

Y Master 531

Chapter 531 Uninvited

After noon, Pudong International Airport became lively. Looking around, the terminal was filled with people, Asians, Blacks, Whites, all were present.

Ye Fan stood at a security checkpoint, dressed in sportswear and carrying a travel bag, resembling a tourist.

Chu Ji, Su Yuxin, Situ Ruoshui, Su Jindi, and Pan Jueming stood by Ye Fan's side.

Chu Ji wore a long red cloak that covered a black leather skirt underneath, only revealing flesh-colored stockings wrapped around her beautiful legs and black knee-high boots. Along with her enchanting aura, she appeared like a demon descending upon the earth.

Su Yuxin dressed in a black suit, paired with a white shirt, a black long skirt, and high heels. Her distant cold expression added to her aura of a powerful career woman, intimidating anyone from staring directly.

Situ Ruoshui, as usual, dressed casually in a white hoodie, light blue jeans, and sneakers, giving off a vibrant and energetic impression.

But—

Her bulging bosom and pitifully cute face seemed to form a mix of devil and angel, making her even more attractive to men than Chu Ji and Su Yuxin.

This contradiction in men's hearts was evident—they desired a woman who was seductive yet wished for innocence and cuteness.

All three women were top-tier beauties, while Pan Jueming and Su Jindi, both being sons of affluent families, possessed handsome features and trim figures from martial arts training. Dressed in tasteful clothing, their allure to women was considerably strong.

Their group of attractive men and women almost attracted the attention of everyone around, even causing some passing flight attendants to look pale in comparison.

"Haven't you always advocated being low-key? Why go high-profile today? Look at this turn-back rate."

The five of them had already adapted to being the center of attention and did not feel uncomfortable. Among them, Chu Ji teased Ye Fan.

Originally, she planned to arrange Tianshan Group's private jet to send Ye Fan to Yanjing, but Ye Fan felt that sending a private jet just for him was unnecessary.

"Anyway, no one is looking at me."

Ye Fan responded with a smile, appearing very relaxed.

"Big brother, you're going to be away for so long, can Sister Yuxin and I call you if we miss you?" Situ Ruoshui asked with a face full of reluctance.

"Ruoshui, that's where you're wrong. How come only you and my sister miss Ye Fan? Don't I miss him too?" Su Jindi interjected before Ye Fan could speak.

Seeing this, Ye Fan couldn't help but laugh and say, "You guys can contact me anytime."

"Ye Fan, you should hurry and set up 'WeChat', add us as friends, take pictures of beautiful scenery, share them in the Moments so that we all can see it, and share the joy,"

Su Jindi chuckled and said, "Just like the saying goes, 'Even though we're not together, our hearts are always together.'"

"Little Jindi, are you planning to have a fling with Xiao Fan?" Chu Ji grinned and asked.

"As long as Brother Ye Fan is willing, my love is always at your disposal!" Su Jindi purposefully gazed affectionately at Ye Fan.

"Slap—"

Ye Fan immediately rewarded Su Jindi with a slap, saying, "If you don't advance in your studies and martial arts by the time I return, don't bother seeing me."

"Ye Fan, can we still chat joyfully??" Su Jindi wore a plaintive expression.

Ye Fan simply ignored Jindi and turned to Situ Ruoshui, saying, "Ruoshui, didn't you tell me before that you were going to participate in a global eSports tournament, leading your team to win the championship in League of Legends? You need to put in the effort!"

"Don't worry, big brother, I will do my best!"

Situ Ruoshui was brimming with confidence. After the rooftop chat with Ye Fan, her sealed heart had opened up quite a bit, and she was ready to continue playing League of Legends, seeking happiness in the virtual world and living life to the fullest.

"Since she's okay with letting go of responsibilities, don't be scared, go ahead with your ideas for Tianshan Group. Even if you fail, it's fine; she won't mind," Ye Fan told Su Yuxin.

Perhaps not expecting Ye Fan to say this, Su Yuxin looked embarrassed, while Chu Ji scolded laughingly, "Yuxin, this guy may be speaking without worrying about the consequences, but he does have the ground for it—at his will, he could definitely become the future global richest man!"

Swish—

Upon hearing Chu Ji's astonishing words, people around them, except for Su Yuxin and her group, looked at Ye Fan as if he were a freak: Could a richest man look like this?

Facing those doubting and mocking gazes, Ye Fan didn't care. Instead, he walked forward, stopped in front of Pan Jueming, and without saying anything, gently patted his shoulder—everything was conveyed in that silent gesture.

"Okay, you guys should go back."

Having done this, Ye Fan said with a smile, then turned and headed to the security checkpoint without waiting for a response.

Shortly after.

When Ye Fan passed through security, he turned around and saw to his surprise that the five had not left but were still standing there, eagerly watching him.

Ye Fan waved his hand with a smile and continued walking towards the boarding gate without looking back.

Chu Ji, seeing this, urged the four reluctant ones to leave.

Fifty minutes later.

Ye Fan, like the other passengers, queued in line and boarded the plane in an orderly manner.

Once Ye Fan entered the cabin, most of the passengers were already inside, and there was only one seat left in first class.

Ye Fan glanced at the seat number, then at his boarding pass, only to find that his seat was occupied by a fashionably dressed young woman. Beside the young woman, a distinguished-looking young man stared at him unblinkingly.

"It's just a change of seats, what's there to stare at?"

The young woman, seeing Ye Fan looking at her and the young man, raised her eyebrows arrogantly and spoke as if changing seats was a matter of course.

Ignoring her comment, Ye Fan moved toward the empty seat.

"Swoosh!"

Just then, as if pricked in the butt by a needle, the young man next to the young woman abruptly sprang up from his seat. With his back to the young woman, he said to Ye Fan in full panic, "I'm... I'm sorry, I didn't know this was your seat..."

"Honey, why waste so many words on him?"

The young woman cooed flirtatiously. She was one of the recently popular models, and the young man she called 'husband' was one of the prominent second-tier heirs of Yanjing City.

"Slap—"

Her response was a loud slap!

The crisp sound marked the young woman being caught off guard as her head hit the cabin wall, causing a spell of dizziness and her previously fair cheek to swell up and turn red instantly.

"Uh..."

The young woman instinctively touched her face, staring at the young man with a stupefied look, completely dumbfounded.

Perhaps this scene was too bizarre, not just for the young woman but also for the other passengers, who looked on in shock, unsure of the act they were witnessing.

"I'm... I'm sorry, we country folks lack education, please don't take it to heart."

Unperturbed by the gaze of the young woman and the surrounding passengers, the young second-tier heir from Yanjing faced Ye Fan again and bowed at a ninety-degree angle, acting like an ancient servant faced with his master.

In fact, at this moment, the young blueblood even felt an urge to kneel before Ye Fan.

All this, just because he was a member of the Hong Ding Club and had long heard of Ye Fan's formidable reputation.

Even... within the Hong Ding Club, a saying was passed around: You might not know who No. 1 Chief is, but you cannot not know who Ye Fan is!

Swoosh!

Perhaps swayed by the young man's excessively respectful attitude, the passengers in first class took a closer, detailed look at Ye Fan.

Swoosh!

Immediately after, they all recognized Ye Fan, their expressions changing drastically!

"I'm seated just fine, no need to switch."

Ye Fan had previously ignored the young woman, deeming it unnecessary to engage with her, but now, sensing the young man's overreaction, he subtly guessed something but merely spoke without emotion and then closed his eyes to rest.

"Whew—"

Seeing that Ye Fan wasn't angry, the young blueblood breathed a long sigh of relief, then returned to his seat, only to see the young woman looking at him with a face full of grievance and confusion, as if wanting the young man to explain who exactly Ye Fan was.

"After the plane lands, stay as far away as possible and never let me see you again!" the young man whispered harshly.

Swoosh!

Hearing the young man's words again, the young woman realized that Ye Fan was someone the young man dared not provoke, her face immediately turning pale as a sheet.

No longer paying attention to the young woman, the young man, on the contrary, thought about how he had almost provoked Ye Fan, whom even the Hong Ding Club deeply feared, and wished he could kick the young woman off the plane.

Ten minutes later, accompanied by the sweet voice of the flight attendant, the plane started moving, gliding swiftly before suddenly taking off and soaring into the clouds like a small bird.

Two hours later, the plane landed on time at Yanjing International Airport, and Ye Fan was picked up by Ye Wenhao's driver and headed to Ye Wenhao's residence in Yanjing.

Meanwhile.

A car sporting a special license plate starting with Jing V02 arrived in front of Ye Wenhao's villa. Ye Wenhao, along with Qin Haiyan and Ye Cang, hurriedly came out to greet them.

As the car stopped, the driver immediately jumped out, opened the back door, and Ye Zhen, a high official with real power, got out of the car first but did not look at Ye Wenhao and the others. Instead, he slightly stooped as he waited for Ye Yuanshan to get out.

Ye Wenhao quickly stepped forward, and together with Ye Zhen, they helped Ye Yuanshan out of the car.

"Grandpa, Dad!"

"Great-grandfather, Grandpa!"

Qin Haiyan and Ye Cang quickly greeted them.

Ignoring them.

Ye Yuanshan turned to Ye Wenhao and asked, "Did you pick up Xiao Fan?"

"The driver just called; he's picked him up, and he'll be here in forty minutes," responded Ye Wenhao respectfully.

Hearing this, Ye Yuanshan said no more, allowing Ye Zhen and Ye Wenhao to help him into Ye Wenhao's villa. Throughout, he never glanced at Qin Haiyan or Ye Cang.

Holding her son's hand and watching the old man's back, Qin Haiyan felt a wave of bitterness swell within her.

There was a time when she dreamt of the two elders of the Ye family coming here for a meal, but for the past twenty years, they had never once stepped into her and Ye Wenhao's home.

Today, the elders of the Ye family had come.

But she knew it wasn't for her and Ye Cang.

It wasn't for Ye Wenhao either.

They had come uninvited, solely for Ye Fan!

Chapter 532 Thawing Past Grudges, Looking Forward to Becoming Stronger!

At seven o'clock, Ye Fan arrived by car at the upscale residential area where Ye Wenhao and his wife Qin Haiyan lived.

Before the car reached the villa's entrance, the driver saw Ye Zhen and Ye Wenhao standing at the door waiting.

This discovery caused the driver's pupils to dilate suddenly, and his heart was filled with shock.

As Ye Wenhao's personal chauffeur, he was Ye Wenhao's absolute confidant and one of the Ye Family's death soldiers, having served the Ye Family for a long time.

In his memory, the number of times Ye Wenhao had stood at the door to wait for someone in the past years was not many.

If even Ye Wenhao did so, let alone Ye Zhen, who held a high position and wielded great power?

The driver then glanced back at Ye Fan and found that his expression was always as calm as still water, which made the driver smile bitterly to himself.

Ye Fan naturally also saw Ye Zhen and Ye Wenhao.

But unlike the driver, he knew very well that Ye Wenhao was waiting for him because he wanted to see him earlier, and whether Ye Zhen arrived uninvited or made a special effort to stand at the door, it was all just to make amends for past mistakes and to ease the relationship with him!

Soon, the car arrived at the entrance of the villa. The driver hurriedly got out of the car, wanting to open the door for Ye Fan, but found that Ye Fan had already opened the door and stepped out first.

"Uncle Wang, thank you for the trouble," Ye Fan said with a slight smile to the driver.

"Ah..."

Upon hearing this, the driver stood frozen in place, in a daze.

Clearly... he had not expected Ye Fan to be so polite to him.

Meanwhile, Ye Zhen and Ye Wenhao had also witnessed this scene, with Ye Zhen feeling particularly emotional.

In his life, he had seen many children of the red elite and grassroots families, but in his view, those who could remain neither haughty nor humble before their superiors during their climb, and who were amiable to the lower tiers after achieving success, could be counted on one hand.

In his view, Ye Fan was such a person—you did not offend him, he would always be modest and gentle, even towards the lowest echelons of society; you offended him, he would let you know what it meant to regret, even if you were at the very top of the pyramid of power!

As if to validate Ye Zhen's judgment, Ye Fan walked forward and instead of greeting him first, he looked towards Ye Wenhao: "Dad."

Ye Wenhao smiled, but the smile was somewhat awkward.

Ye Zhen did not mind it at all and said with a smile, "Xiao Fan, I heard your dad had prepared a great feast to send you off, and your grandpa and I are just mooching a meal thanks to you; you don't mind that, do you?"

"Ye is joking; with your status, the people who want to have a meal with you could line up from Yanjing to the East Sea."

As expected, Ye Fan harbored a grudge against the two elders of the Ye Family for repeatedly treating Ye Wenhao like a sacrificial pawn, deliberately taunting, "It's my honor to have a meal with you."

"Ah..."

Ye Wenhao's smile froze on his face, seemingly taken aback that Ye Fan had begun to butt heads with Ye Zhen right from the start.

"Haha... Xiao Fan, you really have a sense of humor."

Failing to ingratiate himself, Ye Zhen did not mind and just laughed it off—he knew that thinking of repairing the relationship with Ye Fan all at once was like a fool's dream, and it could only be done step by step.

In comparison to Ye Zhen, Ye Yuanshan, who served as the stabilizer of the Ye Family, was obviously much more astute.

Because he understood Ye Fan's temperament and knew that Ye Fan's previous help to the Ye Family, including prolonging his life, was all for the sake of helping Ye Wenhao reach the top, he did not go out of his way to cozy up and ease the relationship. Instead, he treated himself as Ye Fan's collaborator, engaging in an equal dialogue.

This situation left Ye Wenhao feeling somewhat awkward—in his heart, he hoped Ye Fan could ease his relationship with the two elders of the Ye Family, and even become kin.

But he also knew that this was impossible, at least not for now, so he did not add fuel to the fire by trying to meddle.

If Ye Wenhao felt awkward, Qin Haiyan and Ye Cang, mother and son, were utterly miserable.

In the past, they could only see the two elders of the Ye Family in the Ye Family Mansion during holidays, without any chance of sitting at the same table with them for a meal.

Today, they were able to dine at the same table as the two elders of the Ye Family, thanks to Ye Fan. But the two elders completely ignored them, treating them like air, and they had to be extremely careful with their every move and silent, for fear of accidentally displeasing the two elders.

Maybe because the atmosphere was somewhat awkward, the dinner only lasted an hour before ending. Seeing that Ye Fan was not interested in them, Ye Yuanshan and Ye Zhen very tactfully chose to leave directly.

As for this, Ye Fan just stood up to show his respect, while Ye Wenhao, Qin Haiyan, and Ye Cang accompanied the two elders out of the house and watched them leave by car, only returning to the villa's hall afterward.

"Xiao Fan, come with me to the study for a chat," Ye Wenhao said with a wry smile upon returning to the villa and seeing Ye Fan sitting on the sofa.

"Mhm," Ye Fan nodded and stood up.

"Wenhao, I want to say a few words to Xiao Fan," suddenly Qin Haiyan spoke up, and as she finished speaking, she held her breath involuntarily, her eyes filled with nervous anticipation as she looked at Ye Fan, as if afraid that he would refuse.

"Dad, you go up first," Ye Fan said, under the expectant and nervous gaze of Qin Haiyan.

"Alright," Ye Wenhao glanced at Qin Haiyan thoughtfully and went upstairs.

"Hu~"

Qin Haiyan sighed deeply. Her mouth slightly opened as if she had a thousand words to say to Ye Fan, but she didn't know where to start.

Seeing this, Ye Fan took the initiative to speak, "If you're looking for me to apologize, then there's no need."

"Ye... Ye Fan..."

Upon hearing this, Qin Haiyan thought that Ye Fan was not going to forgive her and her son, Ye Cang, and her face suddenly changed, showing a hint of panic.

"Back then, my father, due to Ye Yuanshan's forceful arrangements, betrayed my mother's heartfelt love and became a modern-day Chen Shimei*, failing her," Ye Fan sighed lightly and continued, "But over the years, my dad has never been able to forget about my mom and still feels guilty to this day. In a way, he has wronged you as well. So, I can understand why you were resentful towards me at first."

"Uh..."

Perhaps not expecting Ye Fan to say such a thing, not only was Qin Haiyan stunned, but even Ye Cang beside her was dumbfounded.

"Even... when you first met me and lashed out at me aggressively, I can understand that as well."

Ye Fan spoke again, and at this point, his tone suddenly changed, "But what I can't accept is you and your son insulting my mother, and that's why I taught you both a lesson."

"Sorry... sorry, it was all our fault!"

Regaining her composure, Qin Haiyan not only didn't blame Ye Fan but was somewhat moved—just like Ye Fan had said, apart from being taught a lesson for insulting Ye Fan's mother, Ye Fan had never targeted her and her son all along.

"There's no need for apologies. Since you're willing to let bygones be bygones, let bygones be bygones," Ye Fan said.

Qin Haiyan nodded firmly, hesitated for a moment, and then said, "From now on, we're all family. If you don't mind, you can call me 'Auntie' from now on."

"Auntie, we've always been family," Ye Fan smiled, seeing that, unlike Ye Zhen, Qin Haiyan was genuinely willing to bury the hatchet with no hidden agenda.

"Yes... yes, we've always been family... one family!" Qin Haiyan's voice trembled slightly, her eyes reddening with emotion.

Ye Cang beside her seemed somewhat excited.

Now, Ye Fan was the rightfully named top young master of Huaxia. If Ye Fan acknowledged him as his brother, then those young masters who used to look down on him would definitely steer clear of him in the future!

"Phew~"

Meanwhile, in the study, Ye Wenhao, with his excellent hearing, caught the conversation between Ye Fan and Qin Haiyan and let out a breath of relief.

At the same time, he understood that Ye Fan's choice to make peace with Qin Haiyan wasn't just for the reason he had mentioned earlier, but also largely because he didn't want to put him in an awkward position!

After all, a day as a couple warrants a hundred days of grace.

He and Qin Haiyan had been husband and wife for twenty years; to say that they had no feelings would be impossible.

And just like Ye Fan, Ye Cang carried his blood in his veins!

"Xiao Fan, thank you."

Half a minute later, as Ye Fan walked into the study, Ye Wenhao looked at him warmly and said.

"Dad, there's no need for all this between us, right?" Ye Fan said with a wry smile.

"Haha..."

Ye Wenhao, not one for being overly sentimental, heard Ye Fan's words and laughed heartily, "You're right. Otherwise, I couldn't thank you enough even if I said it a hundred times!"

"Auntie and I have discussed having Pan Jueming head to Southeast Asia to covertly control the Underworld there, to clear any obstacles for your governance."

Ye Fan shifted the topic, "To ensure that Pan Jueming can take full control of the Underworld in Southeast Asia, Auntie also specifically found two experts for him, one at the Peak stage of Innate Perfection and one at the Innate Realm, pretty much a sure thing."

"You don't need to worry about my side; just be more cautious yourself."

Ye Wenhao spoke with some concern, "Although I don't know exactly which places you'll be visiting to find the materials for crafting the 'Lifespan Extension Pill', I suspect those materials must grow in dangerous places, which might be inhabited by mutant beasts."

"Dad, don't worry. Even if I encounter mutant beasts, they pose no threat to me," Ye Fan reassured with a smile.

From when he was very young, he had heard from Chu Xuanji that due to the thickening of Earth's Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi twenty-odd years ago, the Cultivation World had returned to prosperity, and some plants and animals had mutated as a result of absorbing the Primordial Qi.

For instance, Plant Essence is produced after absorbing a large amount of Heaven and Earth Essence.

As for mutated animals, Little Wolf could be considered one; its bones were as hard as steel, its claws extremely sharp, possessing the strength of a thousand pounds and speed fast as lightning. Ordinary wolves, and even cultivators at the realm of Postnatal Perfection, might not have an easy time against Little Wolf.

According to the information Ye Fan had, Little Wolf was not the most powerful among the mutated beasts.

Some beasts, after absorbing a large amount of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi and undergoing intense mutations, even had the strength to contend with or kill cultivators in the Innate Realm.

But—

Up to this point, Ye Fan had not heard of any beast that could rival those in the Gang Qi Realm, so he was not worried. Instead, he looked forward to encountering powerful mutated beasts.

Because mutated beasts would form an inner core in their bodies, which contained a large amount of Heaven and Earth Essence, which cultivators could absorb to improve their strength.

"Also, you must remember not to leave Huaxia."

Ye Wenhao warned once more, "If you are within Huaxia's borders, with the Yanhuang Organization and Master Chu's deterrence, no one would dare to touch you. But once you leave Huaxia, that's another story—inevitably, someone might take a desperate gamble!"

This time,

Ye Fan did not respond.

He clenched his fists quietly.

Whether it was to triumph in the upcoming Qing bang tournament or to later eradicate the Qinghong Organization, he had to make himself stronger as quickly as possible!

Chapter 533 Prelude to Playing with Fire

The night deepened, and Yanjing City was brightly lit. Seen from high above, towering buildings soared into the sky, piercing through the clouds and shimmering with enchanting halos in the dark; cars zipped along the interconnected streets, an endless stream, the entire city brimming with the air of modernization.

At some point, this modernized breath began to violently erode the historical heritage of the Emperor City. Today, its heritage has become increasingly faint.

But—

As the capital of Huaxia, it still represents the nation's fate, hence some have proclaimed the slogan, "Huaxia will not decline, Yanjing will forever prosper."

Fate is something invisible, untouchable. Some believe in it, some do not.

Wu Mu, the Sect Leader of Ghost Sect and a supreme strongman in the Gang Qi realm, was one who believed in the concept of fate.

Because he believed in fate, he had ostensibly bonded with the Bai Family in the name of repaying kindness, but in reality, he wanted to glean a share of the Bai Family's fate to grow stronger with its aid and make Ghost Sect the most prominent sect in Huaxia.

Because he believed in fate, ever since he connected with the Bai Family, he seldom left Yanjing and mostly cultivated on Yanjing West Mountain, attempting to divide the fate of this ancient capital in this manner.

Midnight.

This was the time of transition between yin and yang, and also when yin energy was at its most abundant in the day.

In the past, during this time, Wu Mu would always enter meditation to absorb the Evil Yin Qi between heaven and earth.

Today was an exception.

He didn't meditate. Instead, he stood on a peak in West Mountain, gazing down at the dazzling lights of Yanjing City.

Bathed in moonlight, one could see that the swollen handprint Chu Xuanji had slapped on his face had vanished without a trace, his withered face filled with a cold fury and, more importantly, rage!

As a supreme strongman in the Gang Qi realm, being slapped away by someone was a humiliation beyond what others could possibly imagine for Wu Mu!

Especially since the man who slapped him was his nemesis, Chu Xuanji!

That rage had become his obsession, and if not dispelled, would eventually turn into a heart demon.

If that happened, not only would he no longer progress in his cultivation, but he might also be troubled by the heart demon during cultivation, leading to madness!

This was the outcome he did not wish to see.

So, instead of cultivating as usual when Evil Yin Qi was at its strongest, he planned to wait until the obsession was gone, his rage vented, and then focus entirely on cultivation.

Time passed unknowingly until a cold aura approached Wu Mu from afar, growing closer.

The owner of the aura was a middle-aged man in a black robe, not tall, with narrow cheeks and deep-set, vacant, and cold eyes. At first glance, he seemed like an evil ghost, giving off a chilling presence.

If Ye Fan were there, he would certainly recognize the middle-aged man.

He was none other than Ku Rong, Wu Mu's senior disciple!

Back when Ye Fan and Chu Ji attended the annual auction of the cultivation world, they had seen Ku Rong in the auction hall and Ye Fan clearly felt the cold killing intent in Ku Rong's eyes.

"Master."

Soon, Ku Rong, with his cold aura, arrived behind Wu Mu and bowed in greeting.

"Your aura is stable, and your consciousness is steadfast. It seems you have thoroughly consolidated the Innate Great Perfection realm," Wu Mu turned around, glancing casually at Ku Rong and commented lightly.

"If it were not for the Plant Essence provided by Master for this disciple, I would not have been able to step into the Innate Great Perfection realm, let alone consolidate it," Ku Rong replied with gratitude.

At the time of his encounter with Ye Fan, he had only been at the peak stage of Innate as a Magician, but after taking the Plant Essence given by Wu Mu, he achieved a breakthrough to the Innate Great Perfection realm and consolidated it through arduous cultivation over time.

"The reason I went to great lengths to find Plant Essence for you, to increase your power, is because I wish you to shine brightly in the Qing bang competition and kill that old dog Chu Xuanji's disciple," Wu Mu said coldly.

"Your disciple understands."

Ku Rong nodded. Not only was Ye Fan the personal disciple of Wu Mu's arch-enemy, Chu Xuanji, he also had killed Ku Rong's fellow disciple, Duanmu, cementing a deadly feud with the Ghost Sect.

"However, we will have to act ahead of time now," Wu Mu suddenly said.

"Ahead of time?" Ku Rong, taken aback, asked, "Master, do you mean to have me kill Ye Fan now?"

"Hmm."

Wu Mu nodded bluntly.

Ku Rong's eyebrows rose in concern.

Although unaware of the details behind Ye Fan's killing of a half-step Gang Qi realm master, he had heard about the incident where Ye Fan wiped out Nanqinghong and the Hongwu Sect.

And according to the information he previously held, Tong He, the Hongwu Sect Leader, was in the Innate Great Perfection realm.

This clearly indicated that Ye Fan had the power to kill someone in the Innate Great Perfection realm.

Therefore, with Ku Rong's abilities, it might not be possible to defeat Ye Fan.

Furthermore, even if he could manage to kill Ye Fan, he would face reprisal from Chu Xuanji and the Ye Family, as well as punishment from the Yanhuang Organization!

Whereas, if he killed Ye Fan during the Qing bang competition, it would be different—according to the rules of the competition, life and death were in the hands of fate, and should any accident occur, no faction could seek revenge, or else the Yanhuang Organization would severely punish them!

"Are you afraid?"

Wu Mu's tone carried a sense of gravity, and Ku Rong's shifting expressions did not escape his notice.

"Master has commanded, and I am bound by duty to climb the mountain of blades or descend into the sea of flames!" All traces of worry vanished from Ku Rong's face, leaving only resoluteness.

"Very good!"

Wu Mu, seemingly satisfied with Ku Rong's attitude, praised him and then said, "I know what you're worried and afraid of. Rest assured, since I have asked you to slaughter that boy, naturally I have made arrangements in advance and will not let you act rashly."

"Sigh~"

Upon hearing this, Ku Rong put his mind at ease and said, "I will follow Master's arrangements!"

"That young beast managed to bloodbath both Nanqinghong and Hongwu Sect with the power of the Peak stage of Innate, not just because he practices both magic and martial arts, which greatly augments his combat ability, but also because he has two mid-level magic artifacts in his possession. One of them is the Ghostly Gourd that I once had your brother Duanmu craft, and the other is the Xuanye Flying Blade that he had the Yanhuang Organization help craft using the Taiyin Xuanmen Sword as the main material."

Wu Mu spoke again, "If he didn't have those two mid-level magic artifacts, with your strength, defeating him wouldn't be too difficult."

"Indeed."

Ku Rong nodded, not disguising his fear of Ye Fan—Wu Mu had long since seen through it.

"To ensure that you can kill that young beast with absolute certainty, I plan to craft a Soul Summoning Banner for you," Wu Mu said with a heavy voice.

A Soul Summoning Banner?!

Ku Rong's heart was shocked, and then he was ecstatic.

He had once read about the 'Soul Summoning Banner' in ancient books.

Unlike ordinary magic artifacts, the Soul Summoning Banner is an evil weapon that requires gathering a large amount of resentful energy and even resentful spirits to craft. The more resentful energy and spirits gathered, the higher the quality.

During the most prosperous times in the ancient cultivation world, the leader of the Demon Path took the 'Soul Summoning Banner' as his life-bound artifact, which was a top-grade high-level magical artifact. During battle, one could summon the resentful spirits from within the banner with their mind, allowing these spirits to gather into terrifying evil beings whose sole purpose was to annihilate their opponent's souls, possessing unmatched power.

"Master, according to the ancient books, once the Soul Summoning Banner is crafted, it will be at least a mid-level magical artifact, but it requires gathering a vast amount of resentful energy and even spirits."

After the initial wave of ecstasy, Ku Rong felt slightly puzzled, "Where will we go to absorb such resentful energy and spirits?"

"The Northeast."

"The Northeast?" Ku Rong was puzzled.

"The ancestral treasure sword of the Northeast Nalan Family was the sidearm of the first clan leader of the Nalan Family. Back when the Manchu invaded, the first clan leader of the Nalan Family took the lead, his treasure sword steeped in countless blood, and also absorbed the resentment of the deceased, eventually forming a resentful spirit within the sword, becoming a top-grade magical treasure sword!"

Wu Mu explained, "As long as I take you to the Nalan Family and secure their ancestral treasure sword, extracting the resentful spirit within it, we can then craft the Soul Summoning Banner!"

"Master is truly wise!"

Ku Rong was thrilled, not bothering to consider how Wu Mu was going to convince the Nalan Family to hand over their ancestral treasure sword. All he knew was that once he got the ancestral treasure sword of the Nalan Family and extracted the resentful spirit to make the Soul Summoning Banner, then the banner would be a top-grade mid-level magical artifact!

Top-grade mid-level magical artifact...

Such items were exceedingly rare even when looking at the global cultivation world!

"This is only the first step of your master's plan."

Seeing his reaction, Wu Mu smirked coldly, "After we obtain the ancestral sword of the Nalan Family, I will take you to the North Korea Special Zone."

"The North Korea Special Zone?"

Ku Rong's heart stirred, instantly understanding Wu Mu's intention.

In the fifties of the last century, the Huaxia leader who led the peasants to become their own masters, with a view to the long term, led his troops to the Northeast, crossing the Yalu River, and helped North Korea at that time defeat the Alliance Army led by the American Empire.

That war was horrifically bloody, with both sides suffering deaths exceeding a million, all buried in North Korea, today's Huaxia North Korea Special Zone!

And the best way to craft a Soul Summoning Banner was to head to the battlefield to collect resentful energy and spirits.

It was self-explanatory why Wu Mu would be heading to the North Korea Special Zone!

"Master, if you can collect the resentful energy and spirits of a few hundred thousand or even over a million dead in the North Korea Special Zone, then the Soul Summoning Banner might very well become a top-grade high-level magical artifact!" Ku Rong was slightly excited and at the same time a little shocked—Wu Mu was planning big!

"Heh, with your strength and holding a top-grade high-level magical artifact, killing that young beast will be like slaughtering a chicken!"

Wu Mu's reply was chillingly off-topic, "As for the Yanhuang Organization, you have nothing to worry about—that young beast is always arrogant. If you challenge him, he will surely accept the fight!"

"You are right, that kid is too arrogant! But... Master, going to the North Korea Special Zone to absorb the resentful energy and spirits from the battlefield is also against the rules of the Yanhuang Organization!" Ku Rong was very excited, but suddenly he remembered something and felt a bit worried.

"Although North Korea is connected to the South Korea of the American Alliance, there are few cultivators there, and it's the place where the Yanhuang Organization's oversight is the weakest. With the strength of the members of the Yanhuang Organization there, it's impossible for them to detect our actions."

Wu Mu chuckled coldly, "As for after the Soul Summoning Banner is successfully crafted, even if the Yanhuang Organization comes asking, we can just make up any location!"

"You've thought of everything, Master!" Ku Rong was fully reassured.

"Chu Xuanji, you dare to slap me across the face, I dare to ensure your disciple has no grave to lay in!"

Wu Mu caressed the place where Chu Xuanji had struck him, his expression ghastly and horrifying, "When the time comes, even if you seek revenge, with the top-grade high-level magical artifact Soul Summoning Banner in my hand, I will not fear you!"

Chapter 534 Northeast Nolan

Changbai Mountain is the source of the Songhua River, Tumen River, and Yalu River. It is also the birthplace of the Barbarian clan. During the Qing Dynasty, it was regarded as a Divine Mountain; the Emperor himself or his appointed ministers had to offer sacrifices to Changbai Mountain at Jilin, Wula.

The narrowly defined Changbai Mountain refers to the main peak at the southeastern part of the Changbai Mountain Range in Jidong Province. In a broader sense, Changbai Mountain refers to the whole Changbai Mountain Range, which includes mountainous areas in the eastern part of the Dong san Provinces of Huaxia, as well as many branch ranges of the Russian Federation in the Far East and the North Korea Special Zone.

At noon, two cars were driving on the highway leading to the Changbai Mountain Scenic Spot in the Changbai Mountain Pool West District. One was a Range Rover and the other was a Hummer that had already been discontinued.

"Nolan Qi, you could still buy a Hummer in the two years before it was discontinued, but it's almost impossible to get one now. How did you manage to get one?"

In the Hummer, a young man with gold-rimmed glasses and a refined dress asked Nolan Qi, the driver.

He was a Huaxia descendant and Nolan Qi's college classmate, studying at the Harvard Business School of the American Alliance.

He and several other Huaxia classmates were invited by Nolan Qi to Huaxia, planning to visit some famous historical sites, with their first stop at Changbai Mountain. They were picked up by Nolan Qi immediately after getting off the plane.

"My family has business partners in the American Alliance. They helped me get it," Nolan Qi said, tilting his head back, his speech betraying the pride of a member of the Nolan Family.

Upon hearing this, the young man's eyes revealed a trace of envy.

His family was quite wealthy in the American Alliance as well, but their connections were mediocre. They could not purchase a Hummer through special channels like Nolan Qi did.

Not just him, but the other two classmates sitting in the back seat also looked envious, one of them even said, "Nolan Qi, I heard that your family was royalty during the Qing Dynasty. After the establishment of the Qing, the entire Northeast was under your family's control."

"Of course."

Nolan Qi held his head even higher, his pride becoming more evident, "Even now, when you look across the Dong san Provinces, no one dares to offend our Nolan Family!"

"By the way, Nolan Qi, you said your brother is a Martial Artist and is currently cultivating Martial Arts in Changbai Mountain, right?" another young man asked.

"Yes. My brother Nolan Xuan is a Martial Arts genius of Huaxia. He's currently cultivating at Heavenly Pond in Changbai Mountain. You'll meet him,"

When speaking of his brother Nolan Xuan, Nolan Qi was filled with even more pride, and a hint of envy.

The Nolan Family was not only royalty during the Qing Dynasty but also a well-known Martial Arts Family.

Rather than studying finance, Nolan Qi wished to cultivate Martial Arts like his brother Nolan Xuan.

"The fame of Huaxia Kung Fu has spread worldwide; this time I must witness it for myself," the enthusiastic young man said, as if he could not wait to rush straight to Heavenly Pond at that very moment.

"Just hope you won't be scared by his Kung Fu then,"

Nolan Qi laughed with self-pride, acting as if he were the Martial Arts genius of the Nolan Family.

...

Heavenly Pond is the source of both the Tumen River and the Yalu River. It forms the border lake between Jidong Province and North Korea Special Zone, the central point of Changbai Mountain's

summit, surrounded by a ring of peaks, like a magnificent piece of jade set amidst the majestic peaks of Changbai Mountain.

Heavenly Pond is more than four miles above the ground, hence the name, but its actual surface elevation is 2,194 meters, making it the highest crater lake in Huaxia.

Around noon, the sun shone high, bright and beautiful, yet the temperature at Heavenly Pond atop Changbai Mountain was very low, less than five degrees, and once the sun set, the temperature would quickly drop below zero.

However—

In such a cold environment, a young man, bare-chested, wielding a bright treasure sword, was practicing his Saber Technique in the middle of Heavenly Pond.

"Huh!"

With the young man activating his Inner Strength, his arms thickened, and the treasure sword in his hand turned into a streak of white light slashing towards the lake surface.

"Shi—"

With one slash, a cut was made on the lake surface, extending over ten meters. Water scattered to both sides, rippling outwards.

"Ever since I took the Plant Essence to breakthrough to the Innate Great Perfection Realm, my comprehension seems to have improved a lot. In just one month, I've already reached the Third Level of the Water-cutting Saber Technique,"

Seemingly satisfied with the effect of this slash, the young man murmured with a smile, "With such progress, I expect to reach the Fifth Level of the Water-cutting Saber Technique before the Qing bang competition. Armed with my Family's ancestral treasure sword, I'll undoubtedly make those so-called Martial Arts geniuses flee in defeat!"

As his words faded, the young man continued practicing the Saber Technique, his face against the cold wind filled with fighting spirit.

This young man was none other than Nolan Xuan, the Martial Arts genius of the Nolan Family.

Ye Fan and Chu Ji had seen Nolan Xuan at the annual Cultivation World auction event.

At that time, Nolan Xuan was still in the Peak stage of Innate, but now, like many other renowned Wu Xue Sects and Martial Arts Families' prodigies, he had boosted his strength by consuming Plant Essence on the eve of the Qing bang competition, along with diligent practice of martial arts, preparing to shine in the Qing bang competition.

Ye Fan knew nothing about all of this.

At this moment, according to his own plans, he had arrived at Baihe Town, which was close to Changbai Mountain.

Baihe Town is a necessary transit place to Changbai Mountain.

With the development of Changbai Mountain as a tourist spot, Baihe Town greatly benefited, transforming from a poor and backward small town into one of the most prosperous towns in Jidong and even in the Dong san Provinces. Its scale rivals some counties, with towering buildings, spacious streets, streams of cars, and crowds of people.

As it is an essential route to Changbai Mountain Scenic Spot, local specialty stores selling native products can be seen everywhere in Baihe Town. These include the three treasures of the Northeast: ginseng, marten fur, and deer antler, as well as wild Lingzhi mushrooms, Changbai Mountain snow clams, and other specialties that are slightly less famous.

Chapter 535 Northeast Nolan_2

As he walked along the road, Ye Fan saw dozens of stores selling local specialties, but he didn't step inside to explore.

His secular experiences over the past half-year had made him quite familiar with the secular world, and he knew that stores like these wouldn't carry any precious medicinal herbs, and even those so-called local specialties were counterfeit—not wild!

Whoosh!

After taking a quick look around the town, Ye Fan had planned to take a tour bus to the scenic area, then enter Changbai Mountain from there to start his search for medicinal herbs. However, he suddenly spotted several peasants dressed individuals selling specialties on both sides of a road on the edge of the town.

Compared to the local specialties in the stores, these peasant-sold items were unpackaged and even had mud on some of them.

Seeing this scene, Ye Fan walked straight over, hoping to test his luck to see if these peasants had any of the medicinal herbs needed for making Lifespan Extension Pills.

Compared to the local specialty stores, the business on the streets was inferior, with more onlookers and fewer buyers.

This situation revolves around a peculiar psychology—people always think that expensive things are real and good.

Furthermore, for tourists, purchasing specialties is mostly for gifting purposes, so naturally, they prefer to buy nicely packaged items to present well.

"Authentic wild hazel mushrooms, ferns, lion's mane mushrooms..."

"Young man, what do you want to buy? I have all kinds of Changbai Mountain specialties here, guaranteed to be better than those in the specialty stores, all wild!"

As Ye Fan walked down the street, some peasant-dressed vendors turned their attention toward him, shouting out to attract his notice.

Ignoring the vendors' calls, Ye Fan's gaze kept sweeping from side to side down the street, in search of the medicinal herbs he wanted.

Hmm?

Suddenly, Ye Fan's gaze paused, not on the local specialties displayed on other stalls, but on some herbs.

Among them was the Immortal Grass, a herb needed for concocting Lifespan Extension Pills!

Immortal Grass, scientifically known as grass sustenance, is 15-35cm tall, nearly hairless throughout. It has a creeping, cylindrical rhizome, a broadly bell-shaped, dark purple, or dark-purple-red corolla, which is inflated and pouch-shaped with its upper lip upright and helmet-shaped and the lower lip very short.

Because Immortal Grass mainly parasitizes on the roots of alder species on precipitous cliff faces at elevations of 1450-1800 meters, it is extremely difficult to harvest. Combined with its legendary effects of invigorating the kidney, aiding yang, moisturizing the intestines, purging, strengthening the body, prolonging life, and granting immortality, it is hence extremely precious.

Unlike ordinary Immortal Grass, the one Ye Fan spotted was dark purple!

Moved, Ye Fan released his mind to scan it and was shocked to detect a trace of Heaven and Earth Essence within it.

Though faint, it indeed existed!

This discovery stirred Ye Fan, and he quickly walked over.

"Old man, how much for this herb?"

Approaching the herb stand, Ye Fan pointed at the dark purple Immortal Grass and asked an old peasant with a goat beard.

"Ten thousand!"

The elder took a puff of his dry pipe, exhaled a stinging cloud of smoke, and slowly said.

"Ten thousand?"

Ye Fan was stunned. The Immortal Grass before him, having absorbed the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi and condensed a trace of Heaven and Earth Essence, was not only beneficial for ordinary people to

strengthen the body and prolong life, but cultivators could also absorb its essence for cultivation, making it exceedingly precious.

"Big brother, don't listen to my grandpa. If you really want it, one thousand yuan will do," said a young girl next to the old peasant.

The girl sported a ponytail, wore a blue and white jacket, hemp pants, and sneakers, looking very plain.

But—

All these could not hide her beauty.

She possessed a standard melon-seed face that, even without makeup, could make those so-called tender models and stars who had undergone plastic surgery feel inferior. Her sparkling big eyes, slightly prominent nose, and sharp chin gave her a natural beauty.

As she spoke, a smile graced her lips, revealing two clear dimples, instantly endearing her to the onlooker.

"One thousand?!"

If Ye Fan was merely surprised earlier, now he was shocked by the girl's words—with the quality of this Immortal Grass, if recognized by someone knowledgeable, it would certainly fetch a high price.

"Big brother, this Immortal Grass was picked by my grandfather on the cliffs; it's different from the others that are cultivated artificially," the girl explained, seeing the surprise on Ye Fan's face intensify, thinking he still found the price too high.

"Ten thousand yuan, not a penny less!"

The old farmer tapped his pipe and knocked out the ashes, interrupting the girl, his attitude exceptionally firm.

As an old traditional medicine practitioner, he had inherited ancestral medical skills, especially a deep understanding of herbal medicine—he didn't know that this Immortal Grass contained the Essence of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi, but he knew this Immortal Grass was a rare top-grade specimen.

The reason he decided to sell it was that the girl was going to university in the summer, and he needed to save up for her tuition.

"How about this, old man, I'll buy your Immortal Grass for one hundred thousand," Ye Fan thought and then said.

One hundred thousand?!

The girl was instantly shocked upon hearing this figure, her eyes wide with astonishment as she looked at Ye Fan.

The old farmer furrowed his brows, thoughtfully watching Ye Fan, as if weighing whether Ye Fan might be a swindler.

"However, you have to tell me where you found it," Ye Fan observed their reactions, his heart clear, and he could not help but smile bitterly.

In order not to exploit the old farmer, he originally wanted to offer a higher price, but fearing he might frighten the old man, he settled on one hundred thousand after deliberation, yet he still startled the old farmer and thus added a condition.

"It seems you know the value of this Immortal Grass."

Upon hearing Ye Fan's words again, the old farmer dispelled his doubts and said with a bitter smile, "It's just a pity that even if I tell you where to pick the herbs, you won't be able to find a second one—I've searched the cliffs for miles around, and there was only this one."

"Don't worry, since I initially offered ten thousand, that's all you need to pay for it," the old farmer added, not taking the opportunity to raise the price.

"Uh..."

The old farmer's sincerity and integrity took Ye Fan aback, and he then smiled, saying, "You tell me where you picked the herb, and I'll go look myself, and the price will be as I said."

"Big brother, you've never picked herbs; it's very dangerous to go to the cliffs to pick herbs rashly!"

The girl regained her composure from the shock and quickly warned him, "How about this, you buy it for the price my grandfather mentioned, and then leave us your phone number. Later, my grandfather and I will go back there and see if we can find another. If we do, we'll call you, okay?"

"I know kung fu, no worries."

Ye Fan was amused; the sincerity and kindness of the grandfather and granddaughter made him feel slightly uncomfortable.

"So you practice martial arts, no wonder you're willing to pay a high price for it."

The old farmer realized and thought for a moment, then said, "I originally planned to use it for my granddaughter Xiu Ling, but since Xiu Ling is going to university this summer and the tuition is not yet arranged, I needed to sell it. Since you're offering one hundred thousand for it, I shouldn't take advantage of you. I have some rare herbs at home; come with me and take whatever you find useful."

"Alright."

Ye Fan's interest was piqued at the mention of more herbs, potentially useful in concocting Lifespan Extension Pills, and he nodded in agreement—since the old man possessed Immortal Grass, maybe he had other ingredients necessary for the pills.

However—

Ye Fan didn't mention paying him again but planned to have Chu Ji secretly assist the girl once she started university.

That way, he wouldn't be taking advantage of the two.

After all, given Chu Ji's identity and status, helping the girl would be worth far more than one hundred thousand, potentially changing the girl's life!

Half an hour later.

After Ye Fan had paid for the Immortal Grass, he followed the old farmer and the girl to a village called Changshi Village, where Wu Mu and his disciple Ku Rong boarded a plane from Yanjing to Shenjing.

Shenjing.

The Nolan Family's main base.

Wu Mu initiates the revenge plan!

Chapter 536 Looking Down on People with a Dog's Eyes

Changshi Village was located at the foot of Changbai Mountain, but it was not covered by the Changbai Mountain Scenic Spot, instead it turned its back on it.

The saying goes, "Live off the mountain if you are near one, live off the water if you are by it."

Because it was far from the scenic area, Changshi Village couldn't thrive on the resources of the scenic spot like the villages nearby, appearing extremely impoverished and backward. There were only a few dozen households, and only one dirt road provided access.

That dirt road didn't exist before, but as more people traversed the area it became a road. Later, when the government allocated funds to build rural roads, Changshi Village managed to secure some funds. However, the village chief only covered the dirt road with a layer of sand and gravel, and no further construction ensued.

The money went straight into the village chief's pockets.

The villagers were none the wiser, and even if they had known, they wouldn't dare kick up a fuss—in such remote villages, the village chief was usually a local tyrant, and even with ten times the courage, they wouldn't dare to provoke the bully.

In the past, beyond the village chief's cheap BYD SUV, only a handful of tractors belonging to barely a few families could be seen on that dirt road.

But today was an exception.

As the sun set in the west, two 'steel monsters' that the residents of Changshi Village had never seen before drove along the dirt road, arriving at the entrance of the village.

As the news spread, it caused a sensation in the village. Whether it was children and the elderly who loved the excitement, or the middle-aged men and women, they all flocked to the entrance of the village.

"I really didn't expect to see such a poor and backward village in today's Huaxia."

From inside the Hummer SUV, the young man wearing gold-rimmed glasses remarked as he looked at the impoverished village and simply-dressed villagers, unable to help but sigh.

Having grown up in the American Alliance, he had also visited farms there, but in his opinion, Changshi Village was at least fifty years behind the well-established farms in the American Alliance.

"It really is quite poor, just look at what those people are wearing, there are even patches on top of patches. I feel like I've traveled back to the 1950s or 60s," another young man mocked.

"The villagers here still maintain the primitive human way of life, primarily hunting and gathering special products. The former is alright; not only can it be sold, but it also provides something to eat during the holidays. As for the latter... the special products they gather are actually quite good, but they are all bought up by the village chief at extremely low prices, leaving the villagers with hardly any money in their pockets," Nolan Qi explained.

"Nolan Qi, you seem to know a lot about this village, have you been here before?" asked the young man wearing gold-rimmed glasses, curious.

"I came here once, five years ago."

Nolan Qi looked up and said, "Although the village is poor and backward, there's a small path behind the village that's the best route to get to Changbai Mountain; it's the preferred path for hunters. Only, outsiders don't know about this; they usually enter from the scenic area—where the game has mostly lost its wildness, not interesting at all."

"No wonder you brought us here."

The young man with the gold-rimmed glasses and the other two young men suddenly realized.

"We're going to rest here for tonight, and in the morning we'll have the village hunters lead us into the mountain. After the hunt, we'll head straight for Heavenly Pond to find my brother," Nolan Qi made the arrangements, then took the lead in pushing the car door open and getting out.

Seeing this, the other three young men hurried to follow suit.

At the same time, the doors of the Range Rover also opened, and three young men stepped out.

All of them were dressed in pricey mountaineering gear, and the occasional flash of their wristwatches was eye-dazzling, their price likely equivalent to Changshi Village's annual gross production.

For a moment, Nolan Qi and his six companions stood and looked out at the villagers, drawing a clear distinction—completely people from different worlds.

Among them, Nolan Qi and others looked down with heads held high, as if deities staring at mere ants, their faces filled with an immense sense of superiority.

"Go call your village chief over!"

Nolan Qi swept a glance over the crowd, not spotting the figure of Village Chief Zhang Dasheng, and spoke with a frown, his tone leaving no room for doubt, as if an emperor issuing a decree.

Surprised to hear his command, the villagers didn't budge, but instead, the children scattered, racing each other to Village Chief Zhang Dasheng's residence.

"Village... village chief, some city folks are looking for you!"

Very soon, seven or eight children ran up to the only three-story brick house in the village, shouting at the yard inside.

Hm?

In the brick house, Zhang Dasheng sat cross-legged on the kang, eating a wild chicken stewed by his second daughter-in-law, sipping spirit liquor, intending to roll in the hay with his second daughter-in-law after he had enjoyed enough drink. When he suddenly heard the words from outside, he was first startled and then ecstatic!

The ecstasy was because, for Zhang Dasheng, whenever city folks came, it meant a chance to make money.

Especially that time five years prior.

Back then, several individuals of distinguished appearance came to Changshi Village. Zhang Dasheng arranged for hunters to lead them into the mountain for a hunt, which greatly pleased the visitors, and later found out they were from the Nolan Family, the number one family in the Northeast.

Ever since, Zhang Dasheng boasted to anyone who would listen about his acquaintance with the Nolan Family members.

Even the opportunity to apply for the construction of a rural road for Changshi Village came about by waving the Nolan Family flag, deceiving the county officials—who, upon knowing that Zhang Dasheng wanted to build a road to make it convenient for the Nolan Family to reach Changshi Village for hunting in the future, dared not refuse the approval.

The other two times when people came, although he didn't figure out their identities, he fleeced them like sheep—charging a hefty guide fee and selling them all the local products he had bought from the villagers, making a tidy profit.

In his frenzy of joy, Zhang Dasheng tossed the half-eaten chicken leg back into the bowl, didn't bother to wipe his mouth or hands, haphazardly slipped into his shoes, and stepped out of the house in a hurry, eager to ask, "Where are the city people?"

"By the entrance of the village."

"When I make a fortune this time, I'll buy you all candy!"

Zhang Dasheng said excitedly, his steps quickening as he headed towards the entrance of the village.

With Zhang Dasheng's arrival, the villagers made way for him, allowing him to easily pass through the crowd to see the group of seven youths led by Nolan Qi.

"Discontinued Hummers, Range Rover—oh my dear mother, these people are definitely tycoons!"

After a glance at the seven people, Zhang Dasheng's gaze quickly shifted to the Hummers and Range Rovers parked behind them, his heart pounding with excitement.

In fact, the Patek Philippe watch in Nolan Qi's hand far exceeded the value of that Range Rover, but how could Zhang Dasheng recognize it?

"Village Chief Zhang, you don't recognize me?"

Seeing that Zhang Dasheng ignored him, his eyes fixed only on the vehicles, Nolan Qi felt somewhat displeased.

Firstly, with his status, no matter where he went in the Dong san Provinces, the local elite would fawn over him. More importantly, when he had visited here with the Nolan Family members five years ago, Zhang Dasheng had revered them like ancestors, but now he acted as if he couldn't see him.

Huh?!

Startled by Nolan Qi's words, Zhang Dasheng was shocked at first, then he fixed his gaze on Nolan Qi, feeling that he looked somewhat familiar. Upon careful thought, he suddenly realized that the young man before him shared the same face as the young Mr. Nolan from five years ago!

Whoosh!!

This revelation caused Zhang Dasheng's expression to change drastically!

"Na... Mr. Nolan!!"

Zhang Dasheng exclaimed, running a few steps forward to stand before Nolan Qi, bending over like a servant seeing his master, seemingly terrified but actually thrilled: "You've become much more handsome and imposing than you were five years ago. My poor eyesight didn't recognize you at once, I deserve to die... to die!"

As he finished speaking, Zhang Dasheng pretended to slap his own face, creating a comical scene that made the young men behind Nolan Qi burst into laughter.

The villagers, on the other hand, had their eyes wide open—in their memory, although Zhang Dasheng liked to please those from the city, it was the first time they saw him grovel to such a degree that he fed his dignity to the dogs.

"You are indeed a bit blind."

Nolan Qi reprimanded him, but the anger in his heart dissipated with Zhang Dasheng's bowing and scraping. He went straight to the point, "These are my classmates from the American Alliance. They will be following me on a hunt in the mountains, arrange it."

"Please rest assured, Mr. Nolan, I will arrange everything perfectly for you!"

Zhang Dasheng stopped slapping his own face and instead smiled ingratiatingly, "However... Mr. Nolan, it's getting late today and we can't go into the mountains—How about tomorrow?"

"That was my plan for tomorrow."

"Right on! Then you and your friends can stay in the village for the night. I'll have people prepare some good food and fine wine. As soon as it gets bright tomorrow, I'll find a few villagers with good skills to accompany you into the mountains!" Zhang Dasheng said, bowing and making an inviting gesture like he was welcoming a deity.

In fact, in Zhang Dasheng's eyes, Nolan Qi was no different from the God of Wealth—not to mention how much money Nolan Qi would tip him, he could fully take advantage of Nolan Qi's visit to further persuade the county to fund road construction and house building.

"The wild mushroom stewed with wild chicken here is quite good."

Nolan Qi explained to the six youths behind him and then took the lead, stepping into the village.

Just at that moment.

The sound of a car engine roared from the dirt road leading to the village, and an old van, long ago phased out in big cities, made its way towards the village, raising clouds of dust.

Because Changshi Village was so remote with no regular traffic to it, Ye Fan had no choice but to rent this old van at a high price.

The sudden noise drew the attention of the villagers, and Nolan Qi and his companions also involuntarily halted and turned to look back.

"Why are people from the city flocking here today? But no matter how many come, it's all in vain; today, the main focus is to serve Mr. Nolan properly!"

Seeing Nolan Qi and others stop, Zhang Dasheng also looked back. Seeing the van approaching, he thought to himself.

It wasn't long before the van stopped some distance away from the Hummers and Range Rovers, under the watchful eyes of everyone.

"It looks like some city folks have arrived!"

The young girl in the van blinked her large eyes, full of curiosity.

The old farmer appeared thoughtful.

Ye Fan, however, did not even glance at the Hummers or Range Rovers, which seemed like divine chariots to the villagers. He only took a brief look at Nolan Qi and his companions, withdrew his gaze, and paid the driver.

Whoosh!

The girl was the first to get out of the van, her pure and extraordinary beauty striking Nolan Qi and the other six youths. Their eyes all lit up upon seeing her, and Nolan Qi's eyes especially shone with lust, as if an ancient playboy had seen a beautiful woman and felt a desire to possess her.

As for Ye Fan, who got out after her, he was completely ignored by Nolan Qi, as if he didn't exist at all.

Chapter 537 A Knife Over the Word 'Lust

Seeing that those getting off the car were an old farmer, a young girl, and a young man in sportswear, the villagers lost interest and dispersed. Mr. Nalan and his classmates, however, were still staring at the girl with naked desire, as if wishing they could strip her of her clothes.

"Mr. Nalan, that man is Dr. Miao from our village, and the girl is his granddaughter. As for the young man, he must be here to buy medicine—Dr. Miao is very skilled," Village Chief Zhang said, noticing that Nolan Qi was reluctant to look away from Miao Xiuling.

"Oh."

Upon hearing this, Nolan Qi casually acknowledged with a sound, reluctantly withdrawing his gaze.

"I never thought I would encounter such a beauty in these impoverished mountain hollows."

"Yes, that girl, even bare-faced and dressed like a village girl, is stunning. If she were dressed up, she would absolutely overshadow the so-called stars!"

Listening to his friend's words and thinking about Miao Xiuling's ethereal beauty and her bosom, Nolan Qi's eyes glowed with lust, and his thoughts were unknowable.

Meanwhile, the van driver, having been paid, asked Ye Fan if he needed the vehicle any longer. Seeing Ye Fan shake his head, the driver turned and headed back the way they had come.

"Big brother, that's my house!"

Miao Xiuling pointed excitedly at a house in the village.

Looking where she pointed, Ye Fan saw a rundown mud-brick house with a yard enclosed by wooden planks.

Through the gaps between the planks, one could see a yard dog chasing and playing with some chickens.

"Woof! Woof!"

Ye Fan followed them into the yard where the yard dog rushed over, positioning itself next to Miao Xiuling and barking aggressively at Ye Fan.

"Xiao Hei, no barking at big brother!" Miao Xiuling tapped the dog's head, chiding it.

"This dog may be a yard dog, but once in the mountains, it's fiercer than ordinary hunting dogs, and even wild boars aren't a problem. It has followed me for nearly ten years now. When Xiuling is at school, it keeps me company," Elder Miao said affectionately, petting the dog's head as it licked his dry palms.

"Are Xiuling's parents not in the village?"

Seeing the dog, Ye Fan was reminded of Little Wolf, and it was clear to him that the dog and the old man shared a dependent relationship.

He had no doubt that if the old man encountered danger in the mountains, the dog would definitely fight wild beasts to save him.

"Ah... Xiuling's parents followed me up the mountain to gather herbs years ago and accidentally fell off a cliff," Elder Miao sighed with a somber tone.

Upon hearing this, Miao Xiuling's smile froze, her nose tingled, and her eyes reddened slightly, teary.

"I'm sorry."

Seeing this, Ye Fan quickly apologized.

"Hehe... It's all in the past now."

Deeply inhaling, the old man put on a forced smile and said, "Xiuling, go boil some water for Xiao Fan, and I'll take Xiao Fan to see some herbs."

"Understood, Grandpa."

Miao Xiuling obediently nodded and headed inside, while the yard dog followed the old man like a shadow.

Soon, Elder Miao led Ye Fan into a simple room filled with a variety of herbs and several jars of medicines.

"Elder Miao, I have no use for these herbs, please keep them for yourself."

Ye Fan surveyed the area and noticed a few precious herbs, but none were suitable for making Lifespan Extension Pills.

"If you have no use for them, then let me accompany you into the mountains tomorrow," Elder Miao said upon hearing this, feeling like he was inconveniencing Ye Fan and trying to find a way to compensate.

"Elder Miao, that won't be necessary."

Ye Fan shook his head; firstly, he didn't want to risk the old man accompanying him into the mountains, and secondly, his speed of travel was so quick that the old man certainly couldn't keep up.

"Then... then I'll refund part of your money," Elder Miao offered again.

"Elder Miao, you don't need to feel like you're taking advantage of me—you sold me the Immortal Grass of excellent quality. If you sold it outside, it would definitely be worth more than one hundred thousand. In fact, I'm the one who's getting a bargain," Ye Fan said with a wry smile.

"Well then, as Xiuling suggested, just leave your contact information with me before you leave. If I collect any rare herbs in the future, I'll contact you, and you can come and get them if you find them useful," Elder Miao contemplated and then said.

"Alright."

Ye Fan nodded.

"Big brother, are you leaving?"

Just then, Miao Xiuling appeared at the doorway of the herbal room, sounding somewhat surprised.

"Xiao Fan, it's getting dark. Although you are a martial artist and might not fear the animals in the mountains, traveling at night still has many inconveniences. Why not stay the night here and leave tomorrow," Elder Miao suggested without waiting for Ye Fan to respond. "Moreover, Xiuling's wild mushroom chicken stew is second to none; this would be a good chance for you to try it."

"Alright."

Ye Fan initially planned to venture into the mountains that evening, but hearing Elder Miao's suggestion and recalling Nolan Qi and his friends' lecherous gazes at Miao Xiuling earlier, he figured they might have designs on her. After some thought, he decided to stay overnight.

"Grandpa, just the other day, Uncle Wang gave us some wild boar meat that we haven't eaten yet; we could cook it tonight." Seeing Ye Fan agree to stay brought great joy to Miao Xiuling.

Elder Miao smiled and nodded, walking out of the herbal room with Ye Fan while Miao Xiuling hummed a tune and cheerfully skipped away to cook.

Meanwhile.

Village Chief Zhang Dasheng's house was bustling.

Nolan Qi and seven others were invited into the spacious main house, enjoying some of Zhang's prized wild tea, while two women known for their culinary skills in the village helped Zhang's daughters-in-law cook.

When it got completely dark, four plates of cold dishes were the first to come to the table, and Zhang brought out his best baijiu, serving Nolan Qi and his friends like a waiter at a hotel.

"Mr. Nalan, young masters, let me toast to you all. Welcome to Changshi Village," Zhang said, standing up with his glass filled.

"This drink is called 'burning knife,' it's very strong, but tastes good, and can ward off the cold,"

Nolan Qi picked up his glass, but ignored the enthusiastic Zhang Dasheng, instead explaining 'burning knife' to the six classmates.

The six youths following Nolan Qi were regulars in bars and nightclubs with impressive alcohol tolerance. Before the hot dishes were served, they had already polished off two bottles of high-proof 'burning knife.'

Zhang Dasheng didn't mind at all and brought out four more bottles, determined not to stop until everyone was drunk.

After three rounds of drinks and five different dishes, one of the youths suddenly asked, "Village Chief Zhang, it's boring just us guys drinking, how about getting a woman to join us?"

"You into weird stuff?"

"Exactly, all we have in this village are some old matrons, no fun at all."

"Have you all forgotten about that girl we saw earlier?"

As soon as the youth spoke, the others remembered Miao Xiuling's exquisite and refined face, their eyes gleamed, and even Nolan Qi felt his heart stir.

"Village Chief Zhang, this can be arranged, right?"

With his heart moved, Nolan Qi suddenly spoke, seemingly asking but with an unmistakable tone.

"This..."

Zhang Dasheng felt awkward. Although he was the village chief and the village bully, he could not just force a villager's wife to accompany them drinking, as that would trample the husbands' dignity.

"Village Chief Zhang, can't it be done?" Nolan Qi asked displeasingly, in a very harsh tone.

"Nol... Mr. Nalan, what do you think about this proposal?"

Seeing Nolan Qi getting angry, Zhang Dasheng gritted his teeth and made a decision, "I'll let my two wives accompany you to drink?"

"Who wants your wives?"

"Exactly, your wives, one's past her prime, and the other might be younger, but still just a village girl."

"We want that girl we saw at the village entrance this afternoon!"

Before Nolan Qi could respond, the other three youths started shouting, completely disregarding Zhang Dasheng's feelings.

Originally, Zhang Dasheng felt that asking his wives to accompany them for drinks was quite embarrassing and hurtful to a man's pride, but he thought that as long as he clung to Nolan Qi, who could make him rich, he could always get another wife, so he made the decision to have his wives accompany them.

Now hearing Nolan Qi's classmates' highly insulting comments, Zhang Dasheng felt suffocated, and his face turned beet red!

But remembering not to offend Nolan Qi, he forcibly dispersed his dissatisfaction and squeezed out a smile.

"As they said, let's have that girl we saw this afternoon join us for drinks, yes, the granddaughter of Dr. Miao!" Nolan Qi spoke sternly.

"Nol... Mr. Nalan, that might not be possible," Zhang Dasheng said with difficulty.

"Tell that girl we won't let her accompany us for free, we'll pay her."

"If she's willing to stay overnight, money is no object."

"Tsk tsk, just think about having such a pure and pretty woman under you, it's exhilarating."

...

Nolan Qi's classmates spoke lewdly, laughing, thinking Zhang Dasheng's hesitation was just about money.

And for them, anything that money could solve wasn't a problem at all!

Although Nolan Qi didn't participate, his glance conveyed more lewdness than his classmates'.

"If it was just about giving money, I would have done it for you young masters earlier," Zhang Dasheng said with a pained expression.

"What do you mean?"

Nolan Qi got increasingly annoyed.

"Mr. Nalan, you may not know, Dr. Miao's family has lived here generation after generation, each one treating the villagers and hardly charging any fees, holding high prestige in the village,"

Zhang Dasheng explained with an ugly expression, "With Dr. Miao's character, he would never let his granddaughter join you for drinks just for money!"

"I'll get a hundred thousand in cash from the car, you're responsible for bringing that girl here, however much you spend is your own matter!" Nolan Qi began to throw money at the problem.

"Nol... Mr. Nalan, I really can't do this."

Although Zhang Dasheng was tempted by the mention of a hundred thousand, he still shook his head.

"If you don't take care of this, you'll still have to find a way!"

Nolan Qi was completely furious. On the way here, he had boasted to his classmates about how powerful the Nolan family was in the Northeast; now, not being able to manage such a small task was making him lose face.

"Nol... Mr. Nalan, with Dr. Miao's prestige in the village, if I force his granddaughter to do something, it will provoke public anger..."

"Smack!"

In a fit of rage, Nolan Qi slapped Zhang Dasheng, cutting off his words, and spoke arrogantly, "In the Northeast, there's nothing the Nolan family can't handle!"

"Come on, I want to see just how tough that old coot is!"

As he spoke, Nolan Qi strode toward the door, seemingly determined to handle Miao Xiuling in front of his classmates.

Seeing this, the other youths quickly got up and followed, looking like they were on a hunt.

"The Nolan family?"

Back at home, Ye Fan, with his extraordinary hearing, faintly caught the previous conversation and his eyes narrowed slightly.

Chapter 538 Drunk with Evil Thoughts, One Kick into a Eunuch!

Whoosh—

Nolan Qi and the others suddenly burst out of the restaurant, startling Zhang Dasheng's two wives, who froze on the spot.

"Get lost!"

Nolan Qi coldly shouted, with the threatening air that he would slap them away if they didn't move.

Without daring to utter a sound, Zhang Shengli's two wives hastily retreated to the side, their faces filled with shock.

"Whoosh!"

The restaurant door was pulled open again, and Zhang Dasheng, who had just been slapped, chased out.

"What... what happened, Dasheng?"

The older wife saw Zhang Dasheng's swollen face and, anxious, couldn't help but ask.

Without answering, Zhang Dasheng quickly chased after them.

To him, even if Nolan Qi and others had forced themselves on Miao Xiuling, he didn't care, but... he feared that their actions might incite the villagers' anger.

Once the villagers became enraged, the situation would be out of his control—the temper of Changshi Village's people meant that the furious villagers might very well shoot Nolan Qi and the others with hunting rifles!

And if Nolan Qi died, Zhang Dasheng could imagine his own fate using his toes—buried alongside Nolan Qi!

This was something he absolutely didn't want to see!

"There are quite a few hunters in the village, should we go to the car and get our guns first?"

Nolan Qi's six classmates were all drunk and lustful, among them one managed to maintain a bit of sobriety, worrying that a conflict might arise.

"No need, even if you gave those obstinate villagers ten times the courage, they wouldn't dare to lay a hand on us! Besides, I won't even give them the chance to do so!"

Nolan Qi said, full of arrogance. Although he hadn't followed the path of cultivation like Nolan Xuan, he had practiced Martial Arts since a young age and was a Martial Artist in the Postnatal Great Success Realm, handling a few obstinate villagers was easy for him.

Hearing what Nolan Qi said, everyone thought of the Nolan Family's influence in the Northeast, and remembering that Nolan Qi was skilled in Kung Fu, they stopped worrying and followed Nolan Qi, charging toward Miao Xiuling's house.

Inside Miao Xiuling's house.

After having dinner, Ye Fan was settled in a simple room, but Miao Xiuling had cleaned the room very thoroughly and had burned charcoal specifically for Ye Fan to keep warm.

Ye Fan was originally sitting cross-legged on the bed, engaged in Meditation Cultivation, but when he sensed Nolan Qi and the others approaching menacingly, he stopped cultivating.

In the main house, Elder Miao and Miao Xiuling were chatting sporadically, unaware of what was happening.

"Grandpa, is it really okay for us to take so much money from Big Brother?" Miao Xiuling still couldn't let go of the fact that they had taken one hundred thousand yuan from Ye Fan for the Immortal Grass.

"It was a bit much, but knowing Xiao Fan's nature, even if we gave him the money, he wouldn't take it," sighed Elder Miao. "So, as you suggested earlier, when he leaves, we'll have him leave his phone number. If we come across any precious herbs in the future, we'll call him, and if he needs them, he can come and get them."

"Big Brother really is a good person," Miao Xiuling commented and glanced toward Ye Fan's room.

"Woof woof..."

Just as Elder Miao was about to say something, they heard the family dog in the yard barking.

"What's wrong with Xiao Hei?" Miao Xiuling was puzzled.

Elder Miao didn't reply but instead raised his eyebrows, stood up abruptly, and walked outside.

Seeing this, Miao Xiuling followed closely behind him.

At the same time the two walked out of the room, Ye Fan also stealthily slipped out of his room and blended into the darkness, frowning as he watched the entrance to the courtyard.

"Bang—"

Shortly after, as Miao Xiuling reached little black, the soil dog, and began to console it, Nolan Qi and his group of seven arrived at the courtyard entrance with aggressive momentum. Nolan Qi kicked the wooden gate, shattering it completely.

"Woof!"

Little black, upon hearing the noise, leapt forward and pounced on the intruding Nolan Qi and the others.

"Xiao Hei, come back!"

Seeing this, Elder Miao hurriedly called out to stop it.

"Beast, lucky you know your place, or I would kick you to death," Nolan Qi said, drunk and furious.

"What are you doing?"

Miao Xiuling was already dissatisfied with Nolan Qi and the others. Hearing Nolan Qi's words, she spoke up angrily.

Swish!

As Miao Xiuling's words fell, Nolan Qi and his companions all turned their gazes to her, their eyes flashing with lewd and lascivious desire, as if they were ready to ravage Miao Xiuling on the spot.

"Girl, Mr. Nalan has taken a fancy to you and wants you to come over and drink with him,"

"Not just drink, but share a bed too."

"Why bother with all that, just keep her for your own!"

"Hahaha..."

Nolan Qi's six classmates teased one after another, then broke out into indecent laughter.

"Old man, just let your granddaughter go with me, and when we get to the city, I'll buy her a house and a car, make her wear gold and silver, and let her enjoy wealth and luxury for a lifetime!" Nolan Qi spoke as well, though his words were not vulgar, his gaze toward Miao Xiuling was even more malicious.

Hearing Nolan Qi and the others' words, Miao Xiuling was so angry her face turned red and her chest heaved with rage.

This sight, far from deterring Nolan Qi and the others, only incited their bestial desires, with two of them even bulging their eyes with lust!

"We don't need your charity!"

Elder Miao exclaimed furiously, "Also, I warn you, don't think you can bully us country folk just because you're from the city!"

"Oh, old man, it seems you prefer to face the consequences rather than drink in honor," Nolan Qi angrily declared, stepping forward and aiming to slap Elder Miao.

"Swoosh—"

Before Nolan Qi's hand could reach Elder Miao's face, Ye Fan swiftly leaped from the shadows, standing in front of Elder Miao like an immovable mountain.

Swish!

Ye Fan waved his right hand as if reaching into a bag, instantly grabbing Nolan Qi's wrist and clamping down like a vice, preventing any movement.

"Who... who are you?"

The sudden turn of events caused Nolan Qi's face to change, and he sobered up a bit.

"Argh~"

Responding to Nolan Qi was an angry bark from the mongrel, Xiao Hei!

With a bark, Xiao Hei pounced on Nolan Qi, biting his calf with its sharp teeth and instantly piercing through the flesh.

"Ah—"

Nolan Qi cried out in pain and instinctively tried to kick Xiao Hei away with his left foot.

"Did I say you could move?"

Ye Fan rebuked coldly, his right hand exerting force and pulling down.

"Crack—"

A crisp snapping sound followed as Nolan Qi's wrist broke, and his body immediately lost its balance, collapsing in front of Ye Fan.

Meanwhile, Xiao Hei took the opportunity to bite off a chunk of flesh from Nolan Qi's calf and returned to Elder Miao and Xiu Ling, glaring angrily at Nolan Qi and the others.

"Hiss~"

The pain in his calf and wrist caused Nolan Qi to draw in a cold breath, his body trembling uncontrollably as if he'd been electrocuted.

And everyone who was with Nolan Qi was shocked, staring at Ye Fan, the Cheng Yaojin who had appeared out of nowhere.

"What... what are you doing?"

At the same time, Zhang Dasheng, who was following behind Nolan Qi and the others, was also startled, and then he suddenly woke up to reality, rushing towards Ye Fan while shouting.

Although he wished Nolan Qi would suffer an even worse lesson, he knew that if Ye Fan really caused fatal harm to Nolan Qi or killed him in a rage, he would also suffer the consequences, so naturally, he had to shout to stop him.

"Zhang Dasheng, what's going on here?"

Elder Miao glared furiously at Zhang Dasheng, who, despite collecting herbs in the mountains all year round and being quite robust, and even having practiced a few martial tricks, was no match for Nolan Qi—if it hadn't been for Ye Fan's timely intervention, he certainly would have been slapped to the ground by Nolan Qi.

"Dr.... Dr. Miao, Mr. Nalan had too much to drink," Zhang Dasheng stammered out in explanation.

Mr. Nalan?!

Startled by these words, Elder Miao's face immediately changed, and his brows furrowed tightly together.

Ever since the Nolan Family members came to Changshi Village five years ago, Zhang Dasheng had been bragging to everyone that he knew members of the Nolan Family. Before long, Elder Miao naturally understood that the Nolan Family to which Zhang Dasheng referred had deep roots in the Northeast, powerful since the time of the Manchu and Qing dynasties!

"Youngster, although I don't know who you are, if you're wise, you'd better let me go now and cripple yourself as an apology. Otherwise, even if you flee to the ends of the Earth, our Nolan Family won't let you go!"

Sensing the worry and fear in Elder Miao's eyes, Nolan Qi, enduring the pain in his body, glared at Ye Fan and issued a naked threat.

"I don't like being threatened."

Ye Fan released his wrist and looked down at Nolan Qi, pronouncing each word clearly, "Those who have threatened me in the past are either dead or on the road to death."

"Uh..."

Hearing Ye Fan's words and feeling the murderous aura emanating from him, Zhang Dasheng, Elder Miao, and Miao Xiuling were all stunned.

If even they were so affected, what more Nolan Qi and his six companions?

Out of them, Nolan Qi's six comrades were so frightened that they were speechless, while Nolan Qi stared at Ye Fan with a look of terror, his speech becoming incoherent, "I... our Nolan Family is the King of the Northeast! No one in the Northeast has ever dared to provoke our Nolan Family. Are you sure you want to make enemies with us? You may know Kung Fu, but our Nolan Family is a Martial Arts Family..."

"You talk too much!"

Ye Fan cut off Nolan Qi coldly and then tensed his right foot which, like a steel blade, morphed into a phantom and struck straight between Nolan Qi's legs.

"Argh~"

A terrible scream followed, as Nolan Qi, like a kicked football, was flung into the air.

"Bang! Bang!"

Behind Nolan Qi, two youths couldn't dodge in time and were knocked down, breaking their ribs.

Clang—

Immediately after, Nolan Qi's body crashed harshly against the door frame behind him, falling heavily to the ground, curling up, bleeding profusely between his legs, and passing out completely.

With just one kick, Ye Fan had turned Nolan Qi into a eunuch!

This sudden turn of events nearly made Zhang Dasheng's eyes pop out of their sockets!

He stared blankly at Ye Fan, his gaze seemingly asking: Doesn't he fear the Nolan Family's retaliation?

Besides him, the other four uninjured youths also stared wide-eyed at Ye Fan, their faces filled with bewilderment: Hadn't Nolan Qi said that the Nolan Family could call the wind and summon the rain in the Northeast? Why did this man not take the Nolan Family seriously at all?

"I'm giving you three minutes to take them and get out of the village!"

Ye Fan spoke slowly, providing an answer.

"Gulp! Gulp!"

Hearing Ye Fan's words again, the remaining four youths were so scared that the alcohol sobered right up, their minds trembling, their Adam's apples bobbing, and they quickly moved their stiff legs, helping Nolan Qi and the other two youths up in a terrified manner.

"Wait!"

A moment later, just as the four youths were about to leave with Nolan Qi and the others, Ye Fan suddenly spoke up.

Whoosh!

Apart from the unconscious Nolan Qi, the faces of the other six youths changed in unison; it was as if they were under an immobilization spell, instantly frozen on the spot, afraid to move a muscle.

"When he wakes up, tell him that if he dares to retaliate against Elder Miao and Xiu Ling afterward, then the Nolan Family doesn't need to exist any longer!"

Ye Fan spoke again, his voice as cold as ice, like King Yan passing judgment!

Chapter 539 Revenge Comes Quickly

Stunned.

Nolan Qi's six classmates were completely stunned on the spot!

Because Nolan Qi could get a discontinued Hummer and firearms that Huaxia strictly forbade, they all understood that the Nolan Family, although not as omnipotent in the Northeast as Nolan Qi said, certainly had an overwhelming presence.

And now, not only had Ye Fan completely disabled Nolan Qi's manhood, but he had also declared that the Nolan Family didn't need to exist...

The horror this brought them was imaginable.

Compared to them, Zhang Dasheng's shock was even greater!

After all, he not only knew about the power of the Nolan Family in the Northeast but had also profited by flaunting their name.

In his view, a word from the head of the Nolan Family carried more weight than that of a provincial governor!

"Who exactly is he?"

In his shock, Zhang Dasheng stared at Ye Fan's lone figure and quietly questioned himself.

"Get lost!"

The response to Zhang Dasheng was a harsh shout.

At the shout, Zhang Dasheng was so frightened that he almost collapsed to the ground, while Nolan Qi's classmates, without a second word, ran towards the village entrance like defeated soldiers, supporting Nolan Qi.

As people of Huaxia descent, they couldn't imagine what degree of audacity it would take for someone to declare that the Nolan Family should not exist.

But—

They all knew if they didn't leave, they might very well share Nolan Qi's fate!

"It... it's not my fault!"

After Nolan Qi's classmates had left with the unconscious Nolan Qi, Zhang Dasheng looked at Ye Fan with a face full of terror.

"If it had anything to do with you, you'd be lying down already."

Ye Fan looked expressionlessly at Zhang Dasheng. Although Zhang Dasheng hadn't helped due to fear of angering the villagers, he hadn't harmed Miao Xiuling either.

"Whew~"

Upon hearing this, Zhang Dasheng secretly breathed a sigh of relief, then noticed that his clothes were completely soaked with cold sweat. The cold evening wind felt piercingly chilly.

"Big... big brother, thank you!"

Just then, Miao Xiuling, recovering from her shock, expressed her gratitude to Ye Fan.

Elder Miao, looking worried, asked Zhang Dasheng, "Is that man the Nolan you always talk about?"

"Yes."

Zhang Dasheng nodded his head and, catching Elder Miao's implication, he gave Ye Fan a peculiar look and hesitated to speak.

"Xiao Fan, the Nolan clan has been the local tyrant in the Northeast since the Manchu and Qing era, deeply rooted here. Since you've struck a member of their family, they will certainly seek revenge. To avoid trouble, you should leave as soon as possible! It's best to go through the mountains, so even if the Nolan family members wish to stop you, they can't do anything about it!"

Elder Miao frowned anxiously. Although Ye Fan had declared that the Nolan Family need not exist, Elder Miao assumed he was just speaking rhetorically.

Originally, Zhang Dasheng was somewhat doubtful of what Ye Fan had said, but upon hearing Elder Miao's words and seeing Ye Fan's outfit, he didn't think Ye Fan was capable of causing the downfall of the Nolan Family.

Thinking this, Zhang Dasheng expressed his concerns: "Dr. Miao, not just him, but you and your granddaughter should also leave here — if they can't find him, they will definitely take out their anger on you!"

As he spoke, the worry on Zhang Dasheng's face deepened, seemingly concerned that he too might be implicated.

Hearing Zhang Dasheng's warning, Elder Miao's brow furrowed even tighter.

Clearly, he knew that Zhang Dasheng's alarm was not exaggerated — although it was Ye Fan who had injured Nolan Qi, the incident was ultimately provoked by Miao Xiuling.

"Elder Miao, rest assured, if I dare to act, I am not afraid of their retaliation. Just to be safe, I will stay here for a few days until this matter is completely resolved,"

Hearing Zhang Dasheng's words and seeing Elder Miao's concerned expression prompted Ye Fan to think that his previous words probably weren't frightening enough for Nolan Qi, so he decided to stay.

"Although your martial arts are strong, as Nolan Qi said, the Nolan family is also a Martial Arts Family..."

"In terms of combat power, even if Nolan Mingde, that old bastard, comes, I will make his blood spill five steps!"

Ye Fan interrupted Zhang Dasheng expressionlessly, "As for power, although the Nolan family considers themselves big shots in the Northeast, making them disappear from Huaxia is not a difficult task!"

"__"

Upon hearing Ye Fan's words again, Zhang Dasheng was completely shocked.

As an outsider to the Cultivation World, he did not know how high Nolan Mingde's combat power was, but he understood the terrifying extent of the Nolan family's power.

He simply could not imagine what kind of identity Ye Fan needed to collapse the Nolan clan!

Zhang Dasheng could not imagine, and Elder Miao and Miao Xiuling were even more confused.

But... they all sensed from Ye Fan's tone and words that he was not merely posturing or trying to show off; rather, they vaguely felt that for Ye Fan, overthrowing the Nolan family was as easy as cutting vegetables.

...

Half an hour later.

After Nolan Qi's two classmates had driven the Range Rover and the discontinued Hummer like mad for several miles, Nolan Qi came to from unconsciousness.

He was awakened by the pain caused by the bumpy ride aggravating his wound.

"Na... Nolan Qi, are you alright?"

In the back seat of the Hummer, the young man wearing gold-rimmed glasses asked anxiously when Nolan Qi woke up.

As he spoke, he couldn't help but glance at the area between Nolan Qi's legs and was shocked to see it stained with blood.

Instantly, he felt a chilling sensation between his own legs, and the fear that had barely subsided in his heart enveloped him once more, making his scalp tingle.

"Yi~yi~"

Without answering, Nolan Qi, now fully awake, uncontrollably sucked in cold air due to the excruciating pain, his facial muscles contorting from the agony.

Amidst the painful stimulus, Nolan Qi soon became fully alert, realized he was in a car, and asked, "Where is that bastard?"

"I don't know." The young man wearing gold-rimmed glasses replied subconsciously.

"You don't know?!"

Nolan Qi's eyes widened, his eyes bloodshot, as if he wanted nothing more than to crush Ye Fan into ashes right there and then.

"After you passed out, he had us take you away. As for whether he stayed in the village or left, we don't know either."

The young man wearing gold-rimmed glasses explained, then seeing Nolan Qi looking murderous for no apparent reason, he remembered Ye Fan's prior warning, "Nol... Nolan Qi, that guy seemed ruthless, and before we left, he specifically had us pass a message to you."

"What?"

"If you dare to trouble that old man and young girl, the Nolan Family might as well cease to exist!"

The young man with the gold-rimmed glasses hesitated for a moment but still relayed Ye Fan's words to Nolan Qi exactly as they were said.

"Hehe... Hahaha... Hahahaha..."

Upon hearing this, Nolan Qi first paused, then he burst into an angry laughter that was bizarrely terrifying, as though an evil ghost from Hell was coming to claim lives.

Seeing this, whether it was the young man with gold-rimmed glasses or the two young men driving in the front and sitting in the co-driver's seat, all of them were so frightened they dared not make a sound, feeling a chill run down their spines.

"Stop the car!"

Laughing, Nolan Qi suddenly roared out loud.

"Zi~"

The young man driving was confused but instinctively stepped on the brake, the car tires rubbing against the gravel and stone road, sending dust flying.

The young driver in the following Range Rover, upon seeing through the rearview mirror that the Hummer had stopped, also stepped on the brakes.

The car stopped and without another word, Nolan Qi, enduring the pain, fumbled for his phone and trembled as he dialed his brother Nolan Xuan's number.

With tourism at Changbai Mountain becoming increasingly developed over the years, the scenic area management had partnered with mobile operators to install signal towers, covering the entire area with mobile signal.

In such conditions, although Nolan Xuan was engaged in harsh cultivation at Heavenly Pond, he could still keep in touch with the outside world.

"Little Qi, have you arrived?"

The call connected quickly, and Nolan Xuan's voice came through the handset, sounding slightly puzzled.

At noon, Nolan Qi had contacted him, informing him that he was bringing classmates to Heavenly Pond to find him.

In his view, judging by the speed of Nolan Qi and the others, it should have been difficult for them to reach Heavenly Pond at this point.

"No... not yet..."

The severe pain made Nolan Qi's tone rushed and his voice shaky.

"Little Qi, what's wrong?" Nolan Xuan noticed Nolan Qi's anomaly and quickly interrupted to ask.

"Bro... Brother, I was beaten in a village at the foot of Changbai Mountain called Changshi Village."

Nolan Qi, feeling wronged and angry, said, "That bastard not only broke my wrist and my lower body, but also threatened to annihilate our Nolan Family!"

"What... what?"

On the other end of the phone, Nolan Xuan suddenly sprung up from the ground, asking incredulously, "Who is so bold?"

"I don't know who he is, but I know he's also a Martial Artist," Nolan Qi said.

"A Martial Artist?"

Nolan Xuan's eyes flickered with a cold light.

As a martial arts genius of the Nolan Family, unlike many renowned geniuses from other Martial Arts Families and Sects who solely focused on cultivation, he also often participated in worldly activities.

These worldly experiences exposed him to many Martial Artists, knowing full well some considered themselves above the law due to their skills.

"Brother, you must help me get revenge!" Nolan Qi pleaded mournfully.

"Keep an eye on him, don't let him escape, I'll come down the mountain immediately."

Nolan Xuan said coldly, "Once he falls into my hands, I will skin him alive and throw him into the mountains to feed the bears!"

"Okay, how long will you need, brother?"

Upon hearing this, Nolan Qi felt the pain lessen somewhat, and a hint of excitement appeared on his fierce face.

"No more than three hours!"

Nolan Xuan said, adding, "Keep your phone line clear, call me immediately if something happens!"

"Got it, brother!"

As Nolan Qi spoke, he heard the "dudu" sound from the handset.

"Who kept that Zhang Dasheng's business card?" Hanging up the phone, Nolan Qi asked the three young men in the car.

"I... I have it!"

The young man with the gold-rimmed glasses, seeing Nolan Qi's intent for revenge, quickly fished out Zhang Dasheng's business card from his bag.

Earlier, Zhang Dasheng had given each of them a business card, which Nolan Qi and others did not keep, while he habitually tossed it into his bag.

Taking the business card, Nolan Qi, enduring the pain, dialed Zhang Dasheng's mobile number.

"Hello, this is..."

"From now on, keep an eye on the bastard who hurt me. The moment he tries to leave, tell me immediately and find a way to hold him back!" Nolan Qi interrupted Zhang Dasheng coldly.

"Nol... Mr. Nalan?"

On the other end of the line, Zhang Dasheng asked in panic.

"If that bastard escapes, I'll twist your head off!" Nolan Qi threatened bluntly, indicating his identity indirectly.

"Bam—"

Zhang Dasheng, terrified, shivered all over and hit directly against his own front door.

Chapter 540 You Won't Die if You Don't Seek Death (Part 1)

"You... you're alright?"

Hearing the noise, Zhang Dasheng's wife and concubines successively ran out from the courtyard.

Previously, when Zhang Dasheng followed Nolan Qi and the other seven people as they left, they restlessly paced in the yard, waiting for Zhang Dasheng's return.

"Why did you all come out?"

Zhang Dasheng responded irritably to a question not asked, a typical example of the kick-the-cat effect.

"I... I and sister were worried about you."

The second wife, usually doted on more by Zhang Dasheng, wasn't scared when he got angry. Instead, she asked curiously, "Dasheng, what exactly happened? Weren't you guys happily drinking earlier? How come you fell out in such a short time?"

"Don't ask what you shouldn't ask. All of you, get inside!"

Zhang Dasheng sharply scolded and then strode into the door, quickly climbing to the third floor of the small building, where he looked down high above at Miao's house.

"Dasheng, it's pitch black, what are you staring at?"

The first wife, seeing Zhang Dasheng in a bad mood, didn't dare to provoke him, while the second wife followed up, full of confusion.

"How much more nonsense will you speak? Hurry up and go to sleep!"

Perhaps realizing the gravity of the situation, even faced with his usually beloved second wife, Zhang Dasheng didn't show any kindness.

"Hmph, I'll go. If you dare, don't come to my bed tonight!" The second wife glared at Zhang Dasheng indignantly and went downstairs discontentedly.

Zhang Dasheng ignored her; even if he could bring to life the women from his treasured disks, line them up, he wouldn't be in the mood to bother.

The Miao Family's adobe house.

Both Elder Miao and Miao Xiuling had returned to their own rooms but neither could sleep.

Elder Miao smoked one dry tobacco pipe after another, and through the hazy smoke, one could roughly see his eyebrows still knitted together, his expression full of unresolved concern.

Miao Xiuling was also very worried.

Although she didn't know what the Nolan Family meant in the Northeast, she could infer from Zhang Dasheng and Elder Miao's tones that the Nolan Family was formidable.

In such a situation, even though Ye Fan completely disregarded the Nolan Family after injuring Nolan Qi, she was still somewhat worried.

It seemed that only if someone from the Nolan Family personally stated they dared not provoke Ye Fan would they be able to relax.

In the adjacent adobe house, Ye Fan too had not gone to sleep.

When Zhang Dasheng spoke with Nolan Qi earlier, though Ye Fan was too far away to hear what Nolan Qi said exactly, he knew it was Nolan Qi who had called Zhang Dasheng.

With this in mind, he was certain that Nolan Qi would seek revenge, and... it was very likely to happen tonight!

While being certain of this, Ye Fan's face showed not a hint of worry. Instead, as usual, he engaged in meditation cultivation. Streams of Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi continuously flowed in through the window, entering the crown of his head and circulating along the Grand Circulation route, gradually transforming into Power.

Meanwhile.

The Humvee and Range Rover that had previously left Stone Village were now retracing their original path, once again heading towards the village.

"Nolan... Nolan Qi, you're seriously injured. I suggest we go to a hospital for treatment first, then seek revenge," suggested the young man with gold-rimmed glasses from inside the Hummer.

"What the hell do I need a hospital for? I'm not going anywhere until I've killed him today!" Nolan Qi said fiercely, with no intention of visiting a hospital.

Firstly, he was blinded and maddened by hatred, and secondly, the last bit of his rationality told him that the local hospitals here couldn't possibly treat his injury. Even the famously well-equipped military hospitals in Shenjing might not be able to treat it.

His only hope for treatment rested upon the miraculous Elixir Pills of the Cultivation World.

Seeing Nolan Qi disregarding his injury for the sake of revenge, the young man with gold-rimmed glasses and the other three felt a chill.

Amidst their alarm, another young man hesitated before asking, "Nolan Qi, are you sure your brother can defeat that guy?"

"The fuck are you babbling about? My brother is our Nolan Family's Martial Arts genius. He is a first-rate expert throughout Huaxia; what's that bastard worth? My brother could crush him with one hand!"

Nolan Qi ranted furiously, then realized something and asked, "What, you're too chicken to follow? If you're scared, I won't force you. Just wait here for us!"

"That... that's not it."

The young man looked out the window, shaking his head like a rattle—given the outdoor temperature was minus seven or eight degrees, despite being dressed warmly, standing outside for three hours had chilled him to the bone.

"Nolan Qi, just to be safe and avoid alerting that guy, I suggest that we park a bit further away from that village when we stop and wait for your brother to get there before we move closer,"

Observing Nolan Qi's confidence, the young man with gold-rimmed glasses felt reassured and made another suggestion.

"Hmm."

Nolan Qi nodded grimly, agreeing with the proposition.

Clearly, he also knew that before his brother arrived, they absolutely couldn't risk being discovered by Ye Fan, else the outcome would be dire.

...

Deep within Changbai Mountain.

Nolan Xuan, a Martial Arts genius of the Nolan Family, clad in a Martial Arts Uniform and combat boots, with a large saber on his back, moved nimbly through the forest like an agile monkey, at an incredibly fast pace.

"Huff! Huff!"

Due to Nolan Xuan's extreme speed, the wind caused by his running created a continuous whooshing sound.

As the clock approached midnight, Nolan Xuan reached a mountaintop barely two hundred meters in elevation and less than five hundred meters from Stone Village as the crow flies, giving a clear view of the entire village, even to the point where homes with lights on were distinctly visible.

Looking down at Stone Village, a place he had visited five years ago, Nolan Xuan wasn't in a rush to descend. Instead, he released his Spiritual Sense, only to find no trace of any Martial Artist's presence.

"Did the bastard who injured Little Qi run away?"

Finding no one with his senses, Nolan Xuan pondered with a displeased expression as he took out his phone and dialed Nolan Qi's number.

"Bro, have you arrived?" The call connected, and Nolan Qi asked excitedly.

Nolan Xuan countered, "Where are you?"

"I'm on the dirt road leading to the village, about three kilometers from the village!" Nolan Qi replied.

"Didn't I tell you to keep an eye on that bastard? How can you watch him from so far away?" Nolan Xuan said somewhat angrily.

"Bro, don't worry, I asked the village chief to secretly keep watch. That bastard is still in the village," Nolan Qi said.

"I just used my Spiritual Sense, and I simply couldn't sense the presence of any martial artist in the village..."

As Nolan Xuan spoke, his Consciousness suddenly stirred, "That's not right! There's the presence of a martial artist in the village! Judging by the aura, it's a Peak Innate martial artist—that bastard hasn't left!"

"Huh~"

Nolan Qi breathed a sigh of relief, "I knew it, that bastard couldn't possibly be gone!"

"Cut the crap, head to the village entrance right now, I'm waiting for you there."

Nolan Xuan had intended to go down and seek revenge directly, but considering Nolan Qi's temperament, he decided to take action in front of Nolan Qi, allowing him to fully vent his anger.

It seemed to him that the person who injured Nolan Qi was like Sun Wukong, and he was The Buddha, believing no matter how much Sun Wukong jumped around, he could never escape from The Buddha's palm.

"Got it, bro, I'm almost there!"

Nolan Qi said and hastily hung up, urging, "My brother has arrived, hurry, drive to the village entrance!"

"Vroom~"

"Vroom~"

Hearing Nolan Qi's words, the driver of the Hummer immediately started the car, charging toward the village entrance, with the Land Rover Range Rover following closely behind, its piercing headlights illuminating the road clearly.

"Could it be that the Nolan Family has come?"

Zhang Dasheng stood in front of the window on the third floor of his house. Seeing the lights on the dirt road, he had a feeling, quickly went downstairs, strode out of the yard, and walked toward the Miao Family.

Shortly after, just as Zhang Dasheng was about to reach the Miao Family's main entrance, Nolan Xuan arrived at the village entrance.

"Just as I wanted."

Ye Fan had never intended to deal with the Nolan Family people in the village. Sensing Nolan Xuan's aura at the village entrance, he no longer deliberately released his own aura as before. Instead, he concealed his aura and silently left Miao's house, stealthily making his way toward the village entrance.

At the village entrance, Nolan Xuan, dressed in a martial arts uniform and carrying a large saber on his back, stood there, like an ancient swordsman, exuding a towering and stalwart aura.

"With my current strength, facing a Peak Innate martial artist, even without using my saber, I could kill my opponent as easily as slaughtering a chicken!"

Gazing at the two cars driving toward the village entrance and sensing the Peak Innate martial artist's aura he had felt earlier, Nolan Xuan sported a cold sneer on his face.

Although the Nolan Family specialized in saber technique, their cultivation technique was exceedingly effective in refining the body, and their Power quality was higher than that of martial artists of the same level.

With his strength, he could easily kill an average Peak Innate martial artist bare-handed.

"Bro!"

Quickly, as Nolan Xuan waited, the Hummer and the Land Rover Range Rover drove up one after the other. Before the cars arrived, Nolan Qi's voice was already heard coming from inside.

"Screech~"

"Screech~"

Then, accompanied by the sound of car tires rubbing against the gravel road surface, the Hummer and the Land Rover Range Rover stopped less than ten meters away from Nolan Xuan.

"Whoosh—"

Nolan Xuan's feet blurred, moving like a specter, instantly next to the car, opening the door for Nolan Qi.

Huh?

The door opened, and to Nolan Xuan's surprise, he saw Nolan Qi with one arm hanging limply, blood stains between his legs, and his face pale as paper, looking utterly miserable.

"Little Qi, in a moment, after I cripple that bastard, you'll step up and flay him alive, then throw him into the mountains to feed the bears!"

Seeing the severity of Nolan Qi's injury, Nolan Xuan said murderously, "As for your injury, you don't have to worry. I'll ask Grandpa for a Nirvana Pill later—as long as you take the Nirvana Pill, your injury will definitely heal!"

"Mm."

Nolan Qi nodded excitedly at the words, then said, "Bro, I know which house that bastard is in, I'll take you there!"

"No need, I can lock onto him through his aura..."

Nolan Xuan blurted out in reply, once again releasing his Spiritual Sense. However, he discovered that the aura he had sensed before had vanished, as if it had never existed.

"Bro, what's wrong?"

Noticing the change in Nolan Xuan's expression, Nolan Qi asked with some confusion.

Without answering, Nolan Xuan focused his gaze on the village, fully releasing his Consciousness, continuing to search for Ye Fan's aura.

"Looking for me?"

Just then, a voice suddenly rang out.

As the voice fell, the figure appeared!

Ye Fan emerged from the darkness!