute before calming down, and slowly began to speak, "But now, I can't protect you anymore."

"Grandpa..." Ye Wenhao wanted to say something.

"Wen... Wenhao, let me finish."

Old Master Ye interrupted Ye Wenhao: "I'm not protecting you, not because I don't want to or cannot, but because I mustn't—because of what your son did in Taiwan, the Bai Family launched a fatal blow. Currently, our Old Ye Family's situation is very bad."

"I'm sorry."

Ye Wenhao bowed his head in a flush of self-blame.

"If there's a chance to turn the situation around, but it requires sacrificing you, would you be willing?" Old Master Ye stared intently at Ye Wenhao, his eyes suddenly becoming sharp.

"I'm willing." Ye Wenhao replied without hesitation, decisively.

"Good!"

Old Master Ye sighed in relief, then said, "The current situation is very unfavorable for our Old Ye Family. The only move we can make is 'to retreat in order to advance'—after I pass away, you should voluntarily confess to the organization and endure imprisonment, fighting for Wen Hai a position as an elder!"

"Grandpa, this all started because of me, and even if it means dying to atone, I have no complaints, but what about Xiao Fan?" Ye Wenhao had no objections to Old Master Ye's arrangement but was concerned about Ye Fan's safety.

Ye Zhen angrily said, "Even at this time, you still dare to mention him?"

"Wenhao, you are a Martial Artist yourself, you understand the rules of the Yanhuang Organization better than I do. At this point, not to mention that I'm about to be lying in a coffin, even if I were unharmed, I couldn't protect him!"

Old Master Ye stated gravely, "Since he has made mistakes, he must bear the consequences himself. With his deeds, there's no one in this world who can save him!"

No one?

The image of Chu Xuanji flashed through Ye Wenhao's mind, like clutching at the last straw.

Chapter 499 Turning the Tables I

"Slap, slap..."

At 11 a.m., the Yangtze River Delta Economic Forum held in the Dong hai Hall at the Dong hai International Convention and Exhibition Center closed smoothly, eliciting thunderous applause from the audience.

As the applause subsided, Bai Yuan, who was sitting in the center of the stage, was the first to stand up. Soon after, being the leading official of Dong hai, Bai Guotao along with other relevant ministry heads and provincial governors, also stood up, with father and son, Bai Yuan and Bai Guotao, together.

"Click—"

Seeing this scene, the journalists responsible for covering the meeting pressed their camera shutters and captured the smiling faces of Bai Yuan and Bai Guotao.

The image was captured, and the photographers smiled with satisfaction.

He thought this photo would definitely become a classic in Huaxia Officialdom.

After all, in the history of Huaxia Officialdom, there had been barely any instances of father and son attending such a high-profile meeting together, more so with Bai Yuan at the very top of the power pyramid and Bai Guotao, who was emerging as the most likely person to reach the summit of power.

Like many meetings, there was a banquet following the conference, but before the official start of the banquet, all participants had a brief rest period during which they could interact with each other.

Ten minutes later, father and son Bai Yuan and Bai Guotao entered a VIP room, guarded by Bai Yuan's secretary; no one was allowed to approach.

"Dad, ever since you checked your phone in the middle of the meeting, that smile like the spring weather in March couldn't be hidden, what made you so happy?"

Upon entering the VIP room, Bai Guotao could not wait to voice his doubts.

Because his seat was next to Bai Yuan, he had heard Bai Yuan's phone vibrate during the meeting and saw him check his phone. After checking his phone, his face was filled with a smile.

"Old Sir Ye has only a breath left."

Bai Yuan revealed the secret, his smile even brighter, as if a long-awaited wish had been fulfilled.

"Really?"

At this news, Bai Guotao also showed a face full of excitement, having waited too long for this day.

"Yes."

Bai Yuan nodded, saying, "This morning, led by XXX, everyone in Beijing went to visit him. He's reportedly given up on treatment and is currently hanging by a thread with an old ginseng, probably won't last more than a few days."

"It truly is divine help for our Bai Family!"

Bai Guotao was extremely excited, his smile impossible to hide, almost wishing he could stand at the gate of the Ye Family Mansion and laugh out loud three times.

Bai Yuan smiled and nodded, seemingly agreeing with Bai Guotao's words.

"Dad, after catching the Ye Family off guard, they still tried to push Ye Wenhai. Now with Old Sir Ye kicking the bucket soon, we could use this situation to our advantage to keep Wen Hai from rising."

"At that time, not only will the Ye Family have to relinquish the throne of the foremost family, but their downfall will become a matter of time!" Bai Guotao said ambitiously.

"Talking about that is still premature. We have to handle the present matters well, and as long as we do, everything will fall into place."

Bai Yuan restrained his smile, steadied his mind, and said, "I won't attend the banquet later. I need to return to Yanjing immediately to visit Old Sir Ye."

"The Ye Family's faces will be quite interesting if they see you there!" Bai Guotao laughed again, imagining that comically sarcastic scene in his mind.

"It's not about mocking them as a victor; I need to go through the motions, more importantly, to be in Beijing just in case something unexpected happens." Bai Yuan explained.

"At this point, the overall situation should be set; there won't be any unexpected events, right?" Bai Guotao looked puzzled.

"Better safe than sorry,"

Bai Yuan shook his head, saying, "History has seen last-minute reversals, and my being there would at least deter certain people from breaking the rules."

"You always consider all angles." Bai Guotao sighed, admiring that experience indeed comes with age.

"I'll head back to Beijing. You, on the other hand, secretly start spreading the news of Old Sir Ye's critical condition." Bai Yuan gave his instructions.

"Dad, what do you mean?" Bai Guotao appeared thoughtful.

"Even though Ye Wenhao and his illegitimate son's actions have put the Ye Family in the spotlight, many people are still observing, especially those who are neutral,"

Bai Yuan said wisely, "Now, if the news of Old Sir Ye's critical condition is leaked, it will definitely force them to make a decision. By then, it will truly be an overwhelming trend that no one can change!"

"You are truly clever!"

Bai Guotao couldn't help but offer flattery, then said, "I'll get someone on it right away."

"Remember, keep it covert, leave no trace."

Bai Yuan said, laughing, "Everyone knows we are behind this, but as distasteful as it sounds, if you're going to play the whore, you must still erect the facade."

"Don't worry, I'll handle this without a leak." Bai Guotao smiled knowingly.

Five minutes later, Bai Yuan and Bai Guotao left the VIP room; the former took a car to the airport to fly back to Yanjing, while the latter immediately tasked his secretary Wang Chonghua to carry out Bai Yuan's orders.

Within just half an hour, the news that Old Sir Ye was nearing his end spread among high-ranking officials, with astonishing speed.

...

In Dong hai, at noon, Los Angeles was at midnight.

In Qinghong Villa, in a secret chamber nearly 100 meters underground in Villa No. 2,

Crown Prince of Qinghong Organization, Chen Feilian, was sitting cross-legged on an Essence Stone, harnessing the medicinal effects of "Nirvana Pill" to heal his internal injuries.

Apart from the essence stone beneath him, Chen Feilian also had nine essence stones around him, each with a metal alloy tube buried underneath that extended for several hundred meters.

This was a modified "Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array," used to absorb the evil yin qi several hundred meters underground.

The modified Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array was personally laid out by Chen Daozang for Chen Feilian, which could make Chen Feilian achieve twice the result with half the effort during cultivation.

This was also one of the main reasons why Chen Feilian was able to cultivate to the Half-step Gang Qi realm at a young age.

"No wonder my father told me not to rashly attack Ye Wenhao, the martial arts technique that bitch passed to Ye Wenhao is really too terrifying, not only did it injure me, but it also took three Nirvana Pills to heal my injuries."

Moments later, Chen Feilian's injuries had mostly healed. He opened his eyes, and thinking of Ye Wenhao's move "Burning Nine Heavens," he still felt some lingering fear.

"Swoosh!"

As Chen Feilian stood up, the evil yin qi around him automatically dispersed, and the modified Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array stopped operating. He leapt down from the essence stone, murmuring to himself, "I wonder if the Bai Family has produced any results yet?"

With a bit of anticipation, Chen Feilian walked out of the secret room and took the elevator to leave.

"Ding-dong—"

A minute later, accompanied by a crisp sound, the elevator door opened, and Chen Feilian walked out.

Hmm?

As Chen Feilian just stepped out of the elevator, he noticed his special communicator on his wrist flashing red, signaling a missed call—the secret room was located a hundred meters underground, where it was impossible to receive any signals, even satellite phones wouldn't work.

Upon a quick check, Chen Feilian noticed that the caller was an intelligence worker he had secretly placed inside Huaxia's borders, named Luo Yi, who had entered Huaxia under the guise of a foreign-funded businessman.

In just the past half hour, Luo Yi had made ten calls to Chen Feilian.

"Looks like there's some activity in Huaxia!"

Chen Feilian's mind stirred, and he quickly redialed Luo Yi's number.

"Respected Young Master Chen."

The phone connected immediately, Luo Yi's voice came through the speaker, very polite in tone.

"Is there news?" Chen Feilian asked directly.

"Yes, Young Master Chen."

Luo Yi immediately responded, his tone sounding very excited, "Half an hour ago, major news came from Huaxia officialdom—Old Sir Ye from the Ye Family was admitted into the ICU of Hospital 301, and he's only hanging on by a thread."

Old Sir Ye from the Ye Family was about to pass away?!

Upon hearing this news, Chen Feilian was initially stunned, then overjoyed in his heart.

Due to past grievances, Chen Daozang had vowed not only to end Ye Wenhao's political career but also to bring down the Ye Family.

For this reason, Chen Feilian was well-informed about the Ye Family's situation.

He was well aware of the significance of Old Sir Ye to the Ye Family; once Old Sir Ye passed away, the Ye Family's standing in Huaxia would become unstable.

And now, with the Ye Family already caught off guard by the Bai Family due to the matters involving Ye Wenhao and Ye Fan, the situation was already unfavorable.

In such a scenario, with Old Sir Ye's passing, Chen Feilian could imagine from his toes how difficult the Ye Family's situation would become!

"Is the news accurate?"

After rejoicing, Chen Feilian asked for confirmation again.

"Before calling you, I had already verified through multiple channels. I can confirm that the information is accurate," said Luo Yi, who, though a foreigner, was entrusted by Chen Feilian with gathering

intelligence in Huaxia. He was well acquainted with Huaxia's national conditions and landscape, and also understood the importance of this news, so he dared not be careless.

Reassured by Luo Yi's confirmation, a look of excitement appeared on Chen Feilian's face as he instructed, "Continue to monitor the situation in Huaxia closely, and report back to me immediately if there is any further news."

"Yes, Young Master Chen!"

Luo Yi respectfully took the orders.

Without further ado, Chen Feilian hung up the phone.

"It really hasn't been in vain—I sacrificed the entire Nanqinghong; it was all worth it!"

After the call ended, Chen Feilian could no longer hide his excitement, smiling ecstatically, "When my father comes out of seclusion, if he knows that I played Ye Wenhao and his bastard son to death, thwarting Ye Wenhao's career and causing the Ye Family to fall into hardship, he will definitely be very happy, right?"

"Definitely!"

At the end, Chen Feilian was overwhelmed with excitement, "I really look forward to his early return from seclusion!"

Chapter 500 Turnaround II

There are no walls in this world that don't leak air.

Once certain things start to leak out, no matter what you do, you can't cover them up—especially since entering the information age, the speed of information dissemination has exceeded people's imagination.

The news of the Old Master Ye's impending demise had spread among tycoons above the level of Provincial Governors within half an hour, and within less than two hours, it had trickled down to the departmental and bureau level, with an ongoing trend of disseminating further, causing a huge disturbance within the system.

In Dong hai's Police Station, inside a highly standardized interrogation room.

Pan Jueming, just as in the previous days, was still shackled to the Tiger Bench, with a high-wattage incandescent lamp hanging overhead. The glaring light forced him to keep his eyes closed.

Unlike the previous days, Pan Jueming was disheveled, his skin sallow, his eye sockets darkened, looking as if he was shrouded in Death Qi.

All of this was because for the past few days, Pan Jueming was subjected not only to relentless interrogation but also to occasional beatings. Furthermore, he hadn't eaten a single bite of food, only drinking a little water.

Facing such torture, even Pan Jueming, as a Postnatal Perfect Martial Artist, was somewhat unable to bear it.

Creak!

At two thirty in the afternoon, Sun Jian, the third in command of Dong hai's Police Force, once again entered the interrogation room.

This time, he didn't bring any subordinates with him; he was alone.

And as he entered the interrogation room, the monitors were turned off.

By doing so, whatever he did or said in the interrogation room would leave no trace.

"Pan Jueming, you still want to resist to the end, huh?"

Seeing the monitor turned off, Sun Jian first switched off the incandescent lamp above Pan Jueming's head before approaching him.

Without responding, not even opening his eyes, Pan Jueming was like a dead man.

"Don't play dead with me!"

Seeing this, Sun Jian sneered, "Do you really want to throw your life away for a dead man?"

"Heh..."

Hearing Sun Jian's words again, Pan Jueming slowly opened his bloodshot eyes, staring at Sun Jian with a mocking smile, "If Young Master Ye were really going to die, why would you bother prying open my mouth?"

"Have you not heard of the phrase 'icing on the cake'?"

Pan Jueming's mocking smile made Sun Jian uncomfortable. He steadied himself before coldly saying, "I don't mind telling you, my coming to interrogate you alone today is simply to 'ice the cake' and to please my big boss."

Upon hearing this, Pan Jueming's face remained smiling, the mockery even thicker.

"It seems you don't believe me."

Sun Jian also smiled, "If I tell you that Old Sir Ye is about to pass away, and that Ye Wenhao will face prison time, would you still hold out hope for your Young Master Ye?"

"Do you think I'm a three-year-old child?"

"You can choose not to believe, you can also choose to resist to the end."

As Sun Jian spoke, he threw out a bait, "I just want to remind you, once the news of Old Sir Ye's demise gets out, whatever I get from your mouth will be meaningless. That is to say, if you don't speak up before the news of Old Sir Ye's death leaks, then you will go accompany your master in his burial. But if you do speak up, I might consider leaving you an escape route."

This time, Pan Jueming didn't make a sound, but stared straight at Sun Jian, as if trying to determine from Sun Jian's expression whether he was bluffing.

"You don't have much time, think carefully for yourself." With those words, Sun Jian turned and left.

"Could... could what he said be true?"

Watching Sun Jian's retreating back, considering his uncharacteristic composure, Pan Jueming's unconditional trust in Ye Fan had, for the first time, begun to crack.

Because.

In his view, Ye Fan's greatest support was the Ye Family. If Old Master Ye passed away and Ye Wenhao went to prison, then Ye Fan would certainly fall!

...

The news of Old Master Ye's imminent passing, in addition to spreading within the system, had also reached some sectors and circles that are closely tied with the system.

Originally, as the person in charge of the Dong hai Branch of Tianshan Group, Su Yuxin would have been quite closely connected with the system, but concerned for Ye Fan's safety and under strict police control, she stayed in Ao Xiang Villa for these few days, not leaving the complex, Or even making phone calls, essentially losing contact with the outside world.

At three o'clock in the afternoon, Su Yuxin received the first phone call in these past few days.

The caller was a vice president of Tianshan Group's Dong hai Branch, who had been substituting for Su Yuxin in handling the company's operations for the past few days.

"Mr. Su, something has happened!"

The moment the call connected, Su Yuxin heard an urgent voice, "The city's relevant departments have formed an investigation team. On the grounds that our company is suspected of money laundering, they're investigating our company's finances. Our company's accounts have been sealed, and all our books have been taken away."

"When did this happen?"

""

Although Su Yuxin was still troubled by the unresolved matter of Ye Fan, the sudden news about the company still startled her significantly.

"Right now. The investigation team has taken away all the account books and is sealing everything up. According to them, our company must cease all operations until the investigation results come out," the deputy CEO said anxiously.

"I understand. Immediately calm the employees and cooperate with the investigation team. I'll call President Chu to report this matter and see how she wants to handle it," Su Yuxin instructed after a moment of reflection.

"Okay."

The deputy CEO answered quickly but harbored doubts about Chu Ji's ability to handle the situation; with his rich experience, he knew that a private oligarchic enterprise like the Tianshan Group being

under investigation meant serious trouble was brewing. Otherwise, given Tianshan Group's network, Dong hai City's team wouldn't have been investigating them.

Unlike the deputy CEO, once Su Yuxin learned that the Dong hai Branch of the Tianshan Group was sealed, she immediately linked it to Ye Fan's troubles.

After all, the only illegal thing the Tianshan Group did was to acquire Dong hai Group after Situ Chen's death and launder some of the Dong hai Group's dirty money.

Believing that the closure of the Tianshan Group's Dong hai Branch was a harbinger of an impending tragedy for Ye Fan, Su Yuxin, despite knowing her call would be monitored by the police, didn't hesitate to call Chu Ji's private number.

"Sister Chu, I just received a call. The Dong hai Branch was subject to a surprise investigation by a team set up by Dong hai City; all financial records and account books were taken away, and the investigation team also sealed the company's accounts, demanding that we stop all operations until the results of the investigation are out."

When the call connected, Su Yuxin first rapidly reported the situation about the Dong hai Branch being sealed, then couldn't help but ask, "Sister Chu, is this related to him? How is he doing right now?"

"Yuxin, don't worry, it will be over soon," Chu Ji said, watching Chu Xuanji's figure leaving the Courtyard, her tone relaxed and with a double meaning.

"Um..."

Hearing Chu Ji's words, Su Yuxin was taken aback and wanted to ask something else, but remembering the call was monitored, she stopped herself and swallowed the words she had almost spoken.

"Once there is news, I will call you immediately. Be patient," Chu Ji added, as if worried Su Yuxin couldn't hold back her questions.

"Got it, Sister Chu."

As Su Yuxin spoke, her heart was itching unbearably with curiosity—how exactly would Ye Fan resolve this trouble?

An hour later.

Chu Xuanji arrived alone at the Hong Qiang Courtyard, a symbol of power and status. As the passers-by paid no attention, he leaped up like a phantom and entered the Courtyard.

Breaking into the Courtyard uninvited, Chu Xuanji's expression was serene as still water. He narrowed his eyes at the densest spot of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi in the Courtyard and walked toward it.

Under the sunlight, he appeared to be strolling carelessly, yet no one could see his figure, as if he was using the Instant Teleportation Technique; with every step, he would traverse ten meters.

A moment later, Chu Xuanji arrived at a garden within the Courtyard, which had small bridges over running water, shaded green trees, and numerous rockworks. Outsiders would find the scenery enchanting, but Chu Xuanji immediately noticed that many rocks on those rockworks were precious Essence Stones, and the inconspicuous trees were in fact trees that absorbed Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi. Although these were much less potent than Plant Essence, they were far more precious than ordinary trees.

The entire garden was set up as a Formation, combining with the Dragon Energy of the Imperial City and channeling the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, becoming the place with the densest Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi in the Forbidden City. It also enveloped the entire Courtyard with Primordial Qi, benefiting anyone working there with health and longevity.

"Xuanji, you've been in Beijing for a while now and only just decided to come see me."

When Chu Xuanji reached the highest rockwork of the garden, a voice came from within the rockwork.

As the voice faded, a figure emerged!

A man walked out from a cave within the rockwork.

The man had a trim build, dressed in a plain black Martial Arts Uniform, sporting a crew cut, and his eyes were as sharp as lightning, deterring others from looking directly at him.

He was none other than 'Yan,' the leader of the Yanhuang Organization and the strongest man in Huaxia!

As Huaxia's strongest individual, he was almost a hundred years old, but he showed no signs of aging; rather, he appeared to have reversed the aging process, with jet-black hair and skin as smooth as a baby's.

Yan had completely retracted his aura so that even Chu Xuanji couldn't detect it.

"It seems you've made progress again. When will you break through to that legendary realm?" Chu Xuanji fixed his gaze on Yan and asked with a smile.

"I don't know."

Yan shook his head, sighed, and said, "That step is too difficult to take. Maybe I will remain at the Gang Qi Realm for the rest of my life, or maybe I'll break through the next moment."

"Yes, even I find it difficult to enter the Great Perfection of Gang Qi, let alone you?" Chu Xuanji expressed his empathy and chuckled bitterly.

"Everything is up to fate; we shall see what happens," Yan said, looking up at the distant sky, strangely wistful, before turning his gaze back to Chu Xuanji and, already knowing the answer, asked, "You came to see me because of your beloved apprentice, didn't you?"