

Y Master 521

Chapter 521 Humiliating the Bai Family - Part 3

Gang Jin transformed into Gang Qi, and Gang Qi assumed a form, creating the Gang Qi Radiance...

These were the signs of the Gang Qi Introduction Realm, the Great Success Realm, and the Peak State, respectively.

Chu Xuanji had already broken through to the Peak of Gang Qi. In his every move, he could produce Qi Rays, but because the power of the Qi Rays was incomparably great, he intentionally held back his strength when he had taken action to teach Wu Mu a lesson and did not activate the Qi Rays.

Even so, Wu Mu's Gang Qi defense was broken, and half of his face was bloodied and blurred from the shock, as he tumbled to the ground in extreme embarrassment.

"Chu Xuanji, as a strong person at the Peak of Gang Qi, you disrupt the peace and bully the weak—I will announce this to the world and have all the cultivators hunt you down!"

After hitting the ground, Wu Mu violently flipped to his feet, propelled by his foot, transforming into a black shadow and swiftly departing, only leaving behind a sinister threat.

Clearly, he also knew that Chu Xuanji was much stronger than him and had close ties with Yan—staying would only invite more misery upon himself.

As he escaped in disgrace, Wu Mu spat out a mouthful of bloody spittle, then took out a Golden Healing Pill. He shattered it with his Gang Qi, using the powder to dress the wounds on his left face.

As the powdered medicine seeped in, the wounds on Wu Mu's face stopped bleeding, healed rapidly, and also reduced the swelling.

Hm?

At the same time, Ye Fan's pupils contracted slightly, his gaze intently fixed on Wu Mu's feet.

Beneath Wu Mu's feet, a strand of Gang Qi floated, supporting his figure and allowing him to glide swiftly through the air.

—Qi Control Flight!

Once a cultivator attains complete control over Gang Qi, they can break through to the Gang Qi Great Success Realm. Not only can they make the Gang Qi take form and transform into weapons for attack, but they can also perform Qi Control Flight.

Of course, Qi Control Flight severely depletes the Gang Qi within the body, so unless absolutely necessary, those in the Gang Qi Great Success Realm would not choose to do so.

"When you become a strong person capable of Gang Qi, you will also be able to perform Qi Control Flight,"

Chu Xuanji, completely unconcerned by Wu Mu's threat, turned his head and spoke to Ye Fan.

"Gang Qi realm!"

Upon hearing these words, Ye Fan repeated them in his mind and clenched his fists tightly.

He knew that only by breaking through to the Gang Qi realm could he truly be called a strong person!

"Director Yan, what about this?"

As Wu Mu left in frustration, Bai Yuan could no longer maintain his pretense, his face turning extremely unsightly.

"Bai Yuan, there are spies from your Bai Family at this doorstep. If you don't believe me, you can ask them!"

Seeing Bai Yuan relentlessly pursuing the issue, refusing to concede until he saw the coffin, Yan became somewhat annoyed and bluntly pointed out that Bai Yuan had planted Bai Family's assassins at the entrance of the 301 Hospital Inner Court building.

Shua!

Startled by Yan's words, both Ye Yuanshan and Ye Zhen's faces changed color as they coldly stared at Bai Yuan.

Facing the angry gaze of Ye Yuanshan and Ye Zhen, Bai Yuan was unconcerned; instead, after a moment of contemplation, he waved to a burly member of the Yanhuang Organization who was at a distance.

Seeing this, the latter's face changed slightly, but he still braced himself and walked towards them.

"Bai XX, Leader Yan."

The burly Yanhuang Organization member approached and greeted Bai Yuan and Yan with respect, his expression slightly tense and not daring to meet the stern faces of Ye Yuanshan and Ye Zhen.

"Who was it that just took action to save Old Ye's life?" At this point, Bai Yuan wasted no further words and went straight to the point.

"It was him."

The burly Yanhuang Organization member stretched out his hand to point at Ye Fan, his brows still showing a trace of shock.

Although limited in strength and unable to break the High-level Array, the Mysterious Formation set up by Ye Fan, he had witnessed Ye Fan performing the Heaven-defying Fate Changing Technique to save Ye Yuanshan's life. He had seen Ye Fan's hands go limp, and also heard the previous conversations of the Ye Family's people, knowing well that the caster of the Technique was Ye Fan.

And, judging from Chu Xuanji's earlier conversation with Wu Mu, he could deduce that the Heaven-defying Fate Changing Technique used by Ye Fan was not even within Wu Mu's capabilities...

How could he not be shocked?

"Is it really him?!"

Compared to the burly Yanhuang Organization member, Bai Yuan's shock was even greater.

Once again, he turned his gaze toward Ye Fan.

His eyes were still filled with disbelief!

As before, Ye Fan still did not deign to look at Bai Yuan.

This behavior made Bai Yuan feel humiliated, anger welling up inside him, but he did not lash out.

Because his rationality told him that the Bai Family's assassins at the scene would not lie to him.

Moreover, he had also heard about Chu Xuanji's deeds and knew that Chu Xuanji was an extremely proud person to the core.

Such a person would always be direct and would not care about the opinions of others.

"Huff~"

After a few seconds, Bai Yuan exhaled deeply, seemingly expelling all the shock in his heart in one breath, his gaze still intently fixed on Ye Fan as he asked coldly, "Director Yan, to my knowledge, he has committed multiple murders, severely violating the rules of the Yanhuang Organization. He should have been arrested and locked up in the secret prison of the Yanhuang Organization to stand trial. How come he is here?"

Shua!

Hearing Bai Yuan's questioning, Ye Yuanshan, Ye Zhen, Ye Wenhao, and Chu Ji simultaneously turned their gaze towards Yan.

Although they knew that Ye Fan had made a deal with Yan by relying on his trump card, they were unaware of how Yan was going to reasonably cover up Ye Fan's past actions.

Unlike the four of them, Ye Fan and Chu Xuanji, although they had never heard Yan mention it, had roughly guessed his intentions and remained very calm.

"Bai, to be frank, Ye Fan is actually a special agent of the Yanhuang Organization. He concealed his identity to infiltrate the Underworld with the aim of eradicating the cancer that is Nanqinghong!" Yan said with an unchanged expression.

"What... What?" Bai Yuan's pupils dilated in shock, "He is from the Yanhuang Organization?"

"Mhm."

Yan nodded crisply.

"__"

Bai Yuan was at a loss for words, but his face was filled with rage.

Clearly, he didn't believe that Ye Fan was a member of the Yanhuang Organization; on the contrary, he understood that Yan was helping the Ye Family cover up the fact that Ye Fan had committed crimes!

However—

Even though he was seething with anger, Bai Yuan also knew that since Yan dared to say such a thing, he must have already prepared all the necessary paperwork. Even if Bai Yuan sent someone to investigate, they wouldn't find any problems.

Clever!

Unlike Bai Yuan, upon hearing Yan's words, Ye Yuanshan, Ye Zhen, Ye Wenhao, and Chu Ji all internally praised Yan for his ingenuity—it not only completely cleared Ye Fan of any wrongdoing but actually turned him into a meritorious figure.

As if confirming the group's judgment, Yan looked at the furious but silent Bai Yuan and added, "The Qinghong Organization is one of the most notorious forces in the global Underworld. The organization infiltrated Huaxia with ulterior motives and intended to cause chaos within Huaxia. To excise this malignancy, I made such an arrangement after discussions with several elders of the Yanhuang Organization. Now, Ye Fan has successfully eradicated the Qinghong Organization's influence in Huaxia~ and, far from the transgression against the Yanhuang Organization's rules as you claimed, he has made a significant contribution—we are preparing to bestow upon him a first-class merit award within the Yanhuang Organization!"

"Director Yan, are you sure?"

Bai Yuan's temper flared up, and his tone turned somewhat hostile.

"Bai, as a member of the Yanhuang Organization who has made significant achievements, it's only natural to honor Ye Fan with the recognition and rewards he deserves, to encourage his continued diligence. It also acts as a stimulant for other members of the Yanhuang Organization, indirectly calling on them to learn from Ye Fan!"

Although Yan was considered the foremost person in the Huaxia Cultivation World, topping both the Dragon Ranking and the Divine List, he was still the leader of the Yanhuang Organization, regarded as a figure in both the martial and political spheres. He played the game of politics as if it were second nature, his ability to speak officialese matched the caliber of seasoned government figures like Bai Yuan and Ye Zhen.

"__"

Hearing Yan's impeccable officialese, Bai Yuan was completely speechless, feeling as if he were a mute who had eaten coptis—there was bitterness he could not express.

Meanwhile, Ye Fan looked thoughtfully at Yan and realized that Yan was also looking at him. His mind became clear as a mirror—while Yan was using officialese to shut Bai Yuan up, he was also putting Ye Fan on a pedestal to make him work for the Yanhuang Organization and contribute to Huaxia!

"Director Yan, is that really okay?"

Bai Yuan, unaware of Ye Fan's trump card, saw the exchange of looks between Ye Fan and Yan. Even for someone as experienced and patient as him, he couldn't help but feel provoked by Yan—this was clearly Yan siding with the Ye Family to bully the Bai Family!

"Bai Yuan, you seem very angry."

This time, without waiting for Yan to speak, Ye Fan replied with a cold sneer, "Indeed, I can understand your feelings. After all, in your plan, I'm the one who not only ended my father's career but also caused the downfall of the Ye Family, right? Now, I've transformed into the Ye Family's savior—how ironic this must be for you, how can you not be angry?"

Ye Fan's words were like the sharpest dagger, directly hitting the most vulnerable part of Bai Yuan's heart!

In a sense, Bai Yuan could accept that Yan and the Ye Family were in cahoots, but he couldn't stomach the fact that Ye Fan, who was originally going to spell disaster for Ye Wenhao and the entire Ye Family, had become the savior of the Ye Family!

The tremendous contrast not only rendered Bai Yuan's plan fruitless but also insulted his intelligence—his scheme was nothing but a joke in Ye Fan's eyes!

"I don't know what you're talking about, but let me remind you, the net of heaven has large meshes, but it lets nothing through!"

While Bai Yuan was filled with indignation, he managed to repress his rage with strong self-restraint, pretending to remain calm.

"The same words go for you," Ye Fan replied with a smile.

"Mr. Ye, Ye, Director Yan, I have official duties to attend to, so I'll take my leave now."

Bai Yuan no longer paid attention to Ye Fan, calmly bid farewell to Ye Yuanshan, Ye Zhen, and Yan, and without waiting for their response, turned and left.

However—

The moment he turned around, Bai Yuan could no longer maintain his facade.

A surge of fury emerged between his brows, as if he wished he could have torn Ye Fan to pieces on the spot!

"Bai, do pass a message to the Qinghong Organization for me. This time, I have made Nanqinghong disappear from Huaxia. In the near future, I will turn the whole Qinghong Organization into history!"

Although Bai Yuan had his back to Ye Fan, Ye Fan could feel the resentment radiating from Bai Yuan and coldly laughed at his retreating figure.

Clang!

Bai Yuan's heart lurched, and his complexion changed drastically in an instant. Then, pretending he hadn't heard, he continued to walk away.

Perhaps because he felt guilty like a thief, Bai Yuan didn't realize that at this moment, his pace had become very anxious, like a defeated soldier in retreat.

He arrived with an air of invincibility, but he left like a dog that had lost its home.

This day.

Bai Yuan faced the greatest humiliation of his life!

This day.

The balance of power in Huaxia changed because of Ye Fan!

Chapter 522 Prepare the Coffin

Night had fallen, and the street lamps on both sides of the road lit up, their milky white light illuminating every corner of Hospital 301. The light was not harsh, giving a sense of tranquility.

In the darkness, a special licensed car drove out of the inner courtyard of Hospital 301. Bai Yuan leaned back in the rear seat, feeling a chill on his back.

It seemed he had not yet recovered from the shock brought by Ye Fan's words.

"That kid has evidence?"

It wasn't until the car had left Hospital 301 that Bai Yuan finally calmed down and quietly asked himself.

"Impossible!"

"Given that kid's way of doing things, if he really had evidence, he would have used it to his advantage by now. Moreover, Yan would not have remained indifferent. That kid was bluffing me!"

Having calmed down, Bai Yuan thought back to everything that had just happened, rejected this possibility, and felt relieved but also played.

Rage ignited in his heart once again!

In his annoyance, he also knew that the current situation was very tense and critical. The Ye Family might very likely launch a counter-offensive soon, and he absolutely could not sit back and wait for death, or else all the efforts of the Bai Family would have been in vain.

Thinking this, Bai Yuan's eyes sharpened. He took out his highly secure private phone and dialed a number to arrange countermeasures.

Meanwhile.

Ye Zhen and Ye Wenhao together helped Ye Yuanshan into the inner courtyard building, while Yan followed behind, ready to discuss some matters with Ye Yuanshan.

Meanwhile, Ye Fan was downstairs with Chu Xuanji and Chu Ji.

"Master, that slap you delivered was so satisfying; my little heart was pounding wildly." As soon as she saw the four entering the inner courtyard building, Chu Ji giggled and started flattering Chu Xuanji.

"When you executed the Heaven-defying Fate Changing Technique just now, a golden vortex appeared above your head, wildly absorbing the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi. Afterward, you were injured by Heaven's Punishment, and I used my mind to check your injuries, but found that a crimson golden light outside your consciousness blocked my probe. Yan's probe of your consciousness was also blocked by that crimson golden glow, and his consciousness was unstable."

Chu Xuanji ignored Chu Ji's flattery, but stared straight at Ye Fan and said, "He said there is a terrifying intention inside you. Could that intention be the secret you once mentioned to me? Is it also the basis for your ability to execute the Heaven-defying Fate Changing Technique?"

Hearing Chu Xuanji's words, Chu Ji also recalled the strange scene when Ye Fan executed the Heaven-defying Fate Changing Technique, and looked at Ye Fan curiously, waiting for him to reveal the secret.

"That crimson golden vortex was transformed from a Crimson Golden Crown."

At this point, Ye Fan knew that he had to tell Chu Xuanji about the Crimson Golden Crown in his body, otherwise if Chu Xuanji mistakenly thought that there was a powerful soul inside his body, he would be restless.

"Crimson Golden Crown?"

Chu Xuanji and Chu Ji both exclaimed in unison. They had never seen Ye Fan take out the Crimson Golden Crown before, nor had they ever heard Ye Fan mention it.

"Yes."

Ye Fan nodded and said, "I only discovered it after coming down from the mountain this time. At that time, I was in Ao Xiang Villa, and the person in charge of the Yanhuang Organization in Dong Hai, Lu Wen, had injured my consciousness. The Crimson Golden Crown suddenly appeared and helped me repair my consciousness."

"Is it a Magic Artifact??"

Upon hearing Ye Fan's words again, both Chu Ji and Chu Xuanji did not speak, but looked at Ye Fan in shock—they had never heard of an object in this world that could repair the consciousness!

"At first, I also thought it was a Magic Artifact, but there is no Magic Artifact in the cultivation world that can be invisible and guard the consciousness. Later, I went back to Spirit Mountain and searched through ancient books but never saw such a Magic Artifact in the books. I am not quite sure what it specifically is."

Ye Fan was also puzzled.

"Then what about the terrifying intention that Yan mentioned? Is there a powerful soul surviving because of the Crimson Golden Crown you mentioned?"

Gradually recovering from his shock, Chu Xuanji looked worriedly at Ye Fan.

He had read many ancient books, and once saw in a book that a cultivator, when facing death, could use a secret technique called 'Reincarnation' to attach the remnants of a soul to a Magic Artifact, use the Artifact to survive, and then at an opportune time, possess the body, eliminate the original owner's soul, and be reborn.

At the time, Chu Xuanji had seen the record in the ancient book and had conducted some deductive research, ultimately finding it impossible to achieve.

But—

Previously, when Yan mentioned that there was a terrifying intention inside Ye Fan, Chu Xuanji thought that what Ye Fan just said was very similar to the situation of 'Reincarnation' recorded in the ancient book.

"There shouldn't be. I have never sensed a strong soul presence inside the Crimson Golden Crown."

Upon hearing this, Ye Fan couldn't help but recall the terrifying aura that occasionally appeared when the Crimson Golden Crown absorbed the two powerful souls from the Bloodline Token last time, but seeing Chu Xuanji's worried face, he finally chose to lie, shaking his head in denial.

Because he did not want Chu Xuanji to worry about this!

"That's strange then."

Chu Xuanji frowned, puzzled.

Ye Fan saw this, relieved, and said, "Master, although I don't know what that crimson golden crown is, it has done me no harm. Moreover, if there were a powerful soul within the crimson golden crown, it would have taken over my body already, as the ancient books recorded."

"That is also true."

Hearing Ye Fan's words, Chu Xuanji also felt it made sense. The worry between his brows gradually faded, replaced by anticipation, "Originally, I had high hopes for you, believing you to be the only one in this world who might break through to that legendary realm, potentially paving the way for all cultivators in the Gang Qi Realm. Now, with that mysterious crimson golden crown inside you, my confidence in you is even greater."

"Master, it's a bit early to talk about that now."

Chu Ji was also full of anticipation, "Compared to him breaking through that legendary realm, I'm more excited about him shining brightly in this year's Qing Bang competition! With his current strength, even if he encounters Emperor Bai of the Bai Family, he won't be afraid!"

"Emperor Bai, nominally a disciple of that old man Jie Dao, but since Wu Mu has been serving the Bai Family for so many years, he most likely also tried to teach Emperor Bai both magic and martial arts—Emperor Bai might well be a dual cultivator of magic and martial arts," Chu Xuanji suddenly said.

"No... really? If Emperor Bai really has surpassed the Half-step Gang Qi Realm in his martial cultivation, and if he cultivates magic as well, wouldn't he be invincible below the Gang Qi Realm?" Chu Ji exclaimed, her face losing color.

Ye Fan was also slightly startled. If Emperor Bai was merely at the Half-step Gang Qi Realm, he wouldn't fear him, but... if Emperor Bai was really a dual cultivator as Chu Xuanji said, then with his strength, he probably still wouldn't be a match.

"It's just a guess, we'll only know during the Qing Bang competition," Chu Xuanji said, squinting slightly.

"Moreover, as far as I know, this year's Qing Bang competition is unlike any previous year. Geniuses from all the great sects and martial arts families will participate, making it the most prestigious Qing Bang competition in the history of the Huaxia cultivation world."

"Why?"

Ye Fan was puzzled, "Haven't all the martial arts sects and families participated in the Qing Bang competition before?"

"That's not it. It's just that the participants in the past competitions weren't as strong as this year's," Chu Xuanji explained with a wry smile, "Twenty some years ago, the quantity of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, which was originally scarce on Earth, suddenly increased, leading to a resurgence of prosperity in the cultivation world. At the same time, many children born during those years, with good talents and foundations, were groomed as successors by various sects and families but remained unseen till now. They should be emerging this year."

"I see," Ye Fan realized.

"You don't need to worry. You are currently at the Peak stage of Innate but are already capable of contending with, even killing, those in the Half-step Gang Qi Realm. If you break through to the Realm of Innate Great Perfection, with your strength, no one below the Gang Qi Realm will be your match!" Chu Xuanji said proudly, considering Ye Fan's special method of martial cultivation and the cultivation level displayed during the Heaven-defying Fate Changing Technique. "Even if you can't break through the Innate Great Perfection Realm, with your current strength and your numerous life-and-death battle experiences, you still have a chance to contend for the top—those flowers raised in greenhouses can't stand your beating!"

"Master, rest assured. Xiao Fan has managed to cultivate from Postnatal Perfection to the Peak stage of Innate in less than a year—it's definitely not difficult for him to break through to Innate Great Perfection,"

Chu Ji, unaware that Ye Fan had 108 vital acupoints capable of generating Power Seeds and storing power, making his cultivation speed extremely slow, was full of confidence in Ye Fan.

Ye Fan remained silent, he had initially thought that his current strength was definitely not inferior to Emperor Bai, who occupied the first place in the Qing Bang, but now, he wasn't so sure.

"You previously succeeded in extending Ye Yuanshan's life by about a year. According to your plan, you also need to refine the 'Lifespan Extension Pill' mentioned in the ancient books. Not only does the Lifespan Extension Pill require a vast array of materials, but many are also rare and hard to find. If you want to gather these materials, relying solely on auctions might not suffice; you'll need to seek them out yourself."

Chu Xuanji paused to think, then asked, "Are you planning to close up and focus on breaking through the Innate Great Perfection Realm to prepare for the Qing Bang competition in six months, and then go gather the ingredients after the competition, or do you plan to collect the materials while cultivating?"

"I think Xiao Fan should first close up and focus on enhancing his strength," Chu Ji proposed, "As for the materials for the Lifespan Extension Pill, I'll send people to find them. Even if they can't gather enough after the Qing Bang competition, he will still have six months to collect them himself, so there's no need to rush."

"No. I've decided to travel around, collecting materials for the Lifespan Extension Pill while I cultivate," Ye Fan shook his head, rejecting Chu Ji's proposal.

This time, by using the Heaven-defying Fate Changing Technique to extend Ye Yuanshan's life, he had depleted the essence of Heaven and Earth stored in the crimson golden crown.

Given that, if he were to cultivate conventionally, it would be difficult to break through to the Innate Great Perfection Realm in six months. The only way was if he stumbled upon an opportunity to use the ability of the crimson golden crown to absorb and convert all Primordial Qi from the surroundings to enhance his strength.

Just like before when the crimson golden crown absorbed the Pure Yang Qi and the weird flow from the Taiyin Xuan Sword and the Bloodline Token, transforming them into the essence for Ye Fan to absorb.

"When do you plan to set off?"

Chu Xuanji asked, indirectly consenting to Ye Fan's decision.

"I'll first return to Donghai, and set off in a few days," Ye Fan said.

"You're going to save that Pan Jueming, aren't you?"

Chu Ji was perceptive but somewhat worried, "Since the news of Ye Yuanshan's critical condition spread, I've been unable to hear any news about him. Hopefully, he is safe."

"If he is dead, the Bai Family had better prepare at least ten coffins!"

Ye Fan slowly spoke, his tone chillingly cold.

Chapter 523 He Who Laughs Last, Laughs Best; The Victor Is King!

At ten in the morning, Bai Yuan returned to his office villa inside the high-walled courthouse with a sullen expression.

"Bang bang—"

Just as Bai Yuan stepped into his office, his secretary followed and gently knocked on the door, ready to inquire about Bai Yuan's schedule for the day.

Even though the secretary was already well-aware of Bai Yuan's monthly, weekly, and daily work schedules and had made the necessary arrangements, he would still consult with Bai Yuan every day.

This was one of his most important daily tasks.

"Come in."

Leaning back in his office chair with his eyes closed, Bai Yuan gently massaged his temples, his brow furrowed deeply.

"XX, according to the schedule, today..." The secretary entered upon pushing the door open and began to report from the doorway.

"Today's schedule is canceled; I will work here," interrupted Bai Yuan, without opening his eyes, "Additionally, decline all appointments. Without my consent, do not allow anyone to disturb me."

"Understood."

The secretary promptly replied and tactfully exited the office, closing the door gently behind him.

As the secretary left, Bai Yuan stopped massaging his temples and slowly opened his eyes, his expression extremely grave.

Because, just at the 'democracy life meeting' that had just concluded, Yan reported on Ye Fan's actions, and the content of the report was essentially consistent with what he had been told the day before.

Yan claimed: Ye Fan is a special agent for the Yanhuang Organization, secretly infiltrating the underworld to eradicate the cancer that is Nanqinghong. Ye Fan's actions, though somewhat extreme, have caused a huge stir within Huaxia and globally, and the pressure from public opinion is tremendous. However, these actions are authorized by the Yanhuang Organization, so there is no question of illegality or violation of rules—the Organization will hold a special press conference to clarify this and internally award Ye Fan with a first-class Merit.

After Yan's report was finished, a participant at the meeting raised doubts under Bai Yuan's prior authorization, but the other participants unanimously agreed with the Yanhuang Organization's decision.

This outcome directly rendered the carefully crafted plan of the Bai Family Faction utterly useless!

This outcome also meant that the Ye Family would continue to securely hold the seat as Huaxia's top family, and would soon retaliate against the Bai Family Faction!

This couldn't help but worry Bai Yuan, and it also left him puzzled.

Firstly, in his view, although Yan had grown somewhat closer to the Ye Family, as the dual number one of both the Dragon and Divine Rankings, and known as the Guardian of Huaxia, Yan possessed a pride unique to the strong, was always fair and just in his dealings, and had never changed his principles due to external forces.

He did not believe that Yan would change his principles just because Ye Fan was a Young Master of the Ye Family and a disciple of Chu Xuanji!

Logic told him that there were secrets he did not know about, and... these secrets were Ye Fan's trump cards, the key to changing the situation, as well as the deadly blade hanging over the Bai Family's heads!

Furthermore, although he was aware that the news of Ye Yuanshan's successful life extension would quietly change the minds of the Neutral Faction, what really made them decide was the stance of the leading boss—who almost without any hesitation supported Yan's decision.

This made him even more certain there was inside information—Yan must have communicated with the leading boss before the meeting and reached an agreement.

"What exactly is the inside story?"

After carefully straightening out the ins and outs of the matter, Bai Yuan asked himself inwardly.

"Buzz... Buzz..."

The response to Bai Yuan was the vibrating sound of a cellphone.

Hm?

Bai Yuan came back to his senses from his contemplation, and picked up his private phone to find a call from his son, Bai Guotao.

"Dad, just now the Yanhuang Organization held a press conference about Ye Wenhao's illegitimate son's recent actions, claiming that the kid is a special agent of the Yanhuang Organization, secretly infiltrating the Underworld to carry out missions..."

On the phone, Bai Guotao, who was in Donghai, asked both annoyed and puzzled, "Isn't this just deceiving oneself—How could that kid possibly be a special agent of the Yanhuang Organization? What's really going on? How can the Yanhuang Organization do such a thing??"

"Just now, Yan made a report about this at the democratic meeting, and the decision was approved by the meeting," Bai Yuan sighed.

"Didn't you say that Yan is an upright person who wouldn't change his principles due to external forces? How come this time?"

Bai Guotao was stunned.

Firstly, although he had considered that the Yanhuang Organization would never make such a decision in the face of global public opinion pressure, he didn't expect Yan to take this matter to a democratic meeting for reporting—one of the highest-level meetings!

What's more important is that he had heard from Bai Yuan many times that Yan was a person of integrity. Ye Fan's actions, fueled by behind-the-scenes momentum, had sparked heated debates worldwide, with unprecedented public pressure. In this situation, Yan should not be changing his principles!

"Yan must have a reason for doing this—the kid must hold some leverage over Yan that goes against his principles," Bai Yuan said with a furrowed brow. "But what exactly his leverage is, I don't know on my side."

"Uh..."

Bai Guotao was stunned again. "Since Yan didn't disclose the inside story or provide a convincing reason, why did the meeting approve Yan's decision?"

"XXX was the first to express support."

Bai Yuan's complexion looked somewhat ugly. "What's more important is that yesterday evening, Ye Wenhao's illegitimate son performed a mysterious spell at the 301 Hospital, successfully prolonging Ye Yuanshan's life!"

"What... What??"

This time, Bai Guotao was completely astonished.

Because the matter of Ye Fan prolonging Ye Yuanshan's life yesterday was kept strictly confidential and sealed, and had not been released, plus Bai Yuan had been preoccupied with arranging countermeasures last night and did not tell Bai Guotao, Bai Guotao was unaware of it.

But—

He could easily infer the significance and the consequences that this would trigger!

"How... How can there be a spell for prolonging life in this world?"

It took Bai Guotao more than ten seconds to regain his composure from the extreme shock, but his expression was still filled with disbelief, "Also, as far as I know, his strength is even less than Emperor Bai's, how could he perform such an inconceivable spell?"

"I don't know either."

Bai Yuan's brows were completely furrowed, as he once again astonishingly said, "According to Wu Mu, that mysterious spell is only mentioned in ancient books, and even he cannot perform it, since there are only a few brief mentions."

"Even Wu Mu cannot perform it?"

Although Bai Guotao was not a man of the Jianghu, he knew of Chu Xuanji, and even because of Chu Xuanji's 'Savior contribution' from the past, his fame was like thunder piercing the ear, "Dad, are you sure it was Ye Wenhao's illegitimate son who did it? Why do I feel like it's something that old man Chu Xuanji did?"

"At first, I shared your opinion, but it was proven in the end that it was indeed that kid's doing."

As he spoke, Bai Yuan couldn't help but think of the disdainful expression Ye Fan had shown him yesterday and, unable to suppress a sigh, said, "As the saying goes, 'Xiao He succeeds where Xiao He fails,' we still underestimated that kid in the end!"

"__"

Bai Guotao tacitly agreed with Bai Yuan's words.

The Yanhuang Organization had cleared Ye Fan's crimes, not only ensuring Ye Fan himself would be fine, but also leaving Ye Wenhao's career unscathed, without even the slightest impact!

More importantly, Ye Fan's successful extension of Ye Yuanshan's life was equivalent to directly saving the Ye Family!

In their previous plan, Ye Fan was supposed to be the chief culprit who would end Ye Wenhao's career and bring about the collapse of the Ye Family!

The contrast between the two outcomes was just too great... too great!

"Moving forward, things are going to get very tricky. You must remember, absolutely no association with the Qinghong Organization again!"

Seeing Bai Guotao silent, Bai Yuan suddenly spoke up, urging him with a fairly stern tone, "Otherwise, if our opponents get hold of any evidence, the consequences will be unimaginable!"

Bai Guotao was momentarily unable to accept this outcome, his face still blank in shock, forgetting to reply.

Bai Yuan seemed to understand Bai Guotao's feelings and, without further ado, ended the call.

...

In the early morning hours of Huaxia, thousands of miles away, Los Angeles was greeted with nightfall.

Qinghong Villa, Villa No. 2, study room.

Chen Feilian sat at the desk, activated the wall screen opposite him, and started a video call.

"Respected... Mr. Chen!"

As the video call connected, the face of Luo Yi, the head of Qinghong Organization's intelligence in Huaxia, appeared on the screen. He looked somewhat nervous, his tone a bit rushed.

"What's happened?"

Detecting Luo Yi's abnormality, Chen Feilian's eyebrows raised, a sense of unease surged in his heart, his reason telling him something unexpected had occurred in Huaxia.

"Just now, the Yanhuang Organization held a press conference..."

Luo Yi, clearly alarmed, hastily reported to Chen Feilian about the Yanhuang Organization's press conference regarding Ye Fan's actions.

"Are you sure this information is accurate?"

Chen Feilian interrupted Luo Yi with a look of shock before he could finish his report. If this news was true, then their plan with the Bai Family to counter both Ye Fan and Ye Wenhao, as well as the Ye Family as a whole, had completely failed, which... meant that Nanqinghong had sacrificed in vain, without any meaning!

"Respected Mr. Chen, I couldn't believe it either that things would turn out this way, but the information is indeed true,"

Luo Yi replied cautiously, with a strained expression, "The official website of the Yanhuang Organization has a video link to the news conference, and some influential media in Huaxia and other major alliances have also reported on it."

"Bang!"

As the words of Luo Yi fell, the wall screen was suddenly struck by a blast of Gang Qi and burst apart, severing the call.

"What on earth is the Bai Family doing?"

Perhaps unable to accept this result for a moment, Chen Feilian roared in unquenchable fury, then immediately took out a specially made communicator to contact Bai Guotao.

He wanted to question Bai Guotao on why he had failed to fulfill their agreement, only to discover that Bai Guotao's personal mobile number no longer existed, nearly destroying the communicator in his rage!

Because... he understood that Bai Guotao was deliberately avoiding him!

"Huff~"

Chen Feilian took a deep breath, forcefully suppressing the anger in his heart, and then dialed Bai Guotao's secretary's phone.

"Doot... Sorry, the number you have dialed is currently in a call."

This time, the call connected, but was quickly hung up by the other end, refusing to answer.

"Huff... Huff..."

Chen Feilian, like an enraged beast, panted heavily, utterly furious, he dialed Bai Guotao's secretary's phone again, only to find out that it had been turned off...

"FUCK!!"

Chen Feilian cursed aloud, Gang Qi surging in his hand, the communicator instantly turned into a pile of dust, "Those bastards in the Bai Family!!"

After his anger subsided, Chen Feilian also realized that the Bai Family would not easily let Ye Fan off the hook, and something must have gone wrong.

This filled his heart with questions, "Wasn't Bai Guotao adamant about nailing that kid? How could it have turned out like this?"

"You have a strong hand, but until the hidden cards are revealed, anything is possible!!"

The words Ye Fan said when he bloodbathed the Nanqinghong Headquarters echoed in Chen Feilian's ears like a curse.

"Hidden cards?"

"What's his trump card??"

Chen Feilian silently questioned himself.

"Ah!!"

Without an answer, Chen Feilian, like a crazed beast, roared and lashed out with his palm, smashing the mahogany desk in front of him into splinters and sawdust.

The last to laugh is the true victor.

He could accept defeat, but not being played like a fool by Ye Fan!

Chapter 524 Retribution isn't absent, it just hasn't come yet Part 1

After one night, the press conference held by the Yanhuang Organization became the front-page headline of all major Huaxia media, and even some influential media from the other Five Great Alliances also reported on the matter.

At the same time, all the previous reports on this matter on the Huaxia domestic internet disappeared overnight, only to be replaced with widespread coverage of the multitude of allegations and evidence of Nanqinhong's criminal activities.

Netizens once again had rampant discussions about the incident, but public opinion had been subtly guided without their awareness, with the vast majority changing their previous stance, deciding to support and strongly endorse Ye Fan and simultaneously subjecting Nanqinhong's criminal activities to severe criticism.

While Ye Fan once again became the focus of discussion among Huaxia people, he himself was unaware of all these developments.

At nine o'clock in the morning, Ye Fan arrived at Dong hai International Airport aboard Tianshan Group's private jet.

Not far from the parking spot, a Rolls-Royce Phantom, arranged by Chu Ji, was parked there. As soon as the plane came to a stop, the driver hurriedly got out of the car, standing by respectfully, waiting.

The cabin door opened, and Ye Fan slowly descended from the plane alone under the awed gazes of the flight attendants and crew.

"Mr. Ye, President Chu asked me to pick you up."

As Ye Fan descended the plane, the driver quickly approached and bowed.

"To the city bureau."

Ye Fan made the arrangements and quickly walked towards the valuable Rolls-Royce Phantom.

The driver, without a word, followed closely behind.

Shortly after, Ye Fan got into the car, sitting in the back seat while the driver started the car and headed for the city bureau.

In the city bureau office building, inside an office.

Sun Jian, who had led the team to capture Pan Jueming for interrogation, sat at his desk, not handling his usual administrative duties but instead smoking one cigarette after another.

A glance at the desk revealed a full ashtray of cigarette butts, and the entire office was shrouded in smoke, as if on fire.

Through the smoke, one could see Sun Jian's brows tightly knotted, his face filled with worry, dark circles under his eyes, and red veins bulging in his eyes, showing a face filled with anxious unrest.

That anxiety stemmed from watching the Yanhuang Organization's press conference live the previous night.

Although he didn't understand how the situation had changed so drastically in such a short time, he knew that Ye Fan was in the clear.

He could also conclude that if Ye Fan was fine, then Ye Wenhao and the entire Ye Family would naturally avoid any implication.

Everything was beyond his expectations, making him feel almost in disbelief!

But—

As the major media reported the event one after another, and the higher-ups used the media to guide public opinion, he knew that it was all true!

Forced to accept this unbelievable result, he didn't dare to call his master to inquire about the truth but instead tossed and turned all night, considering how to deal with Pan Jueming's case, yet he had not come to a conclusion until now.

On one hand, through the interrogation of a few key members of Pan Jueming's gang, he had enough evidence to put Pan Jueming in prison for life, and he could even have Pan Jueming eat "peanuts," leaving this world forever.

On the other hand, with the miraculous twist of the Ye Fan incident and the news of Ye Yuanshan's recovery and hospital discharge, he sensed that the Bai Family's struggle against the Ye Family might end in failure!

In such a scenario, Pan Jueming became a hot potato to him.

If he were to hand over Pan Jueming to the relevant authorities and confirm his guilt, he would completely offend Ye Fan, and given Ye Fan's vindictive nature, he would definitely not let him go!

In his view, if Ye Fan could resolve past issues, targeting him with determination, even if his master stood up for him, it would be difficult to ensure his safety!

And... if he wanted to make up for the oversight, he had to let go of Pan Jueming!

That would be the equivalent of slapping his own face, a violation of the law, and it would also offend his master Bai Guotao, which was similarly a dead end.

"With things having developed to this point, it's impossible for me to make up for it; there's only one path left, and that's to stick to it to the end."

After some time, Sun Jian stubbed out his last cigarette, gritted his teeth and made his choice, then heaved a long sigh of relief, no longer agonizing over it.

"Ring-ring-ring—"

Just as Sun Jian had made up his mind, the telephone on the desk suddenly rang, startling him.

Sun Jian steadied himself and, after seeing it was a call from his subordinate, picked up the phone and asked, "What's the matter?"

"Sun... Director Sun, he... he's here?" A hurried and panicked voice came from the receiver.

"Who's here?" Sun Jian blurted out, and then, with a thought, he quickly asked, "Ye... Ye Fan?"

"Yes, yes!"

On the other end of the line, one of Sun Jian's trusted subordinates reported in panic, "He drove into the city bureau compound and headed straight for the rear building. It looks like he's going to the interrogation room to find Pan Jueming. Director Sun, what should we do?"

"Strictly follow the regulations."

Sun Jian, managing to suppress the turmoil within him, gave instructions and then quickly walked to the window, where he could see a noble and chic Rolls-Royce Phantom driving through the city bureau's compound and heading towards the rear building.

Inside the Rolls-Royce Phantom, Ye Fan clearly sensed Pan Jueming's presence and found that Pan Jueming's energy was somewhat weak.

Yesterday, he asked Yan to investigate and found out that Pan Jueming was being held here, but Yan did not tell him about Pan Jueming's specific condition.

At this moment, detecting Pan Jueming's weak energy, Ye Fan immediately guessed what had happened—an icy chill crossed his face, and a faint murderous intent emerged from him, causing the driver to feel a sense of terror.

Two minutes later, the Rolls-Royce Phantom stopped in front of the rear building.

"Wait for me here."

Ye Fan said, then opened the door and strode towards the rear building.

"Whom are you looking for?"

The gatekeeper, seeing Ye Fan come over with a cold face, hurriedly opened the glass of the guard room and asked.

Ye Fan turned his head to look at the gatekeeper and said, "I'm looking for Pan Jueming."

"Pan Jueming? He is a suspect under interrogation, and according to the relevant regulations, he cannot meet with outsiders. Please leave."

The back building of the city bureau was an old one and was now used specifically for interrogating some important criminals. The gatekeeper, a retired frontline criminal police officer, immediately refused Ye Fan's request to see Pan Jueming, who had been strictly interrogated in recent days.

"I am a member of the Yanhuang Organization, and this is my identification." Ye Fan, upon hearing this, didn't get angry but took out an ID and handed it to the gatekeeper.

The gatekeeper took it with hesitation, scrutinized it closely, couldn't find any clues, and returned it to Ye Fan, saying, "Even if you are a member of the Yanhuang Organization, according to the relevant regulations, you cannot see the suspect. Unless, the Yanhuang Organization East Sea Branch has informed the city bureau and issued you the relevant proof, you can then go find the higher-ups to process the procedure and meet with the suspect."

"Who is the higher-up?" Ye Fan's patience was running thin, his tone slightly deep.

"Director Wu, in room 301."

The gatekeeper said, and seeing Ye Fan start to leave, he quickly called out again, "Wait... wait a second, I need to ask Director Wu first; if he agrees to see you, then you can go up..."

Without answering and not waiting for the gatekeeper to finish his words, Ye Fan had already disappeared from the gatekeeper's sight, swiftly walking upstairs.

"Dinglingling—"

At the same time, in the office of room 301, the telephone rang; Director Wu, mentioned by the gatekeeper, picked up the phone.

"Director Wu, there was a guy just now claiming to be from the Yanhuang Organization wanting to see you. I told him to wait, but he barged in anyway..."

"Creak!"

The sound of opening the door interrupted the gatekeeper's words, and Director Wu turned his head to see Ye Fan push the door and enter, walking straight toward him.

As the saying goes, a man's reputation is like a tree's shadow. Although Director Wu had never dealt directly with Ye Fan, he had long been familiar with Ye Fan's fame and had met him once before, recognizing Ye Fan at a glance.

Perhaps due to a guilty conscience, seeing Ye Fan and thinking of the purpose of his visit made Director Wu's heart abruptly twist in anxiety.

"I understand."

Straight away, Director Wu tried his best to adjust his emotions, replied to the gatekeeper, hung up the phone, stood up, feigned ignorance, and asked, "May I ask who you are?"

"You'll know when you look."

Instead of answering the question, Ye Fan raised his hand while talking and tossed the ID he had shown to the gatekeeper and a highly confidential red-headed document onto Director Wu's desk.

Despite Ye Fan's brusque tone, Director Wu didn't dare to get angry, instead picking up the ID and red-headed document with some confusion.

Having seen the press release from the Yanhuang Organization, Director Wu knew that Ye Fan was a member, so he wasn't surprised to see Ye Fan's identification.

But—

When he saw the extremely confidential red-headed document, he was stunned!

Because... according to the document, Pan Jueming, just like Ye Fan, was a special agent of the Yanhuang Organization, aimed at eradicating Nanqinhong covertly lurking in the Underworld. His actions were all authorized by the Yanhuang Organization and were not illegal or against regulations; the Dong hai Police were required to release him immediately!

The document was signed off by the Yanhuang Organization, with the official seal of the Yanhuang Organization, and issued by Martial Arts Hall Elder He Yunting who manages the day-to-day affairs of the Yanhuang Organization.

And, at the header of the document, there were instructions from the second-in-command of Huaxia's police force: Please Dong hai City Public Security Bureau provide full support to the Yanhuang Organization's work and process the related handover procedures!

"Gulp—"

After a full half a minute, Director Wu somewhat recovered from the extreme shock. He looked at Ye Fan, swallowed hard, and stammered, "Please... please wait a moment, I have to consult with the higher-ups."

"I will give you five minutes. If I can't see Pan Jueming within five minutes, I don't mind fetching him myself!" Ye Fan replied expressionlessly, without a doubt in his tone.

"Sss—"

Noticing the anger in Ye Fan's words, Director Wu's mouth twitched from fright. He did not dare to respond but immediately picked up the phone to dial Sun Jian's office number, nervously reporting:

"Sun... Sun, a comrade named Ye Fan from the Yanhuang Organization, carrying a document issued by the organization, wants to take the suspect Pan Jueming away..."

"Since when did the Yanhuang Organization start giving orders to the Dong hai Public Security Bureau?"

Shocked by Director Wu's report, Sun Jian silently cursed Ye Fan for being sly and angrily cut off Wu's words.

"The Yanhuang Organization can't directly give orders to Dong hai's Police, but there are instructions from Minister Liu on the document, demanding that you fully support our work at the Yanhuang Organization!"

Hearing the voice coming from the handset, Ye Fan stepped forward and, before Director Wu could speak, took over the phone and said coldly, "Of course, you could also choose to obstruct, but bear all consequences yourself!"

Instructions from Minister Liu?!

On the other end of the phone, Sun Jian was startled, his heart jolting as he replied on reflex, "If... if Minister Liu has given instructions, then we naturally agree to release. Please hand the phone back to Director Wu, and I will have him assist you with the necessary procedures."

"You are Sun Jian, right?"

Ye Fan didn't follow Sun Jian's request but suddenly asked.

"Yes, what about it?" Sun Jian's heart trembled, and he replied trying to maintain his composure.

"To my knowledge, you led the team that arrested Jueming, and you were also in charge of the entire interrogation."

Ye Fan spoke slowly, his voice as cold as ice, "I hope you haven't resorted to torture for a confession, otherwise, I guarantee, not even the King of Heaven can save you!!"

Chapter 525 Retribution isn't absent, it just hasn't come yet Part 2

Clang!

Startled by Ye Fan's words filled with murderous intent and recalling the methods used on Pan Jueming these past days, Sun Jian's heart shook, and he was too scared to make a sound.

Compared with Sun Jian, Director Wu, who was standing right next to Ye Fan, could feel Ye Fan's terrifying intent to kill so clearly that he stiffened on the spot, not daring to even take a deep breath.

Sun Jian's silence made Ye Fan even more certain that Pan Jueming had been tortured during interrogations, and he hung up the phone and said coldly, "Take me to Jue Ming!"

"Yes... yes!"

Director Wu nodded repeatedly, like a pecking chicken, while feeling as if there were a thousand pounds weighing down his feet, preventing him from taking the first step.

Sensing Director Wu's difficulty, Ye Fan's expression grew colder. He took the lead out of the office and headed towards the stairwell—based on his sense of Qi, he determined that Pan Jueming was held on the sixth floor.

It was only after Ye Fan had left that Director Wu finally snapped back to his senses and hurried after Ye Fan.

Two minutes later, Director Wu led Ye Fan to the sixth floor, his heart filled with terror.

The entire sixth floor was filled with interrogation rooms, and Pan Jueming was held in the one located at the far eastern end.

At the entrance of the interrogation room, two criminal police officers stood upright. Seeing Director Wu leading Ye Fan over, their faces changed slightly, saluting with a hint of panic and saying, "Director Wu."

"Open the door," Director Wu said with a trembling voice, "You two, stand back."

Click—

The heavy iron door opened, and the two criminal police officers, intending to follow Director Wu's order, started to step out.

"Wait!"

Ye Fan spoke out abruptly. He was well aware that if Pan Jueming had been tortured, it was unlikely that Sun Jian had done it personally; it was more likely these two criminal police officers.

Huh?

The two criminal police officers stopped in their tracks, looking towards Director Wu with fear and trepidation.

"Follow... follow Comrade Ye Fan's orders," Director Wu said, his voice trembling even more when he saw that Ye Fan wanted to keep the two officers behind, almost certain Ye Fan would stand up for Pan Jueming.

Ignoring the worried Director Wu and the two panic-stricken criminal police officers, Ye Fan flashed into the interrogation room.

The next moment.

He stood still as if struck by an immobilization spell, his eyes widening, motionlessly staring at Pan Jueming.

Before him, Pan Jueming's hair was messy, like a pile of weeds, his face swollen with clear fingerprints marked on it, his lips cracked and stained with blood—blood that had dried and solidified.

Moving his gaze downward, Ye Fan could clearly see bloodstains on Pan Jueming's chest as well, some dried and some still wet.

This indicated that the blood hadn't come out in one go.

Beyond that, the marks of the electric police baton on Pan Jueming's clothing were visible, and his hands and feet were shackled to the Tiger Bench. His wrists and ankles were swollen to the point where even if the shackles were unlocked, they couldn't be slipped off.

Seeing the pitiful state of Pan Jueming, Ye Fan felt as if his heart was being gripped by a large hand, a sudden pain so intense he could barely breathe!

Immediately, he flashed in front of Pan Jueming, placed his hands on Pan Jueming's shoulders, and called out softly, "Jue... Jue Ming."

There was no reaction; Pan Jueming remained motionless.

"Jue Ming!"

Ye Fan raised his voice and gently shook Pan Jueming's shoulders.

"If you have the guts... just kill me..."

Pan Jueming trembled slightly but did not lift his head; instead, he spoke weakly without looking up.

"Jue Ming, it's me!"

Upon hearing his response, Ye Fan's heart ached again. While speaking, he willed his Power and a surge of qi imbued with Pure Yang Qi flowed from his palms into Pan Jueming's body.

As the Power entered, the Pure Yang Qi dispersed, spreading to every corner of Pan Jueming's body, healing his internal injuries.

Pan Jueming felt a warm current flow through his body, the pain lessening, and his consciousness somewhat restored.

He woke from his daze, lifting his head in astonishment.

Huh?!

When he saw Ye Fan's face close by, Pan Jueming's bloodshot eyes bulged, and a surge of shock burst in his previously dull pupils!

Then.

He closed his eyes, shook his head forcefully, and then opened them again.

Under the light, he struggled... struggled to open his eyes as wide as possible.

He was trying to see more clearly through this effort.

This time.

He saw clearly.

What appeared before him wasn't the police officer who had tormented him, but the man he had staked his future on, the man he swore to follow to the death!

"Ye... Mr. Ye..."

He opened his cracked lips, his body shivering as he spoke, his voice dry and unable to mask the excitement within.

That excitement made his mind go blank after uttering the words "Mr. Ye," leaving him at a loss for what to say next.

"I'm sorry, Jue Ming, I arrived too late," Ye Fan said, feeling a surge of guilt as he recalled Pan Jueming's near-death state.

Pan Jueming shook his head vigorously, and then again...

He was silently telling Ye Fan—with Ye Fan safe, no amount of suffering mattered to him!

"Once I've finished treating your injuries, then you can tell me exactly what happened," Ye Fan said as another wave of Power emitted from his palm into Pan Jueming's body, using the Pure Yang Qi within the Power to heal him.

Pan Jueming's internal injuries were not too severe. With the nourishment of Pure Yang Qi, he quickly recovered, even the swelling in his hands and feet gradually subsided.

"Whoosh!"

Seeing that Pan Jueming's injuries were largely healed, Ye Fan withdrew his hands. With a thought, the Xuanye Flying Blade flew out.

"Clang!"

"Clang!"

"Clang!"

"Clang!"

Four crisp sounds, almost simultaneous, rang out as Pan Jueming's handcuffs and shackles were effortlessly sliced apart by the Xuanye Flying Blade.

"Can you stand up?"

Having done all this, Ye Fan supported Pan Jue Ming and asked.

Pan Jue Ming nodded, and with Ye Fan's help, stood up. But because he hadn't eaten for many days and had rarely drunk any water, he appeared weak and could barely stand steadily.

Seeing this, Ye Fan's heart was clear as a mirror. His consciousness stirred, and a surge of Mind Power flowed from his forehead, focusing on the mineral water bottle on the interrogation table.

"Whoosh!"

The mineral water bottle suddenly flew up and hovered in front of Ye Fan.

Ye Fan grabbed the mineral water bottle, twisted off the cap, and handed it to Pan Jue Ming.

"Gulp—gulp—gulp—"

Pan Jue Ming took the bottle, tilted his head back, and poured the water into his stomach, inadvertently swallowing blood along with the water.

Seeing this scene, Ye Fan felt even more uncomfortable.

At the same time, a suppressible anger and killing intent emerged from his being!

He slowly led Pan Jue Ming towards the door. When he saw Director Wu and his two companions standing there like good little kindergartners, he said coldly, "I don't care how you do it, but you must find water and food within ten minutes, or I'll twist your heads off!"

Click!

Director Wu and his two men shivered with fright. Without another word, they turned and went to find water and food.

Ye Fan, meanwhile, helped Pan Jue Ming to the washroom, where Pan Jue Ming washed the blood off his face.

After Pan Jue Ming had cleaned himself up, two detectives returned to the door of the interrogation room with the leftovers from the cafeteria's breakfast: steamed buns, rice porridge, and side dishes, their speed was incredibly fast.

"Mr. Ye..."

Though he was both hungry and thirsty, Pan Jue Ming didn't reach for the food and water but instead began to speak to Ye Fan.

"Don't worry, every injustice has its perpetrator, every debt its debtor. As long as they are still on this planet, I will make them pay," Ye Fan interrupted Pan Jue Ming and said, "There's no rush now, you should eat something first."

Swish!

Hearing Ye Fan's icy words, the two detectives paled with fear and trembled, almost dropping the food they were holding.

And... Pan Jue Ming felt a dryness in his throat, filled with emotion.

In his moved state, he nodded lightly, then quietly took the food and water from the detectives and entered the interrogation room, eating heartily.

"Eat slowly."

Seeing this, Ye Fan felt a pang of pity.

He just couldn't imagine how long Pan Jue Ming had to be starving for him to devour the leftover steamed buns from breakfast as if they were the most exquisite delicacies!

Upon hearing this, Pan Jue Ming puffed out his cheeks, gave a silly smile, and then slowed down as Ye Fan had suggested.

After wolfing down eight steamed buns, four side dishes, six eggs, and two bowls of rice porridge, Pan Jue Ming finally stopped, his stomach round and full.

"Mr. Ye..."

After eating and drinking, the pallor on Pan Jue Ming's face began to recede, and he looked much healthier as he started to recount the events to Ye Fan.

"Crack!"

During Pan Jue Ming's account, Ye Fan did not speak, but his face grew increasingly enraged, and his fists clenched so tightly they creaked, frightening the two detectives at the door whose calves turned weak as cold sweat poured out.

"Was it them who did it?"

When Pan Jue Ming finished speaking, Ye Fan turned his head towards the two detectives, his voice cold as ice.

"Thud!"

"Thud!"

Before Pan Jueming could answer, two criminal officers had already collapsed to the ground in terror, fearfully looking at Ye Fan as they babbled incoherently, "No... It wasn't us! We... we were forced..."

Whoosh!

Ye Fan abruptly rose to his feet and flashed in front of the two criminal officers, frightening them into silence.

"Which hand?" Ye Fan asked coldly.

"Uh..."

The two officers were completely terrified, mouths agape, but unable to utter a word, simply looking at Ye Fan in fear.

"Whoosh!"

"Whoosh!"

Ye Fan didn't waste any more words. With a thought, the Xuanye Flying Blade shot out, slicing off both hands as if cutting through tofu!

"Ahh... Ahh!"

Even with some training, the terror and the agony overwhelmed the two officers. They screamed in pain and reached out to cover their wounds, but they couldn't stop the blood from gushing out, quickly staining the floor red.

"Besides you, who else laid hands on him?" Ye Fan asked again.

"Director Wu..."

Ye Fan's words seemed to carry a kind of magic, causing the two men to halt their wailing. One of them, trembling, replied in a quivering voice, "We had no choice, we were just following his orders... please spare us!"

"You might claim you were forced, but... he wasn't!"

Pan Jueming suddenly spoke up, taking steps towards the overweight criminal officer.

Hearing Pan Jueming's words, Ye Fan understood that Pan Jueming had omitted some details when recounting the story earlier.

And... the overweight officer suddenly remembered the day he tormented Pan Jueming with the electric police baton—after beating him, finding it unsatisfactory, he'd placed the baton between Pan Jueming's legs, nearly turning him into a eunuch!

"I..."

The memories of that day flashed through his mind, and the overweight officer opened his mouth in horror, wanting to beg for mercy.

Pan Jueming interrupted coldly, "You said you liked tough guys the best, right?"

"Huff... Huff..."

Without answering, the overweight officer gasped for air, fear written all over his face, along with a hint of regret for his past actions!

"I've said before, I will remember everything done to me! I also said that the day Mr. Ye comes to take me out, I will return it to you tenfold, a hundredfold!!"

Pan Jueming looked down scornfully at the overweight officer and said slowly, "But you didn't believe me."

"Awooo!!"

As his words fell, a terrible scream erupted.

Pan Jueming had crushed the officer's genitals with a kick!

Chapter 526 Retribution isn't absent, it just hasn't come yet Part 2

The intense pain completely twisted the face muscles of the plump detective, his body curling up, convulsing violently, and then he fainted from the pain.

Next to him, another detective, seeing this, felt a chill between his legs, sweat breaking out all over, his heart hanging in his throat, holding his breath, and looking at Pan Jueming with terror, completely forgetting the pain of his broken hand.

"What about this one?"

Seeing the terrified look on the detective's face, Ye Fan asked, without a trace of mercy on his face.

"He didn't do much."

Pan Jueming said, without making a move.

"Let's go, find the mastermind."

Seeing that Pan Jueming had no intention of continuing, Ye Fan patted his shoulder.

Pan Jueming nodded and closely followed Ye Fan.

...

Two minutes later, Ye Fan, leading Pan Jueming, smoothly made their way downstairs and, under the watchful eyes of numerous policemen, headed towards the main building of the compound.

Among them, a policeman quickly took out his phone and dialed Director Wu's number: "Director Wu, they've assaulted Xiao Zhang and Xiao Li. Now they're heading to the main building, probably going to look for Director Sun."

Without responding, having arrived on the seventh floor of the main building, Director Wu hung up the phone and burst into room 702 in panic—the office of Sun Jian, the third in command of Dong hai's Police.

In the office, Sun Jian was pacing back and forth like an ant on a hot pan. Seeing Director Wu barge in, he asked angrily, "What are you doing here?"

"Director... Director Sun, they've made a move!"

Director Wu said nervously, "And they are on their way to the main building now, probably coming here. What should we do?"

"You... Are you sure they made a move?" Sun Jian hadn't heard the screams of the plump detective.

"Yes!"

Director Wu nodded immediately, then speculated, "It looks like Ye Fan doesn't want to give up, he's still going to target us!"

"Sss~"

Hearing Director Wu's words again, Sun Jian couldn't help but take in a sharp breath.

Although he had considered that, given Ye Fan's usual way of doing things, he would definitely stand up for Pan Jueming, and it was very likely he would make a move right in the precinct compound.

But—

When this moment really arrived, he was still quite frightened.

"Director... Director Sun, should we contact the Yanhuang Organization East Sea Branch to intervene and stop Ye Fan?" Director Wu suggested.

"No use."

Sun Jian shook his head decisively, negating the idea. Ye Fan held a red-headed document issued by He Yunting, the first real power elder of the Yanhuang Organization, which to members of the Yanhuang Organization was like an Imperial Sword; who would dare to stop him?

Even if, as Sun Jian thought, the people from the Yanhuang Organization East Sea Branch were willing to help stop Ye Fan, Ye Fan would definitely not show them any face!

"Then... shall we send some people to stop him?"

Director Wu was truly frightened, suggesting one idea after another.

"Good, call right now!"

Sun Jian's eyes lit up, realizing that both the head and the deputy head were not present. He could fully order his subordinates to stop Ye Fan.

Although he knew that the police force would not be able to stop Ye Fan, it could make Ye Fan reluctant to act—should Ye Fan actively confront the numerous police officers, it would amount to a blatant defiance of Huaxia's laws!

Although the city bureau's compound was an institution, mostly occupied by leading officials, it was, after all, the security center of Dong hai, staffed with many police officers capable of picking up guns and charging forward.

A few minutes later, when Ye Fan arrived at the main building's entrance with Pan Jueming, they found it tightly blockaded by a group of fully armed police officers. Not even a rabbit could get through, let alone a living person.

Witnessing this scene, Ye Fan's pupils contracted slightly, but his steps did not halt.

"I am a member of the Yanhuang Organization."

Ye Fan walked straight up to the leading police officer, raised the red-headed document signed by He Yunting, and said coldly, "This document is personally authorized by Elder He Yunting of the Yanhuang Organization, with approval from your Minister Liu. According to the document, I am responsible for accompanying Comrade Pan Jueming as he leaves. Now, I need to find Deputy Bureau Chief Sun Jian to complete the necessary procedures."

Hmm?

The leading police officer was startled upon hearing this, took the red-headed document, and indeed saw Minister Liu's approval. His face changed slightly, but he did not step aside. Instead, he said gravely, "You just assaulted our colleagues, constituting an attack on the police. Director Sun has already notified the Yanhuang Organization East Sea Branch about this incident and has instructed me to tell you that you can take the person, but there is no need for procedures."

"Are you sure you want to stop us? Or rather, are you sure you can stop us?" Ye Fan's expression turned rather unsightly, his tone very unfriendly.

"Even though you are a member of the Yanhuang Organization, and even if we, the police, have no authority to deal with you if you commit crimes, we have the duty to prevent you from committing crimes!" The leading police officer, being one of Sun Jian's confidants, naturally carried out Sun Jian's orders unswervingly.

Ye Fan sneered, his consciousness stirred, and his hands quickly formed the handprints for the Enchanting Soul Array.

As the handprints were completed, the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi above the main building fluctuated, and all the police officers felt the scene before them change drastically. In an instant, Ye Fan and Pan Jueming disappeared without a trace.

Whoosh—

The sudden occurrence caused a stir among the crowd, creating a gap in the previously impenetrable wall of people.

Ye Fan, leading Pan Jueming, passed through the gap as if unnoticed and easily entered the main building.

Meanwhile, the lead police officer picked up his phone and dialed the number for Sun Jian's office, saying somewhat frantically, "Sun... Director Sun, they've disappeared!"

"Disappeared? What do you mean?" Sun Jian blurted out, feeling somewhat uneasy.

"They... they were just stopped at the door by us, but then they suddenly vanished, as if they had never been there at all!"

The lead police officer's face showed lingering fear; based on the prowess Ye Fan had just displayed, if he had decided to go on a killing spree, it would have been as easy as slicing vegetables.

Thump!

A shiver went through Sun Jian's heart.

Although he was not a cultivator, as one of the top three leaders of Dong hai's Police and someone who frequently interacted with the Yanhuang Organization, he had a far greater understanding of cultivators than the average person and knew full well how unfathomable and contrary to nature their methods could be.

"Sun... Director Sun, what's going on? Did they break in?"

Seeing the shocked expression on Sun Jian's face, Director Wu's heart leapt into his throat once again.

"Bang—"

The response to Director Wu was a dull thud!

The door to Sun Jian's office crashed down, splitting into four or five pieces.

Swish!

Sun Jian and Director Wu immediately directed their gaze toward the door and saw Ye Fan and Pan Jueming appear at the entrance. Ye Fan's face was calm, while Pan Jueming was staring intently at Sun Jian.

This sudden turn of events tensed up Director Wu completely, while Sun Jian, despite his inner fear, tried to maintain his composure. Frowning, he demanded, "What... what do you want to do?"

"You should have said what you previously told and did to Jue Ming, instead of asking us what we intend to do," Ye Fan said in an icy tone, as he strode into the office.

"Ye... Ye Fan, I warn you, even though you are a special agent of the Yanhuang Organization, this is not a place for you to mess around!"

It must be said that Sun Jian's rise to his current position was not just down to high emotional intelligence and clever political tactics but also a sizable courage, as he didn't panic in the face of Ye Fan.

"Mess around?"

Ye Fan squinted his eyes and asked coldly, "Then tell me, the torture and interrogation you previously ordered on Jue Ming, and the personal threats you made—are these messing around?"

"You're talking nonsense!"

Sun Jian intended to deny the accusation and refused to acknowledge any wrongdoing.

"Talking nonsense?"

Ye Fan's face turned icy as he said sternly, "Jue Ming, hit him until you feel relieved!"

"Ye... Ye Fan, although I don't know how you became a member of the Yanhuan Organization with him, I remind you that if you lay a hand on me today, you will definitely pay the price!"

Sun Jian's face turned pale with fright, but knowing that backing down was futile, he continued his warnings in desperation, aiming to deter Ye Fan.

"Are you trying to tell me that your backer is Bai Guotao?"

Ye Fan laughed, a chilling laugh, "Don't say that you're merely Bai Guotao's dog; even if you were his father, you're set to take a beating today!"

"Slap—"

To Pan Jue Ming, Ye Fan's words were like a divine decree. Pan Jue Ming took a step forward, shattering the wooden floor beneath his feet with an ear-piercing sound!

"Ugh..."

As Ye Fan's overbearing words echoed in his ears, and Pan Jue Ming's cold figure approached, Sun Jian stood petrified with horror on his face.

And Director Wu felt as if his legs had cramped, uncontrollably beginning to tremble.

"Slap! Slap! Slap!"

As if enjoying the expressions of panic on the faces of Sun Jian and Director Wu, Pan Jue Ming did not rush to action; instead, he walked step by step, each one powerful enough to break the floor beneath him and shake the desks, an intimidating sight indeed.

Sun Jian and Director Wu seemed to have been scared stiff, not daring to move, simply watching as Pan Jue Ming drew closer... and closer!

Finally.

He stopped in front of Sun Jian and Director Wu.

Director Wu's knees gave out, and he collapsed on the ground.

In comparison, Sun Jian was a bit more resilient, but his body trembled uncontrollably as if he had been electrocuted.

At this moment.

His gaze towards Pan Jue Ming was no longer condescending but filled with deep fear!

"I remember you telling me not to expect Young Master Ye to save me because he was bound to fall, is that right?" Pan Jue Ming suddenly asked.

No response; Sun Jian looked completely baffled.

"Slap—"

With that, Pan Jue Ming delivered a slap. He did not use Power in his strike, but the force was perfectly controlled, twisting Sun Jian's head and splitting his lip, blood gushing forth.

"You..."

Sun Jian was both scared and angry.

"Slap—"

With a backhanded second slap from Pan Jue Ming, Sun Jian swallowed back the words that were about to escape his lips, stars flashing before his eyes, "Tell me, is it or is it not?"

"It... it is!"

Sun Jian was utterly dazed, nodding in confusion.

"Slap—"

Pan Jue Ming landed another slap, "Who told you that Young Master Ye would fall?"

"_"

Sun Jian was unsteady on his feet.

"Slap—"

After the fourth slap, Pan Jue Ming continued, "You've gone mute?"

"Bang—"

Off balance, Sun Jian toppled over onto the desk.

"Whoosh~"

Seeing this, Pan Jue Ming closed his eyes, took a deep breath, and then turned back to Ye Fan, saying, "Young Master Ye, let's go."

"You actually haven't eased your anger yet, but you stopped because you were afraid of causing me trouble," Ye Fan noted, sighing before saying each word deliberately, "Jue Ming, remember this, from now on, whenever you're faced with a situation like this, as long as you're in the right, go full force on them. If the sky falls, I will hold it up for you!"

"Swoosh!"

"Swoosh!"

As his words fell, the sounds of slicing through the air resonated.

Two Xuanye Flying Blades flew out nearly simultaneously.

"Thud!"

"Thud!"

White flashes passed as the sharp Xuanye Flying Blades pierced directly through the palms of Sun Jian and Director Wu, nailing their hands onto the desk.

"Ah... Ah!"

Sun Jian and Director Wu screamed before passing out.

Frightened by Ye Fan.

Chapter 527 Return!

By ten o'clock, the rush hour for work had passed, and the number of vehicles on the street had noticeably decreased.

A Rolls-Royce Phantom was driving down the street, with the driver having lowered the sun visor, Ye Fan and Pan Jue Ming were sitting in the back seats.

Pan Jue Ming seemed still to be immersed in his previous memories, with the shock not yet having faded from his eyes and expression.

Eradicating Nanqinghong, root out the Hongwu Sect, brawling in the Dong hai Police Station...

In Pan Jue Ming's eyes, everything Ye Fan had done could be described as earth-shattering—Situ Chen and Lin Tianyi from his life before could hardly be compared to Ye Fan.

Beyond the shock, Pan Jue Ming also felt some concern.

Although he didn't know on what trump cards Ye Fan had relied to turn the tables, he feared that Ye Fan's recent actions could be used as leverage by the Bai Family.

"You don't need to worry that this will lead to consequences."

Seeing Pan Jue Ming's expression, Ye Fan, with a bitter smile, explained through the mirror of his heart, "Compared to the previous matters, the recent one is a minor issue. Besides, they were the ones who first used torture to extract confessions, violating the rules."

"I'm sorry, Mr. Ye."

Hearing Ye Fan's words, Pan Jue Ming suddenly felt very guilty.

Ye Fan was puzzled, not understanding why.

"When I was locked in the interrogation room, I wavered—at that time, Sun Jian told me you had been taken away by the Yanhuang Organization, and Old Sir Ye was critically ill..."

Pan Jue Ming looked at Ye Fan with full guilt, explaining, "At that moment, I wavered in my confidence in you. I'm sorry, I should have had unconditional trust in you."

"Didn't you say nothing?"

Ye Fan offered a wry smile. Before he revealed his trump card, only Chu Xuanji and Chu Ji were privy to it, even Ye Wenhao had worried that Ye Fan would fail, let alone Pan Jue Ming who had merely wavered temporarily?

Despite what Ye Fan said, Pan Jue Ming's face was still filled with self-reproach and guilt.

Seeing this, Ye Fan thought for a moment, changed the subject, and said, "Jue Ming, aren't you curious about the trump card that helped me turn the tables?"

"Curious," Pan Jue Ming inevitably had his curiosity piqued and subconsciously nodded his head.

"I am a disciple of Chu Xuanji. When the destroy virus outbreak occurred, humanity faced its greatest calamity in history, and my master Chu Xuanji came down the mountain to save the world. However, the antidote to resist the destroy virus was developed by me. Moreover, the destroy virus will break out again in ten years, and I have already developed an antidote that will completely eradicate the destroy virus!" Ye Fan revealed the secret. "Besides that, I also cast a spell to add one year to Old Sir Ye Yuanshan's lifespan, so I was able to easily reverse the situation and turn the tables completely."

Mr. Ye was once the Savior?

And... he has the power to decide the future survival of humanity?!

Pan Jue Ming was stunned.

He stared at Ye Fan with wide eyes, motionless, his brain having stopped functioning.

"Now you're not worried about the recent events implicating me, are you?" Ye Fan chuckled.

Pan Jue Ming shook his head frantically.

With his vision and mindset, even though he couldn't understand the significance of the trump card Ye Fan held like Yan and Number One did, he believed that even if Ye Fan had just killed Sun Jian, he definitely wouldn't have gotten into trouble—Sun Jian's life compared to the survival of humanity was simply too insignificant!

Feeling touched by this realization, Pan Jueming's heart was filled with emotion!

Touched that Ye Fan had personally gone to the Dong hai Police Station to save him, to stand up for him, and even more touched that Ye Fan would share such an important secret and trump card with him!

As he was moved by these thoughts, his eyes reddened once more, his mouth slightly open, but he didn't utter the words "thank you."

Because.

He remembered something Ye Fan had once said to him: I treat you as a brother; between us, there is no need for thanks!

"Although I hold this trump card in my hand, it does not mean that we can do whatever we want—if others do not offend me, I won't offend them; if others do offend me, we will repay it tenfold. This will be our principle for handling things from now on."

Seeing the moved expression on Pan Jueming's face, Ye Fan smiled and reminded him but didn't share the other hidden details—that to save Pan Jueming, he had entrusted Yan to prove that Pan Jueming was also an agent of the Yanhuang Organization. However, Yan had put forward a condition, requiring him not to actively trample on Huaxia's laws and the Yanhuang Organization's regulations in the future!

"Got it, I understand!"

Pan Jueming nodded repeatedly, understanding that if it wasn't for Nanqinghong and the Bai Family forcing Ye Wenhao into a corner this time, Ye Fan, following his usual way of doing things, would never reveal his trump card and strike back with such rule-breaking force!

"Right, Mr. Ye, when I was taken away, Lady Su and Miss Ruoshui were also taken. Are they okay?" All of a sudden, Pan Jueming thought of the day they were taken away and couldn't help asking.

"They're fine, they were released the next day."

Ye Fan shook his head with an apologetic tone—since he left Dong hai to find Su Liuli, one thing followed another, and he had entirely failed to contact either Su Yuxin or Situ Ruoshui.

...

Ao Xiang Villa.

In the garden of the villa where Ye Fan had once stayed, Little Wolf lay beside the jade stone infused with Essence Qi, as usual, looking toward the villa's entrance with a somewhat sorrowful gaze.

"Little Wolf, don't be sad. Sister Chu called last night to say that big brother is fine now, and he might even return today, you know."

Situ Ruoshui sat on the lawn, gently stroking Little Wolf's fur and spoke with a joyful smile. The smile on her face was as bright and radiant as the rising sun.

"Awoo!"

Little Wolf couldn't understand Situ Ruoshui's words, but he could feel her excitement. He howled at Situ Ruoshui in dissatisfaction, as if to say: The master hasn't returned, and I, the old wolf, am annoyed. Go away!

Situ Ruoshui was startled by Little Wolf's howl at first, then she became huffy and grabbed Little Wolf's two ears, communicating with him through the mind: "I know the news about big brother, your master."

"Awooo~"

Little Wolf, initially unhappy at having his ears grabbed by Situ Ruoshui, was taken aback upon receiving the information she conveyed. First, he paused, then as if injected with excitement, his laziness vanished without a trace, replaced by an ecstatic demeanor.

After howling, he excitedly stuck out his tongue, licking Situ Ruoshui's fair hand in an ingratiating manner.

"Hmph, you just howled at me; I won't tell you now." Situ Ruoshui let go and communicated with Little Wolf again using her mind.

"Whine whine..."

Little Wolf, anxious, spun around on the spot a few times, then knelt at Situ Ruoshui's feet, hugging her legs with his front paws, apologizing and pleading.

"Scared now, huh? Will you howl at me again in the future?" Situ Ruoshui, puffing out her ample 36D chest proudly, asked.

"Whimper~"

Little Wolf shook its head as if to say, "If I ever howl at you again, I'm a dog!"

"Alright, seeing how pitiful you look, I'll tell you—your master will be back today!" Situ Ruoshui said with a smile as she conveyed the message.

"Aoooo!!"

Little Wolf howled excitedly and, with a powerful leap, sprang nearly ten meters away. Its momentum was even more terrifying than a starving tiger pouncing on its prey.

"Is... is that really a wolf?"

Situ Ruoshui was seeing Little Wolf's full-speed burst for the first time and was momentarily dumbfounded.

"Hey, hey, Little Wolf, where are you going?"

By the time Situ Ruoshui came back to her senses, Little Wolf had already dashed excitedly out of the yard, with her calling out from behind.

Without a response, Little Wolf kept howling excitedly while running at full speed toward the entrance of the villa.

As Situ Ruoshui chased out of the villa, she saw this scene but chose not to continue pursuing, instead quietly sighing at the deep bond between Little Wolf and Ye Fan.

After her reflection, Situ Ruoshui turned back to the villa where Su Yuxin was staying—she had been living with Su Yuxin since Ye Fan's incident.

Inside the villa, Su Yuxin, having heard from Chu Ji that Ye Fan might return today, had specially changed her clothes and was pacing back and forth in the living room with a mix of anxiety and anticipation. Seeing Situ Ruoshui enter, she asked, "Ruoshui, what's with Little Wolf? Why is it howling and barking?"

"I told it that big brother would come back today," Situ Ruoshui replied with a smile.

"Uh... "

Upon hearing this, Su Yuxin was initially startled, then she forced a smile and said, "I almost forgot, you're an Early Innate Mage, capable of communicating with animals through telepathy, and Little Wolf, being much more spiritual than ordinary animals, can understand your message."

"Sister Yuxin, didn't Sister Chu say big brother would come back today? Why hasn't he arrived yet? And why hasn't big brother called us?" Situ Ruoshui's cute face was filled with confusion.

"If Sister Chu said he would come back, then he should," Su Yuxin explained with a bitter smile. "As for the phone call, according to Sister Chu, his call had been monitored before, so he couldn't make one. Now that things have settled down, given his character, he's probably blaming himself and decided not to call. He'll explain when he sees us."

"I see... Sister Yuxin, you really understand big brother well," Situ Ruoshui said, suddenly enlightened, followed by an envious remark.

Hearing Situ Ruoshui's words and seeing her envious expression, Su Yuxin knew Situ Ruoshui was making a double entendre and didn't know how to respond for the moment.

"Aow~ Aow~"

Just then, the previously quiet villa resounded once more with Little Wolf's howling, which now was much louder and incessant.

"Sister Yuxin, could it be that big brother has returned??" Situ Ruoshui thought to herself.

"Possibly!"

Said Su Yuxin as she hurriedly ran out of the villa, with Situ Ruoshui following closely behind.

Meanwhile.

Little Wolf, sensing Ye Fan's aura, excitedly dashed out of the villa's main gate, running toward the approaching Rolls-Royce Phantom.

"Stop the car!"

Seeing this, Ye Fan quickly gave the order.

"Screech~"

The driver hit the brakes, and the tires screeched against the pavement, leaving a clear streak of tire marks.

The car came to a stop, and Ye Fan got out.

"Aoooo!!"

Little Wolf let out an earth-shaking howl, then pushed its speed to the limit. In a blink of an eye, it was in front of Ye Fan and leapt at him, aiming to give Ye Fan a solid wolf hug.

"It hasn't been that long since I've seen you, yet you've not only grown taller and stronger, but both your speed and strength have significantly increased," Ye Fan said, allowing Little Wolf to hug him and stroking its head while contemplatively speaking. "You must have also benefited indirectly from absorbing the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi through the Nine Star Gathering Spirit Array."

Without responding, Little Wolf rested its front limbs on Ye Fan's shoulders and affectionately licked his face, drooling all over him.

Ye Fan was caught between laughter and tears but didn't stop Little Wolf. At the same time, he clearly sensed Su Yuxin and Situ Ruoshui's presence rushing towards him. He then turned his gaze towards the entrance of the villa.

A moment later, Ye Fan saw Su Yuxin's Mercedes S700 drive out of the villa, approaching him. The excited expressions on both Su Yuxin and Situ Ruoshui's faces were clearly visible.

"Big brother!"

Their voices arrived ahead of the car.

From inside the Mercedes S700, Situ Ruoshui stuck her head out the window and called out loudly.

Ye Fan patted Little Wolf's cheek, and after Little Wolf got down, he stepped forward to greet them.

"Screech~"

The sound of tires rubbing against the ground was heard again as the Mercedes S700 came to a steady stop beside Ye Fan.

"Big brother, you're finally back!"

Situ Ruoshui excitedly wrapped her arms around Ye Fan's arm as she got out of the car.

"I'm back," Ye Fan replied.

Su Yuxin also got out of the car and walked up to Ye Fan's side. She didn't embrace him as Situ Ruoshui had; she just gazed at him intently, the excitement on her face no less than that on Situ Ruoshui's.

"Hmm."

Ye Fan nodded, and then said apologetically, "I'm sorry, I should have called you."

"You must have had your reasons for doing so," Su Yuxin said with a smile, shaking her head affectionately. "It's good that you're back."

Chapter 528 Heartfelt Thoughts, Dependence

At that moment.

Su Yuxin was like a virtuous wife, seeing her husband return from a long journey, without complaints, only excitement and joy.

For some reason, hearing Su Yuxin's soft words and seeing her extremely excited expression, Ye Fan's guilt grew instead of subsiding.

It seemed that, to him, Su Yuxin had unconsciously become his concern.

"Let's go, let's go back and talk. I've already had lunch prepared," Su Yuxin said gently, seeming to notice Ye Fan's guilt.

"Whimper~"

Ye Fan nodded, intending to get into Su Yuxin's car, but the moment he stepped forward, Little Wolf clung to his leg, looking up at him pitifully.

"Yuxin, Ruoshui, you guys take the car, I'll run back with Little Wolf."

Ye Fan couldn't help but smile at the situation. Previously, when he and Chu Xuanji lived at Spirit Mountain, every time he returned from a mission, Little Wolf would wait for him on the mountainside and then chase him all the way back to where they stayed.

"Swoosh—"

Later, after Su Yuxin and Situ Ruoshui got into the car, Ye Fan flashed his feet and dashed towards the villa.

"Aoow~"

Little Wolf roared excitedly, leaped, and caught up with Ye Fan, who had deliberately slowed down.

Man and wolf chased each other playfully, like intimate best friends.

The scene froze there.

This moment deeply imprinted itself in the minds of Su Yuxin, Situ Ruoshui, and Pan Jueming.

Although Su Yuxin, Situ Ruoshui, and Pan Jueming were in the car, Ye Fan and Little Wolf arrived at Su Yuxin's villa ahead of them, but they did not go in and instead waited at the door for the three.

"Have all the servants in the manor been changed?" Ye Fan asked after Su Yuxin got out of the car, as he had seen many servants along the way and noticed they were all new faces—he remembered quite well what the former servants looked like.

"Yes, after the police raided the villa, except for the few bodyguards protecting Ruoshui, everyone else in the villa left. I specifically recruited a batch of new servants," Su Yuxin nodded.

"This won't happen again."

From this small detail, Ye Fan could infer that during his absence, Su Yuxin must have been extremely anxious and undoubtedly faced many associated troubles.

"Buzz~"

As Ye Fan's words fell, the roaring sound of an engine suddenly came from the entrance of the villa, echoing throughout the manor.

"The Jin Emperor is back."

Su Yuxin said with a wry smile, "He calls me almost every day to ask if you've come back. I told him yesterday that you might return last night, and I didn't expect him to rush over by noon."

Ye Fan smiled and looked towards the road leading to the villa, only to see a white sports car turning into a whirlwind, speeding towards the villa.

"Screech~"

Moments later, accompanied by an ear-piercing screech, a white Aston Martin sports car stopped on the road in front of the villa, Su Jindi jumped out of the car, opened his arms, and ran towards Ye Fan, "Brother Ye, I've missed you so much, come give me a hug!"

"You rascal!"

Ye Fan swore laughingly but did not stop Su Jindi from throwing himself into his arms.

"Brother Ye, I told my sister and Ruoshui that you would be fine, but they wouldn't believe it," Su Jindi gave Ye Fan a firm bear hug, then smugly said, "You see now? Brother Ye has come back safe and sound, hasn't he?"

Su Yuxin smiled wryly while Situ Ruoshui said indignantly, "Who's as heartless as you are."

"Ruoshui, you're mistaken there. It's not about being heartless; it's about unconditionally trusting Brother Ye!"

Su Jindi chuckled, "In my heart, Brother Ye is an invincible presence. How could those nobodies ever be a match for Brother Ye?"

Hearing Su Jindi's words again, Su Yuxin and Situ Ruoshui had no particular reaction, only Pan Jueming felt a bit awkward.

Because.

He could tell that although Su Jindi was boasting, his trust in Ye Fan was genuine and not just hollow words.

"That's just you, the sycophant."

Ye Fan laughed and flicked Su Jindi with his finger, then led everyone into the villa.

Before dinner, under Su Jindi's persistent questioning, Ye Fan told everyone about his recent activities, omitting some details.

"Uniting the Underworld of Southeast Asia, cleansing Nanqinhong, and challenging the Hongwu Sect alone—Brother Ye, you are truly formidable!"

After listening to Ye Fan's account, Su Yuxin and Situ Ruoshui felt as if they had ridden a roller coaster, still dazed, while Su Jindi, on the other hand, was so excited that he danced around as if he was the one who had accomplished those incredible feats rather than Ye Fan.

After the dinner, Ye Fan spent a long time chatting with everyone until it was almost midnight, after which Su Jindi, Situ Ruoshui, and Pan Jueming left the villa, leaving only Ye Fan and Su Yuxin.

"Are you going to cultivate tonight?"

After seeing the three off, Su Yuxin snuggled against Ye Fan's shoulder, arm in arm with him, and looked up at him as she softly asked.

As her words fell, she seemed a bit shy, not daring to look at Ye Fan, her cheeks flushed a deeper red from the wine, and her heartbeat inexplicably quickened.

"No cultivation tonight."

Ye Fan chuckled and shook his head, then wrapped his arm around Su Yuxin's waist and headed upstairs to the bedroom.

"It's been worrying for you these days."

Upon entering the bedroom, Ye Fan casually closed the door and gently tidied Su Yuxin's hair, which the wind had disheveled.

"I was indeed quite worried at first, but Sister Chu said you would be fine, and Ruoshui and I felt much more at ease," Su Yuxin gently shook her head.

Hearing Su Yuxin's words, Ye Fan said no more, but instead cupped her blushing face in his hands, kissing those tender, luscious lips.

Su Yuxin wrapped her arms around Ye Fan's neck, passionately responding to his kiss.

As they kissed, Su Yuxin's breathing grew rapid, her body became burning hot, and she slumped in Ye Fan's arms, her gaze hazy as she let Ye Fan's hands roam her delicate body.

Seeing this, Ye Fan moved his lips away and casually set up a soundproof array, then picked up Su Yuxin and carried her to the soft, large bed.

Once on the bed, they kissed again, deftly and tacitly undressing each other.

One piece, two pieces, three, four, clothes fell to the floor revealing their naked bodies.

One touch, two caresses, three kisses, heated bodies softly moaning.

Under the dim, purple light, on the soft, large bed, Ye Fan and Su Yuxin kissed and caressed each other, their bodies continually pressing closer... and even closer.

"I want to be on top."

It was some time before the prolonged foreplay ended, and as Ye Fan lifted Su Yuxin's pristine legs, it was then she, with flushed cheeks, spoke.

Ye Fan paused, taken aback.

Sudden, Su Yuxin sat up, pushing Ye Fan down, and straddled him like a rider would a horse, directly riding atop him.

One rub, two sits, three rounds, the bed shook as her delicate body trembled.

On the bed, Su Yuxin, like a female knight, galloped fiercely, seemingly expressing her yearning for Ye Fan in this manner.

After some time, when they both trembled violently together, the bed stopped shaking, and Su Yuxin, drenched in sweat and panting, lay atop Ye Fan.

"Sister Chu told me, Liu Li and that high monk she met in Southern Tibet have left together. Is she in Southern Tibet now?"

Several minutes later, Su Yuxin finally emerged from that blissful ocean, gently rolling off him to lie on Ye Fan's shoulder. After hesitating, she still brought up the subject of Su Liu Li.

"I don't know."

Ye Fan sighed softly, "That high monk who took her is Bodhi Wuyin, though a leader of the Buddhist sect, he has no fixed abode, his whereabouts are unpredictable, making it hard to trace any news about them."

"I see..."

Su Yuxin's thoughts seemed complex, then she added, "Why don't you go comfort Situ Ruoshui later?"

"Comfort Situ Ruoshui?"

Ye Fan looked at Su Yuxin with a puzzled expression.

"Yes. After Mr. Situ passed away, Ruoshui has been without relatives, treating you and Liu Li as family. Since Liu Li left, Ruoshui has been very lonely, even somewhat reclusive."

Su Yuxin sighed, "Later, when you were in danger, she became distraught with worry. You've barely just come back, and you haven't spoken much with her. She must be feeling very down; go keep her company."

"Okay."

Upon hearing this, Ye Fan recalled that since his return, he indeed hadn't spoken much with Situ Ruoshui, having been engrossed in answering Su Jindi's wildly imaginative questions.

Minutes later, Ye Fan finished a shower, changed his clothes, and headed to the villa where Situ Ruoshui was staying, spotting her from a distance sitting on the roof of the villa.

"Yu Xin is Brother's girlfriend, Sister Liu Li likes Brother, left a confession letter, joined the Buddhist sect, Brother traveled across mountains and seas to find her, and now Brother hasn't spoken much to me since his return."

Under the moonlit night, Situ Ruoshui sat on the rooftop, legs hugged to her chest, chin resting on her knees, staring at the distant bright lights murmuring, "Do I have to tell Brother that I like him for him to spend more time with me?"

"But, I'm too scared to confess to Brother, what should I do?"

Thinking this, Situ Ruoshui's heart stirred, then she deflated like a burst balloon, lowering her head, gazing at her crystal-clear feet, murmuring softly, "Ruoshui, you're so useless."

Uh?

The night breeze blew gently, but Ye Fan still caught Situ Ruoshui's soliloquy with his extraordinary hearing and involuntarily stopped in his tracks.

This moment stirred a complex maelstrom of emotions within him.

All this while, he had regarded Situ Ruoshui as a sister, never considering any romantic feelings.

Through her words just now, he realized that Situ Ruoshui might have developed feelings for him.

"No, as Yu Xin said, Ruoshui must just feel grateful and dependent on me, but she herself does not realize this, mistaking it for romantic love," he thought.

Seconds later, Ye Fan had an idea, "I should clarify things with her, make her understand not to confuse dependency with liking."

"Big... Brother?!"

As Ye Fan quietly pondered, Situ Ruoshui suddenly spotted him, her reaction like that of a startled deer, quite flustered.

"Did Brother hear all that??"

After the initial panic, Situ Ruoshui thought of something, her heart tightened, and she quickly averted her gaze, her cheeks puffing up red, wishing she could just disappear into a crack in the ground.

Seeing this, Ye Fan quietly altered his just-made decision—he simply couldn't bear to hurt the feelings of this pure, adorable girl in front of him.

Because.

Currently, her emotions were a blank slate except for that unconfessed 'crush.'

He was her only support.

Chapter 529 Hidden Forces and Secrets

The sun rose in the east, and the morning light spilled over, with the rich Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi converging above Ao Xiang Villa, enveloping it like a Qi Shield.

In the master bedroom of the villa, Ye Fan, who had already woken up, opened his eyes to look at the ceiling, reminiscing about the ups and downs of the past six months.

For him, the experiences of the past half year were more convoluted and rich than those of his previous nineteen years.

Su Yuxin lay naked beside him, her small head resting on his arm, clinging to his neck, with one leg, as white and smooth as jade, pressed against his. She slept like a coiled golden silk cat—extremely peaceful.

Ye Fan was brought back from his memories by the pressure of Su Yuxin's beautiful leg on his steel gun. He turned to glance at Su Yuxin and, for no reason, thought of the day he met both Su Yuxin and Su Liuli at the foot of Spirit Mountain.

Thinking of Su Yuxin wearing a mink coat in the sweltering heat, Ye Fan smiled knowingly. He gently shifted his body to prevent his steel gun from touching the smooth inner thigh of Su Yuxin.

Perhaps disturbed by Ye Fan's movement, Su Yuxin let out a soft moan and slowly opened her eyes, hazily seeing Ye Fan's face, etched deep in her heart.

"Awake?"

Ye Fan reached out to stroke Su Yuxin's head, his fingers sliding into her hair, rubbing gently.

"Mm..."

Su Yuxin softly responded, but the stimulation of Ye Fan touching her hair sent an electric-like current coursing through her body, causing an irresistible tickling sensation—sounding more like a moan.

Suddenly, Su Yuxin seemed to realize something. Her pretty face flushed with a tinge of shyness and allure.

Last night, after talking for two hours with Situ Ruo on the rooftop, Ye Fan returned to the bedroom to find Su Yuxin still awake, leading to another round between them.

Unlike the first time when Su Yuxin took the initiative, the second time was entirely controlled by Ye Fan, who satisfied her to the peak nine times before ending it.

Although Su Yuxin was a Peak-stage Postnatal Martial Artist, she couldn't withstand Ye Fan's vigor. After they finished, she felt utterly drained and fell into a deep sleep without saying a word.

As a Peak of Innate Realm Martial Artist who also practiced the Nine Heavens Mystical Skill, Ye Fan's physiological functions were not inferior to an Innate Great Perfection cultivator.

As a result, Su Yuxin was completely satisfied last night, while he was only half satisfied.

Before, when he woke up, he used to have a morning wood, but seeing Su Yuxin sleeping so peacefully, he didn't want to disturb her and had to forcefully suppress his desire—even deliberately recalling the memories of the past six months to divert his attention.

Now, hearing Su Yuxin's enticing moan and seeing the shyness and allure mixed with a bit of her inherent coldness, Ye Fan turned over and pressed down on her.

An hour later, after the storm of passion abated, Su Yuxin lay limp and motionless, while Ye Fan was still full of energy—if it weren't for his consideration for Su Yuxin's inability to endure further, he could have continued for another hour with his willpower and physical condition.

"Sister Chu said she's coming this morning, shall we get up?" A few minutes later, Su Yuxin opened her eyes again and said with a flushed face.

"Mm."

Ye Fan nodded and took the lead to head for the shower.

After Ye Fan finished showering, he clearly sensed Chu Ji's presence emerging at the villa's gate, approaching the villa.

"She's almost here, you need to shower quickly," Ye Fan said with a wry smile.

"Ah..."

Su Yuxin let out a startle and sprang from the bed into the bathroom in a panic.

Ten minutes later.

Ye Fan deactivated the Soundproof Array and joined Su Yuxin in the living room on the first floor, only to see Chu Ji, dressed in a red cloak, casually sitting on the sofa with her legs crossed.

"Kid, this is quite a late start to the day, isn't it?" Chu Ji said with a smile, teasing them.

"It's rare to relax, so we slept in," Ye Fan responded nonchalantly, seemingly used to Chu Ji's teasing.

"Sister Chu, you chat with Xiao Fan, I'll go and have breakfast prepared."

Unlike Ye Fan, Su Yuxin, who was neither accustomed to being teased in such a way nor naturally reserved, blushed like an apple and hurriedly left without waiting for a response from Chu Ji.

"Planning to enjoy yourself on the coquettish lady's bed for a few days?"

As Su Yuxin left, Chu Ji withdrew her gaze, her smile undiminished.

Ye Fan said irritably, "As an elder, don't you find it embarrassing to talk about such things with me?"

"Embarrassed? Your little pecker has been flicked by these fingers since you were small," Chu Ji retorted, crossing her shapely legs, and puffing out her chest confidently.

"__"

Even though Ye Fan was accustomed to Chu Ji's lack of filter, her increasing boldness still left him at a loss for words, prompting him to change the subject, "I'm planning to leave the day after tomorrow."

"Which is your first stop?"

Seeing that Ye Fan brought up serious matters, Chu Ji stopped teasing him.

"Northeast."

Ye Fan thought for a moment and said that the Northeast not only had top-grade Mountain Ginseng necessary for refining Lifespan Extension Pills, but also many other materials; it was a must-visit place.

"Then you can take the opportunity to visit Ye Wenhao back in Yanjing. According to the information I've received, the investigation against him has ended, and he has been restored to his former position. He should be heading to Southeast Asia soon. This time, while you search for medicines and cultivate, it's likely you won't see him for a year or more," Su Yuxin reminded him.

"It's not only Yuxin, but also Ruoshui," Ye Fan said.

"Why are you so agitated? Could it be that your aunt doesn't know how that girl feels about you?"

Chu Ji said irritably, "I'm not talking about her; it's because before I came, Yan told me to pass on to you that an Inner Sect Elder from the Yanhuang Organization is interested in taking that girl as a disciple."

"An Inner Sect Elder from the Yanhuang Organization?" Ye Fan was taken aback; he had never heard of the Yanhuang Organization having Inner Sect Elders.

"After prosperity in the Cultivation World, the Yanhuang Organization has become the most powerful guardian force in Huaxia. Its true strength is far beyond what the outside world knows. Apart from the visible Yan and the five Great Elders, there are also three Inner Sect Elders and nine Yanlong Guards," explained Chu Ji.

"The three Inner Sect Elders, although their strength may not be on par with Yan's, are still stronger than Magician He Yunting from the Martial Hall, who is at the Gang Qi Introduction Realm. As for the precise

strength of the Inner Sect Elders, I'm not entirely sure. And the Nine Yanlong Guards are all strong people above the Half-step Gang Qi realm, including some at the Gang Qi Realm," she added.

"That strong?" Ye Fan was surprised.

"If it weren't for this, do you think those powerful external forces would be so wary of the Yanhuang Organization?"

Chu Ji said with a bitter smile, "In fact, not only the Yanhuang Organization but many powerful Sects and Martial Arts Families within the Cultivation World also have unknown strong people. These individuals rarely show themselves, and they aren't ranked on lists like the Dragon Ranking or the Divine List. Just like Master said, in this year's Qing bang competition, some hidden geniuses will appear, and their true strength is no less than the top ten of the last Qing bang."

"Based on what you said, doesn't that mean lists like the Qing bang, Dragon Ranking, and Divine List are inaccurate?" Ye Fan frowned.

"The lists are still accurate to some extent because these hidden strong people are only a minority," Chu Ji shook her head.

"I see..."

Ye Fan pondered thoughtfully, "You just mentioned that an Inner Sect Elder from the Yanhuang Organization wants to take Ruoshui as a disciple. Is he a Gang Qi Realm Cultivator?"

"Yes," Chu Ji nodded, "His surname is Zhao, called Heavenly Master Zhao. According to Master, he has reached the Gang Qi Great Success Realm and his Cultivation is not below that of the Ghost Sect Leader Wu Mu. Heavenly Master Zhao was shocked when he heard that Ruoshui is a Mental Body, and he originally wanted to come personally. But after Yan mentioned your way of doing things, he wasn't sure you would agree, so he asked me to gauge your intent first."

"Tell him thanks for the kind offer when you go back, but Ruoshui won't be following him to cultivate," Ye Fan said after thinking it over."

"Heavenly Master Zhao might not be as skilled as Master, but he is no slouch when it comes to teaching disciples. With his wholehearted instruction, Ruoshui is very likely to step into the Gang Qi Realm. Are you sure you don't want to think it over again? Or perhaps ask for her own opinion?" Chu Ji asked.

"No need."

Ye Fan sighed, "I understand Ruoshui. To her, Cultivation is just a pastime. She has no intention of walking that path. Plus, her current Mental State is not suitable for Cultivation."

"Then it's truly a pity. We can only wait and see what happens in the future."

Chu Ji expressed her regret, then suggested, "Besides, I advise you to send Pan Jue Ming to Southeast Asia to covertly control the Underworld there and clear away obstacles for your father's governance."

"I've considered this as well, but I have some reservations—the situation in Southeast Asia is a bit special; external powers can easily infiltrate. I'm afraid he won't be able to control it," Ye Fan mused.

"Your concern is his individual strength, not his other abilities, right?" Chu Ji's insight was clear.

"Yes, he's only at the Postnatal Great Success Realm, and his strength was boosted with my help, so his foundation isn't stable. Among Martial Artists at the Postnatal Perfection Realm, he's at the bottom," Ye Fan nodded.

"I anticipated this," Chu Ji said coyly, then seeing Ye Fan's curiosity, she explained, "I am prepared to lend a hand and find two powerful assistants for Pan Jueming. One at the Innate Great Perfection Realm and the other at the Peak of Innate Realm. With them by his side, and Pan Jue Ming's capabilities, controlling the Southeast Asia Underworld will be a piece of cake! Moreover, doesn't Pan Jueming have you as a powerful backer?"

"Are you suggesting hiring mercenaries to assist and protect Pan Jue Ming?"

Ye Fan pondered, "That could work, but I worry Pan Jue Ming might not be able to handle them, and there's also the issue of their loyalty."

"You don't need to worry about that. I've crossed paths with those two before. If I approach them, they will certainly assist Pan Jue Ming wholeheartedly and without any divided loyalties!" Chu Ji confidently declared.

"If that's the case, then there's nothing to worry about," Ye Fan breathed a sigh of relief, praising, "You always think things through."

"Master is counting on you to dominate the upcoming Qing bang competition, so I have to clear any concerns you might have," Chu Ji said with a smile, her expression concealing a hint of guilt—those two individuals were not mercenaries, but her subordinates!

Once, when Ye Fan was heading to Southeast Asia alone, she had proposed to Chu Xuanji to utilize her foreign influence, but Chu Xuanji had turned her down.

"I'm sorry, Xiao Fan, it's not that I didn't want to tell you the secrets, but Master said the time hasn't come yet—when you truly become strong, you will learn everything!"

Besides feeling guilty, Chu Ji looked at Ye Fan with anticipation, thinking to herself, "What you need to do is become strong quickly and step onto the world stage, to unfold a legend that belongs only to you!"

Chapter 530 The Thief's Ambition Never Dies

At 8:58 a.m., the magnates of Dong hai's officialdom were seated in the municipal committee office building meeting room, preparing for the Secretary's tête-à-tête meeting.

Among them, there was no Bai Guotao.

"Gentlemen, Secretary Bai is unwell and will not attend today's meeting, therefore, I will preside over it," announced Dong hai's second-in-command, casting a slow glance around the room as the clock struck nine.

Hmm?!

In the meeting room, upon hearing this, the other magnates were first taken aback, then they understood the situation as clear as day.

Bai Guotao being unwell was a pretext; his actual distress was real!

As magnates of Dong hai, they had learned through special channels that the investigation against Ye Wenhao had been withdrawn, and he would continue to serve in the Southeast Asia Special Zone.

To the average person, this news might seem trivial, but to them, with their keen political insight, it meant a great deal.

Considering Old Sir Ye, Ye Yuanshan's discharge from the hospital after recovering from his illness, they could almost be certain that this was a signal!

In this context, it was no wonder that Bai Guotao, as the biggest rival of Ye Wenhao, was in a poor mood!

Just as the magnates had predicted, Bai Guotao indeed felt terrible.

He had received the news of Ye Wenhao resuming his duty in the Southeast Asia Special Zone the previous evening.

Although Bai Guotao had long anticipated this outcome, he still found it somewhat unbearable when it actually happened, so much so that he didn't close his eyes all night—he had sat in the study, smoking away three boxes of specially supplied cigarettes.

The study in the villa was filled with smoke, the ashtray crammed with cigarette butts, and Bai Guotao, haggard and with dark circles under his eyes, leaned back in the leather chair, looking years older overnight.

"Ding-a-ling-ling——"

Suddenly, the urgent ring of the telephone broke the silence in the study.

Bai Guotao was startled awake by the ring but didn't answer the phone; instead, he remained slumped weakly in his chair.

After about a dozen seconds, the ringing stopped, only to start again quickly, persistent like a death knell that added to Bai Guotao's already agitated state.

He abruptly sat up, considering pulling the plug on the phone line, but then he noticed the caller ID showing his father Bai Yuan's private cellphone number.

This realization caused his pupils to dilate slightly, and after taking a deep breath to compose himself, he picked up the phone: "Dad."

"Your cell phone is off, I tried your office phone, and your secretary said you weren't coming in today. I called your study and got no answer. I thought you couldn't handle the setback and might have sought to end it all!" Bai Yuan spoke in a stern voice, clearly discontent with Bai Guotao's behavior.

"I'm sorry, Dad..."

"I don't want to hear 'sorry.' I just want to know whether you've given up hope," Bai Yuan coldly interrupted Bai Guotao before he could finish.

Silence followed.

Bai Yuan's words seemed to plunge like a sharp dagger into the softest part of Bai Guotao's heart, causing him to shudder violently, his just-straightened body collapsing back into the chair.

"Heh... It seems you truly have given up hope."

As if having received an answer, anger turned to mockery in Bai Yuan's voice, "Fine, consider all the years I've spent cultivating you wasted. Pretend I never made this call; continue wallowing in your despair!"

"Dad, I..." Bai Guotao hurriedly tried to speak.

"What about you?" Bai Yuan's cold voice cut him off again.

"I... I'm a bit downhearted, not hopeless," lied Bai Guotao.

"Downhearted? Does that look like downhearted to you? Do downhearted people skip work? Do downhearted people shut off their phones??" Bai Yuan's barrage of rapid-fire questions felt like a machine-gun spray.

"..."

Bai Guotao was speechless.

"I'm not hopeless, but I am disappointed in you—this is not how the future successor of the Bai Family should behave!" Bai Yuan said gravely.

Facing another reprimand from Bai Yuan, Bai Guotao hesitated before asking, "Dad, do you really believe there's still hope now?"

"A game of power is like a gamble; no one knows who the final winner is until the very last moment—it's the one who can laugh last that truly wins!"

Bai Yuan said irritably, "Even Ye Wenhao, that bastard, understands this principle. Don't you?"

"I haven't forgotten, I'm just..." Bai Guotao attempted to explain.

Bai Yuan didn't give him the chance: "You think the overall situation is set in stone, don't you?"

"..."

Once again speechless, Bai Guotao knew that, based on the usual process of high-level adjustments, the current situation was at most a preliminary tone-setting, and the true settling of affairs was still two or three years away.

"Although I still haven't figured out what trump card that bastard Ye Wenhao relied on to change the results of the last game, Wu Mu has scoured the Ancient Books of cultivation and found out that the Heaven-defying Skill the boy used can at most extend the Old Bastard of the Ye Family's life by one more year!" Bai Yuan revealed the mystery, stating the purpose of his call.

One year?!

"Huff! Huff!"

These two words, when they reached Bai Guotao's ears, sounded more delightful than the music of immortals, clearing away the despair and disheartenment on his face, even making his breathing quicken, "Dad, is this true?"

"What do you think?" Bai Yuan countered.

"Sorry, Dad, I've lost my balance," Bai Guotao quickly apologized. If Bai Yuan wasn't certain about this point, he would not have mentioned it on the phone.

"I've said it before, I don't want to hear 'sorry'—that's what cowards say!" Bai Yuan growled, as if trying to awaken Bai Guotao's ambition and fighting spirit through his words.

"Dad, since that old bastard of the Ye Family can only live for one more year, then Ye Wenhao doesn't stand a chance against me!" Bai Guotao enunciated each word, his speech regaining the confidence of old.

"Now that's more like the successor of the Bai Family."

Bai Yuan continued, his tone less harsh this time, "As long as we endure the coming year, and once the Ye Family's old bastard kicks the bucket, we'll pull back the tides and turn the situation around. In terms of time and the situation at hand, it's totally feasible."

"Mm."

Bai Guotao nodded. If Ye Yuanshan could live until the conference three years later, he'd indeed be desperate, but with just one year, he wasn't afraid at all.

"Just like I said before, don't think about anything else and fully commit to doing your job well. Show results that make those above take notice, laying the groundwork for the final battle."

Bai Yuan instructed, "As long as you do well, with Ye Wenhao being such an incompetent, how could he possibly compete with you?"

"Without that old bastard Ye's support, Ye Wenhao wouldn't even qualify to be my rival!"

Bai Guotao regained his spirited posture, feeling as if he, not Ye Wenhao, were the victor of their last encounter.

It's just—

At this moment.

Neither he nor Bai Yuan realized that there was something different about their conversation from before—they had forgotten someone.

Ye Fan.

Clearly... subconsciously, they had changed their view of Ye Fan—they no longer considered him a liability to Ye Wenhao, becoming the bane of the entire Ye Family.

But—

They had not yet fully realized that the once-dominant Ye Family of Huaxia was not truly supported by Ye Yuanshan, the stabilizer, but by the first heir of Huaxia who made the military, political, business, and underworld realms tremble with fear!

Even they failed to realize this, so what about Young Master Chen Feilian of Qinghong, ignorant of the detailed ins and outs of the defeat?

In the early morning of Dong hai, Los Angeles was already welcoming the night.

The Qinghong Villa was silent under the night sky, seeming calm and all the more oppressive.

Inside Villa No. 2's study, all the facilities destroyed by Chen Feilian, like the wall-mounted screen and the desk, had been replaced.

Sitting at his desk, Chen Feilian turned on the wall-mounted screen and initiated a video call.

"The honored Mr. Chen."

Soon, Luo Yi, Qinghong's chief intelligence officer in Huaxia, appeared on the video, bowing and greeting Chen Feilian.

Chen Feilian remained indifferent, merely frowning at him.

Seeing this, Luo Yi knew Chen Feilian was in a bad mood and didn't dare to waste words, getting straight to the point, "Mr. Chen, the latest intelligence reports that Huaxia's higher-ups have concluded the suspension investigation of Ye Wenhao, restoring his position and allowing him to continue governing the Southeast Asia Special Zone—although this news has not yet been officially announced or reported by major media, it has already spread in upper circles, so it's unlikely to be false."

"Remember, I want intelligence that is firm, not maybe, likely, or almost. It is either yes or no!" Chen Feilian spoke coldly.

"Uh... Sorry, Mr. Chen, I..." Startled by Chen Feilian's anger, Luo Yi's voice trembled.

"If this information is wrong, I'll twist your head off!" Chen Feilian cut off Luo Yi coldly.

Luo Yi, drenched in cold sweat, dared not respond and remained in a deep bow to Chen Feilian.

"Did you find out the inside story I asked for?" Chen Feilian asked coldly.

"So far, it's only what I reported last time—that old man Chu Xuanji performed the Heaven-defying Fate Changing Technique for Ye Yuanshan and successfully extended his life."

Luo Yi replied nervously, and seeing Chen Feilian's sullen face, hesitated for a moment but still braved to say, "This information came from a member of the Bai Family Faction. According to this official, after Chu Xuanji revived Ye Yuanshan, he got the Ye Family to secure Ye Fan, that son of a bitch, while he himself used his past Savior contribution to force Yan to compromise!"

Not knowing if it was because he approved of Luo Yi's judgment or hearing Luo Yi insult Ye Fan pleased him, Chen Feilian did not flare up but said, "Continue to stay in Huaxia and keep an eye on that bastard and everything involving the Ye Family. Report to me immediately if there is anything unusual!"

"Yes, Mr. Chen!" Luo Yi respectfully took the order.

Chen Feilian ended the call and stood up, walking towards the window and gazing in the direction of the African Union.

"Ever since the destroy virus broke out in Africa, my father went to the African Union's secret base, and it's been almost six years now."

As he gazed, Chen Feilian murmured to himself, "Given that my father has not reappeared, the medicine he is trying to develop must not yet be successful. However... surely my father has achieved the Great Perfection Realm of Gang Qi by now?"

"Heh, as long as my father breaks through the Peak of Gang Qi and successfully develops the medicine, not just the Ye Family, but the entire world will be trampled under my father's feet!"

By the end, Chen Feilian couldn't help but sneer, "Son of a bitch, I hope you can live peacefully until that time. When that moment comes, I want you to kneel before me like a dog, begging for mercy, and then I'll skin you alive to vent the hatred in my heart!!"