

## NH

He was the strongest disciple in the Inner Court who was going to be placed in the Portico and made the disciple of the Senior Elder. How could he be defeated by an ordinary stranger?

He didn't believe it.

Luo Heng had more questions for Zhang Heng, but the latter had stopped talking to him.

The look of disappointment and disdain in Zhang Heng's eyes threatened to drive Luo Heng to the edge.

He had never been looked down by anyone before.

As a prodigy, he had always been given preferential treatment. He was convinced that he was the cream of the crop when compared to the other young disciples in Qingshan Sect. He believed that he could hold his own against other disciples from other sects in the mountain.

How could he have lost to a complete stranger?

"That asshole! That bastard!" Luo Heng cursed furiously.

But no one cared about what he thought and how he felt.

He had lost.

Everyone had seen him being defeated by Liu Qing, not Jiang Ning. They had seen how Liu Qing's attack had driven him out of the arena.

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Some of them was still stuck in disbelief. They had not recovered from their shock.

But things were as they had witnessed. What they had seen had truly happened.

“When did Third Miss become so powerful?”

“I can’t believe that Senior Luo lost...maybe he underestimated her.”

“There’s not an excuse. If you lose, you lose. He was defeated in front of so many people.”

The fervent discussions around him only made Luo Heng feel worse.

The look on his face was that of utter calm and there was a hint of a smile on his lips. He seemed like such a great sportsman who cared little about the outcome of the match. But his stormy eyes betrayed his rage.

“I won.”

Liu Qing walked up to Jiang Ning. She couldn’t control the exhilaration that was bubbling inside her.

She couldn’t believe it. She had really won the match.

“Of course you did.” Jiang Ning smiled. “He wasn’t strong at all.”

Jiang Ning hadn’t spoken loudly. Nevertheless, Luo Heng had heard him clearly.

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“Who are you?”

He couldn't take it anymore. He blew up instantly, his voice reverberating across the field and sending the crowd into a deathly silence.

“Such arrogance!” Luo Heng pointed at Jiang Ning and thundered, “Everyone knows that Liu Qing won because I went easy on her. Who gave you the right to mock me?”

Luo Heng had said that he had gone easy on Liu Qing. He had no shame at all.

No one believed him. They might believe him if he had said that he had underestimated Liu Qing and had lost the fight as a result.

But no one dared to refute his claims though.

At the same time, they hadn't expected Jiang Ning to say that Luo Heng was no match for Liu Qing.

None of the Qingshan Sect disciples would have dared to make such a claim.

“I'm just telling it like it is,” said Jiang Ning mildly after glancing at Luo Heng.

In Jiang Ning's opinion, Luo Heng was a mediocre fighter. He couldn't even compare with Chen Long. He didn't deserve to be hailed as the strongest disciple in the Inner Court.

His words sounded like provocation to Luo Heng.

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Jiang Ning was provoking him openly.

He wouldn't be able to hold his head high in the sect if he didn't respond to his act of provocation.

"You're full of yourself!" Luo Heng sneered. "Do you think yourself better than me? Can you defeat me in a fight?"

Jiang Ning laughed.

Liu Qing froze for a moment, then burst out into laughter too.

She might have gotten worried for Jiang Ning if she didn't know Jiang Ning as well as she did. Jiang Ning's casual guidance had been the reason for her rapid and marked progress. Liu Qing might not know exactly how powerful Jiang Ning was, but she had some idea.

She knew that Jiang Ning never lied.

But to everyone else in the audience, Jiang Ning had just doomed himself.

He was an arrogant punk who was going to suffer.

He had provoked Luo Heng while the latter had been stewing in rage. This was an unwise decision.

Luo Heng had just been defeated by Liu Qing moments ago.

Everyone knew that Liu Qing wasn't truly Luo

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Heng's match in terms of actual ability. But Luo Heng had lost. He was definitely going to be extremely unhappy about that.

Nevertheless, Jiang Ning had provoked him. He didn't know whom he was messing with at all, did he?



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“You want me to defeat you?” Jiang Ning eyed Luo Heng, then shook his head. “Not interested.”

Luo Heng nearly blew up when he saw the look of utter indifference on Jiang Ning’s face.

“I wish to challenge you to a fight!” he roared. Before Jiang Ning had the chance to turn down his challenge, he marched into the arena. His eyes never left Jiang Ning.

Everyone’s eyes shot towards Jiang Ning instantly.

They had no idea who this young man was and where he had come from. But they had seen how friendly he was with Liu Qing. He wasn’t any ordinary person.

Luo Heng had stepped into the arena. Would Jiang Ning dare to accept his challenge?

Mr He’s lips curled upward faintly. He gazed up and looked at Liu Chuandao. The latter nodded slightly, so Mr He didn’t step in and stop Luo Heng.

He was interested to find out more about this guest of theirs who had come from outside the mountain too.

They had not seen Jiang Ning fight, so they had no idea if he were truly a strong fighter.

Everyone’s eyes were fixed on Jiang Ning.

Liu Qing was eyeing Jiang Ning curiously too.

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“Honestly, he’s quite strong,” she said pointedly. “You might make a fool of yourself if you accept his challenge. Maybe you should turn him down.”

What a clumsy attempt at provocation.

Jiang Ning ignored Liu Qing completely.

He rose to his feet, folded his hands behind his back and strolled leisurely towards the arena.

Jiang Ning knew that Liu Chuandao was watching. His guests were watching too. So were the disciples of Qingshan Sect.

DA DA DA!

He walked slowly and showed no signs of panic at all. In fact, he didn’t even lift his head and look Luo Heng in the eye. It was as if Luo Heng had nothing to do with what he was doing.

“Come on!” Luo Heng growled furiously. He was growing impatient. “Hurry up!”

No matter what he said, Jiang Ning’s pace never picked up. He wasn’t concerned about the ruckus that Luo Heng was making.

He had his own pace.

The ordinary audience did not notice anything strange at all. But Mr He and others who were more discerning reeled back with shock as they watched Jiang Ning make his way to the arena.

The steady steps that he was making might seem

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irregular and taken thoughtlessly, but contrary to that, every step was a beat to an extraordinary tune and a heavy blow hammering on their chest.

This was astounding.

How was this possible?

The look on Mr He's face grew increasingly solemn. He could see the shifts in the looks on the faces of Zhang Heng and the elders.

Jiang Ning wasn't trying to conceal his true strength at all.

What was he planning to do?

Jiang Ning stepped into the arena.

All Luo Heng could sense was something odd in the air. The air had thickened suddenly with a heaviness that slowed his breathing and his movements.

It was a strange sensation. But he didn't believe that this had anything to do with Jiang Ning.

"I can't believe you had the guts to accept my challenge. What a surprise!" Luo Heng sneered. "You're an arrogant fool. You're going to pay the price for your ignorance."

Jiang Ning's hands remained folded behind his back as he stood tall and straight. He looked at Luo Heng coolly, then slid one arm out from behind his back slowly.



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“What’s the meaning of this?”

Alarm flashed across Luo Heng’s face. Why had Jiang Ning stuck one hand out?

Did he truly believe that he could win Luo Heng with only one hand?

“Hurry up. My tea is getting cold,” Jiang Ning said.

“You’re asking for it!”

The most even-tempered person would have blown up after being insulted repeated by Jiang Ning. How could he take this lying down?

**BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!**

Luo Heng sent his fist shooting forward furiously, unleashing the full extent of his power in an instant.

“Go to hell!”

Fury threatened to burn him alive. His eyes saw nothing but Jiang Ning. All he wanted right now was to crush Jiang Ning into dust and satiate his anger.

The attack sent everyone reeling back in shock.

What a terrifying attack!

Was Luo Heng trying to kill Jiang Ning?

He was. He was going to kill Jiang Ning!

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He had unleashed a fatal attack.

“Luo Heng, stop!” shouted Mr He.

This was Qingshan Sect’s most powerful attack and Luo Heng had mastered it. But he shouldn’t be using it in a friendly match.

Mr He had taken one step forward and was about to stop Luo Heng when he froze.

Luo Heng...had just been flung into the air!



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A deafening boom resounded in the air.

Luo Heng had been sent flying.

This time, he wasn't knocked out of the arena like how he had been by Liu Qing. This time, he had lost his balance completely. He screamed in pain as he spun a few times in the air.

Then, with a loud thud, he slammed heavily into the ground.

Dead silence descended upon the crowd.

One could hear a pin land on the ground.

A few people had opened their mouths, ready to crow that Jiang Ning was going to die in the arena. But before they had been able to say a word, Luo Heng had been sent flying into the air.

How...how could this be possible?

Everything had happened too quickly. They hadn't even seen what Jiang Ning had done. How had Luo Heng...

Meanwhile, Jiang Ning was still standing in the arena. His hands were folded behind his back. He was as still as a statue.

In fact, he had not moved since the fight had started.

"That was an extremely swift attack," said Mr He after a long moment of intense stillness and concentration.

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He had been ready to step in to stop Luo Heng from injuring Jiang Ning. He had not expected Luo Heng to be the one who would be injured.

How terrifying!

The rest might not have seen what had happened because of how far they were away from the arena but he had been standing relatively nearer the arena. He had seen the moment when Jiang Ning had attacked. He had struck as swiftly as lightning!

There was only one thought that occupied his mind now.

He was simply too fast.

He wouldn't have been able to react in time to that attack. Jiang Ning was...extremely powerful.

He arrived at a conclusion but shook his head after further thought. His judgment was flawed.

Luo Heng hadn't been Jiang Ning's match at all. Jiang Ning had defeated Luo Heng effortlessly with a single attack.

Jiang Ning was completely out of Luo Heng's league. Luo Heng wasn't qualified in any way to discern exactly how powerful Jiang Ning was.

Luo Heng's face was filled with stupor. He sat on the ground and put his hand on his chest. The strength of that punch could have easily shattered his ribs. But all he had felt had been a faint pain.

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How...how was that possible?

He had thought that he was going to die when he had felt that overwhelming power rushing at him.

Jiang Ning's punch could have shattered his ribs and crushed his heart.

But as soon as his fist had landed on Luo Heng's chest, the power behind the punch had vanished without a trace. Only the slightest force remained and sent him flying out of the arena.

He whipped his head up and stared unblinkingly at Jiang Ning. The terror in his eyes were clear as day.

A vast chasm separated him from Jiang Ning. That was the only way Jiang Ning had been able to control the force behind his punch so effortlessly.

It would have been a piece of cake for Jiang Ning to kill him.

But he hadn't.

He couldn't be bothered to kill him.

He had nearly killed Liu Qing, but Jiang Ning hadn't tried to kill him. He hadn't even injured him severely.

He had suffered two defeats in this single match. He had lost in terms of both power and moral character.

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“I...I’m such an embarrassment to myself.”

Luo Heng flushed deeply as he lowered his head and discontent stirred inside him. Yet, he couldn’t say a single word.

Jiang Ning didn’t say anything as well.

He didn’t mock or scorn him. He didn’t insult him. He didn’t say one word. There was no need for it.

With his hands folded behind his back, he made his way down the arena slowly. The leisurely indifference that he exuded marked him clearly as a powerful figure.

The crowd was silent. No one said anything.

They were breathing carefully, as if they dared not make a single sound.

They were still reeling from what they had just witnessed.

Jiang Ning walked away from the arena and headed towards Liu Qing. He reached out and patted Liu Qing because she was still caught in a dazed stupor.

“Come on, let’s go.”

He only had to perform that one move. That had been enough.

Jiang Ning didn’t care what happened after that.

Jiang Ning led Liu Qing away. He didn’t care who

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topped the ranking in the end. Liu Qing had proven herself. He had nothing more to prove.

Mr He exchanged a look with Liu Chuandao after he watched Jiang Ning and Liu Qing leave.

He was going to pretend that nothing had happened. But he knew that the other elders in the sect weren't going to do the same.



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“Who might that be?” The man who was seated next to Liu Chuandao blurted out with an equal measure of shock.

He knew the extent of Luo Heng’s abilities. In comparison, Jiang Ning had shown himself to be overwhelmingly powerful.

He didn’t seem that much older than Luo Heng.

He didn’t recall such a young talent in Qingshan Sect.

“Him?” Liu Chuandao smiled lightly. He didn’t seem fazed at all. “He’s the man who’s earned the favor of my daughter, my future son-in-law who’s going to marry into Qingshan Sect.”

This man was going to marry into the Qingshan Sect?

“He had been abandoned by another sect and I took him in. I didn’t expect him and my daughter to develop feelings for each other,” Liu Chuandao laughed. “I can’t interfere with their romance. It’s their life, after all. I’m not going to break up a happy couple.”

He didn’t seem to notice the strained looks on a few of his guests’ faces. His voice was filled with unconcealed approval as he kept on talking.

It sounded a lot like bragging.

He could have bragged about anything. Why was he bragging about his future son-in-law?



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Had he forgotten the purpose of their arrival? They had come to seek his daughter's hand in marriage on behalf of their young master. Wasn't it inappropriate to sing Jiang Ning's praises to them?

"What do you think, Elder Luo Feng?"

Liu Chuandao glanced at the elder and smiled.

The expression on Elder Luo Feng's face froze.

He was part of the convoy who had come to seek Liu Qing's hand in marriage and they had already informed Liu Chuandao of their intentions. But from what Liu Chuandao had said so far, it appeared that he was going to turn down their proposal.

"He's indeed an extraordinary man with exceptional talent," Elder Luo Feng laughed. "But he might not be a good fit for Third Miss. Our young master grew up with Third Miss. They were childhood playmates. His talent and skill are equal to the young man's."

Since Liu Chuandao had made his point very clearly, Elder Luo Feng didn't see the need for tact anymore.

Liu Chuandao seemed to have expected such words from him. He laughed loudly and shrugged. "Let the young folks deal with their own matters. We should stay out of this."

He was telling them that he wasn't going to interfere with Liu Qing's marriage. He wasn't

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going to allow the elders from Tianlian Sect to interfere either.

What was the meaning of this?

Was he demanding the young master of their sect to request Liu Qing's hand in marriage in person? He must think very highly of himself!

Elder Luo Feng didn't say another word. But you could tell from the look on his face that he was clearly displeased.

He turned and gave Zhang Heng a look. The latter was standing a distance away and obviously in a foul mood as well.

He wasn't bothered about Luo Heng's defeat. That wasn't going to affect his plan. However, the powerful punch that Jiang Ning had unleashed had been a shattering blow to the Inner Court's reputation.

It had damaged his reputation as well.

His words used to carry some weight. Luo Heng's defeat gave Liu Chuandao an opportunity to undermine his authority. Liu Chuandao wasn't going to let this opportunity pass.

Elder Luo Feng and Liu Chuandao stopped talking. What else could they say to each other?

The message that Liu Chuandao had sent them had been loud and clear.

They had to get rid of Jiang Ning if they wanted to

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earn Liu Qing's hand in marriage and secure a place in the Qingshan Sect through this marriage.

Where did Jiang Ning come from?

Zhang Heng had never seen or heard of him before. He had materialized out of nowhere and appeared in Qingshan Sect suddenly. His sudden appearance was too bizarre for Zhang Heng's comfort.

Meanwhile, Mr He turned up at Liu Qing's courtyard shortly after Liu Qing and Jiang Ning had returned.

He was smiling. With his chin slightly raised and his hands folded behind his back, his mannerisms appeared contrived.

"The sect leader would like to reward you for your efforts," he declared loudly. "Jiang Ning, step forward and receive your due reward."

Jiang Ning remained seated in his rattan chair. He looked up and glanced casually at Mr He. There was no hint of happiness on his face. He wasn't going to get on his feet or get down on his knees.

He knew that the two wily foxes had begun to make plans for him. They were going to use him for their own ends.

"If you have anything to say, just say it," Jiang Ning said coolly.

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Mr He smiled sheepishly. He didn't seem fazed by the frosty look on Jiang Ning's face.

"Third Miss has shown a marked improvement in the latest test. Chief Liu wishes to thank you for your hard work."

He clapped his hands and summoned his men. They entered the courtyard carrying chests with them.

Liu Qing was stunned at the sight.

She would have been satisfied with a few words of praises from her father for passing the test.

Why was her father rewarding Jiang Ning instead?

Jiang Ning had helped her with her training, but he hardly deserved such a generous reward.

She watched as a dozen chests were brought into her courtyard and placed on the ground with a loud thud. The meeting of heavy chests and the ground sent dust flying in the air. What were these chests filled with?

"I won't list the contents of the chests. They are simple gifts. I doubt you'd be interested in listening to me list them out one by one." Mr He shrugged. "I've delivered the gifts. I will take my leave now and return to my duties."

Having said that, he turned and started to make his way out.

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“Hold on,” Jiang Ning shouted.

Mr He turned and smiled. “What’s wrong? Do you need me to deliver a message to the sect leader?”

“I didn’t do anything to deserve these gifts,” Jiang Ning said mildly. “They must be extremely valuable. It’s going to be tough for me to return you something of equal value in the future if I were to accept these gifts now.”

“Then don’t,” Mr He said. “This is meant to be a reward. Chief Liu is happy as long as the both of you are happy together.”

He was insinuating something.

Liu Qing didn’t have to be a genius to realize that there was something odd with what Mr He had just said.

“Hold on!”

Liu Qing was the one who yelled at Mr He this time. She grabbed his sleeve and stopped him in his tracks.

“What’s the meaning of this? What did you mean when you told us to be happy together? And why would my father be happy about that?” She grew increasingly agitated as she spoke.

Did they take her for a fool?

She was young, not stupid.

“Third Miss, I’m simply carrying out the sect

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leader's instructions. I have no idea what he's thinking," Mr He smiled politely. "Why don't you ask him?"

"Let's go then."

Jiang Ning rose to his feet. Liu Qing was taken aback.

Why was he tagging along?

He was going to make things more complicated.

"No, I meant..."

"Let's go."

Jiang Ning strode off. Mr He seemed to have expected this to happen. He didn't seem surprised at all.

He led the way while Jiang Ning followed him. Liu Qing hurried after them. There were a few times when she wondered hesitantly if she should ask what was going on.

But Jiang Ning didn't have a clue and Mr He wasn't telling. The only person whom she was going to get her answers from was her father.

They reached the Sect Leader's residence within no time.

Before Liu Qing could seek out her father, Mr He raised his arm before her and stopped her in her path.

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“Third Miss, Chief Liu is busy, so he can’t see you now.” He turned towards Jiang Ning then. “This way, please.”

Liu Qing gaped at him speechlessly.

Hadn’t he just said that her father was busy?

He had no time for her, but he had time for Jiang Ning?

She wondered who his real child was.

“Hey! Hey!” she yelled after Mr He and Jiang Ning. They ignored her.

Jiang Ning followed Mr He into the residence.

Liu Qing stomped her foot in frustration. She wanted to barge right in, but this was the sect leader’s residence. Her status as Third Miss didn’t matter to the guards at the gates. She wouldn’t be able to shoulder the consequences of entering the residence without permission.

All she could do was watch as Jiang Ning disappeared behind the doors.

“Humph!”

These people had gone too far!

This was an important matter and she was the main party concerned. Yet she didn’t even get the chance to speak to her father and ask him what was going on. Jiang Ning had been let into his residence instead.

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How did he get involved in the first place?

The thought sent heat rushing to Liu Qing's ears. This was ridiculous.

She barely knew Jiang Ning.

How could her father let her...this wasn't proper at all.

They barely knew each other at all.

Liu Qing's thoughts began to wander as she paced in front of the gates.

Meanwhile, Liu Chuandao was sitting in his study when Jiang Ning walked in. He looked up and beckoned him over.

Mr He shut the doors behind Jiang Ning immediately, leaving him and Liu Chuandao alone in the room.

Jiang Ning made himself at home and found himself a seat. He exchanged a look with Liu Chuandao.

"I have a few conditions," he said openly. He didn't mince his words at all. He spoke as if he had known Liu Chuandao for years. There was no need for courtesies between old friends. "Fulfill these conditions and I'll help you. If you don't, you can forget about getting my help."



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Liu Chuandao laughed.

“How did you know that I need your help?”

Jiang Ning had arrived in the mountain a month ago. He probably wasn't fully aware of what was going on yet.

What had given him the confidence to say something like that?

“Qingshan Sect's mission is to guard the mountain gate.” Jiang Ning stared at Liu Chuandao. “It's quite obvious that you can't hold the gate for much longer. In fact, Qingshan Sect's dominance is at risk now.”

Liu Chuandao appeared unfazed by Jiang Ning's words.

“If the gate falls, your people are the ones who'll end up suffering.” Liu Chuandao stared right back at Jiang Ning. He tapped his fingers lightly on the table. “You're not helping me out. You're saving yourself.”

He was negotiating terms with him.

Jiang Ning didn't say a word. He simply smiled faintly at Liu Chuandao.

Negotiation was an art form. It wasn't something one could accomplish simply through verbal wit. The parties to the negotiation had to have stakes at the table. Sometimes, you needed to risk a gamble.

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Jiang Ning was willing to do that right now.

“Fine. Name your conditions.”

Liu Chuandao was a wily one. He could tell that Jiang Ning knew that he was cornered.

He had no options left but Jiang Ning had.

“First, I need the antidote to Drunken Dreams.”

That was the only reason why Jiang Ning had entered the mountain. Nothing else mattered.

Liu Chuandao frowned slightly when he heard Jiang Ning’s first condition.

“Drunken Dreams?” He shook his head. “You can’t find that in the mountain anymore. Naturally, there’s no antidote to be found as well.”

“The deal’s off then.”

Jiang Ning remained in his seat. He didn’t seem like he was going to get up anytime soon.

Liu Chuandao said that he didn’t have the antidote, so that meant that it must be around somewhere. The antidote belonged to Qingshan Sect after all, so how could he insist that the sect didn’t have any?

“We really don’t have the antidote,” Liu Chuandao sighed. “Drunken Dreams is a banned substance that Qingshan Sect stopped producing it a long time ago. That means that we stopped making the antidote as well.”

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He glanced at Jiang Ning, then narrowed his eyes slightly. “Is this why you’re here? To find the antidote?”

Concealment was unnecessary in a conversation between intelligent men. One could speak plainly. That made things so much simpler.

“The second condition,” Jiang Ning ignored Liu Chuandao’s question and continued. “I need a suitable identity so that I can remain in the Qingshan Sect.”

Liu Chuandao had been right. If he failed to keep Qingshan Sect standing and the mountain gate shut, the ones who would suffer were going to be the people outside the mountain.

Jiang Ning needed to find the antidote to save Lin Yuzhen. He also needed to make sure that the mountain gate remained standing and that the people outside the mountain remained safe from harm.

These were people whom he cared for and loved deeply.

“That’s not going to be a problem.” Liu Chuandao nodded. “I’ve made the necessary arrangements.”

He gave Jiang Ning a long considering look.

“I have a word of warning for you though. You’re not allowed to touch my daughter. If you do anything to her, I’ll kill you even if it kills me and destroys Qingshan Sect.”

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Jiang Ning laughed. “You worry too much.”

His heart only had a place for Lin Yuzhen. His life revolved only around one person, and that was Lin Yuzhen.

He didn’t care how beautiful other women were. He wasn’t interested at all.

No one could understand why he felt this way, but Jiang Ning didn’t need them to understand.

“The third condition...”

“It seems that you have quite a few of them.” Liu Chuandao was a little displeased. He didn’t like Jiang Ning’s attitude and his tone. Jiang Ning was the one who needed his help. Yet, it seemed as if he was the one who was asking Jiang Ning for a favor.

“Just a few. You know that they’re worth it,” said Jiang Ning calmly.

He paused and gave Liu Chuandao a long look. He appeared to be waiting for some kind of reaction.

After some time, Liu Chuandao finally took a deep breath and seemed resigned. Jiang Ning continued talking again.

“The third condition. I want to have given sufficient authority in Qingshan Sect!”

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Jiang Ning didn't try to beat around the bush.

He knew that he wasn't going to get much done in Qingshan Sect without sufficient authority and power.

This wasn't the city. He knew no one, so he had to start from scratch.

Jiang Ning could do that, but he didn't want to waste time.

His mission was to save Lin Yuzhen and protect everyone outside the mountain. He wasn't interested in building his own empire in the mountain.

Jiang Ning had no interest in doing that at all.

Liu Chuandao's pupils contracted when he heard what Jiang Ning had said. He had not expected such a demand from Jiang Ning and in such a forward manner.

He was negotiating with him like a businessman, attaching a price tag to every term and condition that had been placed on the table.

If both parties agreed to the conditions, they would have a deal. If they didn't, there would be no deal and they would part ways.

He was curious. What gave Jiang Ning the confidence to negotiate terms with him so brazenly? No one had dared to speak to him in such a manner for a very long time.

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If he were to disregard Jiang Ning's origins and consider only his current circumstances, the man should be the one who was begging for Liu Chuandao's help. But their roles seemed to be switched.

"That can be done." Liu Chuandao nodded. He straightened his back and looked straight into Jiang Ning's eyes. "Now it's my turn."

Before Liu Chuandao could say anything, Jiang Ning rose to his feet, smiled at him and walked away.

"You can't make any demands of me right now."

Jiang Ning's utter lack of reason stunned Liu Chuandao.

What was the meaning of this?

This was a collaboration. Why was Jiang Ning the only one who could make demands? Why wasn't he allowed his own demands?

Jiang Ning wanted a place in his sect. He wanted a share of his authority. He wanted to use his daughter as a tool. Liu Chuandao, on the other hand, wasn't allowed to get anything out of the deal.

This was too much!

"I'm helping you deal with your problem. That should be enough," said Jiang Ning. "That's all I have to say."

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Having said that, Jiang Ning pushed the door open and left.

Mr He smiled faintly outside the study. He watched Jiang Ning leave, then knocked on the door and stepped into the study.

The look of perplexity on Liu Chuandao's face intrigued him. He couldn't help but ask, "Did you make a deal with him?"

"That's not a deal!" Liu Chuandao slammed his palm onto the table. "We're at his complete mercy!"

Resentment built up steadily inside him as he thought about the conversation that had transpired. Why hadn't he fought back?

Jiang Ning had made so much sense. He seemed to know exactly what Liu Chuandao was thinking. That had been why he had been so confident. He had known where Liu Chuandao's limits were and had pushed Liu Chuandao to his limits without ever crossing the line.

How had he known what to do? He had just arrived in the mountain.

"He's not to be trifled with," Mr He said. "He seems to be able to read my mind with just a single look. He's been here for only a month."

Liu Chuandao nodded.

"Within this one month, he had instructed Third Miss very astutely and gotten our sect's politics

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all figured out.” Mr He couldn’t help but sigh. He was truly impressed.

Jiang Ning had not wasted his days drinking tea and eating snacks. He had done his homework.

He had made full use of everyone and everything at his disposal. Everything had begun when Liu Chuandao had first spoken to Jiang Ning. From the moment that he had uttered “You’re here” to Jiang Ning, the latter had begun his exploitation of Liu Chuandao for his ends.

Liu Chuandao had been the one who had given him that opening and Jiang Ning had seized it.

If Liu Chuandao had not said that to him, Jiang Ning would be having a harder time now trying to accomplish his goals.

“He knew that you would grow impatient eventually and seek him out. He succeeded in waiting us out,” Mr Liu sighed.” His patience outlasted ours even though his time is running out faster than ours.”

This was a clear display of Jiang Ning’s forbearance and strength!

No ordinary man possessed such qualities in such measure. No ordinary man was that enlightened.

“Let’s see what he gets up to,” Liu Chuandao scoffed with grudging respect. “Qingshan Sect is rotting on the inside. We have to cut off the bits that have gone bad. I can’t do that myself. But



NH

he's not from the sect, so he might just be the right person to do this job.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

Even if Jiang Ning should fail, he would be the one who would bear the consequences of his failure, not Liu Chuandao.

As long as Liu Chuandao remained the sect leader, he was confident that he could keep Qingshan Sect standing and protect the status quo until his eventual death.

“What should I do?” Mr He asked.

“Help him out.”

“What excuses should I make?” Mr He grinned widely like an old wily fox. Liu Chuandao widened his eyes in a glare, grabbed the teacup on the table and threw it at him.

“Can’t you think of an excuse on your own? Why are you asking me instead?”

Mr He caught the cup nimbly and placed it carefully on the table. He laughed. “Alright then. I’ll think of something.”

He took his leave and left the study, leaving Liu Chuandao to fume in private.

Jiang Ning was really something.

It had been years since Liu Chuandao had thrown a temper. Yet, a brief conversation with Jiang Ning had gotten Liu Chuandao boiling with anger.

Mr He felt laughter bubbling inside him.

It seemed that no one was truly invincible.

## NH

Jiang Ning walked out of the sect leader's residence. Liu Qing was waiting outside for him. She raced towards him as soon as she saw him.

"Did you find out what's going on?" There was a faint blush on her face and she dared not look Jiang Ning in the eye. Instead, she kept her eyes down and spoke softly. "We...how did we..."

"Your imagination is running wild."

Jiang Ning reached out and flicked his fingers against Liu Qing's forehead.

"Ouch!" Her hands shot up and covered her forehead protectively. "Why did you do that?"

"It's not what you think it is," said Jiang Ning. "I have a wife. I'm not going to marry you."

Liu Qing froze momentarily. Her eyes reddened without any warning as she scoffed. "You think too highly of yourself. Did I mention anything about marrying me? I'm way out of your league. How dare you think of me in this way! Stop dreaming."

Words flew out of her mouth rapidly. Her vehemence seemed deliberate, as if she was trying to hide her true feelings behind her outburst.

"I'm warning you. Cease your wishful thinking."

"Don't worry. There's none in the first place and there wouldn't be any in the future," Jiang Ning said mildly.

## NH

Liu Qing thought she heard the sound of something shattering.

Her chest felt hollowed out. A smile hung on her face but it looked forced.

She hung her arm around Jiang Ning's shoulder and tried to sound nonchalant. "I think we'll make great friends. You can give me tips on how to fight and I'll protect you from being bullied. No one in Qingshan Sect would dare to push you around. Doesn't that sound great? Let's be friends. We'll have fun together. I can even address you as my teacher if I feel like it. Come on, say something!"

Liu Qing wouldn't stop talking as they walked away. She didn't give Jiang Ning the chance to speak at all.

When they returned to her courtyard, she bade Jiang Ning farewell and left. She hurried back to her room and shut the door with a loud slam.

Then, she sat down in front of her dresser and stared at her reflection in the mirror. Her eyes gradually reddened.

They could be friends. Best friends. They could have fun together. That sounded like a nice idea.

They barely knew each other anyway. This was the best that she could hope for, wasn't it?

"I didn't know you have a wife. I wonder what she's like." Liu Qing bit her lips. Her voice shook slightly. She pulled herself together within

# NH

moments. “I have to meet her someday.”

Meanwhile, Mr He had put the word out.

Jiang Ning was the man that Third Miss had chosen to be her husband and he was someone whom Liu Chuandao thought highly of. There were rumors that Liu Chuandao intended to groom Jiang Ning to become the next sect leader of the Qingshan Sect.

The news sent the entire Qingshan Sect into an uproar.

The disciples were dumbstruck by the news. A few elders were equally shocked. They had not realized that Liu Chuandao had this card hidden up his sleeve all this while.

Liu Chuandao’s disgruntled sons barged into his study, demanding to know what was going on.



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## NH

“Father, who is that young punk? Does he really deserve what you’re doing for him?”

“Liu Qing may not be your biological daughter, but you can’t use her in this manner.”

“How could you just give her up to a complete stranger?”

An intense argument was taking place in Liu Chuandao’s study.

Liu Chuandao simply sat there and sipped his tea calmly. He didn’t seem bothered by what his two sons had said to him.

He knew that they weren’t genuinely worried for Liu Qing. They were worried for themselves.

“Father, you can’t hand Qingshan Sect over to an outsider!” his eldest son, Liu Zong, blurted out when Liu Chuandao kept silent. “What would the elders think? What would the rest of the disciples think?”

“That’s right, Father. My brother is right. Qingshan Sect’s been around for hundreds of years. We can’t let a stranger destroy what we’ve built.”

Liu Chuandao’s two sons were wracked with anxiety and fury. But they had to control their emotions in Liu Chuandao’s presence. They dared not challenge him openly.

Liu Chuandao didn’t say a word. He merely looked up, gave his sons a look, then shook his head slightly.

## NH

His message was as clear as day. They weren't allowed to interfere in this matter. Nothing they said was going to change that.

"Father!"

The two young men exchanged a look with each other, then fell to their knees with a loud resounding thud.

"This is an important matter that requires careful deliberation. It concerns the future of the sect. Please reconsider your decision!" Luo Zong and Luo Heng shouted in unison.

"You believe that I made this decision without considering everything carefully, huh." Liu Chuandao placed his teacup down and stared at his sons. "Perhaps you believe that you know better. Maybe you should be the sect leader instead."

The tone of his voice grew frostier as he spoke. He slammed his fist onto the table suddenly, startling Liu Zong and Liu Heng. Their hearts skipped a beat.

"I know exactly what you're thinking!" Liu Chuandao hollered. "You're trying to protect your own interests. Do you really think that I don't know what you're up to? I'm glad that you stopped fighting each other and teamed up to speak to me on this matter. But I'd be a lot happier if you worked in unison to strengthen the sect!"

He seemed a little disappointed.

## NH

His sons had spent years pouring all their attention and energy into the fight for power.

They cared only for themselves and their future. They fought openly and privately, through both honest and underhanded means. They hardly resembled brothers at all.

In fact, they had been eyeing his position for a very long time. They were waiting for him to retire and appoint one of them as his successor.

They weren't qualified to be the sect leader right now.

The two brothers dared not say a word.

"I know what I'm doing. I don't need you telling me what I should or should not do," Liu Chuandao scoffed. "I wouldn't have to resort to this if you have the capability to shoulder the responsibilities of a sect leader. Listen carefully. If you want something, you'll have to work hard and fight for it. Do you understand?"

"Yes!" The two brothers nodded in unison.

Liu Chuandao's outburst had driven them into a subdued silence. They dared not say another word.

It didn't matter how bitter or angry they felt. There was nothing they could do about it.

Liu Chuandao was still the sect leader while neither of them was.



## NH

Liu Zong and Liu Heng left the study. The look on their faces shifted instantly. The look they gave the other was a look that one gave to a stranger.

“I told you. Our father’s using that guy. He’s just a tool,” Liu Heng said. “I was right. This is a test. Let’s have a fair fight over the position of the sect leader. May the best man win.”

Liu Zong narrowed his eyes, then walked away without saying anything.

Liu Chuandao’s attitude had been clear. One of them was going to be the next sect leader. They were his real sons, after all.

Jiang Ning was just going to be a son-in-law. Liu Qing wasn’t even related to Liu Chuandao by blood. As her husband, Jiang Ning had neither power nor authority in the sect.



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## NH

So, Jiang Ning was simply a tool.

It seemed that Liu Chuandao had not yet decided who was going to succeed him as the next sect leader.

The better brother who performed better and won Liu Chuandao's approval would become the next leader of Qingshan Sect.

Liu Heng snorted at Liu Zong's retreating back. He knew that his elder brother had always looked down on him. His elder brother was convinced that Liu Heng wasn't qualified to vie for the position of sect leader with him. But Liu Heng thought otherwise.

As long as the successor's position remained up for grabs, he still had a chance of becoming the next sect leader.

In fact, he believed that he deserved the position more than Liu Zong did. He suited the role better. He was the right person to succeed his father as the next sect leader.

"I'm the one who'll lead Qingshan Sect into its next era of glory!" Liu Heng snorted, then turned and walked away.

Liu Chuandao sighed in his study.

The tea in his cup had gone cold.

He had stopped drinking it. His mind was filled with the image of his two sons and the act that they had put up for him earlier.

## NH

He didn't know where he had gone wrong. Why had they turned out this way?

They were blind to the responsibilities and duties that they should be shouldering. They had no cause to live for. They had no idea what they, as his sons, should rightly feel for Qingshan Sect.

Instead, they treated the sect as a trophy.

"A hard lesson and a little suffering might do them some good." Liu Chuandao gritted his teeth.

He had been reluctant to grant Jiang Ning too much power because he was worried that he might not be able to rein in Jiang Ning. But it seemed that Jiang Ning had never been within his sphere of control.

He still knew little about the man who had come from beyond the mountains. He wouldn't have allowed this outsider to interfere with the matters of Qingshan Sect if he had a choice. This was his last resort.

He desperately wanted to know what Jiang Ning intended to do.

How was he going to cleanse the sect of its foul corruption?

Liu Chuandao knew that his two sons were not the only ones eyeing his position. There were many pairs of eyes watching him very closely.

He wasn't going to do anything. He was going let Jiang Ning figure out what to do. Even if Jiang

## NH

Ning were to fail, it wouldn't be a huge loss to him.

Meanwhile, Luo Feng and a few other elders sat in the hall of Zhang Heng's residence.

They were alone.

The matters that they were about to discuss had to be kept a secret. No one else could know.

"We can't allow this to happen," Elder Luo Feng said bluntly. "Zhang Heng, you have to think of something and stop this from happening. I don't care who Jiang Ning is. Make him disappear."

"I know."

Zhang Heng ground his teeth.

Jiang Ning, the man who had mysteriously appeared in the sect, had somehow ended up with Third Miss.

They had not expected this at all.

"The sect leader clearly hired him so that he has an excuse to turn down the Luo family's proposal," he scoffed. "Don't worry. Third Miss is going to marry into the Luo family. I'm a member of the Luo family, so I'm on your side."

His sister had married into the Luo family. The Luo family was the only power that he could depend on now.

Qingshan Sect was in its decline. Who knew how

## NH

long it was going to last? Zhang Heng wasn't an idiot. He wasn't going to bind his fate to that of Qingshan Sect.

But what should he do now?

"I await your good news. Jiang Ning must die," said Luo Feng. "I doubt that Liu Chuandao's going to find another fiancé for his daughter after Jiang Ning dies."

The best way to get rid of a problem was to eliminate the person causing the problem.

Elder Luo Feng's approach to problems was surprisingly similar to Jiang Ning's.

Of course, he didn't know that no one had ever succeeded in getting rid of Jiang Ning and that all who had incurred Jiang Ning's wrath had paid a terrible price for it.

All of them exchanged a look with one another. The cold glint of greed flashed across their eyes.

Qingshan Sect was hunted prey on its last legs. Their plan was to find themselves an ideal spot and wait. As soon as Qingshan Sect fell to its knees, they would lunge at its dying body, sink their teeth in and strip its flesh from its bones.



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# NH

Qingshan Sect was only the beginning. Everyone knew that they were aiming for more than just Qingshan Sect.

There were others in the mountain who had their eyes on Qingshan Sect as well. They had to make the first move. Otherwise, they would find it tough to secure resources for themselves in the future.

“Don’t worry, I’ll deal with this,” said Zhang Heng. “The sect leader isn’t going to budge easily. But if Jiang Ning were to die...”

A streak of viciousness flashed across his eyes.

Elder Luo Feng nodded.

“We will remain in Qingshan Sect for a few more days. We look forward to what you have planned.”

They exchanged looks with one another. Everyone was in the same boat now. If they failed, they would have to suffer the consequences together. Greatness could only be achieved if they stayed united.

Zhang Heng escorted the elders out of his residence, then headed for his study. After some time, someone pushed the door to his study open quietly and entered the room.

“Mr Zhang.”

It was Luo Heng.

He didn’t look very well.

## NH

He had been humiliated by his defeat at the hands of Liu Qing.

Then, he had been defeated with a single blow during his fight with Jiang Ning. He had dug his own grave and suffered a second round of humiliation. News of his repeated defeats had spread throughout the Inner Court and Outer Court.

Luo Heng had become the laughingstock of the sect.

Even though he had secured a place in the Portico and was going to be made a Portico disciple, the news didn't make him feel any better.

"Are you still fuming?" Zhang Heng laughed. "Did you feel embarrassed about being defeated by Jiang Ning in front of so many people?"

Luo Heng didn't say a word. The look on his face told Zhang Heng everything.

"I have something that might make you feel better."

Luo Heng's pupils contracted. "What do you mean by that?"

"Do you wish him dead?"

Luo Heng's heart began to race when he heard what Zhang Heng had said.

He did. He wanted to kill Jiang Ning. But he had heard the news spreading in the sect. Jiang Ning

NH

was going to be the Liu Chuandao's son-in-law and Liu Qing's husband.

He dared not touch Jiang Ning.

Liu Chuandao would be furious if Jiang Ning died. He wouldn't know what to do if Liu Chuandao decided to look into Jiang Ning's death.

He might be angry, but he wasn't insane. This wasn't worth him risking his life.

"He's offended someone." Zhang Heng knew what Luo Heng was worried about and snorted derisively. "There are plenty of people who want him dead. Next to them, you're nobody."

Zhang Heng was trying to assure Luo Heng that even if Liu Chuandao were to fly into a rage over Jiang Ning's death, he wouldn't be the one who would suffer the sect leader's rage.

There were many people who wanted Jiang Ning dead. Liu Chuandao would have to go through all of them first and wouldn't have time for Luo Heng.

This should have upset Luo Heng, but cheered him up instead.

"He's too full of himself. People like him make enemies easily," Luo Heng scoffed.

He wasn't an idiot. He wasn't going to ask who wanted Jiang Ning dead.

If Zhang Heng wanted Jiang Ning dead too, that meant that someone in the upper echelons of



## NH

Qingshan Sect wanted Jiang Ning gone.

Luo Heng was vaguely aware of the current situation in Qingshan Sect. Every elder had set up their own faction and were fighting one another to further their interest.

Liu Chuandao's sons were doing the same. It was every man for himself.

"You don't have to worry about being found out. What you do need to worry about is whether you have the ability to kill Jiang Ning."

A murderous glow filled Luo Heng's eyes instantly.

"That's not going to be a problem."

He hadn't unleashed his most powerful move during his fight with Jiang Ning. In fact, he had not given everything that he had in that match.

Jiang Ning wouldn't be his match in a real fight. Luo Heng was sure of it.

"I'm glad that you're so confident of your chances." Zhang Heng pulled out a bottle from his pocket. "There's poison in this bottle. It might come useful. Do a good job and don't leave any evidence behind. You only have one chance to get this done."

He handed the bottle to Luo Heng silently.

Luo Heng studied the bottle in his hands, then tucked it away carefully. He cupped his fists, turned and left.

## NH

Jiang Ning sat across Liu Qing. He stared at her reddened eyes and found himself at a loss for words.

“This is some potent wine!” Liu Qing narrowed her eyes. “It burns. But we should drink and celebrate, right?”

Jiang Ning knew that she was trying to force a smile on her face.

He didn't understand why she was doing it though. All he had said was that he wasn't going to fall in love with her. She didn't have to react this way.

They had only known each other for a brief period of time. Had she really fallen in love with him?

“You're right. We should celebrate. But I'm not sure if that's what you're doing. I'm worried that you're trying to drown your sorrows,” said Jiang Ning. “Are you sure you're not feeling upset?”

“I'm not!” Liu Qing yelled before filling Jiang Ning's and her cups full. “Come on, drink!”

She emptied her cup. Her eyes landed on the empty bottles on the table.

“Men! Bring us more wine!”

Her eyes had turned misty. She stared unblinkingly at Jiang Ning. He could hear the slightest hint of moroseness in her voice.

“I know I'm not a likeable person,” said Liu Qing.

## NH

“My father doesn’t pay any attention to me. My brothers never treated me as their sister. Everyone else thinks I’m just riding on my father’s position as the sect leader...I wanted to prove myself, but I’ve never been able to do that. Then you turned up.”

Her eyes gradually took on a gentle sheen. That was a bad sign. Jiang Ning’s instincts blared loudly at him.

“You’re drunk,” said Jiang Ning. “Stop. You should head back to your room and get some rest.”

“I’m not drunk.” Liu Qing waved her hands wildly and turned towards the guard standing hesitantly at the door. “Go get me more wine!”

Exasperated, the guard left.

Liu Qing had amassed a sizable collection of wines. She had planned to share them with Liu Chuandao and her two brothers during their rare visits to her residences. Unfortunately, they had never stayed for meals.

The guard arrived at the cellar and grabbed a bottle of wine. Just as he was about to leave, a dark streak dashed out and struck him heavily on the back of his neck, knocking him out instantly.

The man pulled on the guard’s uniform, slipped poison into the wine, then carried the bottle out of the cellar and headed for the hall.

Meanwhile, Jiang Ning had just snatched Liu Qing’s cup from her. She had drunk too much and

NH

had begun to ramble nonsensically.

If he allowed her to go on, she might end up confessing her love for him.

“Alright, you should stop drinking right now.”

The guard arrived with the new bottle of wine as soon as Jiang Ning said that. Liu Qing beckoned him over.

“Bring the wine over. We’re not going to stop until we get drunk!” She mumbled. “I have to thank you. You’re the reason I won all those fights and passed the test. You’re the reason...the reason I won Luo Heng!”

She had won the most powerful disciple in the Inner Court.

An icy glint flashed in Luo Heng’s eyes, which were currently hidden under his helmet. He tightened his fists. His knuckles cracked softly.

His defeat had become a reason for Liu Qing to drink and rejoice.

He didn’t expect Jiang Ning to hear the nearly inaudible sound of his knuckles cracking.

Jiang Ning turned and looked at him. Luo Heng was keeping his eyes to the ground. That didn’t stop him from discovering that he wasn’t the same guard who had gone to fetch them a new bottle of wine.

He didn’t say anything. Instead, he snatched the

# NH

bottle from Liu Qing and started filling their cups with wine.

“Fine, I’ll drink with you if you insist on drinking. We won’t stop until we get drunk.” Jiang Ning got another cup out and filled it with wine. He beckoned Luo Heng over. “I can’t hold my liquor. Let’s drink together. We’ll all drink with Third Miss.”

Luo Heng froze. What was going on?

No sensible person would invite a guard to drink with Third Miss.

“I’m just a guard...” Luo Heng said hastily.

“So what? Aren’t guards humans too?” Jiang Ning’s face darkened. “Or do you believe that Third Miss deems you beneath her notice? Come on!”

His voice was firm.

Luo Heng hesitated momentarily, then slowly made his way to the table. He dared not sit down.

His heart began to race as he eyed the wine.

He knew that the wine was poisoned!



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## NH

He was going to die if he drank the wine.

What was Jiang Ning up to? Why had he called the guards to join him and Third Miss? He didn't have to feign friendship with his servants.

Luo Heng eyed his cup before speaking hesitantly. "Your humble servant doesn't wish to intrude upon Third Miss."

"He told you to sit down, didn't he? Well, sit down!" Liu Qing slammed her fist on the table without any warning and yelled, "Quit yammering!"

She was in a foul mood. That guard should have known better. Why was he giving her so much trouble?

Luo Heng clenched his jaw. He had no choice but to take a seat.

"Summon all the guards." Jiang Ning turned towards the guard at the door and said, "Let's all have a drink together."

Luo Heng's heart sank when he heard that. Was Jiang Ning mad?

Why was he summoning all the guards?

He could feel his heart hammering in his chest. What was he going to do?

The wine was poisoned!

He couldn't possibly drink it. What if all the guards drank but not Jiang Ning? What was he going to

# NH

do then?

Where could he escape to then?

“Third Miss, I’m still on duty. I have to protect you. I can’t get drunk...” Luo Heng said hastily.

“I’m giving you a holiday.” Jiang Ning looked at him. “It starts now. I call the shots. Besides, this is Qingshan Sect. Who’s going to cause trouble here? They’ll be punished seriously.”

He picked up the bottle of wine and filled Luo Heng’s cup.

“You’ve been guarding Third Miss diligently all this while. It must be hard work. I want to take this chance to thank all of you.” Jiang Ning grinned. “We’re counting on you to continue your hard work.”

His cup was filled to the brim. Luo Heng swallowed as he stared at the wine and the shimmering light passing through it.

He knew what kind of man Zhang Heng was. Zhang Heng was coldblooded and vicious, so Luo Heng was certain that the poison that Zhang Heng had given him would kill those that drank it.

He was going to die if he drank the wine.

Before Luo Heng could do or say anything, a dozen guards had arrived in the hall. They looked excited.

Jiang Ning had treated them extremely well from

## NH

the moment he had arrived at the courtyard. He never looked down on them because they were servants. In fact, he treated them with concern and the utmost respect.

No one had ever treated them in this manner.

And now, he was inviting them to drink with him.

This was unbelievable!

Something like this had never happened in Qingshan Sect.

“Brother Jiang!” the guards greeted him in unison.

They had gotten used to addressing him this way. Jiang Ning was like their big brother. He took better care of them than Third Miss ever did. He always treated them with respect and dignity.

“We wanted to drink with all of you,” said Jiang Ning. “That’s what Third Miss wants too.”

Liu Qing nodded. Jiang Ning called the shots now. He enjoyed a higher standing than she did. Also... he was really good looking.

She stared stupidly as Jiang Ning got everyone cups. She could never tire of the look of nonchalance on his face.

“Thank you, Brother Jiang! Thank you, Third Miss!”

The guards raised their cups in excitement. Jiang Ning was going to personally fill their cups with



# NH

wine.

Luo Heng was going to wet his pants any moment now.

They were all going to die. He was going to die if they died.

They would turn the entire sect upside down to find him. He would have nowhere to go.

“Let’s make a toast,” Jiang Ning laughed.

The cups were raised.

Luo Heng could hear a sudden loud crackle inside his head, as if he had been struck by lightning.

His blood turned cold in an instant.

“Don’t drink it!” Luo Heng yelled suddenly and flung his arms wide open, sweeping the cups of two guards out of their hands.

The cup landed on the floor with a loud crack and splintered into numerous shards. Wine spilled across the floor. White foam started to bubble on the surface of the liquid.

Alarm flashed across the faces of the more experienced guards.

That was poison.

“The wine’s been poisoned!” Someone yelled. Everyone snapped out of their stupor and instantly locked eyes with Luo Heng. Without any

# NH

hesitation, a few of them surged forward, grabbed Luo Heng's arms and twisted them behind his back.



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# NH

Luo Heng didn't retaliate. He was trembling in terror.

They were right. The wine had been poisoned.

He stared at the spilled wine on the floor. The poison had been fatal.

He couldn't believe how vicious Zhang Heng was.

"Who are you?" The captain of the guards thundered. He could tell that Luo Heng wasn't a guard at all. He pulled his sword out and held it against Luo Heng's neck.

That had been a close shave.

Every one of them could have died just now.

He didn't care if they died. But Third Miss could have died. Jiang Ning could have died.

This bastard. How dare he poison the wine!

BAM!

Someone pulled Luo Heng's helmet off him, revealing his face. Liu Qing shot to her feet instantly.

"Luo Heng? That can't be true." She was gradually sobering up. She glanced at the poisoned wine. That woke up her instantly. "Were you the one who poisoned the wine?"

Liu Qing's eyes turned red.

# NH

This was Qingshan Sect.

She was the sect leader's daughter. She couldn't believe that someone had had the audacity to poison her!

She couldn't believe that that person was the most powerful disciple in the Inner Court, Luo Heng. How dare he?

The air was taut with tension. A dozen guards surrounded Luo Heng and bound his wrists.

Luo Heng dared not fight back.

How could he?

Even if he were to kill these guards, he wouldn't be able to escape out of the sect's compounds. Killing them would simply earn him another sentence. It would mean a more painful death.

He looked up and stared right at Jiang Ning. The man was looking at him with indifference. His heart skipped a beat.

"You knew it was me all along, didn't you?"  
Realization dawned upon Luo Heng then.

"That's right," Jiang Ning admitted. "So I thought I'd have some fun with you."

"You!" Luo Heng snarled. He could taste blood in his mouth.

Jiang Ning had seen through his disguise before he had made his move. In fact, he had stepped

## NH

right into Jiang Ning's trap and exposed himself!

"If I'd wanted to...all of you would have been dead!" Luo Heng snarled softly. His body shook violently. He knew that he was finished.

This was the end of him.

"Do you really think we're idiots? Maybe you're the idiot." Jiang Ning shook his head. "Why would you let them drink the wine if you knew that it's poisoned? You should thank your lucky stars that you made the right decision. Otherwise, that'd really be the end for you."

Luo Heng had stopped in the nick of time. He had saved himself. Otherwise...

Luo Heng's jaw dropped at that thought. He couldn't utter a single word.

Had Jiang Ning just saved his life?

"How dare you make an attempt on your fellow Inner Court disciple's life! Men!" The captain of the guards roared. "Seize him and hand him to Mr He!"

Luo Heng went without a fight.

He knew that this was the end for him. His future was ruined. But at least, he was going to get out of this alive.

He was struck by a sudden revelation of how terrifying Jiang Ning was. There was nowhere Luo Heng could hide as long as Jiang Ning was

## NH

around. He had overestimated himself. He had never stood a chance against Jiang Ning.

And now, Jiang Ning had saved him. He was beginning to regret his actions.

Liu Qing had been reluctant to let Luo Heng go. She wanted to chop his head off right there and then.

That bastard had tried to poison her!

“We’re letting him off too easily,” she said as she clenched her jaw. “He was going to kill us!”

“I was the only one he wanted dead,” said Jiang Ning. “Luckily, he’s not rotten to the core. There’s still some good in him.”

He looked at Liu Qing. She resembled a tiny angry leopard right now.

“Alright, we’re done drinking. Head back to your room and have some rest.”

“But...”

“Don’t worry about him. No one’s going to harm you. You’re all the rage now and everyone needs you alive,” said Jiang Ning. “Someone tried to kill me though. I’m going to find out who that person is.”

A murderous glint flashed across his eyes.

The temperature around them plummeted suddenly.

# NH

Jiang Ning was convinced that Luo Heng hadn't come up with the idea to disguise himself as a guard and slip poison into his wine. It had been a clumsy ploy. He wouldn't have dared to attempt something like that if he didn't have someone's backing.

Luo Heng had also looked petrified, so someone must have instigated him to poison the wine.



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## NH

Jiang Ning wasn't particularly worried about Liu Qing's safety.

Right now, everyone wanted her alive. They needed her alive.

Liu Qing was the only way for anyone outside Qingshan Sect to secure a place in the sect.

He had agreed to team up with Liu Chuandao and help purge the corrupt elements in Qingshan Sect. There was no other way.

That was the only way Liu Chuandao would give him the antidote.

He had to save Lin Yuzhen. He would pay any price to save her.

He told the guards to escort Liu Qing back to her room. They were on full alert after the thwarted attempt at assassination. In fact, they requested Mr He to send more guards to Liu Qing's courtyard to protect her.

Jiang Ning headed for the Disciplinary Hall.

Liu Chuandao flew into a huge rage when he heard that someone had tried to poison Jiang Ning. He instructed Mr He to conduct a thorough investigation into the matter.

Mr He knew that Luo Heng's target had been Jiang Ning. That must be the most foolish decision that he had made in his life.

Why had he tried to offend someone as



## NH

unimaginably powerful as Jiang Ning?

This was a game amongst highly skilled players. Even someone as powerful as Liu Chuandao had decided to stay out of it at the moment and simply watch from the sidelines. In fact, Jiang Ning was the main player in this game.

His opponents had only just begun to show themselves. Mr He was looking forward to seeing how Jiang Ning dealt with them.

This was simply the start.

If Jiang Ning couldn't deal with the small fry, Liu Chuandao would undoubtedly change his plan immediately.

Luo Heng was arrested and locked up in a prison cell in the Disciplinary Hall.

"This warrants a thorough investigation. Luo Heng had the audacity to attempt an assassination on Third Miss. This is a serious offence. The matter isn't going to end just with him being marked as a Sinner."

Mr He made a strong case for a thorough investigation instantly.

They had to look into this. Someone must have instructed Luo Heng to do this. In fact, he had some idea who that might be.

But he too wasn't the main player in this game. He simply needed to do what he was supposed to.

## NH

“Yes, Sir!” his men shouted in unison.

Mr He looked up and saw Jiang Ning enter the Disciplinary Hall. He narrowed his eyes, then waved his hand and sent everyone away.

“Why are you here?” He smiled. “Are you planning to steal my job too?”

Jiang Ning found himself a seat and sat down immediately.

“Running the Disciplinary Hall is tough work. I’m not interested.” He gave Mr He a look. “I’m here to give you a tip. You should get as much as you can out of Luo Heng while he’s alive. You’ll lose your only lead when he’s dead.”

Mr He’s pupils contracted.

Did he just say that Luo Heng was going to die?

“He’s being locked up in the prison. There are guards watching him all the time. How could anyone try to kill him? Besides, he stopped before he committed a serious crime. He doesn’t deserve capital punishment for that. Luo Heng knows that. He’s not an idiot either, so he won’t kill himself,” said Mr He. “You’re being paranoid.”

He was confident not because he knew Luo Heng’s character. He was confident because he had faith in the Disciplinary Hall and its prison security.

Unless he allowed someone inside, no one was going to enter the prison and kill Luo Heng.

## NH

Besides, killing a prisoner while he was locked up in the Disciplinary Hall's prison was an outright act of provocation. It was akin to issuing a challenge to Qingshan Sect and to him!

"You seem confident." Jiang Ning turned around and eyed Mr He. "Make sure this doesn't come back and bite you."

"Haha! Don't underestimate me," said Mr He. "I decide what goes on in the Disciplinary Hall."

"That's great." Jiang Ning got to his feet. "Mr He's confidence sets my mind at ease. Please find out who's behind this. I won't be able to sleep in peace until you do."

Having said that, he turned and left.

Mr He scoffed. He didn't believe a single word that Jiang Ning had said.

He was probably looking forward to the assassinations.

Excitement was what was keeping him up at night.

Mr He frowned as he recalled what Jiang Ning had told him. Jiang Ning wouldn't make a personal trip to the Disciplinary Hall just to spew nonsense at him.

Was Luo Heng really going to get killed in prison?

## NH

But Mr He was unconvinced. That was his turf. How could something like this happen on his turf?

Something kept niggling at him though.

“Humph. That punk.”

Mr He didn't say anything. He led his men away and headed straight for the prison.

Meanwhile, Luo Heng was imprisoned in a prison cell in the Disciplinary Hall.

The typical Sinner wasn't locked up in this prison. These cells had not seen many prisoners for many years.

Luo Heng was their first prisoner in many years.

Armored guards carrying long swords lined the corridors of the prison.

Tension hung heavily in the air and threatened to suffocate Luo Heng.

He had fallen from his pedestal into the lowest depths of hell and transformed from a prodigy and the object of adoration and admiration to a mere prisoner. He might become the Inner Court disciple to serve the longest sentence as a Sinner.

He was waiting for Zhang Heng to save him.

He had been carrying out Zhang Heng's orders. Zhang Heng couldn't leave him in the lurch.

DA DA DA!

# NH

The sound of footsteps pounding on the floors echoed in the cells. It was the patrol. Luo Heng had gotten used to the sight of patrolling guards.

The prison was heavily guarded. Only those of certain status could enter the prison.

Mr He was a harsh disciplinarian. Luo Heng knew that Zhang Heng was the only one who could save him now.

A shadow appeared above him. He looked up and saw a guard staring at him.

“You’ve disappointed me.” said the muffled voice under the helmet. Luo Heng’s heart skipped a beat. It was Zhang Heng.

Luo Heng knew that he would come for him!

“Mr Zha...”

“Silence!” Zhang Heng lowered his voice. “Keep your voice down.”

Luo Heng shut his mouth instantly. He dared not say a word. Instead, he gave Zhang Heng a pleading look.

“How is your family doing?” Zhang Heng brought up Luo Heng’s family without any warning. “Your parents had high hopes for you. You were the pride of your village. You managed to get into Qingshan Sect, becoming a Portico disciple at such a young age. I’m proud of what you’ve achieved.”

## NH

Blood had fled Luo Heng's face. He was deathly pale.

His lips trembled as he looked at Zhang Heng. Unease began to stir inside him.

"Everything will be ruined if you are marked a Sinner. That is precisely why you cannot become one," said Zhang Heng. "You have to protect your parents' reputation. Someone has to ensure that they live out the final years of their lives in peace. You wouldn't let them suffer humiliation and mockery up to the final moments of their lives, would you?"

Luo Heng didn't say a word. The tremors coursing through his body intensified.

"Luo Heng, I watched you grow up and turn into a young man. You have no one but yourself to blame for your current situation."

Zhang Heng was adamant that this had nothing to do with him. This was all Luo Heng's fault. It had been such a simple job but he had failed because of his stupidity.

Zhang Heng pulled a small bottle out of his pocket and threw it before Luo Heng.

"Make your choice."

He couldn't be bothered to say another word. He turned and walked away, disappearing into the distance within moments.

Luo Heng stared at the bottle on the ground. His

# NH

hand trembled as he reached for it. His eyes were bloodshot.

He had to die...

What other choice did he have?

He had to choose between his death and his parents' death. None of his family members were going to escape if he didn't kill himself.

Zhang Heng was a monster.

He had never expected Zhang Heng to be so merciless. He wouldn't even spare his life.

Meanwhile, Mr He was making his way to the prison in a hurry.

"Did anyone enter the prison?" He asked the guard at the gates. The latter was one of his most trusted men.

"No."

He had been guarding the prison all this way and keeping everyone out.

The guard's reply set Mr He's mind at ease.

"I was right. He was just being paranoid. Humph."

Mr He strode into the prison. He had to find a chance to bring Jiang Ning down a notch. The young punk's arrogance was insufferable.

He headed for Luo Heng's cell. Alarm flashed

NH

across his eyes before he arrived at the cell.

SWOOSH!

With his abilities, there was no way he could have missed the signs. He couldn't hear anyone breathing in Luo Heng's cell.

He rushed towards the cell and was greeted by the sight of a prone Luo Heng lying on the ground. His mouth, nostrils, eyes and ears were stained with blood.

He was dead. His blood had gone cold.



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## NH

Mr He froze in shock. He ordered his men to unlock the cell immediately and charged in once they pulled the gate open.

“He’s dead!”

Alarm flashed across the men’s eyes. A dark look descended upon their faces.

The cell had been heavily guarded. But Luo Heng had ended up dead. How had he died?

No one had entered this cell!

Mr He stewed in silent rage.

He felt a stinging sensation on his cheeks. It was as if someone had just given him a tight slap across his face.

The perpetrator of that imaginary slap was Jiang Ning.

The young man had sought him out and reminded him to keep Luo Heng alive. He hadn’t taken Jiang Ning’s words seriously then.

Jiang Ning’s warnings had turned to reality. How wonderful.

Mr He didn’t care about Luo Heng’s death. He had to die sooner or later. What Mr He had found unacceptable was that he had died in his prison.

The perpetrator was openly challenging him and the Disciplinary Hall.

## NH

“Did anyone visit his cell?” Mr He asked coldly.

“No one was allowed into the prison, Mr He. I’m willing to swear upon my life!” One of his men clenched his jaw and replied. “The only ones allowed inside are our own people from the Disciplinary Hall. We patrolled the area twice. We didn’t see anyone. I was the one who stood guard at the gate.”

Mr He stepped forward and grabbed the guard by the collar. He snarled. “Our people? Are you sure they were all from the Disciplinary Hall? Did you check everyone?”

The guard’s face paled when he heard what Mr He had said.

He had not. There had been a dozen of them, so he couldn’t possibly inspect every one of them.

“Mr He...I...”

“I’ll deal with you later!” Mr He cursed, then turned and left, leaving a terrified guard quaking in his boots.

He had committed a terrible oversight!

This was a disaster. No one cared about Luo Heng’s death. What was at stake now was Mr He’s reputation.

He was done for!

Mr He stormed out of the prison with a thunderous look on his face and his hands folded

## NH

behind his back. If he could, he would set the prison on fire and burn the whole building down.

He didn't head for Liu Chuandao's residence. News of this were going to reach Liu Chuandao soon. He didn't have to report this to him.

In fact, Liu Chuandao had probably expected this.

On the other hand, he had been overly confident of himself. That had led to his oversight.

Mr He went to see Jiang Ning instead.

He found Jiang Ning sitting in the rattan chair in the courtyard. His eyes were shut. He was resting. He seemed as carefree as an old man enjoying a well-deserved retirement.

"You seem to be enjoying yourself." Mr He approached Jiang Ning. He scoffed lightly before sitting down next to Jiang Ning. He made himself comfortable and poured himself a cup of tea.

"What else was I supposed to do?" Jiang Ning's eyes remained shut as he spoke mildly. "There's nothing in the sect that requires my attention. The Disciplinary Hall, especially, has Mr He to keep everything running smoothly, am I right?"

He was bringing up the subject deliberately. Mr He eyed Jiang Ning.

"Luo Heng's dead."

"Impossible!"

## NH

Jiang Ning's eyes remained shut. He had an insufferable look on his face though. Mr He was itching to punch him in the face. This man was clearly mocking him!

"Luo Heng isn't going to die in your turf. That was what you told me, Mr He. And now you're telling me that he's dead?" Jiang Ning shook his head profusely. "I don't believe you."

A stormy look descended upon Mr He's face. Jiang Ning was milking this for all it was worth. He was relentless.

At least his eyes were open now.

It must take unimaginable skill to belittle someone while your eyes were shut.

"I'm not here to chat." Mr He waved his hand vaguely. "Luo Heng's dead. We've lost our only lead. Remember, they tried to kill you."

"Sure."

"Sure? Is that all you have to say?" Mr He barked out an angry laugh. He repeated himself. "They tried to kill you."

"That's right."

"That's right?"

He couldn't take it anymore. Mr He shot to his feet. After a moment, he sat down again. He took a deep breath and tried to calm himself down. He wasn't going to let Jiang Ning drive him to an

# NH

early grave.



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## NH

It took him a great deal of effort to calm himself down.

“You know who did it, don’t you?”

Mr He had his own guesses too.

There weren’t many people in Qingshan Sect who could slip unnoticed into the Disciplinary Hall and kill Luo Heng.

Of them all, only one had the motive to kill Luo Heng.

He didn’t have any evidence though. Luo Heng had been their only witness. But he was dead. The dead couldn’t tell you anything.

“Is it important?”

Jiang Ning opened his eyes and gave Mr He a sidelong glance.

“Why wouldn’t it be important?”

“It doesn’t matter who it is. He won’t stand a chance against me,” Jiang Ning said. “He’ll pay a heavy price if he tries to assassinate me.”

Mr He froze.

The sheer arrogance of this man was astounding.

He longed to give Jiang Ning a hard slap. He had never seen such arrogance.

He was in the mountain, not outside. Jiang Ning

## NH

might be someone of importance in the world beyond the mountain, but he was alone in a foreign land now.

How could he be so full of himself?

Jiang Ning's words annoyed Mr He. But he knew that Jiang Ning wasn't boasting. He was capable of what he had said. The look of absolute composure and certainty seemed incongruous with his youth.

Jiang Ning seemed to be in full control of the situation.

"What should we do?" Mr He couldn't be bothered to challenge Jiang Ning's earlier statement. He was worried that Jiang Ning might just drive him to an early grave by saying something even more audacious. "What would you like me to do?"

Jiang Ning started laughing.

He stared at Mr He as he laughed. The look in his eyes made the Disciplinary Master extremely uneasy.

He had told Jiang Ning earlier to mind his own business. In the end, Luo Heng had died.

Now, he was asking Jiang Ning to poke his nose into his business and tell him what to do.

He was eating his own words.

"I'm doing this for Qingshan Sect," Mr He scoffed.

## NH

“Luo Heng is dead. His murderer is on the loose. We are certain that it’s someone within Qingshan Sect.” Jiang Ning eyed Mr He. “You have to investigate this matter.”

Mr He froze. An investigation?

He knew who had killed Luo Heng. But he had no evidence to prove it.

“How do I go about investigating his murder?”

“Investigate everyone in Qingshan Sect. That means the elders and the sect leader as well.”

“Are you out of your mind?”

“The guests too. None of them are innocent until proven. You will have to search them as well.”

“You’re out of your mind.” Mr He rose to his feet. “Are you trying to turn the place topsy turvy?”

One death hardly warranted a thorough search that would turn the sect upside down. Besides, what could they do if they did find Luo Heng’s murderer?

Was he going to kill him?

Mr He was well aware that things had changed in Qingshan Sect. As the Disciplinary Master, his authority was limited. He dared not do something so bold.

“Qingshan Sect is already in a mess,” Jiang Ning said with a smile. “This is a great opportunity for



## NH

us. How are you going to pin down the mastermind if you don't create a little chaos? You heard me. Investigate everyone."

Mr He stared silently at Jiang Ning for a long time.

He found Jiang Ning's boldness a little hard to stomach.

Jiang Ning wasn't going to squander the authority that the sect leader had granted him. Did he really intend to turn the entire sect upside down?

"Are you sure?"

"I am," said Jiang Ning. "You're the Disciplinary Master. This is your job. You're not the best man for the job but I don't have any men with me here. I wouldn't choose you if I did."

If his men were here, they would have been able to do a better job. This old man was hardly competition.

Mr He's face turned white with fury when he heard what Jiang Ning had said. The tip of his beard twitched angrily.

He was helping Jiang Ning out. Why should he suffer Jiang Ning's disdain?

He pointed his finger at Jiang Ning but didn't say anything for the longest time. He simply had no words. His body continued to tremble violently as the silence stretched.

# NH

“Humph!”

Mr He flung his arms and left. He wasn't interested in hanging around.

He was worried that Jiang Ning might just drive him to an early grave.



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## NH

What an annoying, irritating young punk.

Mr He decided that if he were to have a son, he had to make sure that his son wouldn't turn out like Jiang Ning. He would rather shove him back into the womb than deal with another Jiang Ning.

Jiang Ning watched Mr He leave, then shut his eyes. He seemed at ease and without a care in the world.

This wasn't the time for him to make a move yet. He was going to let Mr He do his job.

"There's something strange going on between the two of you." Liu Qing's voice rang out behind him.

She had been watching them quietly. She hadn't interrupted their conversation because she had had no idea what they had been talking about.

She had been utterly clueless.

They had spoken in a language that she had understood. But she couldn't understand what they had been saying at all.

"Don't let your imagination run wild. We're both men so there won't be anything between us."

"That's not what I meant." Liu Qing's cheeks flushed. She glared at Jiang Ning. That jerk was always yanking her chair. "The two of you are hiding something from me."

Jiang Ning opened his eyes and gave Liu Qing a look.

## NH

“You’re wrong,” he said honestly. “We’ve not been telling you anything at all. We’ve been hiding everything from you.”

Liu Qing stood there for a good ten seconds speechlessly. In the end, she inhaled deeply, then turned and walked away.

He was so infuriating. That wasn’t how you spoke to someone!

Jiang Ning was such an asshole. He could drive you mad with words alone.

Even if what he had said was indeed the truth, he could have kept it to himself. Was he trying to make her mad?

Jiang Ning shut his eyes again after Liu Qing left and continued to bask leisurely in the sun.

Meanwhile.

Mr He had made his way back to the Disciplinary Hall.

He slammed his palm onto the table loudly. A dozen of his best men stood before them. They dared not make a single sound.

Luo Heng’s death was an embarrassment to the Disciplinary Hall and a stain on his reputation.

This was a stain that wasn’t going to go away from a long time.

“Tell me, are you ashamed of yourselves?”

## NH

Mr He smiled mirthlessly. No one dared to answer him. He bellowed furiously at his men. "Is there any way you could embarrass me further? You've ruined my reputation!"

Everyone fell to their knees with a resounding thud and hung their heads. No one dared to say a word.

The Disciplinary Hall occupied an elevated status in Qingshan Sect, reporting directly to the sect leader himself.

The extent of its jurisdiction was the farthest in the entire sect.

Yet, someone had just humiliated them all, especially Mr He.

"You let someone who should have stayed alive die in our cells. What are you trying to tell everyone? That we're all useless pieces of trash? That anyone can enter and leave the Disciplinary Hall as they please and kill whomever they wish? Do you not feel shame? I do!" said Mr He in agitation.

"Do you think that I've reached an age where my reputation no longer matters?"

"Mr He, please don't get worked up!" his men urged in unison.

"You're telling me not to get worked up?" Mr He slammed his palm onto the table and rose to his feet. "How am I supposed to stay calm?"

## NH

“Mr He, we’ll find out who’s behind this and restore the Disciplinary Hall’s reputation!”

“You?” thundered Mr He. “This is someone who can enter and leave our prison at will. Do you really dare to hunt him down? Are you sure?”

“We do!” shouted the men.

They were furious beyond persuasion.

The reputation of the Disciplinary Hall had been cast in doubt. This wasn’t something that only concerned Mr He. It concerned them all.

If they didn’t do anything, they would become the laughingstock of the sect.

Not only would they be mocked by the disciples in Qingshan Sect, but they would also suffer the mockery of other sects as well.

“Good!” Mr He bellowed. “We’ll find the culprit and get to the bottom of this!”

His voice boomed like thunder and threatened to shift the ground beneath their feet.

“I’ll take responsibility for whatever that happens!”

Everyone’s eyes reddened when they heard Mr He’s words.

## NH

They would have given their all to find the culprit behind Luo Heng's murder even if Mr He had not promised them his full support.

They wouldn't stop even if they had to investigate the elders.

"Mr He, we won't disappoint you." The leader of the Disciplinary Hall guards got to his feet, turned around and barked at his men. "Let's go! We're going to search the entire sect. Leave no stone unturned!"

They were akin to wolves on a full moon, crazed and hungry for blood.

There was no point in remaining in the Disciplinary Hall if they couldn't restore Mr He's reputation.

The men charged out of the Disciplinary Hall, summoned another group of men and began a thorough search of Qingshan Sect.

It was their duty to protect Qingshan Sect and uphold the integrity of its laws.

Qingshan Sect was turned topsy turvy within moments.

"Quick, hurry up!"

"We're start from the Outer Court. I want a thorough search. Search everyone!"

"No one is to leave the sect grounds during this period. Those who do not adhere to the rules will

## NH

be punished severely by the Disciplinary Hall.”

“Those who left the Outer Court on their own last night are to report their names to us immediately.”

Hordes of men from the Disciplinary Hall began a thorough investigation that started with the Outer Court.

No stone was left unturned. Every disciple that was registered in their records had to undergo an interrogation and prove that they had an alibi the night before.

Regardless of their relation to Luo Heng, everyone who didn't have an alibi had to face a second round of investigation.

A sudden storm seemed to have overtaken the sect, stirring panic and fear amongst many. Some of them still had no idea what was going on and why the Disciplinary Hall had descended upon everyone in such a flurry.

But of course, the guards from the Disciplinary Hall knew that the Outer Court hadn't been involved in Luo Heng's murder.

The Disciplinary Hall's reputation would be utterly ruined if the ones who had infiltrated their prison and killed Luo Heng were from the Outer Court.

“We've searched the Outer Court and found no suspects.”

This was as they had guessed right from the start.



## NH

“The Inner Court is next!”

The Inner Court garnered the most suspicion.

The people from the Portico rarely came into contact with those from the Inner Court. Prior to his death, Luo Heng had posed little threat to the Portico. The only ones who could have been threatened by his existence were his fellow disciples in the Inner Court.

The greatest suspect was Chen Long.

The leader of the Disciplinary Hall guards arrested Chen Long as soon as he arrived at the Inner Court. They weren't going to let him have any chances of slipping away.

“I have nothing to do with his death.” Chen Long bared his teeth in an angry smile.

Zhang Heng sat silently on the highest level in the halls of the Inner Court, his eyes half-lidded and his face lined with obvious anger.

His disciples lined the halls and were interrogated by the Disciplinary Hall guards one by one.

Chen Long couldn't take it any longer. “Why would I kill him? How could I have killed him under your watch? You're trying to frame me for his murder!”

“Luo Heng's a better fighter than you are. You'll never be number one as long as he remains at the Inner Court. Does that reason suffice?”

“What a joke!” Chen Long said angrily. “Number

## NH

one? He's not number one. I was hiding my true strength. He's not my match at all."

They were driving him to the edge.

He had hidden his true strength and had been prepared to unleash his true power and injure Luo Heng when the right moment had struck in their fight. He hadn't expected that he would be sabotaging himself.

What was Luo Heng to him?

He could have won Luo Heng easily.

Why would he kill him?

He would be a fool to infiltrate the Disciplinary Hall prison to kill someone like Luo Heng.

"Hiding your true strength? You're quite good at putting up an act. You're looking more suspicious by the moment." The leader of the guards glared at Zhang Heng, then beckoned for his men. "Men, take Chen Long away for interrogation."

"Hold on!" Zhang Heng stared straight into the eyes of the leader of the guards and said mildly. "You have no evidence and no grounds to arrest my men. Is it not enough that the Inner Court has lost Luo Heng? Do you wish to take more of my men?"

He rose to his full stature and looked down upon the guards with an imposing air.

"Do you think the disciples of the Inner Court

NH

pushovers whom you can easily push around?”



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## NH

The glacial look in Zhang Heng's eyes as he thundered furiously could freeze.

From the powerful aura that surrounded him, it was clear that he was being serious. The absence of restraint was a clear expression of his displeasure towards the guards of the Disciplinary Hall.

"Please don't get worked up, Mr Zhang." The leader of the guards didn't budge. "This is a serious matter and the Disciplinary Hall has a duty to get to the bottom of this. We have to do Luo Heng right and find his killer. This is the duty that we are bound to perform."

"Humph!" Zhang Heng had not expected a lowly leader of a small team of guards would dare to speak to him in such a manner. Wasn't he worried that Zhang Heng might simply kill him on the spot? "Your duty is to uphold order in the Qingshan Sect, not cause disorder and chaos!"

"Mr Zhang, you're wrong. We're seeking justice for a disciple of our sect. That's hardly causing disorder." The guard leader was prepared to die. He would rather be killed than back down. The honor of the Disciplinary Hall was more important than his life. "Besides, Luo Heng is your prized disciple. Aren't you upset by his death? Don't you want justice to be served?"

Zhang Heng's pupils contracted when he heard that.

The guard leader was insinuating something. In fact, he might be trying to lure him into spilling

## NH

information.

“He’s my disciple. Of course I want justice to be served,” scoffed Zhang Heng. “But I won’t let my other disciples suffer humiliation and have the Inner Court’s name tarnished unjustly!”

With a wave of his hand, a dozen disciples rushed forward.

“Mr Zhang, what are you trying to do?” laughed the guard leader. “We’re here on the orders of Mr He and you’re putting me in a difficult spot. The Disciplinary Hall’s been around since Qingshan Sect was founded. We are tasked with the duty of upholding the name of Qingshan Sect and the laws of the sect.”

“That is exactly what we’re doing now. And you, Mr Zhang, what are you doing? Let me make myself clear. It doesn’t matter even if it’s the sect leader who’s standing before us now. We’re going to search everyone and everything that requires searching!”

With a loud metallic whine, the guard leader pulled his sword out. “Those who stand in our way will be deemed to have committed an act of treason and punished accordingly!”

Tension filled the air instantaneously.

Alarm flashed across the faces of Chen Long and the other disciples. They had not realized the severity of the situation until then.

The Disciplinary Hall had been relentless in their

# NH

investigation. It was clear that they had the silent support of the sect leader.

It was only the death of a disciple. Was there really a need to go to such extents?

They doubted that the sect leader would go to such extremes even if the person who had died was a Portico disciple.

Zhang Heng shared the same thoughts. He knew that Liu Chuandao didn't care about Luo Heng.

He might feel sorry for losing an Inner Court disciple, but he wouldn't cause such a scene.

Jiang Ning was the only reason that could explain the Disciplinary Hall's investigation.

Liu Chuandao held Jiang Ning in high regard. That was why he wanted to capture those who wanted to harm Jiang Ning.

Jiang Ning was without doubt an extraordinary character with extraordinary import.

"I'm a member of Qingshan Sect as well as the principal of the Inner Court. I hold the sect's name in greater regard than you do," bellowed Zhang Heng. "I'll find the murderer who killed my disciple and have him punished!"

"Mr Zhang shouldn't stand in our way since we both want the same things," the guard leader said as he cupped his fists politely. "Take him away!"

He had unsheathed his sword already, so he

# NH

wasn't going to waste any more time talking.

He wasn't going to go easy on Zhang Heng if the latter tried to stop him.

He didn't want to disappoint Mr He and he didn't want to tarnish the name of the sect.

"Mr Zhang! Mr Zhang!" Chen Long and his fellow disciples called out desperately for their principle, but Zhang Heng could do nothing but watch silently with a stormy face as the guards left with his disciples.

He could say nothing.

Mr He was treating this seriously. The murder of a prisoner in the Disciplinary Hall prison had been an open act of provocation and an attack on his name. Zhang Heng had known Mr He for many years and he knew the man's temperament. This was something that he would do.

"Go on and investigate. You won't find anything," scoffed Zhang Heng as a streak of disdain flashed past his eyes.

They could turn the whole sect upside down and they wouldn't find anything on him.



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## NH

Meanwhile, Chen Long and his fellow disciples had been locked up in separate cells. The looks on their faces were fraught with fear and anxiety.

“Don’t worry, the principal will find a way to save us,” yelled Chen Long. He wasn’t sure if he was trying to comfort his fellow disciples or himself.

Why had he bothered to conceal his true strength if he’d known this was going to happen?

He would have defeated Luo Heng in open battle. Things wouldn’t have gotten so complicated. At the very least, he wouldn’t be suspected of murdering Luo Heng.

DA DA DA.

The sound of footsteps resounded in the corridor. Quite a few visitors had arrived.

Chen Long peered into the distance. It was Mr He.

Was that Jiang Ning standing next to him?

“We’ve arrested every Inner Court disciple who is a likely suspect,” said Mr He. “Which one of them do you think is the most likely to have killed Luo Heng?”

He turned and eyed Jiang Ning.

Jiang Ning had pretty good sources. He had arrived as soon as they had locked up the suspects and said that he was here to help with the investigation.



## NH

After all, he had been the one that they had been trying to kill.

"I find them all highly suspicious. You should investigate everyone thoroughly," replied Jiang Ning.

Chen Long nearly cursed out loud when he heard that.

How could they suspect them? He hadn't done a single thing to warrant any suspicion.

"That's rubbish! That's utter nonsense!" Chen Long yelled frantically as he clutched the bars of his cell tightly. How he wished he could charge out of his cell right now and explain that the thought of killing Luo Heng had never crossed his mind.

Jiang Ning and Mr He walked down the corridor. When Jiang Ning passed Chen Long's cell, he glanced at the disciple and laughed softly. "I'm not speaking nonsense. Luo Heng was a disciple of the Inner Court and spends most of his time there. You're the only ones who might have any conflicts with him. Name someone outside the Inner Court with conflicting interests."

"You..."

"You're the greatest suspect of them all. You share the greatest conflict of interest with him," said Jiang Ning earnestly. "You're the only two disciples fighting for number one in the Inner Court."

## NH

Chen Long was on the verge of tears.

He would have been number one in the Inner Court if he hadn't chosen to conceal his true strength. Luo Heng wouldn't have stood a chance at all.

There was nothing wrong with trying to keep a low profile.

"Mr He! Mr He, don't listen to his nonsense. Why would I kill Luo Heng? He's not my equal. I have no reason to kill him," Chen Long tried to explain himself frantically. "Even if we do assume that he's a better fighter than I am, he's due to be transferred to the Portico. There's no conflict of interest between us. None at all!"

"You're right," Jiang Ning smacked his head lightly and said, "I wouldn't have thought about that if you didn't mention it. Luo Heng was supposed to be transferred to the Portico and become the Senior Elder's disciple. That means that the Senior Elder and his disciples know Luo Heng too."

Mr He nodded. "That's right."

"The murderer might be related to the Senior Elder in some way. That explains a lot. It wouldn't take much work for the Senior Elder to slip into this prison of yours."

Chen Long froze when he heard Jiang Ning's words.

Had Jiang Ning just openly voiced his suspicions

NH

about the Senior Elder?

In fact, he hadn't merely voiced his suspicions. He had seemed really certain of himself.

"The more I think about it, the more certain I am that this is the case." Jiang Ning pointed at Chen Long. "He's the one who gave me the idea."

Chen Long felt a sudden weight in his chest. What idea had he given Jiang Ning?

Had he somehow directed Jiang Ning's suspicions towards the Senior Elder? He would rather kill himself than do something like that.

"I didn't do anything of that sort..."

Chen Long leapt to his feet and slammed his head into the bars. Jiang Ning didn't seem to notice as he kept talking.

"Mr He, I think the Portico warrants a search too. This isn't just a simple assassination. No one cares if I die or live. But they broke into your prison. They're challenging the authority of the Disciplinary Hall and your reputation! You have to do something to preserve your reputation."

Mr He threw Jiang Ning a sidelong glance as he cursed the man secretly.

"That jerk! Can't he leave me a few words to say?"

## NH

Jiang Ning had said everything that had needed to be said. What more could Mr He say?

He glanced at Jiang Ning.

“We must uphold the integrity of the Disciplinary Hall. Those are the rules that have been set in stone by our founding ancestors. The rules that govern the Disciplinary Hall are the rules that govern Qingshan Sect. There will be no order without these rules!” said Mr He sternly. “Chen Long made a good point. We should conduct a search of the Portico.”

Chen Long nearly passed out.

When had he said anything like that?

He hadn't mentioned a single word at all.

The Disciplinary Hall was going to search the Portico. It would be the end of him if the elders and the Portico disciples found out that he had been the one who had reminded Mr He that the Portico remained unsearched.

“Mr He! Mr He!” Chen Long shouted frantically. “This has nothing to do with me! I didn't say anything! I really didn't!”

Jiang Ning threw him a casual glance.

“That counts as a merit to the sect, Mr He. You could consider lightening his sentence.”

“I think that's a great idea.”

## NH

Jiang Ning and Mr He played beautifully off each other. Blood drained from Chen Long's face rapidly, turning his pallor as pale as a ghost.

"Mr He..."

He slid slowly to the ground while cursing himself secretly. Why had he decided to keep a low profile? Why had he tried to play it cool? Why...

All he had wanted to do was to reveal his true strength when the right moment came along. No one could have expected things to turn out this way.

He didn't want to die!

Jiang Ning and Mr He didn't seem to hear his words as they turned away and left.

"We have to search the Portico!" said Jiang Ning.

"Those are bold words. Do you know how much trouble that would bring?"

"Isn't that what Chief Liu wants us to do?" Jiang Ning pointed out casually. "The greater the scene we cause, the better."

Mr He and Jiang Ning exchanged a look with each other. They could see a hint of smile in each other's eyes.

This did sound like fun.

"Oh, right. Chen Long's innocent. Don't get him killed. He'll come in useful later," said Jiang Ning.

## NH

“You make a terrifying enemy. You’re filled with terrible ideas,” Mr He scoffed. “I’ll find the right opportunity and have him become your lapdog.”

He was well aware that Jiang Ning had begun to set up a trap meant for Zhang Heng. He wondered if Zhang Heng was going to fall for it.

Zhang Heng was clearly the man who had killed Luo Heng. Mr He and Jiang Ning both knew that.

No one had exposed the truth and both of them were still feigning ignorance. Finding evidence to prove that Zhang Heng was the murderer was going to be tough, so Jiang Ning had decided that they weren’t going to rely on evidence at all.

Mr He had not realized that this was what Jiang Ning was planning to do until this very moment.

The two men parted ways. Jiang Ning returned to Liu Qing’s residence and back to his tea and snacks, enjoying a leisurely rest as if he were on a vacation.

Mr He, on the other hand, appeared to have gone mad.

He was feigning madness, but his act was more terrifying than the real deal.

Every man in the Disciplinary Hall had been sent out and was now heading for the Portico. No one would escape unscathed as they investigated Luo Heng’s death.

Anyone who tried to stop him would receive the

## NH

brunt of his verbal lashings as he accused them of defying the sect's rules and disrespecting its name. No one dared to speak back against him.

“Take those who dare to retaliate!” thundered Mr He. “No one shall challenge the rules of the Qingshan Sect and the authority of the Disciplinary Hall. These are the laws that have been set in stone by our founding ancestors. No one shall disobey them!”

That was all that he had to say.

It didn't matter who stood before him or what they said to him, that was all Mr He had to say to drive the elders at the Portico trembling with rage and ready to get into a fight with him.

But Liu Chuandao himself had not spoken a single word and had allowed the search and interrogations to take place. Who were they to say otherwise?

“Chief Liu, are you going to stand by and watch as Mr He turns the sect upside down?” Zhang Heng finally blurted out.

The Inner Court was no longer under investigation, which meant that he could and dared to say anything.

Besides, he was speaking up on behalf of the other elders. He could afford to sound self-righteous.

## NH

“Turn the sect upside down?” Mr He barked out a curt laugh before Liu Chuandao could say a word. “Are you suggesting that Chief Liu also turning the sect upside down?”

“How dare you!” Zhang Heng blurted out in a fluster.

He had not been aware of how scathing Mr He could be. His quick reply had Zhang Heng choke back whatever words he had ready at the tip of his tongue.

He had not the audacity to insinuate that Liu Chuandao was involved in the chaos that Mr He was causing in the sect. It was obvious that this was the case, but he couldn't put it out in the open.

“We all have the sect's reputation at heart. Zhang Heng, are you trying to cause trouble for the sect? Did I not search the Inner Court too?” A dark look descended on Mr He's face then as he stared fixedly at Zhang Heng. “Are you the culprit?”

Tension filled the hall instantly.

Everyone's attention was yanked towards Zhang Heng. Their eyes revealed the different thoughts that occupied their minds.

Zhang Heng's heart sank, but he quickly pulled himself together. The panic that had appeared in his eyes was but a brief flicker that vanished as soon as it had surfaced.

“Cease your baseless accusations! Luo Heng's



## NH

my best disciple. Why would I kill him? Am I out of my mind?" His eyes were red as he thundered. "You cannot imagine how upset I am at his death. How could you accuse me of killing him? Luo Heng won't be able to rest in peace!"

Zhang Heng looked ready to fight Mr He to the death.

That look of agitation on his face made him resemble a young lady who had been dishonored and was overcome with intense resentment and fury.

"If you didn't do it, why are you so worked up?" argued Mr He, who was clearly equally upset.

The voices in the hall rose.

"Silence!" Liu Chuandao slammed his fist on the table suddenly and silenced the two.

He gave Mr He and Zhang Heng a look.

"Luo Heng was trying to kill Jiang Ning, my future son-in-law. He was disrespecting me and Qingshan Sect. Someone must have instigated him to attempt the assassination. We must get to the bottom of this." He threw a glance at Zhang Heng. "Don't you wish to know who Luo Heng's murderer is?"

Zhang Heng's heart raced as he stared at Liu Chuandao's eyes.

He had a feeling that they knew what he had done. They simply didn't have any evidence to

# NH

prove their suspicions.

“Of course I do! I have to!” Zhang Heng declared. He pointed at Mr He furiously. “Mr He was the one who accused me of being the murderer without any proof to support his accusation. He was the one who had gone too far!”

“He can't be the murderer.”

A voice rang out in the air suddenly.

Jiang Ning slowly strode into the hall.

“How could Mr Zhang be the murderer? He's the last person who wants me dead. He can't be the murderer.”

Everyone's eyes turned towards Jiang Ning as he walked towards them.

So did the eyes of Liu Zong and Liu Heng. The faint nod that Liu Chuandao gave Jiang Ning made their guts churn slightly.

This man was going to marry into the Liu family, and he was only going to be married to a daughter that Liu Chuandao had adopted. He was hardly someone who deserved Liu Chuandao's favor.

Jiang Ning's death was insignificant. There was no need to go to such extents to find his killer and turn the entire sect topsy turvy.

“I don't think you're qualified to speak,” said Liu Zong with a hint of hostility in his voice.

## NH

The sect leader, the various elders, Mr He, the principal of the Inner Court, and everyone present in the hall were the pillars and upper echelons of Qingshan Sect. Who was Jiang Ning compared to them?

“And who might you be?” Jiang Ning glanced at Liu Zong.

“Humph, don’t you know who I am?” Liu Zong demanded angrily.

“Are you really famous? Why should I know who you are? Luo Heng seems like a bigger deal than you are.”

Liu Zong was going to blow up.

Had he just compared him to a dead man?

Did he just say that a dead man was better than him?

“You!” He took a step forward, ready to hit the man when Liu Heng stopped him.

The hall wasn’t the place to start a fight.

“Doesn’t matter. I think we count as your seniors,” Liu Heng said coolly.

After all, they were Liu Qing’s elder brothers.

“And who are you?” Jiang Ning tilted his head.

## NH

Jiang Ning's question sent Liu Heng into a sudden moment of confusion. Liu Heng's face darkened the next instant.

"Punk, don't test my patience. I'm trying to show you some respect."

"I don't need that from you," said Jiang Ning calmly.

He couldn't be bothered with Liu Heng at all. Before Liu Heng could retort, Jiang Ning walked right up to Zhang Heng. Their eyes met. Zhang Heng appeared unfazed despite the look that Jiang Ning was giving him.

He had no idea why Jiang Ning was speaking up on his behalf.

They had only met each other once and had barely spoken to each other.

Zhang Heng had been the one who had instructed Luo Heng to kill Jiang Ning. Jiang Ning must be aware of that, so there was no reason for him to speak up for Zhang Heng.

"Mr Zhang is a good man with a good heart. He wouldn't hurt anyone," said Jiang Ning. "Besides, we don't know each other and bear each other no grudge. He has no reason to harm me."

Zhang Heng nodded. "That's right. This is only the second time I've met Jiang Ning. I don't harbor any personal grudge against him at all. None so great that compels me to kill him. Mr He, you shouldn't make baseless accusations against

# NH

me.”

Mr He eyed Zhang Heng, gave Jiang Ning a look, then scoffed. From the look of unhappiness on his face, it was clear that he was extremely displeased about Jiang Ning stepping forward and speaking up for Zhang Heng.

He was helping Jiang Ning figure out who had tried to kill him and bring the perpetrator to justice. But what was Jiang Ning doing now? He was actually standing on Zhang Heng’s side.

“Chief Liu, the person who wants me dead must be someone else. I don’t believe that Mr Zhang would do something like that.” Jiang Ning walked up to Liu Chuandao and clasped his hands together respectfully.

“Who do you think it is then?”

Everyone froze in stupor when they heard what Liu Chuandao had said. The expressions on their faces revealed their differing thoughts.

What a question!

Were they going to looking into whomever Jiang Ning believed was the culprit and have the man arrested?

The sect leader was treating this matter like child’s play!

Who was Jiang Ning exactly? Why did he deserve such a privileged treatment from Liu Chuandao?

## NH

“It can’t be anyone from Qingshan Sect,” Jiang Ning said earnestly. “I’ve only recently arrived at the sect. Few have seen me or know that I’m here. Why would they want to kill me? I have many enemies outside the sect though. If they knew that I’m here, they might send someone to filtrate the sect and assassinate me.”

“Are you suggesting that an outsider has infiltrated the sect and attempted an assassination on you?” Liu Chuandao’s face darkened.

That would be a serious matter.

Infiltrating Qingshan Sect was an outright act of provocation towards Qingshan Sect.

“Do we know of any outsiders who have entered the sect grounds recently?” asked Jiang Ning.

Silence descended upon the hall suddenly.

They had no idea if Jiang Ning had spoken those words unintentionally or deliberately. The only outsiders who had arrived at Qingshan Sect recently were none other than Elder Luo Feng and his convoy.

They had come on behalf of their young master to seek Liu Qing’s hand in marriage.

They had not expected that Liu Chuandao had already arranged a match for Liu Qing and that he had named Jiang Ning his future son-in-law.

Everything did kind of make sense. There was a

# NH

possibility that Elder Luo Feng and his party might have tried to kill Luo Heng.

They had a strong motive to do so.

They had come with a marriage offer, only to find out that Liu Qing had been bestowed to another. If they truly wanted Liu Qing to become their young master's wife, Jiang Ning had to die.

The revelation struck everyone present like a shattering bolt of lightning.

Zhang Heng heard something explode in his head. Jiang Ning had somehow stumbled upon the truth while uttering nonsense.

Killing a mere son-in-law should have been a simple matter. No one had expected things to spiral out of control.

The air was taut with tension.

“What utter nonsense!” the Senior Elder said in a burst of anger. “Who do you think you are? You're not worth Elder Luo Feng's time!”



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## NH

The Senior Elder's words were harsh and blunt. He wasn't holding himself back despite knowing that Liu Chuandao had Jiang Ning's back.

"How dare you insult Elder Luo Feng's name! You deserve to be killed!" The Senior Elder pointed at Jiang Ning, his beard puffing up angrily as he spoke.

Jiang Ning had left a terrible first impression on him. What made things worse had been the sudden death of Luo Heng, a disciple whom he had had his eye on.

He was naturally upset.

"How's that insulting his name?" Jiang Ning glanced at the Senior Elder. "Why doesn't Senior Elder share your thoughts with us then? Who else might the culprit be?"

"That's not important." The Senior Elder snorted coldly. "No one cares if you get killed. No one cares as long as it isn't someone from Qingshan Sect who's dead."

In his eyes, Jiang Ning wasn't a member of Qingshan Sect at all.

"What if the Senior Elder is their next target?"

"Cease your impudence!" Numerous voices rose in unison.

No one had expected such audacious words from Jiang Ning.



## NH

How dared he suggest that the Senior Elder was going to die next!

Liu Zong's and Liu Heng's faces flushed with fury. Jiang Ning had gone too far.

"Jiang Ning, what are your true intentions?" Liu Heng said vehemently. "The Senior Elder has done many great deeds for Qingshan Sect. He's not someone you can curse flagrantly!"

"That's right. Why don't you take a good look at yourself? You're just Liu Qing's fiancé. Anyway, you still lack our endorsement."

"Luo Heng should have killed you. You're just a waste of our sect's resources."

The elders did not hold back as they pointed at Jiang Ning and cursed him out loud, without any concern for Liu Chuandao's pride.

Liu Chuandao simply stood there silently with a stormy look on his face.

Liu Chuandao had not expected Jiang Ning to speak so boldly against the Senior Elder. But he knew that Jiang Ning was a smart man. He wouldn't make an enemy out of anyone so easily.

He must have his reasons.

All he had to do now was to keep quiet and not say a word.

"It seems that someone is trying to protect the murderer," Jiang Ning sighed and made a show of

## NH

shaking his head. “I understand what’s going on now. Someone thinks that the state that Qingshan Sect is in isn’t bad enough. They want to see the sect fall completely apart. When that moment comes, they’ll swarm in and try to get a piece of whatever’s left.”

No one reacted visibly to his words. However, a few hearts skipped a beat when they heard what Jiang Ning said.

He had spoken the thoughts that they had been harboring in their minds.

“You’re all selfish men who care only for your self-interests. You believe that Qingshan Sect isn’t going to survive for long and that it’s going to fall sooner or later, so you set aside a backup plan a long time ago, didn’t you?”

Every word of Jiang Ning struck loud and true. Zhang Heng felt his heart spasm as he listened to the man talk. He was struck with a feeling that Jiang Ning could see through his secrets with a single glance.

“Well, I’m going to tell you that Qingshan Sect will never fall!” Jiang Ning raised his voice suddenly. “Anyone who harbors any ill intentions towards the sect are going to end up in hell. You should stop while it’s not too late!”

Jiang Ning’s eyes swept past everyone as he shouted, pausing on everyone’s faces and meeting everyone’s eyes. Hidden behind his fierce stare was an overwhelming power.

## NH

When his eyes landed on Zhang Heng, they stayed still for three long seconds before finally moving away.

His stare had Zhang Heng's heart hammering fiercely in his chest.

"Bold words from a young punk," the Senior Elder smirked. "Qingshan Sect is indeed on its decline. That is the reality that we are facing and that I myself cannot deny. Who are you to comment on that? Are you saying that you are going to change the sect's future?"

The Senior Elder's words held no consideration for Liu Chuandao's pride.

In fact, he seemed unafraid when he caught the slight frown creasing Liu Chuandao's brow.

"The Senior Elder is right," said Jiang Ning. "That's exactly what I'm saying."

"The audacity!"

"Not at all. I'm being modest." Jiang Ning smiled faintly. "In fact, if I were the Senior Elder of Qingshan Sect, the sect wouldn't be facing a decline at all."

"How dare you!"

The look on the Senior Elder's face darkened. Jiang Ning had gone too far. What was he trying to say?

## NH

Was Jiang Ning rebuking him?

Was Jiang Ning calling him useless?

Was Jiang Ning accusing him of being undeserving of his position as Senior Elder of Qingshan Sect? What arrogance!

“How dare you!”

“You’re just a young punk. How dare you speak this way!”

“You’re disrespecting your elders. Are you tired of living?”

“Such nerve! How dare you insult the Senior Elder?! You ought to be killed!”

The other elders voiced their protests in unison.

Liu Zong and Liu Heng had not expected Jiang Ning to be so audacious and speak in such a manner to the Senior Elder. Was he an idiot?

Even their father, the sect leader of Qingshan Sect, would not speak to the Senior Elder in this fashion. Had Jiang Ning lost his senses? Did he not think before he spoke?

The Senior Elder fumed quietly, with a stormy look coloring his face.

He had toiled and bled for Qingshan Sect his whole life. Who knew there would come a day when he would be chastised publicly by a young man?

## NH

What was Jiang Ning trying to say?

Was he calling him useless? A piece of trash?

Was he saying that he had failed to bring Qingshan Sect to greater heights and that, in fact, he was the cause of the sect's decline? Was he to shoulder the full blame?

"Disrespect?" Jiang Ning shook his head lightly. "You call this an act of disrespect? I'm simply speaking the truth."

He eyed the Senior Elder, then burst out into sudden laughter.

"Senior Elder, has anything I've said caused you offense? Was anything untrue? Do point them out. I'll be sure to apologize and let you do what you will with me."

The sight of the seeming smile on Jiang Ning's face left the Senior Elder at a loss for words.

Qingshan Sect's current state of decline remained an irrefutable fact and equally undisputable was the fact that he had served as the Senior Elder during the sect's gradual decline. Everything that Jiang Ning had said was the truth.

What basis did he have to refute Jiang Ning's words?

Was he supposed to argue that he had done his best and that he had shed blood and tears, toiling with sleep or rest for the sect?

## NH

That only served to prove his incompetence.

The Senior Elder didn't say a word. The look on his face gradually darkened.

He glared unblinkingly at Jiang Ning, his breathing growing uneven whilst he struggled for words. Yet, nothing came to mind.

"It seems that the Senior Elder has nothing to say for himself," said Jiang Ning. "That means that I was right. Why are you complaining then?"

His eyes swept past the other elders and the two brothers.

"All of you are to blame for the current state that Qingshan Sect is in!"

An air of authority surrounded Jiang Ning suddenly upon his thunderous proclamation.

"Especially the two of you!" He pointed an accusatory finger at Liu Zong and Liu Heng. An icy smile appeared on his lips. "As the sect leader's sons, you've been nothing but useless, failing at everything that you do. Qingshan Sect wouldn't be in its current state if you've displayed even the slightest bit of competence."

"How dare you!" Liu Zong and Liu Heng's faces flushed with anger. They pointed furiously at Jiang Ning and exploded in unison. "That's utter rubbish!"

"You know very well that I'm speaking the truth. You've been fighting with each other openly and

## NH

secretly, all for the sake of your own selfish interests.”

“But what’s the point of your fighting? What are you going to be left with if the Qingshan Sect falls to someone else? You fight between yourselves when you should be protecting your sect from poachers.”

“Are you fools? All you’re doing is helping the enemy, who’s using you as a stepping stone. I’ve never seen idiots more foolish than you lot!”

Jiang Ning’s words of rebuke spewed forth rapidly and gave neither Liu Zong nor Liu Heng time to retaliate.

They had no grounds for refutation anyway.

What had they done all these years for Qingshan Sect?

Nothing. They hadn’t thought of doing anything for the sect at all.

They had poured their energies into bribing the hearts of others, getting more allies and strengthening their own factions. They hadn’t spared a thought for Qingshan Sect or the sect’s future. Liu Zong’s and Liu Heng’s ears flushed with heat when they heard Jiang Ning’s scalding words of reprimand. There was nothing they could say for themselves.

The elders did not escape unscathed. They too took heat from Jiang Ning’s harsh rebuke.

# NH

Jiang Ning's voice was the only voice filling the hall. His words thundered like a series of cannonballs fired from the cannon and exploding with extreme force as he listed their wrongdoings one by one without using a single curse word. Nevertheless, every word turned out to be equally maddening.



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## NH

The atmosphere was extremely tense now.

If Liu Chuandao wasn't still around and nobody made the first move, all the elders would have surrounded Jiang Ning and bashed him up by now.

But now, Jiang Ning was still standing confidently where he was with his hands behind his back as he glanced at all the elders before him.

“Are you going to raise any objections to what I just said?”

Raise objections?

Of course not!

There was no way they could raise any objections or argue back.

Jiang Ning had not spent a long time in Qingshan Sect, but he seemed to know each person very well.

He knew their identities and the things they did, as well as many other matters that they had never told anybody, or allowed anybody to find out. And even if anyone knew about these things, they wouldn't have mentioned it at all.

And now, Jiang Ning had spilled all the beans in front of everyone.

All of them were red-faced, as if they had been caught red-handed doing something naughty.

## NH

“Do I still need to go on?” Jiang Ning looked at them. “All of you have contributed to the decline of Qingshan Sect!”

“And now, someone from outside the sect dared to infiltrate Qingshan Sect and killed one of yours, but you are able to take this lying down? How are you going to account for this to the rest of the sect?”

He sighed agitatedly and was furious. “Just because you’re not the ones who died, it doesn’t matter anymore?”

“What about the other disciples? What about all the disciples who are just like Luo Heng?”

“All of them have parents too, you know? You mean they deserve to die? You mean it’s alright for others to kill them?”

“If you behave like this, who would dare to join Qingshan Sect? Which truly gifted person would dare to join the sect?”

Jiang Ning’s voice was ear deafening, and every word resounded loudly in their ears.

Everything he had said would soon reach the ears of the other disciples. All these words that represented the viewpoint of the disciples would definitely garner great support.

This matter did not only concern one Jiang Ning, and it wasn’t as simple as one dead Luo Heng.

This was an important issue that involved all the

## NH

disciples of Qingshan Sect. It affected whether their lives were respected and valued!

Liu Chuandao's expression changed a little. He suddenly realized that everything that Jiang Ning said had caught everyone's attention.

Nobody cared about who was trying to kill Jiang Ning anymore, and Jiang Ning himself knew that nobody cared about whether he lived or died anyway.

Even if he really got murdered, so what?

He probably wouldn't even get a sigh from these people.

So Jiang Ning took the chance to shift everyone's attention onto the disciples instead. If Su Yun were here, she would have applauded Jiang Ning for having the mind of an army commander.

Controlling the crowd was the most powerful way of getting things done!

"Don't you dare spout nonsense!" The Senior Elder couldn't stand it anymore and shouted fiercely, "Qingshan Sect has always placed the grooming of disciples as one of our greatest priorities! We care a lot about their lives and their dignity!"

"So it's alright to let an elite disciple like Luo Heng to die for no reason?"

"We are not alright with that!" retorted the Senior Elder angrily. "We are investigating this matter! Mr He, aren't you already investigating it?"

## NH

He spun around to look at Mr He, who was secretly grinning away at how things were turning out. “What’s happened to the investigation?”

Mr He had already said earlier that they didn’t find any clues and their investigation had reached the Portico and the elders of the sect, but the Senior Elder was obstructing the investigation.

“Senior Elder, our next step is to investigate the Portico and all the elders here,” said Mr He with a straight face. “If you are not willing to be investigated, then we...”

He looked like he was placed in a difficult position.

It was as if the final decision all lay in the hands of the Senior Elder.

If the Senior Elder continued to block the investigation, it meant that the Senior Elder was not valuing the lives and future of all the disciples of Qingshan Sect. Even the Senior Elder couldn’t possibly dare to bear such a heavy responsibility!



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# NH

The Senior Elder had to approve the investigation.

He didn't have any other choice besides this.

The Senior Elder's face was all red as he slowly raised his finger, then let it fall heavily. "Conduct an investigation!"

"Go ahead and investigate us!"

"This concerns the safety of all Qingshan Sect disciples. Of course we must investigate such a serious matter," said the Senior Elder in a very righteous sounding voice.

Once he said this, everyone else fell silent.

None of the other elders dared to go against him.

Jiang Ning smiled at the Senior Elder as he watched all these people slowly walk into the trap that he had laid for them.

He suddenly felt that these people weren't beyond saving after all.

"We'll conduct an investigation!" Mr He didn't hesitate. He nodded immediately and waved his hand dramatically. "Didn't you hear what the Senior Elder said? Investigate everybody right now!"

"Yes, Mr He!" replied the Disciplinary Hall members in unison before rushing in.

The Senior Elder's face was slightly red and he felt like he had walked into a trap of sorts.

## NH

And it seems like Jiang Ning had forced a lot of them into the same trap.

But this would be something that the Senior Elder would suddenly remember only after a long time had passed and Qingshan Sect regained stability. For now, all he felt was rage.

All the members of the Disciplinary Hall interrogated everyone one by one, regardless of who they were. It didn't matter if they were an elder or the sect leader. They asked all the questions they had to and were very serious and stern. Nobody was allowed to joke around.

Everyone knew that this was the dignity of the Disciplinary Hall, and it was also the dignity of Qingshan Sect!

This was everything they stood for.

Even Liu Chuandao had to come clean about where he was and what he was doing when Luo Heng died, and couldn't conceal any details at all.

Jiang Ning found a seat and sat down. He got one of the servants to get him tea while he watched the proceedings slowly.

Liu Zong and Liu Heng exchanged glances. They were so angry.

They had been scolded by Jiang Ning earlier and they didn't dare to say anything now.

Even Liu Chuandao, the Senior Elder and the rest of the elders were cooperating with the

## NH

investigation, so the two of them couldn't possibly refuse to cooperate.

They had to obediently sit through the interrogation process and couldn't even look annoyed or impatient, otherwise the others around them might call them arrogant!

On the contrary, Jiang Ning just sat where he was and happily drank tea and ate snacks like he was in his own house.

"Why aren't you questioning him?" asked Zhang Heng when he couldn't stand it anymore. "Isn't he suspicious too?"

"Luo Heng wanted to kill Jiang Ning, so Jiang Ning wanted to take revenge. Doesn't that make sense?" he asked through gritted teeth.

Jiang Ning didn't even bother looking at Zhang Heng. Mr He just replied directly, "Jiang Ning has an alibi to prove that he wasn't at the scene of the crime when Luo Heng died. I've already checked."

"He wasn't at the scene of the crime? Then where was he?" Zhang Heng continued to ask.

Mr He laughed. "Of course he was at Third Miss' quarters. As for what a single man and a single woman would be doing together in the same room, I'm really not sure."

He shook his head and had a lecherous smile on his face. Every man would know what that smile meant.

# NH

Zhang Heng's face immediately reddened.

Liu Qing and Jiang Ning had already reached third base?

Oh no!

There was no way Elder Luo Feng and the rest would want their prospective bride to be someone who had already slept with another man. It would be meaningless to bring up marriage then!

“Mr He, this is not the sort of thing you should mention. We're all men, so we all get it.”

Jiang Ning quickly waved his hands about and confirmed Zhang Heng's suspicions even more this way. Zhang Heng started to get anxious.


If Liu Qing was already tainted, then there was no point in Elder Luo Feng's visit.

They wouldn't be able to use this method to infiltrate Qingshan Sect anymore.

Jiang Ning...why was this asshole in such a hurry? She was just betrothed to him and he took action already?

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 Wait! I Have Something to Say!

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## NH

But Liu Qing had a part to play in this too. How could she simply give herself away before finding out what sort of man Jiang Ning was?

While Zhang Heng's thoughts were running wild, the interrogation process in the hall had been completed.

Everyone could prove that they weren't at the scene of the crime, and even those who had secrets to hide had found suitable reasons to prove that they had nothing to do with Luo Heng's death.

"It looks like the murderer isn't from the Portico," Mr He shrugged. "Sect Leader, I've already checked the entire Qingshan Sect, but it's so strange. Why aren't there any clues at all?"

"Are you sure you've checked everyone already?" asked Liu Chuandao with a serious expression on his face.

"I'm sure I've checked everyone already," replied Mr He with an even more serious expression.

"Oh wait, there are still a few more," Mr He suddenly exclaimed before turning to look at Jiang Ning. "Didn't you mention something just now?"

Jiang Ning just nodded.

"There's still Elder Luo Feng and his folks," said Mr He immediately.

They were so well coordinated that they didn't

## NH

even need to exchange glances.

The entire hall fell silent.

You could even hear a pin drop. But a short while later, the sound of someone swallowing a mouthful of tea broke the silence.

“That’s right, we’ve also got some guests from outside the sect, and I think they’re the most suspicious.” Jiang Ning didn’t look at the rest and stared straight at Zhang Heng instead. “Mr Zhang, what do you think?”

“Me?” Zhang Heng was taken aback and grit his teeth, but he didn’t dare to show too much emotion. “Why are you asking me? Mr He is the one in charge of the Disciplinary Hall, so you should be asking him.”

“No, I want to ask you,” said Jiang Ning. “I think Mr Zhang’s gut feel should be very accurate and you’d definitely know if it was them or not.”

“I don’t know!”

Zhang Heng didn’t hesitate and immediately shook his head instinctively.

He wouldn’t know.

“What did you say?” Jiang Ning pricked up his ears. “Did you say it’s them?”

“I said I don’t know!”

“It’s them? Alright! Then it’s definitely them!”

## NH

Zhang Heng was about to hit the roof. He took a few steps closer to Jiang Ning. "I said I don't know! How could I possibly know?!"

"Mr Zhang, you're so sure it's them?" Jiang Ning seemed to be talking to himself, and also resembled a lunatic. "Mr He, you heard that, right? If Mr Zhang is so sure that it's them, then I think they're definitely the most suspicious!"

"Jiang Ning!" Zhang Heng was furious. "Stop pretending!"

"I heard it loud and clear."

To his dismay, Mr He actually nodded in agreement. "It looks like we'll have to sit down and have a chat with Elder Luo Feng and his folks."

Zhang Heng felt like a ghost was strangling him or something. Were these two nuts?

What were they talking about?

Did they hear him or not?

Even if these two didn't hear him correctly, surely the elders heard him correctly, right?

Zhang Heng turned to look at the elders to find that everyone was looking at him as if he had really said that Elder Luo Feng and his people were suspicious.

What...what on earth was going on now?

NH

“I didn’t say anything! I didn’t say anything!”

Zhang Heng was in a daze. What on earth was going on?

All of a sudden, his heart sank and he realized that he couldn’t speak anymore.

His mouth was open and he knew what he wanted to say, but...why couldn’t he hear a single word?

His own mouth couldn’t produce a single sound, but a voice that was almost identical to his started speaking.

“I admit that Elder Luo Feng is the one behind the murder. I know all about this. Also, I’m the one who helped Elder Luo Feng to kill Luo Heng.”

KABOOM.

Zhang Heng’s face immediately paled.

This voice made his legs nearly give way. He opened his mouth and tried to defend himself, but no sound came out at all. Instead, that voice from before continued to explain how he had concealed his identity to sneak into the prison and force Luo Heng to kill himself...

“Zhang Heng!” A furious shout struck Zhang Heng like a bolt of lightning. The Senior Elder came forward and slapped him onto the ground!

# NH

Zhang Heng was very alert after that slap.

But his ears were still ringing and his eyes were seeing stars. It took him a long time to actually snap out of his daze.

What...did he just say?

He hadn't said anything just now!

That voice wasn't his!

Zhang Heng wanted to scream and opened his mouth to speak, but not a single sound came out of it.

He went into a panic and pointed at his mouth in an attempt to explain things, but the Senior Elder wasn't having any of this.

"How dare you!"

The Senior Elder was shaking from his anger and his eyes were bloodshot.

He never thought that Zhang Heng would suddenly admit that he had killed Luo Heng, and worse, he had killed one of his own disciples because Elder Luo Feng had told him to!

How could Zhang Heng do such a horrible thing?

Zhang Heng's lips were covered with blood. That slap from the Senior Elder had knocked a few of his teeth out as well.

He wanted to explain things, but he couldn't

# NH

speak at all because he had been poisoned!

By the time Zhang Heng realized this, it was too late for him to do anything.

“I didn’t!” was all he could shout in his heart. But at the same time, everything that was said earlier was actually the truth.

“You’re an animal!” The Senior Elder pointed a finger at Zhang Heng. “How could you even bring yourself to do such a thing!”

The other elders were equally horrified.

Nobody expected things to turn out like this. They were even more puzzled that Zhang Heng would actually admit it.

Some of them had guessed that Zhang Heng did it, but so what?

As long as Zhang Heng didn’t admit it, then nobody would find out.

But he actually admitted it.

“Mr Zhang.” Liu Chuandao’s expression was equally grim and fury was written all over it. “Do you know you have just said?”

“Aren’t you going to explain your actions?”

Zhang Heng nodded profusely, then shook his head like crazy. He opened his mouth but no sound came out, so he couldn’t explain anything either.

## NH

“I take it that you’re not going to explain anything.”

Liu Chuandao nodded.

Zhang Heng was on the verge of tears.

He wanted to explain things, but he literally couldn’t.

That voice earlier had recounted the whole thing in such great detail. He might not even have been so detailed himself.

Zhang Heng suddenly looked up at Jiang Ning and his entire body shuddered.

It was Jiang Ning!

That voice earlier clearly came from Jiang Ning.

He knew ventriloquism?

It had to be Jiang Ning!

“Mr Zhang, this is really a slap in my face!” Jiang Ning sighed and looked upset. “I just said that it couldn’t be you, and it wouldn’t have anything to do with you. But you...”

He shook his head. “Mr Zhang, do you really have to embarrass me this way?”

When Zhang Heng saw how upset Jiang Ning looked, his chest started heaving from being too angry.

He opened his mouth and pointed a finger at

## NH

Jiang Ning before he suddenly gave a loud cry, spewed a mouthful of blood out, then blacked out.

He nearly died from being too angry with Jiang Ning.

When did he get poisoned?

Jiang Ning must have been the one who did this. Zhang Heng suddenly remembered that Jiang Ning had come to close to him earlier, and Jiang Ning must have planted that poison during that time so that he couldn't speak anymore.

Then Jiang Ning found a suitable chance to speak on his behalf before he could figure out what was happening.

And Jiang Ning had revealed so many truths!

But how did Jiang Ning find out about all that?

There was no way he could have known so many things in such detail.

He hadn't missed a single thing.

The atmosphere in the hall immediately became extremely somber.

Zhang Heng had fainted, but nobody was going to let him off, especially the Senior Elder. His expression was grim and he refused to say anything. It was clear that he was really furious now.



# NH

The rest of the elders kept quiet. Nobody wanted to have anything to do with Zhang Heng.

“Senior Elder, how should we deal with this matter?” Liu Chuandao glanced at everyone before looking at the Senior Elder. “If Zhang Heng is telling the truth, then Elder Luo Feng...”

His expression darkened and looked extremely murderous now!



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## NH

“No disciple of Qingshan Sect should be killed just like that!” The Senior Elder shook his fist. “Anybody who kills a disciple of Qingshan Sect has to pay the price!”

“Men!” shouted the Senior Elder. “Surround the place where Elder Luo Feng and the rest are staying. I’m going to ask them personally what they mean by this!”

“Yes, Senior Elder!”

All the Portico disciples in the hall went to carry out his orders.

All the other elders had grim looks on their faces. The Senior Elder’s words were representative of the Qingshan Sect’s stance on this matter.

Liu Chuandao had purposely asked the Senior Elder for this very purpose.

The Senior Elder’s stance was the most important.

He was the sect leader, but he wasn’t the one who could call all the shots in Qingshan Sect.

“Jiang Ning, what lousy foresight you have! You thought that Mr Zhang wouldn’t be the murderer, but look at what happened in the end!” Liu Zong scoffed coldly and mocked Jiang Ning. “He ended up admitting that he killed Luo Heng! What a slap in the face!”

His expression was filled with iciness and mocking as he looked indignantly at Jiang Ning.

## NH

Jiang Ning had all the attention earlier and seemed so convincing, but now he was getting his just desserts.

Zhang Heng was determined to make Jiang Ning embarrass himself even at his own expense.

Jiang Ning didn't say anything when he heard these sarcastic words. He just smiled and continued drinking his tea, because he couldn't be bothered to stoop to the same level as this childish fellow.

Arguing with him was an insult to his intelligence.

Liu Chuandao had heard what his son said, and the disappointment in his eyes was even greater now.

The others might not know, but Liu Chuandao knew that if Jiang Ning hadn't done all this, Zhang Heng wouldn't have admitted his wrongdoing.

But of course, this wasn't really an admission from Zhang Heng, but a ploy by Jiang Ning to force him to confess. There was no chance for him to explain anything or defend himself.

As Jiang Ning said, since they knew that he was the murderer, then they didn't need any evidence and they could just kill him.

That was the end of things.

Liu Chuandao and Mr He would never have thought that Jiang Ning had already seen all of this coming, and they never thought that Jiang

## NH

Ning would actually use a method like this to force Zhang Heng to confess.

When they first heard his ventriloquism, they were equally astonished.

“Everyone, please come along with me to ask Elder Luo Feng what they mean by this,” said Liu Chuandao sternly. “A disciple of Qingshan Sect has been killed so cruelly, and we are all partially responsible because we failed to protect him.”

“We ought to protect everyone, even if he is a Sinner.

He then led everyone to head towards where Elder Luo Feng was staying.

“Aren’t you coming along?” Mr He looked at Jiang Ning.

“Of course I’m going,” said Jiang Ning. “But this tea tastes pretty good, so I’ll take another two cups before going over.”

Mr He had no idea what Jiang Ning was trying to do. He just knew that this young fellow was full of naughty ideas but it was impossible to tell from his appearance.

He didn’t say anything and ran after the crowd. The hall was left with only Liu Zong, Liu Heng and Jiang Ning.

“I’m warning you, don’t get any funny ideas about Qingshan Sect. You’re just an outsider, so there’s nothing you can get out of this place!” said Liu

## NH

Zong through gritted teeth. “Even if Father has high regard for you, both of us are his biological sons after all!”

“That’s right! You’d better give it up, otherwise, don’t blame both of us for getting nasty!” Liu Heng chimed in.

They could sense that Liu Chuandao treated Jiang Ning very differently, and he held Jiang Ning in such high regard that the two brothers felt threatened.

Compared to Jiang Ning’s mature and stable temperament, they were way too childish.

The way Jiang Ning carried himself so calmly made them nearly lose control of their own emotions.

“The two of you have been fighting each other all this time, right? So you’re actually going to join hands because of me?”

Jiang Ning got up and burst out laughing.

His laughter made the two brothers feel like they had been despised and humiliated.

“It would be great if that happened. The sect leader would be very happy for both of you to be so united.”

## NH

Jiang Ning's nonchalant tone of voice made Liu Zong and Liu Heng so furious that smoke was coming out from their nostrils.

"Why, you..."

But Jiang Ning couldn't be bothered with them.

He slowly got up, put the teacups down nicely, then slowly walked away with his hands behind his back towards where Liu Chuandao and the rest were.

The two brothers remained behind with livid expressions on their faces and couldn't get a single word out.

They could only secretly clench their fists as they watched Jiang Ning walk away.

Jiang Ning was provoking them!

He was humiliating them!

After a long time, Liu Heng took a deep breath. "If we don't kill him, then we'll be the next ones to die."

"Since he's the one with a death wish, he can't blame us for getting nasty."

The two brothers looked at each other. They never imagined that they would actually join hands for the same cause one day.

The two of them were brothers, but they were also fellow competitors. They had fought each other

## NH

both openly and covertly for their own selfish gain, but now?

They had actually joined hands to deal with Jiang Ning, a man that had appeared not too long ago.

The two of them felt sad about the state they were in, but they didn't have any other choice. Jiang Ning was simply too difficult for them to deal with.

If they didn't join forces, they were definitely no match for Jiang Ning. And even if they did, they still felt some pressure.

But if they didn't get rid of Jiang Ning, then the position of becoming the leader of Qingshan Sect might be taken away from them. Neither of them was confident of running against Jiang Ning.

"Let's join hands and get rid of him first, then fight each other later," said Liu Zong with a nod.

Even if he lost to his brother, they were still family.

But if Jiang Ning took everything away from them, they wouldn't be able to accept it.

The two of them didn't say anymore and quickly caught up with the rest.

Meanwhile.

Elder Luo Feng stood in the courtyard where they were staying and his expression faltered slightly when he saw that so many people had gathered outside the gate, but he soon regained his

# NH

composure.

“Chief Liu, why have you brought so many people here? I’m not quite sure what you’re trying to do.” Elder Luo Feng smiled. “Don’t tell me you’re trying to chase me away already?”

“Elder Luo Feng.” Liu Chuandao looked at Elder Luo Feng. “I’m not here to chase you away. On the contrary, I’m afraid all of you will not be able to leave Qingshan Sect for the time being.

Elder Luo Feng’s expression fell.

He looked around and couldn’t find Zhang Heng, so his heart sank, but he maintained a calm look on his face.

“Is that so? You mean you would like me to stay here permanently?” He purposely sounded relaxed as he said, “Of course I’d be more than willing to, as long as you’re agreeable to this marriage. In the future, Qingshan Sect and Tianlian Sect will be related by marriage, so what’s a few more days here?”

Elder Luo Feng smiled brightly and purposely mentioned this marriage proposal.

Of course Liu Chuandao knew that he wasn’t just talking about the marriage proposal, but also reminding him that he was an elder of Tianlian Sect!

Tianlian Sect was much more powerful than Qingshan Sect now. He had to consider the consequences of making things difficult for Elder



# NH

Luo Feng.

Liu Chuandao frowned.

He knew that he had to weigh the consequences very carefully because while Qingshan Sect looked pretty decent on the surface, they didn't really have much to fall back on. Both their disciples and their resources definitely lost out to Tianlian Sect.

If they really ended up getting into a conflict, things would become tricky to handle.

"You can forget about that marriage offer," came Jiang Ning's voice from behind before Liu Chuandao said anything.

He pushed through the crowd and walked right to the front. He looked at Elder Luo Feng and smiled as he said, "Third Miss already belongs to me."

He went straight to the point!

"I highly doubt that your Young Master has a habit of snatching women away from others, right?"

Elder Luo Feng's expression instantly darkened.

Jiang Ning was still alive!

Luo Heng had been too useless and failed in killing Jiang Ning. He really didn't know how Zhang Heng arranged any of this.

"Humph." Elder Luo Feng replied coldly, "Who do you think you are? I don't think you're qualified

NH

enough within Qingshan Sect to talk to me.”



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## NH

“You’re wrong about that,” said Jiang Ning. “Every single person here is qualified to talk to you.”

“You’re just a murderer, so you’re one of the worst criminals around. Did you think you were someone of high standing?”

“How dare you!” shouted Elder Luo Feng furiously. “Who do you think you are? How dare you malign me like this!”

He looked like he was going to hit Jiang Ning, but Jiang Ning didn’t look like he was going to even take a step back. On top of that, Liu Chuandao and the rest didn’t look like they were going to stop Jiang Ning either.

Elder Luo Feng held his anger in and felt that there was something amiss about this situation.

The entire courtyard had been surrounded, and besides Liu Chuandao, all the elders of Qingshan Sect were here, including the Senior Elder!

The members of the Disciplinary Hall had surrounded this place.

“Chief Liu, what do you mean by this?” Elder Luo Feng purposely looked like he was going to fly into a rage and said very deliberately, “What does Qingshan Sect take me as?”

“What does Qingshan Sect take Tianlian Sect as?”

“Elder Luo Feng, does Luo Heng’s death have anything to do with you?” Liu Chuandao went straight to the point and didn’t beat around the

# NH

bush.

There was no point in beating around the bush now.

“Does it have anything to do with me?” Elder Luo Feng scoffed. “Someone in Qingshan Sect has died and you’re going to blame Tianlian Sect for it?”

“All of us are here on our Chief’s instructions to ask for your daughter’s hand in marriage, and not to kill one of your disciples!”

“Even if you’re the chief of this sect, you can’t simply slander me and smear our reputation like this!”

Elder Luo Feng was very agitated, but it was hard to tell if he was just pretending or if he was really angry.

“Zhang Heng has already admitted to everything,” said Liu Chuandao calmly. “If I don’t remember wrongly, Zhang Heng is related to you, and I believe you’re his elder sister’s husband.”

Elder Luo Feng’s expression changed.

“Zhang Heng killed Luo Heng, and he was acting under your instruction.” Liu Chuandao sighed. “He’s admitted to everything in front of everyone here and didn’t miss any detail.”

The atmosphere suddenly became rather solemn.

Mr He gave a hand signal and all the guards

## NH

increased their vigilance as they surrounded and watched the courtyard closely. They weren't going to give Elder Luo Feng and the rest any chance to escape.

There was no point in Elder Luo Feng explaining anything now.

A murderous air emanated from Elder Luo Feng's face as he saw that so many people had surrounded him.

“Chief Liu, if you hurt me, that's as good as becoming enemies with Tianlian Sect!”

Elder Luo Feng had to drag Tianlian Sect into this because he knew that Qingshan Sect was wary of them.

Even though he was clearly in the wrong, he still looked at Liu Chuandao and the rest with disdain, and didn't bother hiding it either.

The Senior Elder and the other members of Qingshan Sect noticed this and didn't say anything, but they all felt very uncomfortable inside.

“Chief Liu, don't forget, we came here with a marriage offer, so that's giving your sect a chance! But it seems like you're not cherishing this chance!”

“Worse still, you're actually accusing me of murder and you're trying to slander Tianlian Sect? You think you're really something, huh?!” roared Elder Luo Feng furiously. “I can tell you very

## NH

confidently that Tianlian Sect is not a sect that you can afford to offend!”

Liu Chuandao and the rest didn't say anything but just frowned.

Before coming over, Liu Chuandao had hesitated on what to do. He had figured out who the mastermind was, but this situation was very tricky. So what if he had caught hold of Elder Luo Feng?

It was true that Qingshan Sect really couldn't afford to offend Tianlian Sect now.

Liu Chuandao glanced at the Senior Elder and there was fury in his eyes, but he still shook his head gently and sighed.

After weighing the pros and cons, the Senior Elder also knew that it wasn't wise to offend Tianlian Sect now.

Elder Luo Feng saw their reactions and became even more complacent.

“Someone within your own sect killed one of your own disciples, so what has it got to do with me?” Elder Luo Feng laughed coldly. “Even if I did kill him, then are you saying that you dare to kill me in exchange for his life?”

“I dare to!”

Immediately after saying that, Jiang Ning suddenly moved!

NH

Before anybody realized what was going on, Jiang Ning had suddenly moved!

He was too fast!

He was no more than five steps from Elder Luo Feng in the first place.

In that split second, Jiang Ning rushed out as quickly as a bolt of lightning.

He swung a punch right out!

KABOOM!

The air around his fist exploded, causing a series of blasts which made everyone's ears hurt.

Elder Luo Feng's expression darkened and he raised his hand to block the attack. "What an audacious young fellow who overestimates himself!"

How dare a young man try to attack him!

This young man was too audacious!

He was too arrogant!

Since Jiang Ning was doing something deserving of death, then Elder Luo Feng wasn't going to be kind to him.

Elder Luo Feng raised his fist and swung it violently across as well. His speed almost matched Jiang Ning's. In an instant, the two fists smashed into each other and caused an ear

# NH

deafening blast.

BAM!

The moment their fists collided, Elder Luo Feng's face reddened, then swiftly paled.

He could feel an energy suddenly entering his body through his own fists that was aggressive and extremely domineering!

Meanwhile, Jiang Ning's fist continued to move forward without any reduction in strength.

BAM!

BAM!

BAM!

Surge after surge of energy hit him and accumulated within his body.

Then the energy suddenly exploded!

KABOOM!

Elder Luo Feng gave a howl before flying out. His arm was broken in many places and blood spurted everywhere.

The sheer impact of the punch had broken his arm into so many parts. It was so horrifying.

What a terrifying punch!

That punch was ferocious and overbearing to the



# NH

extreme. Was that the most extreme point of boxing?

Jiang Ning withdrew his fists and looked down at the terrified Elder Luo Feng.

“So that’s all an elder from Tianlian Sect is capable of?”

The entire place fell silent.

Even Liu Chuandao and the rest of the sect were too shocked to say anything. Liu Chuandao already didn’t dare to underestimate Jiang Ning, but Jiang Ning’s display of his abilities proved to be even more terrifying than he had expected...

Even the elders of Qingshan Sect wouldn’t be able to hold up against him.

GULP!

The Senior Elder gulped and his white beard trembled slightly. He opened his mouth as if to say something but didn’t say anything in the end.

He just turned slightly to glance at Liu Chuandao and seemed to understand many things all at once.

The other elders had grim expressions on their faces. They were either still thinking about how frightening Jiang Ning’s punch was earlier, or they were wondering where this scary and logic defying youngster had come from.

Nobody was even thinking about how they had all

## NH

offended Tianlian Sect because Jiang Ning had actually injured Elder Luo Feng.

PFFT!

Elder Luo Feng opened his mouth to spew a mouthful of blood out. It was fine to get injured, but he couldn't accept being humiliated by Jiang Ning like this.

But after Elder Luo Feng spewed blood and went pale in the face, Liu Chuandao and the rest of the sect realized what this meant.

There was no point in thinking about what to do anymore. This crazy Jiang Ning had left them with no other option now.

“Elder Luo Feng, we have proof that you were involved in Luo Heng's death, so you cannot leave Qingshan Sect for the time being.” Liu Chuandao sighed. “Qingshan Sect is not afraid of offending Tianlian Sect. We do not need to be afraid since we are in the right.”

“The disciples of Qingshan Sect represent the future of the sect. Our responsibility is to protect their lives and protect their dignity.”

Elder Luo Feng was trembling all over and wanted to protest, but he knew that it would be useless.

“Elder Luo Feng!”

The rest of the Tianlian Sect members wanted to fight back, but Elder Luo Feng stopped them.

# NH

They were now within Qingshan Sect's territory, so if they tried to fight Qingshan Sect, they would definitely die here.

Liu Chuandao and the rest were hesitating earlier, so Elder Luo Feng thought he had the upper hand and could do whatever he wanted. But now, Jiang Ning had broken his arm, so that was as good as falling out with Tianlian Sect. There was nothing left to say now.

If he continued to remain as complacent as before, that would be as good as provoking Qingshan Sect!

He would definitely die that way!

“Just you wait! Prepare to receive the wrath of the Chief of Tianlian Sect!” shouted Elder Luo Feng loudly.



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# NH

Elder Luo Feng stared deeply at Jiang Ning. He knew that this was why Jiang Ning had punched him in the first place.

He was making sure that Qingshan Sect had no other way out.

“Jiang Ning!” Elder Luo Feng grit his teeth. “You’re driving Qingshan Sect to their grave and you’re going to end up destroying them! They’ll eventually hate you! They’ll hate you to death!”

“You don’t have to worry about that.” Jiang Ning walked over and looked down at Elder Luo Feng. “You’d better reflect on your own actions. You’d also better not provoke me again, otherwise you won’t leave with just one broken arm.”

Jiang Ning then turned and left without wasting anymore saliva on him.

“Take them away!” Mr He waved his hand and all the guards ran forward to tie up Elder Luo Feng and the rest with him and led them away to their prison.

The crowd was still standing there.

Liu Chuandao and the elders were all still standing there. But everyone had different expressions on their face.

“This youngster...” The Senior Elder frowned. “Where did he come from?”

He looked at Liu Chuandao.

## NH

“He’s sent here by Qingshan Sect’s forefathers,” replied Liu Chuandao in a profound manner.

The Senior Elder took a deep breath and seemed to understand everything now.

“There’s no way out for Qingshan Sect now. Tianlian Sect will definitely be furious and we might end up in a terrible conflict. Have you thought about whether Qingshan Sect will be able to bear these consequences?”

Liu Chuandao shook his head. He wasn’t sure if the sect wasn’t able to bear the consequences, or if he simply didn’t know the answer to that question.

“Jiang Ning was too rash. It’s good to be young and energetic, but if it’s used in the wrong place, he will only get himself and others into trouble.”

“Chief, you ought to punish him for implicating Qingshan Sect! Tell him to leave!”

“Getting him to leave is the best plan for now. If Tianlian Sect sends people to fight us, we’ll be in big trouble.”

“We...really cannot afford to offend Tianlian Sect.”

All the other elders shook their heads and sighed.

Liu Chuandao turned to look at them.

“So we’re going to watch someone else kill a disciple of Qingshan Sect and do nothing about it?”

## NH

“In fact, we’ve probably lost some of these convictions over all these years, and that’s why Qingshan Sect has declined to this extent.”

Liu Chuandao laughed bitterly and left without saying anymore.

The Senior Elder didn’t say anything and left as well.

Just then, Liu Zong and Liu Heng finally made it to the scene. They saw that there was nobody left in the courtyard and there was even blood on the ground. Their faces immediately paled.

“What happened?” asked Liu Zong anxiously.  
“Someone got hurt?”

“Jiang Ning injured Elder Luo Feng and the Disciplinary Hall has rounded all of them up,” replied one of the elders in a somewhat sarcastic tone of voice. “We’re in trouble.”

“That asshole!” Liu Zong was furious. “How could he injure Elder Luo Feng? Tianlian Sect is going to hit the roof for sure!”

He never thought that Jiang Ning could even injure Elder Luo Feng. Elder Luo Feng was an elder of Tianlian Sect!

His level of ability was higher than the rest of his sect and he had surpassed the advanced grandmaster stage a long time ago. But Jiang Ning managed to injure him?

“We’ll wait for the Chief to settle this.”

## NH

The elders didn't say anymore and left, leaving Liu Zong and Liu Heng behind. They looked at the puddle of blood on the ground and were so angry that their bodies were trembling.

"He's trying to destroy Qingshan Sect." Liu Zong's face was livid.

"What an asshole!" Liu Heng clenched his fists. "We can't let him continue doing whatever he likes like this!

Injuring Elder Luo Feng was as good as slapping Tianlian Sect in the face. What was Qingshan Sect going to do if Tianlian Sect's chief got angry and decided to fight them?

They were initially hoping that a marriage between Liu Qing and someone from Tianlian Sect would help them to gain resources and support of Tianlian Sect. But Jiang Ning had upset all their plans!

They wouldn't be able to get any support, and might even have to suffer the wrath of Tianlian Sect.

How dare this Jiang Ning do such a thing!

The two of them exchanged glances and seemed to have arrived at the same conclusion at the same time.

Jiang Ning had done something wrong, but this was a chance for them!

They could both chase Jiang Ning away and

# NH

claim credit for recouping Qingshan Sect's losses...



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

The brothers had never felt a pressure like this before.

In such a short time, they were nearly out of breath from the pressure that this outsider had brought them. Jiang Ning was like a huge mountain weighing on them, so even though he hadn't said or done anything, his presence alone was enough to make them feel the pressure!

"We can't just watch Jiang Ning destroy Qingshan Sect like that!"

"Father is really getting old. How could he allow Jiang Ning to just do whatever he likes?"

"The Senior Elder and the rest too! Can't they see what's happening? Aren't they going to stop it?"

Liu Zong and Liu Heng were both so angry that they were trembling.

But it was too late to say anything now.

Elder Luo Feng had already been sent to prison with the rest of his entourage by Mr He.

They were representatives from Tianlian Sect!

They had come with a marriage offer but ended up getting thrown into prison by Qingshan Sect. If word went out, what would others say about Qingshan Sect?

The two of them exchanged glances but didn't say anymore and quickly left.

## NH

This was not the place to talk.

If they wanted to do something about this, they had to make plans first and not act rashly.

The courtyard was soon completely empty except for some bloodstains on the ground.

Nobody would have thought that the blood belonged to Elder Luo Feng.

.....

When Jiang Ning returned to Liu Qing's quarters, she immediately ran out to see him.

She had heard all about it.

It was impossible to keep such a thing under wraps. She had someone watching him all the time, so she would get news in the shortest time possible.

"You injured Elder Luo Feng?" Liu Qing's face was covered with worry. "Where did you find the guts to do such a thing?"

Tianlian Sect was not a weak sect, and they were actually one of the best around. In the past, Qingshan Sect didn't have to worry about them. But now, Qingshan Sect was no match for Tianlian Sect at all.

The difference in their prowess was huge.

She had heard Liu Chuandao mention this before. But even if he hadn't talked about it, Liu Qing

NH

knew that Qingshan Sect was on the decline and could barely hold itself together now.

“Yeah, I injured him.”

Jiang Ning replied very calmly before waving his hand. The captain of the guards immediately understood that gesture and got him freshly brewed tea.

All the guards looked rather excited.

To them, Jiang Ning was what it meant to be a real man!

He actually dared to hit Tianlian Sect’s Elder Luo Feng!

More importantly, Jiang Ning had actually injured him!

They had heard all about what happened from their friends at the Disciplinary Hall. Jiang Ning had made a fierce attack and even Elder Luo Feng didn’t manage to react in time. Jiang Ning had broken his arm just like that!

How powerful was Jiang Ning exactly?

This was Elder Luo Feng they were talking about!

“Brother Jiang, please have some tea!” The captain of the guards had a slightly reddened face and spoke a little nervously. After he served the tea, he politely stood to one side and didn’t dare to interrupt.

## NH

Jiang Ning sat there and looked at how anxious and worried Liu Qing's expression was.

"What are you afraid of? Afraid that your marriage is in jeopardy now?" he teased her with a laugh.

"Do you know what trouble you're in? How could you still joke about this?" Liu Qing frowned in frustration. "Didn't my father stop you?"

"Or the Senior Elder? Or the other elders? Even if you're rash and immature, they wouldn't be!"

Liu Qing's eyes were a little red now. She knew that the consequences were very severe. If Jiang Ning was just making trouble within Qingshan Sect, nothing would happen to him since Liu Chuandao would protect him.

But once it involved another sect, then things would get much more complicated.

"No, this will not do. You have to leave! You have to leave right now!"

She wasn't thinking about the trouble that might befall Qingshan Sect. All she thought about now was Jiang Ning.

After thinking about it, Liu Qing quickly ran off, then came back with a bag and thrust it into his arms as she tried pulling him to his feet.

"Hurry up and leave! Leave right now!"

"There are some things in here that will tide you over for some time, so quickly leave Qingshan

# NH

Sect now!" said Liu Qing anxiously. "If you don't leave now, you will die!"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

Tianlian Sect would definitely not let Jiang Ning off easily!

Injuring Elder Luo Feng was as good as hitting Tianlian Sect in the face. In the past, Tianlian Sect might have just kept quiet about it. But now, they were more than happy to get a chance to trample Qingshan Sect underfoot so as to return Tianlian Sect to its former glory.

Jiang Ning couldn't help laughing at Liu Qing when she reacted this way.

He let Liu Qing tug at him but just shook his head. "Don't spill my tea."

"Hurry up and leave!" Liu Qing was on the verge of tears. "Do you really want to die here?"

She wasn't that unreasonable and overbearing Third Miss now. She was now more like a little girl whose face was covered with worry and anxiety.

But Jiang Ning was behaving like nothing had happened. Was he stupid?

How could that be?

"I'm not leaving." Jiang Ning smiled. "I'm not leaving unless I want to. I still have things I must attend to."

He had come here to get the antidote that could save Lin Yuzhen. If he couldn't get the antidote, then he wasn't leaving, even if he ended up dying here.

# NH

Besides, since Qingshan Sect was in shambles now, if he left, then the entire sect would definitely collapse in no time. If it ended being absorbed or destroyed by the other sects in the mountain, then the world outside would also be in great danger!

“You will die!” Liu Qing started shouting.

“Are you afraid that I’d die?” Jiang Ning looked up at Liu Qing’s bloodshot eyes.

“I...I don’t care about you!” Liu Qing scoffed.

“Whether you live or die, it has nothing to do with me! I just...I just...”

She couldn’t get the words out, so she just punched Jiang Ning in the shoulder and said angrily, “Whatever! It’s up to you!”

Then she ran off.

Jiang Ning burst out laughing.

This little girl still hadn’t matured yet.

He picked up the teacup relaxedly and blew on it.

“Do you think I’d die?” said Jiang Ning.

He was asking the captain of the guards standing behind him.

“Brother Jiang, you’re not going to die.” The captain took a deep breath and there was an admiration in his eyes. “I’ve never seen anyone that can command so much respect and admiration like you!”

## NH

“We are also very grateful to you for giving us a chance by recommending my brothers to help guard the prison. This is a responsibility, but also an honor!”

Mr He didn't have enough people on hand, so Jiang Ning sent the guards around him over to help.

This was giving them a chance to prove themselves and advance in the future. The guards could see Jiang Ning's kind intentions immediately.

Jiang Ning nodded and laughed, but didn't say anything.

Meanwhile.

At the prison of the Disciplinary Hall.

The prison was now heavily guarded and the controls were even tighter than before. Nobody wanted Luo Heng's case to repeat itself.

On top of that, the prisoners this time were Elder Luo Feng and the other men from Tianlian Sect. If they were to die, they ought to die from being executed for their crimes, and not to die from an accident or suicide inside the prison.

“Everyone, keep your eyes peeled!”

“Pay close attention! If anything happens, then all of you can go kill yourselves!”

They had already embarrassed themselves once,



## NH

so they couldn't embarrass themselves a second time!

Mr He didn't say anything and he didn't need to. He knew the temperament of the fellows under him.

He was hoping that someone would suddenly join the fray now. Qingshan Sect wasn't messy enough.

"Jiang Ning is really aggressive," said Mr He as he stood inside Liu Chuandao's study. "I have to admit that I hesitated at that point in time and didn't dare to touch Luo Feng. But this young fellow..."

Jiang Ning had just gone ahead to attack Elder Luo Feng without any hesitation, so there was no turning back after that.

They had no other choice but to face Tianlian Sect now.

"I nearly gave in to them," sighed Liu Chuandao.

Even the Senior Elder hadn't thought of how to really deal with the matter at that time. All of them just wanted to stand up for their own sect, but they didn't really dare to go all out either.

"But now when I think about it, Jiang Ning was right in doing that. Qingshan Sect has nowhere to go in the first place." Liu Chuandao took a deep breath. "If we shrink back any further, we'll fall into the deep abyss that's right behind us!"

## NH

If Qingshan Sect continued to retreat even though they were already at the edge of a cliff, then they were really beyond saving.

The two men glanced at one another. They all knew why Jiang Ning had decided to fight.

Compared to Jiang Ning, they simply were decisive enough.

“What are we going to do now?” asked Mr He.  
“We can’t lock up Luo Feng forever. Someone from Tianlian Sect will come in no time.”

“What are you afraid of?” Liu Chuandao scoffed.  
“You think Jiang Ning doesn’t know they’re coming?”

“He definitely has a plan in mind already.”

Jiang Ning was really unyielding enough. He was so unyielding that even the Senior Elder was beginning to look up to him now.

Otherwise, there would be no way the Senior Elder would have remained silent when Jiang Ning attacked Elder Luo Feng. He would have reprimanded Jiang Ning for sure.

Unyielding!

It had been eons since Qingshan Sect used this word to describe anyone.

“We’ll let Jiang Ning decide on how to deal with them and we’ll cooperate with him.” Liu Chuandao sighed deeply and that was pretty much his final

# NH

decision.

He had hesitated and was even waiting to see what was so special about Jiang Ning. He wanted to see if this man from outside the mountain would be able to change Qingshan Sect.

From the looks of it, he could!

Even if he couldn't save Qingshan Sect in the end, it was still worth a shot.

Liu Chuandao didn't have any more reservations now.

"Yes, Chief Liu, I'll do just that, don't worry." Mr He nodded and his expression was equally grim.

Both of them were well aware of what Qingshan Sect was like now. Even if the Senior Elder could put his prejudice aside and not get in the way of Jiang Ning, what about the other elders?

Everyone had their own plans and ambitions.

If they didn't settle this matter with Tianlian Sect properly, then people from other sects would soon come and try their luck. They would repeatedly try to challenge and push Qingshan Sect's limits!

While the two of them were talking about what to do.

Liu Zong and Liu Heng had arrived outside the prison.

## NH

“Mr He has commanded that nobody is allowed to enter the prison,” said the guard sternly.

That was the order he had received. Not even the gods could enter!

“Not even me?” Liu Zong frowned and purposely spoke angrily, “Open your eyes! Don’t you know who I am?!”

“Mr He has commanded that nobody is allowed to enter the prison,” repeated the guard.

Since he was tasked with guarding this post, then he had to guard the dignity and orderliness of the Disciplinary Hall as well.

“How dare you!” roared Liu Heng. “We have orders to interrogate Luo Feng. Are you going to stand in the way of our work?”

“Whose orders are these?” The guard frowned.

Of course he recognized the two men before him. Everyone in Qingshan Sect knew who they were.

In the past, he wouldn’t have argued with Liu Zong and Liu Heng because his status was way too lowly.

“What? You’re asking me whose order it was?!” Liu Zong didn’t dare to say it was Liu Chuandao’s orders, because Liu Chuandao would never give him such instructions. Liu Zong just wanted to use his position as the sect leader’s son to pressure the guards into listening to him. Otherwise, it was way too difficult to get into this

# NH

prison.

“I did not receive such an order,” insisted the guard. “Please leave now!”

PAK!

PAK!

Liu Zong was furious and gave the guard two tight slaps on the face.

“Did you not understand what I just said? How dare you go against me!”

Nobody had ever dared to go against him.

Did nobody in Qingshan Sect listen to him anymore?

The guard’s eyes teared up slightly from the pain and the other guards wanted to rush forward to help him. But he remained stern and clenched his teeth as he righteously declared again, “I did not receive such an order!”

“Please leave right now. Otherwise, we have to take action!”

Liu Zong was ready to fight with him, but Liu Heng held him back.

They were in the Disciplinary Hall, so they weren’t allowed to fight here.

They had no choice but to leave.

# NH

“What are we going to do now? If we can’t get into the prison, there’s no way we can help Elder Luo Feng,” sighed Liu Heng. “This Mr He is being ridiculous too. Would he rather watch Qingshan Sect get destroyed?”

They were very frustrated, and they finally realized what sort of position they had within Qingshan Sect.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

“I’ve already sent someone to tell Tianlian Sect.” Liu Zong frowned. “If we can rescue Elder Luo Feng before they arrive, then we’ve got a chance. Otherwise, things are going to get messy.”

“You’ve already sent someone over?” Liu Heng’s expression changed.

“Well, they’ll know sooner or later. Sending someone out on our own initiative would make us look more sincere.” Liu Zong didn’t think there was anything wrong with doing this. “Our situation doesn’t look good, you know? If we actually get into a conflict with Tianlian Sect, the consequences will be too much for us to bear!”

“Then what about Elder Luo Feng? He doesn’t even know that we’re trying to rescue him.”

The two of them exchanged glances.

They had the same idea, which was to seize this chance to leave a good impression on Elder Luo Feng. That way, even if Tianlian Sect got angry with Qingshan Sect, at least Elder Luo Feng would be able to speak up for them.

Besides, with Elder Luo Feng’s support, it would help them with taking control of Qingshan Sect in the future.

It never crossed their minds that Tianlian Sect’s aim was to take Qingshan Sect for themselves. Why would Tianlian Sect leave Qingshan Sect for these two brothers?

But the two of them didn’t hesitate and went to

## NH

look for the other elders immediately. There was no other way to ensure Elder Luo Feng's release besides getting the other elders to come together and help.

Meanwhile.

Mr He had left Liu Chuandao's study and headed to the prison to check out the situation.

He didn't want history to repeat itself.

But just as he walked to the entrance of the prison, he stopped and turned to look at the guard standing there. His expression instantly darkened.

"What's going on?" Mr He frowned. "What's happened to your face?"

"Nothing," replied the guard through clenched teeth as he tried his best to suppress his anger.

"Speak!" shouted Mr He. "You're not one of mine, so if something happens to you here, I have to do something about it!"

He walked right up to the guard and narrowed his eyes.

"Otherwise, Jiang Ning will get on my case!"

"Mr He, he was hit by Young Master Liu Zong." Another guard couldn't keep quiet any longer. "The two brothers wanted to enter the prison and claimed that they had orders to interrogate Elder Luo Feng, but we didn't receive such an order."



## NH

“And so because all of you refused to let them in, he hit you?”

Mr He scoffed.

This Liu Zong was really tired of living.

Did he think that he could do anything he liked just because he was Liu Chuandao's son?

Didn't he know that Elder Luo Feng was bent on taking over Qingshan Sect?

And he still wanted to help Elder Luo Feng?

“He's hit you so hard,” Mr He clicked his tongue. “Doesn't he know you're one of Jiang Ning's?”

The guard didn't say anything. He didn't want to create any trouble for Jiang Ning.

Jiang Ning was willing to help them and gave them a chance by recommending them to a post at the Disciplinary Hall. That was already a huge favor, so he wasn't going to give Jiang Ning any trouble if he didn't have to.

Mr He could tell immediately.

He wanted to stand up for them himself, but it seemed like he didn't need to do that.

Qingshan Sect wasn't messy enough yet, so he was going to make it messier!

After all, Jiang Ning was one who was more than happy to create a chaotic situation.

# NH

“Look, Jiang Ning recommended all of you, so it means that he trusts all of you. If he trusts all of you, then I’ll trust all of you too. Everyone here must be able to guard the gates of this prison!” said Mr He very sternly.

“Yes, Mr He! Don’t worry, all of us will fulfil our responsibility even if we have to sacrifice our own lives!”

Mr He didn’t say anymore and just nodded before leaving for Jiang Ning’s quarters.

A gleeful look slowly spread across his face.

There was a show to watch, and it was going to be a really good show too. Even though the cast of this show had fairly special identities, he didn’t think it would matter to Jiang Ning.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

“These two young fellows still haven’t matured, so it’s time they suffered a little.” Mr He narrowed his eyes and walked with his hands behind his back like an old man. But he didn’t hide the gleeful smile on his face at all.

He suddenly started to enjoy the feeling of looking forward to the two boys’ impending misfortune.

Jiang Ning was a rather interesting character after all.

Without realizing it, Mr He started walking faster. He simply couldn’t wait.

He went straight to look for Jiang Ning, and spotted him on a rattan chair in the courtyard from afar. A group of guards were practicing their kicks and punches not too far away from him.

This fellow was even starting to give these guards pointers as well?

Mr He narrowed his eyes but didn’t think too deeply about it. He just took it that Jiang Ning was bored.

“Jiang Ning!” he called out right away.  
“Something’s happened.”

He walked over to Jiang Ning and didn’t even bother taking any of the tea. “One of your men got hit.”

Jiang Ning’s half closed eyes immediately opened wide at these words.

# NH

“What did you say?”

“Those guards you sent to me? One of them got hit.”

Mr He briefly recounted what happened.

“Liu Zong and Liu Heng are really immature and they’re just children. I’m just here to tell you about it, but don’t blow it up, alright? If word gets to the sect leader, it’ll look bad on all of us.”

While he said these words, Jiang Ning stood up and walked off without any expression on his face.

“Jiang Ning, don’t do anything rash! They’re the sect leader’s sons after all!” shouted Mr He from behind, but clearly didn’t intend to stop Jiang Ning at all.

“Come with me!”

Jiang Ning couldn’t be bothered with him. Of course he knew why Mr He had specially come running all the way here to look for him.

“One of your brothers has been hit!” shouted Jiang Ning. “We’re going to seek redress!”

All the guards who were still practicing their kicks and punches were stunned for a moment, then they instantly flew into a rage.

“Who did it? Who hit our brother?”

“Liu Zong and Liu Heng,” replied Jiang Ning.

## NH

The guards were even more stunned to hear these two names and didn't know how to respond.

If these two were the ones who hit their brother, then they would just have to suffer in silence.

They were the sons of their sect leader!

They enjoyed a high position in Qingshan Sect, so guards like them couldn't possibly do anything to them. It was too bad if they got hit.

Nobody dared to move.

There was no such thing as justice when it came to such disparity in power, so they could forget about seeking redress.

They would only end up getting even more insulted.

"What's wrong?" Jiang Ning glanced at all of them. "Don't dare to go?"

"Come with me!"

He couldn't be bothered to waste his breath on them and just stormed off. The captain of the guards clenched his teeth and followed behind Jiang Ning.

They hadn't known Jiang Ning for a long time, but they definitely knew Jiang Ning's temperament.

He protected his own fiercely!

## NH

They called him 'Brother', and he really took good care of them. He had never despised them or ordered them about just because they were merely guards.

On the contrary, Jiang Ning always gave them the respect they deserved and the help they needed.

Now that one of their brothers had been hit, Jiang Ning was going to stand up for them!

Even if they had to be punished, they were prepared for it!

The entire group immediately left with Jiang Ning to look for Liu Zong and Liu Heng.

Mr He got a little excited watching them march off angrily and wondered if he ought to tell Liu Chuandao about it.

"Forget it, I'll go and see what happens first. I don't think anyone will die."

He knew that Jiang Ning was aware of how far he ought to go.

Meanwhile.

Liu Zong and Liu Heng were sitting inside the courtyard of their living quarters.

They had to think of something. Even if they couldn't get Elder Luo Feng out, they had to at least prove that they were on Tianlian Sect's side. That way, they would still stand a chance to put in a good word for Qingshan Sect in front of Tianlian

# NH

Sect, and Qingshan Sect wouldn't be doomed anymore.

“Should we look for Father? I don't think it'd work though. He seems to be possessed or something. I really have no idea how Jiang Ning managed to fool him.”

“Even the Senior Elder is muddleheaded.”

“What about the rest of the elders? What did they say?”

The two of them were terribly annoyed as they discussed this matter.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

Liu Chuandao couldn't be bothered with either of them, and the Senior Elder refused to even open his door to see them.

Even the other elders merely patronized them and didn't seem to want to have anything to do with them even though they got along well before this.

Both brothers were indignant inside.

BAM!

Suddenly, the gate of their courtyard was kicked open from outside.

"Who is it?!" Liu Heng turned around to look and shouted, "How dare you! Don't you know what place this is?"

Immediately after he said these words, he saw Jiang Ning march right in.

He was followed by those guards from Liu Qing's quarters.

"What place this is?" Jiang Ning's face darkened as he said in a grim voice, "Even if this was the Palace of the Gods, I'm going to smash it to smithereens!"

Palace of the Gods?

Liu Zong and Liu Heng had never heard of such a place before, but they definitely understood Jiang Ning's threat.

"Jiang Ning! You're being too arrogant now!" Liu



NH

Zong stood up and shouted angrily, "This is my territory, so what are you trying to do?!"

Jiang Ning walked right up to him.

PAK!

Jiang Ning didn't bother asking him about what happened and just slapped Liu Zong across the face.

This incredibly powerful slap sent Liu Zong flying and rolling a few times on the floor before he even realized he had been hit.

"You..."

Liu Heng was in shock.

So were the guards behind Jiang Ning.

Nobody expected Jiang Ning to just hit Liu Zong without even saying anything.

"How dare you! If you...AHH!"

Before Liu Heng could finish his sentence, he saw a shadow flash before him, then he also flew out and rolled a few times before coming to a stop.

Jiang Ning...had hit both of them?

"You're asking to die!"

The eyes of both brothers reddened immediately.

They had been hit by Jiang Ning within their own

NH

territory. How were they going to walk with their heads up high if other people found out about it?

Jiang Ning was simply too conceited.

The two of them bounced up from the ground and dashed towards Jiang Ning at the same time as they swung their fists powerfully without holding back at all.

BOOM!

BOOM!

BOOM!

Their violent punches seemed to smash towards Jiang Ning as furiously as the rain, but none of it managed to hit Jiang Ning.

Jiang Ning became like a mere shadow and moved like an illusion. He tapped the ground with his feet and suddenly sent out two punches as quickly as lightning. Both punches landed on the chest of Liu Zong and Liu Heng.

BAM!

BAM!

The two of them flew out again and couldn't even hold up against Jiang Ning's attack.

It was so easy for Jiang Ning to kill them.

Liu Zong coughed violently and stared at Jiang Ning indignantly. "How dare you hit us! Are you

NH

tired of living already?”

“Hit you two?” Jiang Ning narrowed his eyes. “I even feel like killing both of you!”

The temperature of the air suddenly dropped and they felt their hearts tremble. This was what a murderous aura really felt like!

Liu Zong immediately shut his mouth. He didn't expect Jiang Ning to really want to kill him.

“I'm warning you two now. If you dare to touch my folks again, I'll make you pay ten times or even a hundred times over!” said Jiang Ning coldly.

The guards standing behind him were all teary eyed. One of the younger ones nearly cried.

Jiang Ning was standing up for them!

They were just guards and their status wasn't even as high as those who were considered disciples because they weren't gifted or good enough. But Jiang Ning had never despised them.

Instead, he was standing up for them and was teaching the sect leader's two sons a lesson!

“Jiang Ning, you...” Liu Heng was furious. “Do you know what you're doing?”

“Of course,” replied Jiang Ning. “Don't provoke me and don't you dare provoke my people. Just continue being the two young masters you are, and eat, drink and be merry as you wait to die. Trash like you two are only worthy of such a life

NH

anyway.”

“Did you hear me? You two pieces of trash!”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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# NH

Two pieces of trash.

Two pieces of trash.

Trash!

These words continued to echo in Liu Zong and Liu Heng's ears.

And it stabbed their hearts deeply.

Since when did anyone dare to speak like this to them?

He said they were trash?

And even hit them!

The two of them were so taken aback by this that they ignored the stinging pain on their faces and glared straight at Jiang Ning with fire spewing from their eyes.

"You..." Liu Heng wanted to stand, but after Jiang Ning glared at him, Liu Heng dared not move anymore. His legs seemed to be nailed to the ground.

Trash...

Jiang Ning looked at them like they were really trash.

Even if he slapped them twice now, they wouldn't even have the guts to fight back.

Before the two of them could do anything, Jiang

# NH

Ning left with his men.

They suddenly felt a humiliation wash over them, and they wished they could find a hole to hide themselves in right now!

“Jiang Ning!” roared Liu Zong as he clenched his fists. His knuckles were white and his veins bulged. “I want you to die!”

BAM!

The gate that was just shut got kicked open from outside again.

Jiang Ning face appeared in front of Liu Zong and Liu Heng again, making them stop breathing almost immediately. Everything they wanted to say was all stuck inside their throats and they dared not utter a word.

“You want me dead?”

Jiang Ning narrowed his eyes and unleashed his murderous aura slowly. The air in the courtyard froze over and it was almost impossible to breathe.

“Are you for real?”

He stared at Liu Zong and Liu Heng, and his voice was extremely cold. He started walking towards them again, and both Liu Zong and Liu Heng instantly paled.

“Don’t come over! Don’t come any nearer!” shouted Liu Heng.

# NH

A nutcase!

Jiang Ning was definitely a nutcase!

Did Jiang Ning dare to kill them both?

He really did!

Jiang Ning stopped walking and scoffed coldly. He didn't hide the disdain on his face and even looked provokingly at both of them before turning to walk away coolly.

He didn't even bother closing the gate behind him this time. Liu Zong and Liu Heng were still on the ground and they looked a mess.

They didn't dare to say anything threatening now.

They just sat there until several minutes had passed. Once they were sure Jiang Ning must have gone pretty far, they breathed a sigh of relief.

During that short period of time, their backs were already soaked in cold sweat.

"He's...he's nuts, right?" said Liu Heng with a shaky voice.

"He's nuts." Liu Zong shook his head. His voice was weak and drained of all energy.

The two of them finally got up after a long time. The more they thought about what happened, the more indignant and angry they became too.

They were the sons of the sect leader, and they

## NH

were supposed to be the pillars of Qingshan Sect in the future. But now, Jiang Ning had beat them up! Jiang Ning was merely marrying into the family, and even if Liu Qing were their biological younger sister, Jiang Ning would still be unqualified to do such a thing!

“Let’s go!” Liu Zong was indignant. “I don’t think Father would just allow his sons to be beaten up just like that!”

Were they worth less than Jiang Ning to Liu Chuandao?

They didn’t think so!

It wasn’t possible!

The two of them went straight to look for Liu Chuandao because they couldn’t stand it at all. If they were trampled upon and humiliated so easily by Jiang Ning, then they wouldn’t have any place in Qingshan Sect at all.

When they reached their father’s quarters, someone blocked them at the door.

“We’re sorry, but Chief Liu is now busy and is unable to see both of you.” The guards at the entrance stopped the two brothers.

“We have an urgent matter to talk to Chief Liu about!” Liu Zong was getting frustrated. “I want to see my own father and you’re stopping me from doing so?!”

“Chief Liu is seeing someone important right now



# NH

and told us not to allow anyone to interrupt his meeting,” said the guard.

“Move aside!” Liu Zong and Liu Heng weren’t having any of this.

They hadn’t heard about any important visitors to Qingshan Sect, so who could Liu Chuandao be meeting?

Liu Zong pushed the guards aside and charged in with Liu Heng.

They were already angry to begin with, so they simply couldn’t stand hearing that there was someone more important than themselves.



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## NH

Liu Zong and Liu went straight to the study. Another two guards were standing outside the door and their expressions immediately darkened.

“Chief Liu is having an important meeting! How dare the two of you barge in like this!”

“We want to see Father!” shouted Liu Zong angrily. “Move aside!”

“How dare you!”

The guards drew their swords and didn't bother being polite. Even though they were faced with Liu Zong and Liu Heng, they weren't going to give way.

Those were the rules!

Anyone who tried to break the rules had to pay the price.

“I'll see how you're going to stop me!” roared Liu Zong as he lost any bit of rationality he had left. Both Liu Zong and Liu Heng rushed at the guards.

They were determined to go in and see exactly who was so important that Liu Chuandao had to meet him before his own two biological sons.

But the two guards didn't really dare to hurt Liu Zong and Liu Heng. When they watched the two brothers dash towards them like they had lost their minds, they had to take a step back.

Creaak!

# NH

The door of the study suddenly opened.

Liu Zong looked up to see Liu Chuandao walk out with a nasty expression on his face.

“What is this nonsense?!” he shouted fiercely.

“What are the two of you trying to do?”

Liu Chuandao’s voice was filled with unmistakable fury.

“Do you know what is the penalty for barging into the house of the sect leader?” he continued sternly. “Have you forgotten the rules of Qingshan Sect?”

“Father!” called out Liu Zong.

He didn’t call him ‘Chief’ but ‘Father’, because he was now here as a son who was indignant that he didn’t have status in the sect even though his father was the sect leader.

He was really indignant about it!

“Shut up!” shouted Liu Chuandao. “In this place, you ought to call me Chief!”

“I really didn’t expect both of you to behave like this and disregard the rules of the sect. Did you think I really wouldn’t punish you two?”

“Men!” He called out and a few guards came running over.

Liu Zong and Liu Heng’s expressions paled. They didn’t think Liu Chuandao was serious about it.

## NH

Did he really intend to send his sons to become Sinners?

Their faces turned deathly pale at the thought of this.

“Chief Liu, please don’t be angry!” said Liu Heng hurriedly. “We just have a very important matter to report to you, and that’s why we barged in. Please don’t be angry!”

He immediately knelt down and his eyes were bloodshot as a miserable expression covered his face.

“An important matter?” Liu Chuandao scoffed coldly. “And what important matter could the both of you possibly have?”

“We’ve been...we’ve been beaten up!” Liu Heng clenched his teeth. “We’ve been hit by someone else!”

Wasn’t this an important matter?

Even if Liu Chuandao didn’t care about whether they were his sons or not, beating someone else up within the sect was against the rules as well, so Liu Chuandao couldn’t possibly protect Jiang Ning and not punish Jiang Ning, right?

“Who hit both of you?” asked Liu Chuandao.

“I did.”

Before Liu Zong and Liu Heng could reply, a voice came out from inside the study.

## NH

Jiang Ning then slowly sauntered out from the study. Liu Zong and Liu Heng were both stunned to see him.

Jiang Ning!

Why was he here?

Was Jiang Ning the important person Liu Chuandao was meeting earlier?

“I was about to talk to you about this matter,” said Jiang Ning as he looked at Liu Chuandao and didn’t even bother looking at the two brothers. “They hit one of my men, and worse, they wanted to barge into the prison of the Disciplinary Hall. As for what they wanted to do in there, I don’t know.”

“That’s something that you should be asking them, Chief Liu.”

The prison of the Disciplinary Hall?

Liu Chuandao’s expression darkened even further.

Of course he knew what his sons were probably up to.

He could close an eye on almost everything else, but if these two tried to betray Qingshan Sect...

“Kneel down!” roared Liu Chuandao furiously.

“Father!” Liu Zong was so upset. Liu Chuandao believed anything that Jiang Ning said but nothing his own two sons said did anything?

# NH

“I told both of you to kneel down!” Liu Chuandao was really angry now. “Barging into the prison of the Disciplinary Hall is a crime punishable by death!”



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## NH

When they heard the words ‘punishable by death’, Liu Zong and Liu Heng’s faces were void of color.

“Father!”

“Shut up!” roared Liu Chuandao angrily. “I already said so earlier! You must call me Chief Liu! There is no father in this place! Only leader of the sect!”

THUD!

Both of them knelt in front of Liu Chuandao.

Neither of them expected Liu Chuandao to be this angry and to be this strict with them.

“Barge into the Disciplinary Hall? Two of you are really bold! Are you trying to stage a rebellion?” Liu Chuandao scoffed coldly. “Are the rules of Qingshan Sect just there for show?”

Neither brother dared to speak.

They were here to complain, but Jiang Ning was now standing to one side completely unscathed, while the two of them were kneeling on the floor as they were reprimanded and even possibly punished!

Jiang Ning wasn’t bothered at all and didn’t even look at Liu Zong and Liu Heng.

“Chief Liu, we know our mistake,” said Liu Heng.

He knew that any attempts at defending themselves now was meaningless and it would only make Liu Chuandao even angrier.

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Admitting to their mistake and closing the case now was the best thing to do.

Otherwise, they wouldn't be able to bear the consequences if this matter blew up!

"You know your mistake?" Liu Chuandao looked down at the two boys and was still furious.

He really didn't expect his own sons to make such a mistake.

The sect was going through a big clean up and nobody wanted to end up getting cleaned out.

All the elders had started behaving themselves lately. Nobody dared to say too much, and didn't dare to make flippant remarks anymore.

But these two actually thought of barging into the Disciplinary Hall?

This was one of the worst crimes they could possibly commit and they actually did it!

"Do both of you know your mistake?" He looked at both Liu Zong and Liu Heng.

"Yes, we both know our mistake."

Liu Heng secretly tugged at Liu Zong's clothes to tell him not to argue back. If they admitted it now and Liu Chuandao was appeased, they would be fine.

"We both know our mistake." Liu Zong grit his teeth and glanced at Jiang Ning indignantly. He



## NH

wished he could just dash over and beat Jiang Ning to death.

Liu Zong admitted his mistake with his words, but he wasn't going to admit it in his heart.

What was Jiang Ning compared to him?

Jiang Ning's status was nothing compared to himself!

He was going to wait till Liu Chuandao was no longer angry, then he was going to settle this score with Jiang Ning.

"Alright, since both of you know that you were wrong, then I won't ask anymore." Liu Chuandao's face suddenly darkened. "Call Mr He over!"

"Yes, Chief!" The guard ran out immediately.

"Chief Liu, we already know our mistake, so why..."

"Since you two know your mistake, then you should also know that there's a price for breaking the rules." Liu Chuandao's words were flat, but the fury in his voice was still apparent. "The two of you are my sons, but you openly went against the rules and challenged the rules that our forefathers left for us, so you two are guilty of a worse crime!"

Liu Zong's eyes widened.

"Chief Liu..."

"So I must punish you harder than the rest!"

## NH

Liu Heng went into a panic.

He thought that if he owned up, then they would be fine. But it seemed like this wasn't the case at all.

"Father!" Liu Heng cried out before noticing that Liu Chuandao looked even angrier, then he quickly corrected himself, "Chief Liu, we are guilty and we have made a mistake. But this is our first time, so please give us a chance! We won't do this again!"

"We won't do this again!"

Liu Chuandao shut his eyes.

He was really disappointed now.

The two of them were still hoping for him to forgive them and let them off?

They didn't even have any sense of responsibility, and didn't have the courage to bear the consequences of their wrongdoing either.

He was so disappointed.

He couldn't be more disappointed than this.

"Chief Liu!" Liu Zong grit his teeth and his eyes were bloodshot. "Are we the only ones who are in the wrong? You mean he's not in the wrong at all?"

He pointed at Jiang Ning and his entire body started trembling. "He's brought such a huge disaster upon Qingshan Sect, and you mean that's

NH

not a crime?”



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## NH

“You mean his crime is less than ours?”

Jiang Ning just glanced at Liu Zong with a disdainful smile. He wasn't even interested in explaining himself at all.

Liu Chuandao shook his head even harder.

“Chief Liu.” Mr He came in shortly after.

He was already waiting outside.

These two silly boys really didn't know how much trouble they were in. But it wasn't a bad thing either. If they weren't ever taught a lesson, they wouldn't mature.

“What's the punishment for barging into the prison of the Disciplinary Hall?” Liu Chuandao asked Mr He.

“The punishment is to become a Sinner for 30 years,” said Mr He with a straight face.

His words made the hearts of both Liu Zong and Liu Heng sink.

Be a Sinner for 30 years?

Their futures would be ruined!

30 years!

“But they didn't cause any grave consequences, so perhaps Chief Liu can consider giving them a lighter sentence,” said Mr He deliberately as he glanced at the two boys.

## NH

Liu Zong and Liu Heng nodded gratefully when they heard Mr He try to put in a good word for them.

“A lighter sentence?” Liu Chuandao scoffed coldly.

“I can only make it heavier!

“I really wish I could just kill both of you right now!”

Liu Chuandao raised his hand and his palm was trembling. His incredibly furious gaze made both Liu Zong and Liu Heng start shaking uncontrollably.

They had never seen that sort of disappointment in their father’s eyes before.

They never knew that Liu Chuandao was this disappointed in them.

“Both of you are my sons, but instead of taking up the responsibility of taking care of the sect, you only care about your own benefit. If your worldview is so narrow, then I can’t leave the future of Qingshan Sect to the two of you.”

“And now, the two of you don’t even know what sort of dangers Qingshan Sect is facing! You still childishly think that if you put yourselves in a lower position and butter up to someone more powerful, you might have a chance to survive. How childish!”

Liu Chuandao’s fury only intensified. “If the two of

## NH

you weren't my children, I wouldn't have cared so much. But both of you are my sons!"

He really wished he could just slap them right now.

Liu Zong and Liu Heng didn't say anything. There was nothing left for them to say since they had been criticized publicly like this.

"You two think that Jiang Ning has done something wrong, and that's all you see," sighed Liu Chuandao. "If you're both so shortsighted, what can you achieve in the future?"

He looked at Jiang Ning but Jiang Ning didn't meet his eye.

Jiang Ning didn't want to be involved in this matter. Qingshan Sect needed to change and Liu Chuandao was fundamental to this change. His two sons were even more fundamental to this change, but this wasn't the time for Jiang Ning to say anything.

He knew that these two fellows probably hated him to the core right now.

"I'm going to sentence the two of you to 50 years as a Sinner," said Liu Chuandao coldly.

These words were like a bolt from the blue that struck Liu Zong and Liu Heng so hard that their bodies nearly froze over and they felt numb all over!

50 years?

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They would still be a Sinner even when they died!

“Chief Liu!”

“Father!”

Both of them immediately exclaimed at the same time.

“I’m going to take everything away from you two, including your identities,” said Liu Chuandao as he looked at them. “The two of you are not worthy to be my sons.”

He didn’t say anymore and went back into the study, leaving Liu Zong and Liu Heng with no expression or even color left on their faces.

“Father!” Both of them shouted loudly at the same time.

But the study door was shut fast and Liu Chuandao pretended not to hear them.

“It’s you! It’s all because of you!”

Liu Zong bounced up from the floor and dashed towards Jiang Ning as he swung his fists.

Since he was going to become a Sinner, it didn’t matter if he died here anymore.

He swung his fists fiercely towards Jiang Ning like he had gone mad.

PAK!

# NH

But Jiang Ning slapped him right onto the floor.

“Trying to fight me? You’re not worthy to do that.” Jiang Ning looked at Liu Zong sprawled on the floor. “You’d better think about it carefully. After living like this all your lives, the two of you are really nothing but a bunch of cowards.”

He shook his head and left. Liu Zong and Liu Heng were left behind on the floor with bloodshot eyes, but their tears refused to flow.



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## NH

They had been sentenced to becoming Sinners for the next five decades. That was as good as the end of their lives.

“Father! Father!” Liu Heng cried loudly and couldn’t accept this result.

They had merely made a mistake. In the past, they were always forgiven and given a chance, so why not this time?

They remained on their knees as they tried to make their way into the study, but Mr He immediately blocked their way.

“If you keep this up, then even the sect leader won’t be able to save you.”

Liu Zong clenched his teeth. “Is he saving us now? He’s destroying us!”

Mr He’s face darkened.

“You are the ones destroying yourselves!” He didn’t bother being polite anymore. “The two of you are the Chief’s sons, but have you ever shared his burden at all?”

“Besides fighting between yourselves and forming your own little camps for the sake of that little bit of gain, what else have you done? Did you think Chief Liu has no idea about these things?”

“Those things you’ve done are real crimes! Those are crimes that would get you publicly executed!”

His words hit the two of them like a bolt of

# NH

lightning.

They instantly became more alert.

Liu Chuandao had known about all these things all along, but he was too disappointed to bother about them.

And the two of them still thought that they had done a good job of hiding their tracks.

Mr He sighed and reached out to help the two stunned young men to their feet. “You might not understand what Chief Liu is doing now and how he’s actually helping you, but you will understand in due time.”

“Sending you away as Sinners and casting you out as far from Qingshan Sect as possible is the best way he can protect both of you.”

He waved his hand and didn’t want to say anymore. “Come along, I’ll send you two there myself.”

Liu Zong and Liu Heng both shuddered.

Protect the two of them?

The best way to protect them?

“Mr He, are you saying that Qingshan Sect is going to face a terrible crisis?”

They had offended Tianlian Sect and would have no choice but to suffer Tianlian Sect’s wrath. If the two sects went to war, Qingshan Sect had no

# NH

chance of winning.

Liu Chuandao wanted to protect them, so he got Jiang Ning to do something that would force them to make a mistake, then send them to be Sinners so that they would be in a place far from Qingshan Sect?

“Come along now!”

Mr He didn't want to say anymore and just hurried them along. But this made the two of them feel even more guilty.

Liu Chuandao wasn't trying to destroy them. He was actually trying to protect them.

And they...what on earth had they done?!

“Mr He, let us see Father! Let us see him!” shouted Liu Heng loudly.

“We can't just leave! We can't leave at a time like this!”

“Qingshan Sect is in trouble, so how could we just hide ourselves like that?”

Liu Zong refused to budge and grabbed hold of Mr He's hand. “Let us see Father! I'll beg him!”

“Even if I'm going to die, I'm going to die in Qingshan Sect! I'm not going anywhere!”

“Men!” Mr He ignored their cries and called for his men. A dozen guards came running over immediately. “Send these two to the Sinners

# NH

area.”

“Yes, Mr He!”

The guards didn't hesitate and dragged Liu Zong and Liu Heng away.

Mr He just pretended he didn't hear their shouts.

“At least they can still be saved.” He sighed, then walked into the study.

Jiang Ning was sitting in the study and drinking tea leisurely, while Liu Chuandao's expression was rather complex.

It was clear that he felt bad for doing this to his own children.

But failing to teach them well was his fault as their father.

And now, he had to use such a method to hone them. If it worked out, then it was worth it. But what if it failed?

Then he would have sent Qingshan Sect's future to its grave!

“I've already sent them off,” said Mr He as he looked at both men in the room.

“From the looks of it, they can still be saved. You're not going to give them a chance?”

Liu Chuandao didn't say anything and just looked at Jiang Ning.

# NH

“What’s the hurry?” said Jiang Ning calmly. “If you don’t hone their character, they won’t suddenly become mature.”

“How long do we have to hone them for?” asked Mr He.



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## NH

Mr He was helping Liu Chuandao to ask Jiang Ning.

“Well, we’ll have to hone them until they’re good to go. We’ll have to wait for a chance.” Jiang Ning rolled his eyes. “It’s impossible for anyone who’s too sheltered to stand on their own two feet. You’re their father but you don’t even have the heart to do this. No wonder your sons turned out like this.”

Liu Chuandao didn’t say anything.

Even though Jiang Ning was reprimanding him to his face, he couldn’t argue back at all.

“I’m afraid that the two of them can’t endure it,” Mr He continued to help Liu Chuandao ask.

“If they can’t endure it, then that’s their problem,” said Jiang Ning. “They’re old enough to be responsible for their own actions. If they can’t even do that, then who are you going to pass Qingshan Sect to in the future?”

“Enough about this matter,” Jiang Ning was losing patience. “I’ll help you to train up those two, so don’t worry anymore. You’d better start thinking about what you’re going to do about Tianlian Sect.”

Liu Chuandao took a deep breath when it reached this topic.

He sat down, took a mouthful of the tea that had already gone cold and looked up at Jiang Ning.

# NH

“What do you intend to do?”

He was the sect leader, but he was consulting Jiang Ning.

“That will depend on what Tianlian Sect does,” replied Jiang Ning calmly. “We’ll do whatever they do.”

Liu Chuandao and Mr He exchanged glances. They really couldn’t figure Jiang Ning out at all. He always seemed so unpredictable and random, so it was hard to even prepare themselves mentally.

“What if we have to fight?” asked Mr He as he gulped.

That was the worst case scenario.

Qingshan Sect wasn’t strong enough now. If they had to fight, they would definitely suffer great losses.

“Sometimes, battling it out is better than anything else. The most terrifying thing that could happen is for the disciples to have no fighting spirit,” said Jiang Ning. “If you go and fight and you’re aggressive enough, they’ll be wary of you and wouldn’t dare to harbor ill intentions anymore.”

This logic worked in all eras and in all circles of life.

It was the same for wars between countries and even wars between two corporations.

Friendship was the least reliable thing and

## NH

emotions were worse. In a competitive environment like this place, you had to become strong and powerful on your own, and become so powerful that nobody dared to give you any trouble. That was a true sign of power.

After that, Jiang Ning got up, finished his tea and left. He was too lazy to say anymore to these two old men.

Sometimes, they already knew what they ought to be doing, but they lacked the courage to do it. Or in other words, they were short of someone who pushed them into a corner with no way out. That someone was Jiang Ning.

Meanwhile.

Over at Tianlian Sect.

News had already reached them.

Elder Luo Feng and the other Tianlian Sect members were locked up within Qingshan Sect. This made the sect leader of Tianlian Sect, Luo Qi, fly into a rage!

“Elder Luo Feng went with a marriage offer but got arrested and detained instead? What is Liu Chuandao trying to do?! He has no regard for me whatsoever!” Luo Qi slammed the table. “Men!”

“Yes, Chief Luo!” replied the Portico disciples in unison.

“Elder Luo Long, go take our disciples to have a look.” Luo Qi narrowed his eyes and anger was



## NH

spewing from them. “Make Liu Chuandao escort Elder Luo Feng and that daughter of his back here!”

He wasn't getting Qingshan Sect to release these people, but to get Liu Chuandao to personally send them over.

That was already an insult in itself!

“Yes, Chief Luo.” Elder Luo Long took a step forward and clasped his hands together. “I will not disappoint you. I will get the sect leader of Qingshan Sect to send them back to us obediently.”

A fierce glint shone in his eyes, then he waved his hand to get all the disciples to follow him out.

Luo Qi leaned against his chair in the main hall and closed his eyes partially.

He never thought that Liu Chuandao would have the guts to detain his men.

So what if Luo Feng killed one of their disciples?

Qingshan Sect was having trouble even surviving, and Liu Chuandao was still concerned about his authority as the sect leader? Tsk!

“Chief Luo, if Qingshan Sect refuses to budge, then we...” someone spoke up and wanted to be prepared for the future.

Their aim was to find a way to infiltrate Qingshan Sect in the first place. And this was the perfect

# NH

chance.

“Then we’ll destroy them!”



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# NH

Luo Qi had no regard for Qingshan Sect at all.

Qingshan Sect could be disregarded in their present state. All he needed was a chance and a legitimate reason to infiltrate and take over Qingshan Sect.

Everyone knew about the great secret that Qingshan Sect was hiding. Besides guarding the mountain gate, they had even more tempting treasures within.

Even though they didn't have the treasure map and couldn't find the exact location, taking over their entire sect's area was the most important thing to do now.

Luo Qi opened his eyes and looked at the other elders in front of him.

"If Qingshan Sect dares to go against us, then we'll prepare to fight," he said calmly. "Whether Tianlian Sect is able to go one level higher or not will depend on this."

"Yes, Chief Luo!"

Everyone present were the core of Tianlian Sect, so they all knew that Tianlian Sect had reached a bottleneck. If they wanted to become more powerful, they would need more resources.

The people behind the mountain gate were split into sects, and they had a number of pretty good resources here. But the further into the mountain they went, the harder it became to get more resources.

## NH

Even a powerful fighter like Luo Qi wasn't qualified to even step into the core zone.

The only thing they could count on now was to go outside of the mountain gate and search for more resources to make Tianlian Sect a hundred times more powerful than before!

After all, the resources in the core zone were the most tempting.

But one had to have real ability to get there. Otherwise, you would only send yourself to your death, and even possibly send your entire sect to death!

So many years had passed, and many sects had attempted to explore the core zone, but nobody had ever managed to come back with anything good. All they heard was how another sect got their retribution, and how an entire sect disappeared overnight...

Luo Qi leaned against his chair. Going one big round to gain control of Qingshan Sect in order to take resources from outside the mountain gate was something that he had no choice but to do.

It was the only thing that these sects could do now.

There was no way for life within the mountain gate to stabilize. Either you improved or you declined, and if you didn't get rid of the others around you, someone else would get rid of you!

Going to war was fine with him. After all, Tianlian

## NH

Sect was stronger and they had the advantage of being the first sect to attack Qingshan Sect.

Luo Long brought a dozen Portico disciples from their sect and headed for Qingshan Sect.

On one hand, this was a good experience for the disciples. On the other hand, he wanted the disciples to know that Qingshan Sect was nothing in front of Tianlian Sect.

“This time, I’m going to show all of you what the pride of Tianlian Sect is,” said Luo Long.

“Yes, Elder Luo Long!” the disciples responded with great arrogance.

They all knew that they were going to Qingshan Sect to throw their weight about.

All of them were waiting to trample all over this useless Qingshan Sect. They weren’t only going to trample the sect, but they also wanted Qingshan Sect look up at them and be happy about getting trampled.

The sects never bothered about being polite to one another. Their prowess spoke for itself.

Without true ability, then the sect had nothing and the sect was worthless.

Luo Long looked at the disciples that had come along with him this time. They were the future of Tianlian Sect and their cream of the crop.

Qingshan Sect would never have dreamt of this.

# NH

But it was too bad that no matter what amazing conditions Qingshan Sect tried to offer these people, none of them would want to go to Qingshan Sect.

“We’re here.” Luo Long stood below the gate to Qingshan Sect and looked up at the huge signboard on top.

The words ‘Qingshan Sect’ were carved into the rock and was filled with great energy and an imposing aura!

But to the group from Tianlian Sect, this energy and aura had already faded a long time ago.

“Elder Luo Long, aren’t we going in?” asked one of the disciples.

“We’ll wait for them to come out and receive us,” said Luo Long calmly with his eyes half closed arrogantly.

Why should he go in by himself?

Since representatives from Tianlian Sect were here, then the sect leader of Qingshan Sect ought to come out and receive them himself, right?

Since Qingshan Sect had actually locked up an elder of Tianlian Sect, they were probably regretting it now and were hoping to find a good reason to wriggle their way out of this sticky situation.

But Luo Long wasn’t going to let them find a reason so easily.

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“We’ll let them pass the message on and just wait.” Luo Long just stood there and turned his nose up without saying anymore.

The disciples with him also had arrogant expressions on their face as they waited for the sect leader, Liu Chuandao, to come out personally to receive them.

The feeling of being in a lofty position was really wonderful.

Meanwhile.

Liu Chuandao sat inside the main hall and the Senior Elder and everyone else had also gathered.

Representatives from Tianlian Sect had arrived, so they didn’t dare to dilly dally. After all, Elder Luo Feng was still imprisoned in the prison of the Disciplinary Hall. If they got into a fight now, it wouldn’t be good news for Qingshan Sect at all.

“Luo Long didn’t come straight in, so I’m afraid he’s waiting outside for us to go out and receive him! Who does he think he is?” remarked one of the elders angrily. “They are the ones in the wrong and they expect us to surrender?”

No matter how indignant he felt, he could only talk about it but couldn’t do anything about it.

“Chief Liu, why don’t we just release them? Then this matter won’t blow up,” said another elder as he sighed and shook his head.

Tianlian Sect’s message was very clear now. If

## NH

this matter wasn't settled properly, Tianlian Sect wasn't going to hold back anymore.

Liu Chuandao didn't say anything and looked at the Senior Elder.

Ever since he stepped in, the Senior Elder hadn't said a single word. His face was all scrunched up like an old tree root and all his frown lines were visible.

His hands had never moved from the armrest.

"What do you think we should do?" After a short period of silence, the Senior Elder turned to look at Jiang Ning who had been silently drinking his own tea very calmly.

Actually, many of the other elders were unhappy that Jiang Ning got to sit in this hall. They didn't think that Jiang Ning was qualified to sit here.

But to their surprise, Jiang Ning had taken a seat and wasn't the least awkward about it!

This man was simply too thick-skinned. He was nothing but a man who was marrying into the sect, so how could he be this arrogant?

And at the end of the day, Jiang Ning was the one who caused this mess. But none of them had been able to stop it.

Everyone looked over but the look in their eyes differed.

"What do you mean by what should we do?" Jiang



## NH

Ning poured himself another cup of tea. “Since they like waiting, then we can let them wait.

“They’re here to apologize for what they’ve done but they didn’t even bring any gifts. At least they ought to bring some fruit, right?”

“They don’t have any manners at all. Does nobody in Tianlian Sect teach them any manners?”

“Since they like to stand at the gate and wait while feeding the mosquitoes, then they can go ahead and keep waiting,” said Jiang Ning flippantly.

The faces of the elders immediately darkened.

What nonsense was this!

Instead of settling this matter, things were going to get worse at this rate.

“Jiang Ning, I’ve tolerated you for a long time now, but you really can’t behave immaturely like this. If you do this...”

“The Senior Elder was the one who asked me this question. If you’re not happy about it, go and look for him,” Jiang Ning cut him off. “Also, there’s no need to tolerate me. If you want to hit me, go ahead. I won’t hold myself back either.”

“Why, you!” That elder was so angry that his beard was shaking. He pointed a finger at Jiang Ning but couldn’t get a single word out.

Jiang Ning was crazy enough to even hit Elder Luo Feng, and more importantly, nobody knew

# NH

how powerful he really was. Even the elders weren't confident of taking Jiang Ning down.

Where did this logic defying monster come from?!

“They've already come all the way to your doorstep to bully you, and you're still thinking about how to apologize to them? Don't you find yourselves laughable?” Jiang Ning raised an eyebrow. “I can tell you very confidently that if you give in to them now, they'll trample all over you immediately!”

“And after they've trampled on you, they'd also take a piss on you to help you guys to wake up!”

Everyone's expression looked even nastier.

It wasn't because Jiang Ning had said anything they didn't like, but because they all knew that was the truth.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

## NH

Nobody would tolerate being trampled upon and peed on.

All the elders were red in the face and ears, as if they had already been humiliated by Tianlian Sect.

Actually, they had already been humiliated before this.

Jiang Ning looked at them and said calmly, “The Senior Elder asked me what I thought, and I just shared my opinion. If any of you have any other ideas, then you can go ahead with them.”

“After all, all of you are the elders of this sect. You can decide what the future of Qingshan Sect looks like.”

After he finished saying that, he continued pouring tea for himself and looked completely relaxed.

It was as if the future of Qingshan Sect had nothing to do with him.

It was true that to the elders, the future of Qingshan Sect had nothing to do with Jiang Ning.

But it had everything to do with themselves!

“Let them wait!” The Senior Elder finally slammed the armrest.

His expression was furious and his anger was very apparent. Jiang Ning had put it very crudely and directly, but it was the actual situation they were in.

## NH

Nobody liked or accepted the feeling of being trampled upon.

The Qingshan Sect of the past enjoyed a very high position within the mountain and they held a very special position too, so nobody dared to be disrespectful towards them. But after so many years, things had changed!

Everything had changed.

They watched as Qingshan Sect slowly went on a decline. Initially they didn't want to admit it and didn't want to accept this as reality. They even tried to lie to themselves that everything would get better.

But in the end, things got worse and worse, and their hearts started to waver.

They even started feeling extremely upset with their own sect and started thinking about escaping and betraying the sect!

All the elders looked at each other and felt like they could see their true selves in each other.

"We'll let them wait!" Liu Chuandao agreed.

He had waited for the Senior Elder to speak not because Qingshan Sect required the Senior Elder to have the final say, but because his words would help to unite everyone's stance, and that was more important than anything else.

Liu Chuandao glanced at Jiang Ning and saw that he was still leisurely drinking his tea. But just a

## NH

few words from Jiang Ning had such an amazing effect.

Those words sounded flippant but they weren't. Jiang Ning had accurately grasped everybody's emotions and caught even the slightest changes, so he was able to say such attention grabbing words.

If he wasn't watching Jiang Ning closely, it might be hard to notice this ability of his.

Even though the Senior Elder had seen many things in life already and knew that Jiang Ning was deliberately manipulating others with his words, he would still believe what Jiang Ning said.

That's because Jiang Ning was pointing out the truth.

"We'll let them wait then!"

"Just let them wait!"

"If they aren't willing to come in, they can wait!"

The elders all started agreeing as they clenched their fists tightly with fury on their faces.

Even if they couldn't fight, they had to protect their dignity. Nobody was going to drop out from the team now.

Otherwise, besides losing their own dignity, they would also lose the respect of everyone in the sect.

## NH

Jiang Ning looked around and just smiled faintly but didn't say anything.

He nodded at the captain of the guards standing at the door. The captain got the message and nodded in return, then turned and left.

Meanwhile.

Elder Luo Long and the other disciples of Tianlian Sect were still standing outside the Qingshan Sect gate.

He closed his eyes and still looked calm.

But the messenger at the gate had already left for so long. Why wasn't he back yet?

"Elder Luo Long, they haven't come out yet," one of the disciples frowned and was clearly losing patience. "Even the messenger hasn't come back yet. What do they mean by this?"

They had waited for a very long time now, but they hadn't seen a single person come out yet.

Never mind Liu Chuandao and those elders – even the guards who ran in to inform the sect leader about their arrival had disappeared completely. It was as if they had gone home for the day rather than to pass a message on.

"It's fine. They don't want to look too desperate either. If they take longer, it doesn't look as bad on them," said Elder Luo Long calmly.

He continued to stand there as straight as a

NH

sword. There was no particular expression on his face, but he was already getting angry inside.

Did these members of Qingshan Sect want to save their pride?

Humph! He was going to make sure their pride was trampled upon hard, thought Elder Luo Long to himself.



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

# NH

Elder Luo Long and the rest remained standing outside the gate. He had already decided that the longer they waited, the greater the price Qingshan Sect had to pay!

“Is this your attitude?” he scoffed. “You will live to regret this!”

Not too far from them.

A number of figures were hiding in the mountainous forest.

The captain of the guards was wearing a mask over his face as he kept his eye on the men from Tianlian Sect waiting at the gate.

“Captain, are we going to make a move?”

“These assholes think that they’re really something and even want the sect leader to come out personally to receive them. They can dream on!”

“We’ll definitely be receiving them, but Chief Liu will definitely not come out, and Brother Jiang will certainly not come out here.” The captain glanced at the black bucket in his hand. “Have you sprayed the stuff over there?”

“We’ve sprayed it a long time ago. These idiots actually dare to stand there for so long.”

The captain nodded and a glint flashed in his eyes. “Release them then!”

“Yes, Captain!”



## NH

All the guards went closer to the gate with black buckets in hand and quietly removed the black cloth covering the buckets.

In an instant, a large swarm of black things flew out!

Woooooong...

The sound made everyone's hair stand on end.

The black things made such a loud noise next to their ears, and the guards hurriedly took several steps back and slapped off the few that landed on themselves.

Woong woooooooooong...

As the sound drew closer to him, Luo Long's ears twitched and the next thing he saw was all those black things flying straight towards him. He instantly paled in horror.

"Mountain mosquitoes? What's going on?!"

These were the famous mountain mosquitoes of Qingshan Sect, weren't they?

Why were there so many of them in one place? And they seemed like they were all headed straight for them too.

Luo Long's scalp felt numb and his skin tensed up. "Run! Hurry up and run!"

He gave a loud shout and couldn't care less about them as he hurriedly turned and ran. The other

## NH

disciples took too long to realize what was going on, so their faces were soon bitten by the mosquitoes and they started yelling from the discomfort.

“Ahhhh! It’s so itchy! It’s so itchy!!”

“My face is all swollen! Elder Luo Long! Elder Luo Long!”

“Hurry up and run! Run!”

All of them started running like they had gone mad, but the mountain mosquitoes seemed to have targeted them. The mosquitoes kept chasing after them and surrounded their legs.

Elder Luo Long’s expression was nasty as he kept using both hands to slap the mosquitoes away. But there were way too many of them for him to slap away.

In just moments, there were a few dozen bites on his face that started swelling up!

“Hurry! Run into Qingshan Sect! Hurry!” yelled Elder Luo Long.

He knew that the mountain mosquitoes didn’t go into Qingshan Sect and the sect also had chemicals to keep these mosquitoes at bay. He didn’t care about his pride anymore.

These mosquitoes weren’t deadly, but their bites might kill them with how itchy they were!

All of them went screaming past the gate of

## NH

Qingshan Sect. They didn't look high and mighty anymore and looked more like a joke now.

From afar, the captain couldn't stop laughing when he watched the entire group scream and run.

"Brother Jiang has said that since they're guests, then we must take good care of them!"

"Got it!"

In the past, they would never have dared to do such a thing.

Never mind the part about the mosquitoes. In the past, they would have to be extra lowly and respectful towards these people. But things had changed now.

These idiots had come to make trouble for them, so how could they be polite to them?

Their Brother Jiang said that there was no such thing!

"Ready for the next wave?" asked the captain.

"All ready! We hope they'll be satisfied with it!"

The captain nodded and looked at the rest.

"We've got to provide better service than they expect. What was the phrase that Brother Jiang used?"

"Since they've come from elsewhere, they're

# NH

guests. And since they're here, then we'll provide them with five star lodging!"



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

# NH

The guards had no idea what five star meant, but they knew that Jiang Ning wanted them to do.

They knew exactly how to deal with these visitors of theirs!

“Hurry up! Hurry up!” Luo Long looked awful. Even though he was a good fighter, his arms and legs weren’t definitely nowhere fast enough to chase away all the mountain mosquitoes that had come for him.

His face was red and swollen with so many little red dots. They looked both comical and gross at the same time.

The other disciples were in even worse shape. Their own parents might not even recognize their own children now.

All their faces were as swollen as a pig’s head, and swollen red spots covered every inch of their face.

“AHHH! My face! My face!”

“Elder Luo Long, what are we going to do? Save us!”

All the disciples were going crazy.

The pain of being bitten by these mosquitoes was negligible, but there was no way they could ignore the swelling and the itchiness that came with these bites!

It was impossible to endure it.

# NH

They couldn't help but scratch their faces nonstop, but the more they scratched themselves, the more itchy they felt. They were like anxious monkeys that kept jumping up and down but couldn't do anything about their situation.

Luo Long had to maintain his image so he tried his best not to scratch himself. But the itch was hard to bear, so his face would twitch uncontrollably.

"Where's Chief Liu?" he asked through gritted teeth.

There were guards outside the main hall and the guards didn't let them in.

"We've already sent someone in to inform Chief Liu, so please wait here," said the guard with a straight face as he tried his best not to laugh.

They were very professional and had learnt to keep a straight face in all situations, but sometimes it was hard to control.

"Wait?! How long more must we wait?" Luo Long was very frustrated now. "I've waited at the main gate for so long already! Why isn't Chief Liu coming out?"

The guard remained expressionless.

"Tell him to come out now!" yelled Luo Long.  
"Now!"

"We've already sent someone in to pass the message on, please wait here," the guard

NH

repeated his previous answer.

He had learnt this from Jiang Ning. In such situations, he just had to stick to the orders he had received.

Luo Long was almost going mad with anger.

He wanted to curse at the guard, but held it in. He raised a hand and scratched the air, but finally couldn't resist scratching his own face.

Just that little scratch made him jump up.

It was so itchy!

AHHHH! It was sooooo itchy!

Elder Luo Long couldn't stand it anymore and kept scratching at himself. He started bleeding from the scratching.

"Hurry up and give me some medication! Medication for these things!" he yelled, but the guard remained expressionless.

He didn't have any medication, and even if he did, he wasn't giving it to these people.

"Where's Chief Liu?" yelled Elder Luo Long. He felt like he was going mad soon.

"We've already sent someone to pass the message on, please wait here," repeated the guard before taking two steps back.

"AHHHH!" Elder Luo Long started jumping about

NH

as he scratched his face.

The other disciples he brought were also jumping and scratching their faces.

They looked so hilarious.

The guards were all red in the face from trying to hold their laughter. Their cheeks were going to burst soon. It was hard for them to endure this too!

When they heard the entire group howling and wailing outside, Liu Chuandao and the rest inside the main hall felt this glee from their misfortune.

But they couldn't show it on their faces.

"I think that's quite enough." Liu Chuandao stood up, and the other elders also stood up.

If they waited any longer, Elder Luo Long might really have a nervous breakdown.

Everyone in Qingshan Sect knew very well how terrible these mountain mosquitoes were. They didn't dare to go out into the mountains without any form of insect repellent.

But Jiang Ning remained seated and didn't look like he was going to get up.

"Let them come in themselves." He fiddled with the teacup. "Since they're not willing to come in, then just let them keep waiting. Why are all of you going out?"



NH

He just rolled his eyes at them.

There was no need to give in at this juncture.

After all, the ones who were having a hard time was Elder Luo Long and the rest outside.

Liu Chuandao was stunned and looked seriously at Jiang Ning. He wanted them to stay in here?



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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# NH

Sit down?

They sat down again.

Liu Chuandao was the first one to sit, and after some hesitation, the Senior Elder and the rest followed suit.

Nobody would have thought that Jiang Ning's words would prove the most effective in this place.

"Update them." Liu Chuandao nodded and his subordinate walked out immediately.

Elder Luo Long and the rest were already on the verge of insanity outside.

"Elder Luo Long, Chief Liu and the rest are done with their meeting, so they would like to invite you in."

Luo Long no longer cared about his insistence on making Liu Chuandao come out to receive him. He knew that if he continued to insist, his face was going to be disfigured from scratching.

"Hurry up! Let's go in! Now!"

He led the way and ran in first, then the rest of his disciples ran in.

Liu Chuandao watched inside the main hall as Luo Long came running in while scratching his face in an ugly fashion. He was shouting away, "Chief Liu! Medication! Hurry up and give us the medication!"

## NH

He knew that Qingshan Sect had medication for these bites.

There was no way the itchiness would go away without any medication.

Luo Long started thinking that after they took over Qingshan Sect, he had to make sure that they also got the recipe for the medication for these bites.

“Elder Luo Long, what’s happened to all of you?” asked Liu Chuandao concernedly. “Why did all of you get bitten by the mountain mosquitoes?”

“How would we know?! We were waiting for all of you outside the main gate, then a huge swarm of mountain mosquitoes suddenly flew our way! We don’t know what the hell happened either!” cursed one of the Tianlian Sect disciples angrily.

“Our main gate?” Liu Chuandao pretended to be very surprised. “No mosquitoes would come inside the gate because we’ve sprayed a mosquito repellent there. If you’re talking about outside the gate, then that’s the favorite place of these mountain mosquitoes.”

“Why did all of you wait outside the gate? Goodness!”

He kept a straight face on and looked like he really had no idea what was going on or what the Tianlian Sect disciples were thinking about.

Jiang Ning had to give him a thumbs up in his heart. This wily old fox could really act and he deserved an award for it.

## NH

Luo Long didn't want to waste time talking and this was not the time to argue about why they were outside the gate. The only thing he wanted to do now was to settle the problem on his face.

“Chief Liu! The medication! Medication! Medication!”

Jiang Ning nearly felt like there was a DJ looping a track in here. He felt that maybe the inside of the mountain gate wasn't that different from outside after all.

“Oh yes, of course!” said Liu Chuandao immediately. “Hurry! Get them the medication!”

“Yes, Chief Liu!”

One of the men ran out immediately.

Liu Chuandao and the rest remained seated while Luo Long and his group remained standing and hopped about from time to time. It was quite a strange scene to behold.

Jiang Ning laughed quietly when he saw how pitiful this group looked. And this was only the beginning.

“Chief Liu, here's the medication!” someone came with the medication. “But we don't have much left in the storeroom, and there's only enough for three people.”

Liu Chuandao's expression faltered and he looked at Luo Long a little awkwardly.

## NH

“Elder Luo Long, well you see...it’s really bad timing. We have to use a lot of herbs for the mosquito repellent every day, and we’re still making new batches of this medication you need, so you’ll have to wait a while more before it’s ready to use.”

Luo Long nearly went crazy.

He turned to look at all the disciples standing behind him. All of them were looking at him very hopefully and were clearly afraid that Luo Long might deny them of the medication.

There were more than ten of them but only three doses. What were the rest going to do?

“Chief Liu, you’ve got to think of something!” yelled Luo Long through gritted teeth. How was he supposed to choose who to give the medication to?

Every single person here was one of the best from Tianlian Sect and they were Tianlian Sect’s future and hope. He couldn’t disappoint any of them.

“I’m really sorry.” Liu Chuandao shook his head. “There’s been a sudden increase in the mosquitoes lately, and there’s none left for even our own disciples. These are really the last doses we have.”

He hesitated for a while. “Elder Luo Long, I will just say that the earlier you apply the medication, the more effective it is. Otherwise...”

Luo Long’s heart sank violently.

# NH

“Bring it to me! Hurry up!”

He couldn't be bothered anymore. He grabbed one dose and lathered it all over his face. The rest of the disciples stared at the remaining two doses and their eyes were all red from staring.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

After applying the medication on his face, Luo Long immediately felt much better and there was even a cool feeling on his skin, so he felt refreshed in an instant.

This felt great!

He closed his eyes and his body trembled slightly. He finally felt alive again.

“Give it to me! Give me the last dose!”

When the other disciples saw that the medication was really effective, they started fighting each other for the last two doses.

“Move aside! Give it to me!”

“Give it to ME! I’m the disciple of the Senior Elder, so I get to use it first!”

“Nonsense! I’m the Third Elder’s favorite disciple, I get to use it first!”

“Shut up and go away! The medication is mine!”

There were only two doses, so only two of them could use it.

Anyone who was too slow would have no medication and would have to endure the terrible itch from the mosquito bites.

In that instant, all of them started fighting one another physically, and the fight got more and more intense. It was as if they had all gone mad.

# NH

But then again, the itch from the mosquito bites were really driving them insane!

“Stop it!” shouted Luo Long. His face was red from being so angry and so disgraced by these men.

These disciples had forsaken their image and embarrassed Tianlian Sect in front of Qingshan Sect!

“I said, stop it!”

But no matter how loudly he shouted, none of them were willing to stop.

They really couldn't stand it anymore. It was harder to endure itchiness than pain.

They could still take it if it was pain from injuries or illness. But an itch like this was almost impossible to endure. It felt as though a thousand ants had found their way into their bones and were gnawing away at their bones.

BAM!

BAM!

Luo Long got really angry and slapped the disciples aside, then took the last two doses away.

“None of you are allowed to have the medication!” he shouted angrily. “You're all going to endure it! Endure it!”



## NH

The ten odd disciples watched Luo Long confiscate the medication and wanted to beg for it, but didn't dare to.

Elder Luo Long had already applied the medication on himself and was relieved of his itch. But they hadn't!

They were still scratching themselves like mad, but scratching their faces made the itch even worse.

There were two doses available, but Luo Long had denied them of these doses.

"Elder Luo Long! Give us the medication! Please!"

"That's right! At least we can all use a little bit each! It's really awful and I'm really going nuts soon!"

"I really can't stand it anymore! AHHH!!"

Some of the disciples were suffering so badly that they started rolling around on the floor.

"Chief Liu!"

Luo Long's expression darkened and his body trembled. He wasn't stupid. He could tell that Qingshan Sect had purposely done this to them.

"Are you really going to watch my disciples die from their suffering like that?"

He didn't believe that all of Qingshan Sect was really left with only three doses of the medication.

## NH

“Of course I wouldn’t watch them suffer like that.” Liu Chuandao sighed. He wasn’t going to watch them. He’d just go elsewhere while they died.

“But we really only have these three doses left. I’ll be honest with you – I have other disciples who’ve been bitten as well and they have to deal with no medication too. I’ve really given you these last three doses.”

Of course he left out the part about how the Qingshan Sect disciples only had one or two bites each, so it was much easier to endure. This group from Tianlian Sect had been bitten by a huge swarm.

Luo Long’s expression was nasty. He could hear the howls and screams of his disciples, but there was nothing he could do about it.

“Just wait for a while longer.” Liu Chuandao sighed. “We should have more tomorrow, we’ve cranked up the production already.”

“Elder Luo Long, I’ll get someone to lead you to your quarters to take a rest first.”

Luo Long clenched his fists and was furious, but there was nothing he could say at all.

If they waited till tomorrow, his disciples would probably have no more skin left on their faces from all that scratching!

But since there were no more doses left, then what was he supposed to do? Rob them?

# NH

Even if he wanted to rob them, he had to know where they were kept first!

“I’ll have to trouble you then, Chief Liu,” growled Luo Long.

Liu Chuandao nodded and turned to Jiang Ning. “Jiang Ning, I’ll leave Elder Luo Long and his men in your care.”

Luo Long glanced at Jiang Ning. This young man looked rather ordinary, so he didn’t have any impression of Jiang Ning.


But when the other elders heard Liu Chuandao leave things in Jiang Ning’s hands, they felt their hearts tremble.

Letting Jiang Ning arrange things for Luo Long was really going to do these visitors of theirs in.

Jiang Ning was definitely going to torture them to death!

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 Wait! I Have Something to Say!

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## NH

Jiang Ning smiled as he slowly got up and nodded. “Chief Liu, don’t worry. Since these are our guests, then I’ll make sure that they feel at home here. I’ll definitely give Elder Luo Long and these seniors over here a five star home.”

Nobody understood what ‘five star home’ meant, but since the word ‘home’ was included, it should be a pretty decent place, right?

He walked closer to Elder Luo Long and looked at how their faces were covered with so many bites and couldn’t help but exclaim in his heart, “These mountain mosquitoes are really awful. Even the mosquitoes behind the mountain gate are this scary.”

Jiang Ning clasped his hands together politely and said, “Elder Luo Long, please follow me. I’ve already prepared a place for everyone to stay for the night. Once the medication is ready tomorrow, Chief Liu will get someone to send it over as soon as possible.”

“Fine.” Luo Long nodded and didn’t say anything. He followed behind Jiang Ning and led his fellow disciples who were still screaming and scratching along as well.

The main hall became very silent after they left.

Liu Chuandao remained seated without saying a word, and finally sighed after a long time.

“Jiang Ning is really vicious.”

“That was a really vicious move. Instead of killing

# NH

them with pain, he's killing them with itchiness.”

“How did he even come up with this? I've never thought of gathering the mosquitoes together like that. Thinking about it gives me the chills already!”

All the elders shuddered.

They couldn't imagine what it must have felt like for an entire swarm of mountain mosquitoes to attack a person. Just the terrible sound of their wings flapping through the air to create that woong sound was enough to make all their hair stand on end.

“What about the medication?” asked the Senior Elder. Of course he knew very well that Qingshan Sect had more than three doses left.

“Jiang Ning took everything away,” replied Liu Chuandao honestly.

He didn't know if Jiang Ning had hidden it away or if he had thrown it out, or if he had other plans.

He couldn't guess at all and he had no idea what Jiang Ning was going to do next. He just knew that Luo Long and his men were really unlucky for choosing this time to make trouble for Qingshan Sect.

Everyone started to pity the people who were now in Jiang Ning's care.

They actually started worrying for Elder Luo Long and the rest.

# NH

At the back of the Qingshan Sect estate.

The environment was quiet and there were plenty of birds chirping and lush greenery.

“Elder Luo Long, this place is very pleasant, so you will all feel better after settling down here,” introduced Jiang Ning with a smile. “It’s very unpleasant to get bitten by mosquitoes, so if everyone quickly takes this time to bathe, you will feel better.”

He pointed to the waterfall in the distance.

“However, please don’t go into the lake beneath the waterfall. All our drinking water comes from that lake, so if you bathe in there, then we’ll end up drinking your bathing water.”

Jiang Ning looked very polite as he said all this. These people were guests, so of course he was going to be polite.

“Alright, alright, we get it.” Luo Long was impatient and didn’t want to listen to Jiang Ning go on anymore.

He had applied the medication on himself and felt much better, but everyone else was still suffering.

He waved his hands about and Jiang Ning automatically clasped his hands before taking his leave.

“All of you, quickly go and have a bath first. I’ll let everyone have a little of these two doses of medication, so everyone can get some relief.”

## NH

After making their way to Qingshan Sect, everyone was covered in perspiration and that was already unbearable enough. After they got bitten so badly by the mosquitoes, they felt even worse.

Nobody could endure it any further. They started pulling their clothes off as they ran towards the bathhouse.

“Wouldn’t it be better to bathe in the lake? It’ll be so refreshing!” called out one of them. “We’ll let these idiots drink our bath water!”

Even if Jiang Ning hadn’t mentioned anything about the lake, they already intended to bathe in there. But now that Jiang Ning had actually told them why they shouldn’t do it, then they were definitely going to bathe in there. If everyone in Qingshan Sect ended up drinking their bath water, they would feel vindicated!

Luo Long didn’t stop them because he was also very angry inside. He let the disciples head towards the lake at the bottom of the waterfall and they all jumped in after removing their clothes.

He pulled at his own clothes as well and thought, “I’d feel much better after a bath, I’m sure!”

Just as he walked to the side of the lake, the ten odd disciples were already enjoying themselves inside the cool water.

“AHH! Something...something bit me!” one of them suddenly jumped up and screamed loudly.

NH

There was a bloody wound on his butt!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

That scream was bloodcurdling.

He jumped almost three feet high and his voice tore through the sky.

In no time, the lake water turned red and all of them started splashing about as they held onto their butts and ran like a bunch of madmen towards the shore.

“Help! Help! There’s something in the water!”

One of them yelled loudly enough, so Luo Long hurriedly withdrew from the side of the lake. He was about to jump in already.

He watched as all the men just ran to the safety of the shore and were crying for help as blood flowed from their wounds.

Luo Long was going to get a stroke from this sight.

“What’s happening?” he exclaimed as he quickly got dressed again.

All the disciples had bloodshot eyes as they cried and wailed. They really regretted coming to Qingshan Sect with Luo Long.

They were here to show off and trample on Qingshan Sect, but none of that had happened at all. First they were bitten by the mountain mosquitoes and had to endure this awful itchiness, and now they had been bitten by something in the water on their butts, so they couldn’t even sit now.

## NH

Luo Long looked down into the water and saw fish with sharp teeth swimming inside. There was even flesh still hanging on some of those fish's teeth!

He felt his scalp go numb immediately.

If he had jumped in, and the place he got bitten wasn't his butt but his...he suddenly felt a cramp in his lower half.

"What is all this?!" shouted Luo Long loudly. His entire body was shaking from anger.

"What is Qingshan Sect trying to do?"

He was really going mad soon.

Jiang Ning soon came running in.

Actually, he hadn't left at all. He was just outside enjoying some pumpkin seeds while waiting for the terrible screams to start.

All the guards next to him were red in the face from holding their laughter in. But Jiang Ning had trained them not to smile.

They had to remain as professional as possible.

"Oh goodness! How could something like this happen?!"

Jiang Ning looked at the disciples from Tianlian Sect who were sprawling on the ground in pain. "Why did you try to bathe in the lake? Didn't I already say that the lake is where we get our

## NH

drinking water from?”

He frowned angrily at them and didn't give Luo Long any chance to get angry.

“Elder Luo Long, you've really gone too far!”

“Are you trying to let Qingshan Sect drink your bathing water? How could you do such a thing?”

“There are carnivorous fish inside this lake, so how could all of you jump in to bathe?”

Jiang Ning was filled with righteous anger.

These men had purposely bathed in water that they knew was meant to be drinking water for Qingshan Sect, so they were the ones who had done something unethical. Jiang Ning was immediately on the moral high ground now.

He had no sympathy for them, and was furious instead.

Elder Luo Long couldn't argue back at all.

They were here to take revenge on Qingshan Sect in the first place. They didn't think that something like that would happen.

“Why do you keep something like that in your drinking water?” he asked unhappily. “Why do you keep carnivorous fish? Someone might die!”

“But there are usually no humans in the lake,” replied Jiang Ning. “When there is no meat for the fish to eat, they only eat seaweed and other plants

NH

in the lake. So what's the problem?"

Jiang Ning refused to back down.

"Since you've bathed inside the lake, what are we going to drink now?"

Jiang Ning pointed at the bloodied water and looked disgusted. "Elder Luo Long, you owe me an explanation!"

"Now is not the time to explain all this." Luo Long waved his hands about impatiently. "Save them first!"

Luo Long looked at how his disciples were all sprawled on the ground in such pain, and it really frustrated him.

He was in no mood to explain anything to Jiang Ning now.

Not that he could explain it either anyway.

It was true that they had wanted to taint the water, so there was no point in trying to cover it up. Besides, the deed had already been done, so what could Qingshan Sect do about it?

"Hurry up and help them!" shouted Luo Long angrily.

Things were turning out completely differently from what he had envisioned.

He thought that they could humiliate Qingshan Sect easily and force them to release Elder Luo

# NH

Feng. But things turned out this way instead, and they ended up embarrassing themselves terribly.

“How do you want us to help them?” Jiang Ning scoffed and glanced at the disciples on the ground with bloodied butts. “We don’t have medication for this sort of thing either.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

“No medication?” Luo Long widened his eyes. “You mean you don’t even have medication for wounds?”

“No, we don’t,” replied Jiang Ning calmly. “Qingshan Sect is very low on resources and we don’t have so much medication. I’m sure you know about this, right?”

He sighed, shook his head and turned to leave without saying anymore. Luo Long immediately grabbed hold of him.

“You don’t have any medication? Then what’s going to happen to my disciples?” asked Luo Long.

“I’m afraid that you will have to quickly bring them back to Tianlian Sect,” said Jiang Ning. “Qingshan Sect doesn’t have any facilities nor medication to treat them, so if you delay treatment...”

“...what if they become incapacitated?”

All the disciples on the ground paled and shuddered violently when they heard the word ‘incapacitated’.

Their injuries varied from person to person. Some of them got away with cuts, while the serious ones got a chunk of flesh bitten off. But either way, they were all superficial wounds.

The wounds were really bloody because those carnivorous fish had teeth that were as sharp as knives that cut flesh right off their bottoms.

## NH

“it wouldn’t be so bad if they were just superficial wounds. The problem is that these fish have poison on their teeth.” Jiang Ning’s words struck them like lightning and all of them stiffened up. “The poison isn’t fatal, but it may affect one’s manhood, so it’s really...”

He purposely sighed and shook his head helplessly as he looked at the men on the ground. All the disciples looked like their souls were about to leave their bodies.

This poison could affect their manhood?

What crazy poison was this?!

Of course, it was a really mysterious and complex poison. They had only managed to come up with it after several days on Jiang Ning’s instructions.

“What on earth?!” exclaimed Luo Long. “There’s no such poison!”

“The world is so big, so all sorts of things exist. One of the Qingshan Sect disciples was unfortunate enough to be affected in the past,” said Jiang Ning. “His little friend slowly became smaller and smaller until it finally disappeared.”

“So all of you had better think of a way to hurry back to Tianlian Sect.”

All the disciples quickly got to their feet like a bunch of lunatics and started crying to return to Tianlian Sect.

“Elder Luo Long, we’d better go back as soon as

# NH

possible!”

“We can’t...we still want our manhood!”

“Elder Luo Long, why don’t you let us return first?”

Luo Long’s face was livid. He didn’t expect things to turn out like this.

He wasn’t stupid and he could tell that this was definitely a trap set up by Qingshan Sect. But he didn’t think they were capable of doing things to this extent.

But now, they were the ones in the wrong for disregarding the warning and diving into the lake. So they had to bear the consequences of their actions.

“Our aim is to bring Elder Luo Feng back. How can we go back now?” He shook his head and turned their pleas down. “We’ll go back together when we get Elder Luo Feng out!”

“Elder Luo Long!”

“Elder Luo Long, then let’s get Elder Luo Feng out as soon as possible!”

“That’s right, we’ll bring Elder Luo Feng along with us!”

The disciples were in on this very quickly.

Luo Long turned to look at Jiang Ning. “Where is our Elder Luo Feng now?”



## NH

“He’s in the prison of the Disciplinary Hall.”

“Prison?!” Luo Long’s expression darkened.

“Humph! How dare you lock up an elder of Tianlian Sect! Hurry up and release him right now!”

There was no way he could make Liu Chuandao send them back personally and apologize to Tianlian Sect now.

But it was more important to bring the elder back and quickly treat these disciples.

“Release him?” Jiang Ning shook his head. “We can’t release him.”

“What did you say?” Luo Long flew into a rage. “Why can’t you release him?”

“He’s killed someone,” replied Jiang Ning calmly. “A life for a life. Why should we release him?”

He glanced at Luo Long and scoffed coldly. “Don’t you know such simple logic?”

“I thought you knew about it. I thought you brought so many men along with you so that you could carry his dead body back more easily.”



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## NH

Jiang Ning spoke very casually, but Luo Long's expression was livid now.

He couldn't believe that Jiang Ning dared to speak like this to him.

"Do you know what you're saying?!" Luo Long's lips trembled and a murderous aura filled the air.

Qingshan Sect was prepared to kill Luo Feng and were waiting for Tianlian sect to collect his dead body?!

"Of course I know what I'm saying," said Jiang Ning. "Did I get it wrong? So you're not here to collect his body?"

"Ah! I know, you're just here to watch his execution, right?"

"Tianlian Sect is really a sect that believes in justice, and you're even willing to punish one of your own!"

He gave a big thumbs up and praised them very sincerely.

Luo Long's expression started to look threatening and began to look rather twisted now.

He glared straight at Jiang Ning and his back was heaving in anger. Was this young man crazy?

How dare he speak like this to him!

"Tell Liu Chuandao to see me!" he burst into a rage.

## NH

How dare Qingshan Sect treat an elder of Tianlian Sect like this!

They had clearly overstepped the line!

“Chief Liu is very busy,” Jiang Ning smiled and wasn’t bothered by Luo Long’s desperation and fury. “I think you’d better think about whether you want to save your precious disciples first, or if you’d prefer to wait in Qingshan Sect for Elder Luo Feng’s execution.”

There was a faint smile on Jiang Ning’s face, as if he was talking about something that was completely unimportant.

Executing the elder of a sect seemed completely unimportant to him!

Luo Long was losing his mind soon.

He looked at all the men wailing and screaming in pain behind him. If he delayed their treatment, they might really be incapacitated.

What strange poison could actually make a man lose his manhood? Thinking about it made him shudder.

This was definitely a trap.

Qingshan Sect had set up a trap for them!

He had been too careless.

“Qingshan Sect will pay for this!” roared Luo Long. “I’m going to give you one last chance, you’d

# NH

better cherish it!”

Jiang Ning calmly replied, “There’s no need, but thanks for the kind intentions. We don’t need anyone to give us any chances.”

“I’ve already provided you with the options. You can pick which one you prefer.”

He couldn’t be bothered with them anymore and left.

Luo Long roared furiously. It never crossed his mind that something like this would happen after coming to Qingshan Sect.

He had a mission to complete here. He was here to make Qingshan Sect humble themselves, obediently escort Luo Feng back to Tianlian Sect and for Liu Chuandao to apologize to Tianlian Sect.

But things had gotten much worse than he had expected.

“Elder Luo Long, we can’t let Elder Luo Feng die!”

“Qingshan Sect must have gone mad! How could they possibly dare to do something like this?!”

“Elder Luo Long, we’ve got to rescue Elder Luo Feng!”

All the disciples started shouting at the same time.

Even though they were in pain and they felt a

## NH

terrible fear and frustration at their current situation, they still knew what they ought to say in this situation.

Luo Long's expression darkened.

He didn't think Qingshan Sect would have such an attitude.

Qingshan Sect had been declaring their stand from the moment he stepped into Qingshan Sect.

But what could himself with these injured disciples do?

They could forget about rescuing Luo Feng at this rate!

No matter how badly Qingshan Sect had declined, this was still their own territory. There was no way Luo Long could save Luo Feng.

"They...they dare to kill Luo Feng?" Luo Long clenched his teeth. "I don't believe it! I won't believe it!"

He was sure that Jiang Ning was just trying to scare him and pressurize him mentally. They weren't going to execute Luo Feng.

Luo Feng was an elder of Tianlian Sect! So what if he killed a disciple of Qingshan Sect?

"They wouldn't dare to do such a thing!" scoffed Luo Long. "All of you, don't worry. They wouldn't dare to!"

# NH

Given Qingshan Sect's current prowess, offending Tianlian Sect now was definitely a dumb move. So he was sure that they wouldn't dare to kill one of their elders.

"Let's treat your wounds first." He glanced at all of them. "All of you are the future and the hope of Tianlian Sect. Getting all of you treated is the most important thing to do now."

All the disciples couldn't help but weep uncontrollably.



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## NH

These disciples were still important to the sect after all. Luo Long had always held them in high regard, and he favored them the most in the entire sect.

“We are willing to follow Elder Luo Long even till our deaths!” shouted all of them in unison.

Luo Long nodded. That was the effect he wanted.

“I’m going to look for Liu Chuandao now and get medication for all of you. If they refuse to give any to us, then I’m going to get nasty!”

He didn’t believe what Jiang Ning said.

That was just a youngster he had never heard of, so Luo Long wasn’t going to believe a word he said.

He refused to believe that Qingshan Sect had no medication and definitely did not believe that Qingshan Sect would execute Luo Feng.

Luo Long didn’t delay any further. He immediately walked out to look for Liu Chuandao.

But Liu Chuandao had shut his door and refused to see anybody.

This was on Jiang Ning’s instructions. Sometimes, remaining in hiding was really the best thing to do.

He stayed inside his study with a few dozen guards outside to make sure nobody came close.

## NH

“Jiang Ning is really a vicious one.” Liu Chuandao sighed. “This is forcing Qingshan Sect to completely fall out with Tianlian Sect.”

“But then again, the two sects had already fallen out a long time ago, but we just never officially fought each other.”

Liu Chuandao knew very well that offending Tianlian Sect now was not a smart move.

They might even end up offending other sects by doing this. If the other sects joined hands to attack Qingshan Sect, then Qingshan Sect would definitely fall.

And if Qingshan Sect fell, the mountain gate they protected...

He narrowed his eyes and suddenly calmed down when his thoughts came to this.

“Jiang Ning would never allow the guardians of the mountain gate to collapse.”

Jiang Ning was probably more anxious and worried about this matter than he was.

After all, Jiang Ning’s closest friends and family were outside the mountain gate, so Jiang Ning would never let such a calamity happen.

“Oh forget it, I’ll just let him think about what to do.”

Liu Chuandao sat down and started to study the herbs on hand.



## NH

He had promised Jiang Ning that he would get him the antidote he needed, so he was going to hold up his end of the agreement.

In any case, Jiang Ning had brought about a positive change in Qingshan Sect. This change was very significant too.

Jiang Ning had been able to transform this place so much in such a short time. If Jiang Ning stayed here for a few years, Qingshan Sect would change dramatically!

“I must return the favor that I ought to.”

That was a principle that Liu Chuandao lived by.

Moreover, this antidote could save lives.

He stopped thinking about everything else and put aside all distractions in order to study the herbs. He was going to leave everything else to Jiang Ning.

But if he knew that Jiang Ning was going to be this aggressive and resolute, he might have gotten the shock of his life too.

Meanwhile.

At the prison of the Disciplinary Hall.

Mr He had to bring Jiang Ning in. Otherwise, even though the guards outside were groomed by Jiang Ning, he couldn't get in.

“Long time no see, Elder Luo Feng.”

## NH

Jiang Ning saw Luo Feng sitting cross legged in his cell. Even though he was now considered one of the worst criminals in the world, he remained calm and didn't seem bothered at all.

"Humph! Why, finally willing to release me now? It's too late." Luo Feng opened his eyes and said calmly, "You've basically slapped Tianlian Sect in the face by treating me like this. Did you think this matter can be settled just like that?"

Luo Feng was sure that Qingshan Sect wouldn't dare to offend Tianlian Sect.

He was sure that Liu Chuandao and the rest didn't have this sort of guts.

"Elder Luo Feng, you're overthinking it." Jiang Ning sighed. "I'm not here to release you."

"What do you mean?"

Luo Feng's expression changed.

He could see through the thoughts of Liu Chuandao and the Senior Elder of Qingshan Sect. But this Jiang Ning was too random and it was impossible to tell what he wanted to do next.

"I'm here to send food to you." Jiang Ning waved a hand. "This will be your last meal before we send you on your way."

## NH

“How dare you!” Luo Feng stood up with a start and shouted angrily, “How dare you spout such nonsense!”

Send him on his way?

Not even Liu Chuandao would have dared to say such a thing.

Was Qingshan Sect really unafraid of incurring Tianlian Sect’s wrath?

“I’m not spouting nonsense.”

Jiang Ning waved his hand and the guard behind him walked over with a sumptuous meal on a tray.

Luo Feng felt his breathing quicken.

“There’s fish and there’s meat, and of course, there’s vegetables. One ought to have a balanced diet after all,” said Jiang Ning. “It’s a good habit to keep even when you’ve reached the nether world. As one grows older, one’s diet becomes especially important.”

He nodded and the guard pushed the tray of food into the cell.

Luo Feng’s breathing quickened as he glared at Jiang Ning. He smiled coldly, “You really dare to kill me?”

“If not?” Jiang Ning didn’t bother being polite. “You didn’t treat a Qingshan Sect disciple like a human, and killed him just like that. Isn’t it only right for us to kill you in return?”

# NH

Why, you...”

Luo Feng pointed a finger at Jiang Ning.

“Excellent! Fine! I’m going to see if you really dare to kill me or not!”

He scoffed coldly and didn’t speak anymore.

He didn’t even look at the food.

He refused to believe it.

He refused to believe that Qingshan Sect would dare to kill him. These people were just putting on an act and were just trying to humiliate him.

If Qingshan Sect dared to kill an elder of Tianlian Sect, that was as good as declaring war. They would have to suffer the wrath of Tianlian Sect!

On top of that, the other sects would also take this chance to attack Qingshan Sect at the same time. Didn’t Liu Chuandao know that this would definitely happen?

Luo Feng looked arrogantly at Jiang Ning without any fear, as if he was very confident of this.

Jiang Ning didn’t say anything and just nodded slightly.

After that, he walked away with the guards.

Luo Feng sat down again, glanced at the food, then slapped all the food off the tray, causing the tray and the bowls to break into several pieces.

## NH

He was going to remember the insult he suffered today, and make Qingshan Sect pay double for doing this!

Outside the prison.

Mr He glanced at Jiang Ning with a grim look on his face.

“Are we really going to kill him?”

“What, are you going to fake it?” said Jiang Ning.

Of course they were going to kill Luo Feng. And they were going to execute him publicly for killing disciple of Qingshan Sect!

Even though he didn't like Luo Heng, he was still a disciple of Qingshan Sect after all.

If Qingshan Sect wanted to exert their authority and show the world what they were capable of, they had to do something to prove it.

If they didn't seize such a good opportunity, it would be such a waste.

“Aren't you afraid that Luo Long and the rest would try to rescue him?” asked Mr He.

Jiang Ning suddenly burst out laughing, and his laughter made Mr He feel all his hair stand on end.

It seemed like that was precisely what Jiang Ning was waiting for.

## NH

“I get it.” Mr He grit his teeth. “I’ll play this crazy game with you!”

“This damned Luo Feng thinks he’s somebody and thinks he calls the shots in Qingshan Sect? I’m going to bloody teach him the lesson of his life!”

Mr He spun around and walked back to the prison.

Jiang Ning glanced at him and smiled faintly.

If he had a cigarette now, the ambience would be just right.

He didn’t say anything and left.

Back in the prison.

Luo Feng continued to sit confidently in his cell next to the food that he had upset earlier.

He wasn’t eating it.

No way!

He refused to believe that Qingshan Sect would dare to take his life.

Suddenly, some smoke wafted in and Luo Feng immediately frowned slightly. The air was poisoned!

But before he could react in time, he felt giddy and lost consciousness.

# NH

After some time, the smoke cleared and Luo Feng lay motionless on the floor.

“Humph! Take him away,” snorted Mr He in disdain after taking a look and waving to the guards.

There were a million and one torture devices in the prison which would make Luo Feng experience all the pain and suffering possible in life. If this man wasn't going to confess to his crime, Mr He was going to see how long Luo Feng could hold up for!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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# NH

Meanwhile.

News had already gone out.

Luo Feng was to be executed!

All of Qingshan Sect was shaken up.

The Outer Court, Inner Court and Portico disciples were shocked, and even the elders were stunned beyond belief.

Jiang Ning was really crazy!

Was he really going to kill Luo Feng?

And Jiang Ning wanted a public execution no less.

Was he nuts?

He had to be.

None of the elders said anything because the Senior Elder didn't say anything. That meant he approved of this.

Liu Chuandao didn't say anything either. He had locked himself in his room and left Jiang Ning to decide on everything. Even if Jiang Ning turned the whole world upside down, Liu Chuandao wouldn't ask a single question.

After all, he knew well that the person who was the most concerned about the world outside the mountain was Jiang Ning himself.



## NH

When the news reached Luo Long, he flew into a rage.

“Ridiculous! Audacious! Are they all tired of living?!” roared Luo Long furiously. “Men! Come with me, we’re going to rescue Elder Luo Feng!”

He didn’t expect Jiang Ning to dare to do this.

He was about to look for Liu Chuandao again to get medication, and if Liu Chuandao continued to keep his doors shut, Luo Long was going to barge his way in. But now, something like this had happened.

All his disciples were still unable to walk properly. It was really difficult to heal well without proper treatment.

They looked awkward and pathetic as they hobbled behind Luo Long.

But none of them dared to protest.

“They’re going to do this at the martial arts arena! We can’t let them do this!” said Luo Long. “They aren’t fit to kill an elder of Tianlian Sect!”

The martial arts arena was already teeming with people.

All the disciples were here, and even those Sinners were here too.

Nobody would have thought that Qingshan Sect would do such a thing. In order to stand up and avenge a disciple’s death, they were even willing

# NH

to kill an elder from Tianlian Sect!

“This Luo Feng is the elder who caused the death of Senior Luo Heng, right?”

“That’s him! He was in cahoots with Zhang Heng to kill off one of our best disciples!”

“How disgusting! Do they think that the lives of the disciples of Qingshan Sect are cheap and worthless? He deserves to die!”

“Don’t say such things so loudly. He’s an elder of Tianlian Sect after all. We can’t afford to offend these people.”

There were all sorts of opinions among the crowd.

Some of them couldn’t wait to chop Luo Feng’s head off personally, while some of them felt that the sect was blowing up the matter unnecessarily.

There were some who were quarrelling because they disagreed with one another.

“What’s there to argue about?” someone yelled loudly. “What, are all of you used to getting bullied already? If you were the one who died, wouldn’t you hope that Qingshan Sect would avenge you?”

Once these words were yelled out, the entire crowd fell silent.

This didn’t happen to them, so they could say whatever they wanted.

# NH

But what if this actually happened to themselves?

Anybody would want justice to be served if they had been killed for no reason.

“Kill him!” someone yelled at the top of his voice.

“Kill this bastard! The disciples of Qingshan Sect aren’t pushovers!”

“Kill him! Kill him!”

“A life for a life! Kill him!”

The crowd was in an uproar.

Jiang Ning watched the crowd get all riled up and a murderous air rose from the people. He rapped his fingers against the table lightly.

He turned to look around and saw that Luo Long wasn’t here yet.

“They’re not even enthusiastic about saving their elder. We’ll wait for a while more then.”

He waved a hand and the captain of the guards came up.

“Bring Mr Zhang out first.”

“Yes, Brother Jiang!”

In no time, Zhang Heng was dragged out. He was no longer that proud and glamorous man, and he was no longer the principal of the Inner Court.

# NH

He was now nothing but a criminal!

“Release me! Release me now!” yelled Zhang Heng loudly as if he had completely lost it. “Jiang Ning! Are you sure you want to kill me?! You’re going to bring all of Qingshan Sect down!”

“Release me! Did you hear me?!”

He was shouting hysterically like a lunatic and looked like he wished he could pounce over and bite Jiang Ning to death.

“I am saving Qingshan Sect,” said Jiang Ning quietly. But it’s too bad that you won’t get to see it.”

“Go ahead and send him on his way!”



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# NH

“Yes, Brother Jiang!”

The captain of the guards dragged Zhang Heng to the tallest execution stage.

The entire crowd fell silent immediately.

The executions were about to begin!

The executions were going to start with Zhang Heng?

But...he was an elder of the Inner Court of Qingshan Sect in the past.

Jiang Ning nodded and one of the men started reading out his crimes.

“Zhang Heng! Former principal of Qingshan Sect’s Inner Court! Despite being the principal of the Inner Court, he joined hands with someone from outside the sect to cruelly cause the death of one of the most promising disciples of Qingshan Sect! He had no regard for this disciple’s life!”

“As per the rules of Qingshan Sect, this is a crime punishable by death!”

“He shall be executed!”

The announcement was succinct and there was clearly no intention to ask Zhang Heng anything or let him explain anything.

The executioner drew his long blade out and the reflection of the blade hurt his eyes.

NH

Zhang Heng was really in a panic now.

He opened his mouth to shout and wanted to plead with Jiang Ning for mercy. He knew that Jiang Ning called all the shots now, so he had to beg Jiang Ning.

But before he could say anything...

SLAAASH!

A bright and crisp sound was heard as blood spurted everywhere. A head immediately flew into the air.

It drew a beautiful parabola in the air and crashed onto the ground again.

Zhang Heng's mouth was still moving and he wanted to speak, but he couldn't get a single sound out. His eyes were wide as he watched his own head fly further and further away from his body...

DOONG!

His head hit the ground.

The entire place was silent.

Zhang Heng...was dead?

The principal of the Inner Court of Qingshan Sect was really dead!

And it was all because he had caused the death of a fellow disciple!

## NH

“Qingshan Sect has always valued its disciples ever since it was founded,” said Jiang Ning in a loud voice after getting up. “All of you are the future and hope of Qingshan Sect! As long as you are a disciple of Qingshan Sect, Qingshan Sect will protect you and give you the chance to mature and develop!”

“What you must do is to make yourselves stronger and more powerful so that you can protect Qingshan Sect and not let Qingshan Sect be bullied by other sects!”

His voice exploded next to everyone’s ears like a clap of thunder.

“Can all of you do it?”

“Yes, we can!” came the determined voices of the crowd.

“If you’ve been humiliated, it means that Qingshan Sect has been humiliated! And if Qingshan Sect has been humiliated, it means that you have been humiliated too! You and Qingshan Sect are one! Do you understand?!” bellowed Jiang Ning.

“Yes, we understand!” This response was even louder.

Jiang Ning’s words seemed to carry some sort of magical power. Every word was able to touch the people’s hearts.

All the disciples present believed in this deeply. They represented Qingshan Sect, and Qingshan Sect’s blood flowed through their bodies!

# NH

“Regardless of who it is, we will make him pay if he dares to hurt any of you!”

Jiang Ning waved his hand and a path was immediately created in the distance.

Luo Feng!

There was a metal chain around his neck and he was bleeding all over.

Everyone was stunned to see this.

That was an elder of Tianlian Sect! Was Jiang Ning really going to execute him?

Luo Feng was panting and his face was pale. He had been tortured with a few dozen devices in the prison and he didn't have the strength to retaliate anymore. He didn't even have the strength to curse and could only allow the guards to drag him along.

Liu Heng and Liu Zong were standing among the Sinners in the crowd. Their bodies were numb all over.

They didn't expect Jiang Ning to be this aggressive.

He was really going to turn the world upside down at this rate.

They wouldn't have dared to even think of doing such a thing. But Jiang Ning just went ahead.

“This is madness.” Liu Zong's lips were trembling.



“Is everyone crazy?”

Liu Chuandao didn't have any objections, and neither did the Senior Elder nor any of the elders for that matter.

And now, nobody present in this crowd was going to raise any objections either!

Did nobody care about incurring the wrath of Tianlian Sect?

“Justice. This is justice for Qingshan Sect.” Liu Heng's lips trembled as he stared straight at Jiang Ning. “He's seeking justice for Qingshan Sect.”



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# NH

Liu Heng finally understood what Jiang Ning was trying to do.

But this could cost him his life!

Jiang Ning was now provoking Tianlian Sect, and that would put his own life on the line. If Tianlian Sect got angry with Qingshan Sect and demanded an explanation from Qingshan Sect, Jiang Ning was definitely going to die.

Jiang Ning was really insane.

“Jiang Ning!” Luo Feng roared as he was dragged onto the execution stage. “Stop trying to fool me! I know you don’t dare to kill me!”

He was already at the executioner’s, but he still didn’t want to believe that Jiang Ning really dared to execute him.

This was all just a show! A really good one!

“How stubborn.” Jiang Ning waved his hands nonchalantly. “Why aren’t they here yet?”

Luo Long and his men were so slow. Hadn’t they heard the news yet?

Jiang Ning had specially sent someone to inform them, so it was impossible that they didn’t know about it.

“Hold him down!” ordered Jiang Ning.

The guards immediately held Luo Feng down and he couldn’t move anymore.

# NH

“You want to kill me? You dare to kill me? Go ahead and try! Come on!”

He started to deliberately provoke Jiang Ning like he had gone mad, as if Jiang Ning would change his mind if he continued to yell like that.

Jiang Ning didn't do anything.

After a long time, he didn't give any command. He just allowed the executioner to hold the blade above him.

Luo Feng's breathing quickened and he was soaked in perspiration.

Jiang Ning didn't dare to kill him!

He was sure of it now. Jiang Ning really didn't dare to kill him!

“HAHA! Jiang Ning, did you think you were really something?”

“Did you think you could really kill me?”

“Liu Chuandao and the rest wouldn't dare to kill me, so how could you possibly do such a thing? I'm here already, so you can continue acting! Keep up the act!”

“So what if I killed one of Qingshan Sect's disciples? I'll kill whoever I want! What can you do about that?”

“Go on! Kill me! Come on! Come and kill me!”

# NH

Luo Feng laughed loudly because he knew that Jiang Ning didn't dare to touch him after all. He had done so much to put up a good act, but so what?

He roared angrily and arrogantly at Jiang Ning, and didn't have any regard for him at all.

All the disciples watching felt their eyes redden after hearing these terrible words.

Luo Feng was too arrogant!

He clearly despised them!

If they didn't kill him today, they wouldn't be appeased!

"Kill him!" someone yelled.

"Kill this bastard!"

"This asshole thinks that Qingshan Sect is a pushover?! Kill him!"

"Kill him! Kill him!"

The shouts filled the sky as Luo Feng's arrogance made the crowd furious.

Some of them even picked up stones from the ground and threw them at Luo Feng. Luo Feng soon started bleeding from getting hit by these stones.

"Trying to kill me? Come on! Come at me!"

## NH

Luo Feng laughed loudly and maniacally. He thought that Qingshan Sect was still a bunch of cowards after all, and they didn't dare to kill him. They could only shout and curse at him to vent their frustrations, but there was nothing else they could do.

Jiang Ning continued to sit patiently with his chin in his hand.

"They're here!"

Jiang Ning's eyes suddenly lit up. Luo Long and his men were running over from afar.

All of them had dark expressions on their faces as they glared at him. It was obvious that they wanted to rescue Luo Feng, then kill Jiang Ning!

Jiang Ning laughed.

He had waited so long for them.

"The ones who ought to come have come after all." Jiang Ning stood up and purposely said very loudly, "It's time! Execute him!"

This shout made Luo Long's eyes bulge angrily.

"STOP!"

But Jiang Ning wasn't going to give him a chance to do anything. Jiang Ning had waited for so long precisely to allow Luo Long to witness the execution for himself.

With that command, the large knife suddenly

NH

came down fiercely!

PFFT!

Blood flew everywhere!


Luo Feng was still yelling away and wanted to put on a strong front, but he suddenly felt like he suddenly didn't have anymore strength. He wanted to struggle, but he suddenly realized he couldn't feel his own arms and legs anymore.

He seemed to be flying and the world was spinning!

He slowly saw a headless body slowly slump down while his own vision became more and more blurry...

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NH

Was that his own body?

Luo Feng still couldn't believe it. But it seemed like his brain was no longer connected to his body.

He couldn't feel his arms, or his legs. He couldn't feel any response from his body at all.

"AHH!!" yelled Luo Feng loudly. But this scream was probably echoing only in his own head.

DOONG!

His head landed on the ground and rolled several times before it came to a stop.

"NO!" bellowed Luo Long like a lunatic. His eyes were bloodshot.

He had just watched as Luo Feng's head was chopped off. Luo Feng had been executed by Qingshan Sect!

"Jiang Ning!" Luo Long was hysterical. "I'm going to kill you!"

He tapped the ground and flew out like a flash of lightning. He was the most aggressive and violent he could be.

Killing an elder of Tianlian Sect was also a crime punishable by death!

SWOOSH!

Luo Long roared as he flew through the air and

# NH

swung his fists. The air around his fists immediately exploded and made blasting sounds like beans frying in a wok.

“Protect Brother Jiang!” shouted the guards as they all drew their swords and stood in front of Jiang Ning as they looked at Luo Long murderously.

Luo Long didn't care about these guards. He was going to kill Jiang Ning!

He had to kill Jiang Ning for killing Luo Feng!

“Protect the people of Qingshan Sect!” yelled someone from the crowd. The crowd immediately started roaring and the resonance was shocking.

The entire crowd swarmed forward and surrounded all the men from Tianlian Sect.

“If you dare to hurt anyone from Qingshan Sect, we'll kill you!”

**KABOOM!**

The murderous energy in the air seemed to transform in thousands of sharp arrows that cut through the air and forced Luo Long to stop where he was and not dare to take another step forward.

The disciples of Qingshan Sect gathered and the murderous energy of the crowd had reached a boiling point. Someone from outside the sect could kill someone from Qingshan Sect but they couldn't punish the person from Tianlian Sect who did it?



# NH

How could this be!

“Why, you...” Luo Long grit his teeth and stared straight at Jiang Ning. “You will pay for this!”

Jiang Ning remained seated. He hadn't moved at all throughout this whole process and didn't seem afraid or nervous at all.

“Pay for this?” He pointed at Luo Feng's head on the ground. “That's the price you pay for hurting someone from Qingshan Sect.

“If you don't believe me, you can try.”

“Try us!” roared the crowd in unison. Their energy was as ear deafening and threatening as an avalanche.

Luo Long took two steps back, and the rest of the Tianlian Sect disciples paled.

They were all the best disciples of Tianlian Sect, but they had never seen such ferocity in Tianlian Sect before. They had never seen the disciples of their sect join hands and stand together to fight others from outside the sect.

Everyone only acted for their own gain and future.

The disciples of Qingshan Sect kept coming closer, so Luo Long had to keep retreating.

He had watched how Luo Feng's head had been separated from his body!

But there was nothing he could do now.

# NH

Jiang Ning had even purposely waited for him to arrive before killing Luo Feng, just so that he could witness the execution for himself.

“Jiang Ning, if Qingshan Sect is destroyed, it will be all your fault!” said Luo Long coldly.

“Qingshan Sect will not be destroyed! I will get rid of every single person who has ill intentions towards Qingshan Sect.” A murderous look spread across Jiang Ning’s face. “No one is an exception!”

“Humph!” Luo Long’s body trembled. He never thought that Jiang Ning would really dare to carry out what he said.

Liu Chuandao wouldn’t dare to, and neither would the Senior Elder of Qingshan Sect. Instead, it was this person whom he had never heard of before who was being so vicious and decisive. He said he was going to kill Luo Feng and he really did it without any hesitation.

“I can take him away now, right?!” said Luo Long.

His expression was dark and he wished he could fight Jiang Ning to death right now.

He wasn’t able to bring Luo Feng back alive, so he had failed his mission. He had no idea how the sect leader was going to punish him.

“No, not yet,” replied Jiang Ning calmly.

## NH

“Don’t go too far!” roared Luo Long angrily as his energy soared. “Don’t force my hand!”

“We’re just following our sect rules, so what others say doesn’t matter.” Jiang Ning eyed him. “Wait for us to inform you.”

“If you don’t have the patience, then you can leave now and we’ll settle it ourselves.”

When he said they’d settle it themselves, he meant that they would just throw the body into the wilderness and let it get torn apart by wild animals.

Luo Long was furious and extremely humiliated. How could someone from Tianlian Sect end up like this?

Worse still, Luo Feng was an elder!

He was a representative of Tianlian Sect!

“You! You! You...!” Luo Long gnashed his teeth but he was too angry to get a single word out.

He was still within Qingshan Sect and was now surrounded by an army of Qingshan Sect disciples. Even if he decided to fight now, he wasn’t confident of winning.

Jiang Ning didn’t care and just waved his hands. The guards immediately dragged Luo Feng’s dead body out like a dead dog.

This made Luo Long nearly lose his cool.

# NH

“Just you wait!” roared Luo Long furiously.

He turned and walked off. After leaving two men behind to collect Luo Feng’s body, he brought the rest of them back to Tianlian Sect.

There was no way they could avoid a full on war now!

Qingshan Sect’s actions were clearly an act of provocation. If Tianlian Sect did not do anything about it, they could forget about walking with their heads up high in front of the other sects!

Mr He stood and watched from afar as he frowned slightly.

He didn’t know if he had done the right thing, but when Jiang Ning wanted to go through with it, he didn’t try to stop it.

Liu Chuandao didn’t stop it either, and neither did the Senior Elder nor the remaining elders.

It seemed like everyone had agreed to allow Jiang Ning to do all these crazy things.

But was Jiang Ning really doing something crazy?

“If we don’t go this far, we’ll never change. Qingshan Sect really has no way out of this.” He sighed, then looked at the united disciples of Qingshan Sect standing together, and his heart felt comforted. “At least the fighting spirit of these disciples has been fired up.”

If they had to fight, then they’d fight.

# NH

It was better than barely getting by.

Qingshan Sect had such a glorious past, but they were now on the verge of collapse. With no imminent threat in sight, the people rested on their laurels and forgot about advancing forward.

Mr He took a deep breath and his eyes shone even more brightly.

When Jiang Ning went back, Liu Qing was already waiting at the entrance for him for a long time.

When she found out about this matter, she had remained silent for a long while. She had been shocked by Jiang Ning's actions as well.

But after thinking about it carefully, she didn't say anything in the end.

"If I have to die, I'd like to die with you." Her eyes were slightly red as she looked at Jiang Ning.  
"Can I?"

Jiang Ning laughed and walked over to Liu Qing. He tousled her hair and messed it up.

"You're not going to die."

"What about you?"

"I'm definitely not going to die," said Jiang Ning resolutely.

Nobody could kill him!

He definitely could not die. He had to go back to

# NH

his wife and child. How could he die now?

“Alright now, don’t think so much about all these things. Even if the sky falls, someone tall enough will hold it up. You just focus on being Third Miss.”

Jiang Ning didn’t say anymore after that.

This war was inevitable.

Meanwhile.

Liu Zong and Liu Heng had complex expressions on their faces.

“We can’t avoid this battle. Jiang Ning killed Luo Feng, and that’s a declaration of war.”

“Can Qingshan Sect hold up against Tianlian Sect’s attacks?”

“No, I’m not going to just watch this happen. I want to see Father! I want to stand alongside everyone in Qingshan Sect!”

Both of them exchanged glances. They could see the worry and anxiety in each other’s eyes.

They knew that Qingshan Sect and Tianlian Sect’s prowess was poles apart, so they were like throwing eggs at rocks.

So why didn’t anybody stop Jiang Ning from making this insane decision?

“Even if Qingshan Sect gets destroyed, I want to

NH

be destroyed along with it!”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

Both brothers didn't care about themselves anymore and insisted on seeing Mr He.

Mr He was in charge of the Sinners, so they had to see him first. But Mr He refused to see them.

"These two fellows are finally getting it. But I have no idea when Jiang Ning will give them a chance." Mr He waved his hand. "No hurry, let them wait. It's not time yet."

Jiang Ning hadn't given the go ahead yet, so he wasn't letting the two brothers in.

Mr He didn't say anything openly, but he really admired Jiang Ning inside.

He never thought Jiang Ning would have been able to transform the situation like this.

It wasn't the best of outcomes, since they had clearly offended Tianlian Sect terribly and they were about to receive the wrath of Tianlian Sect.

But it was definitely a good thing.

At the very least, the atmosphere within Qingshan Sect was rising in the right way.

The fighting spirit of the disciples had been riled up by Jiang Ning. This was something that had slowly disappeared over the past few decades, and it was now back.

Nothing was more important than this.

A sect had to focus on grooming its disciples.



## NH

That was the most important factor in determining if a sect could gain a strong foothold and continue expanding as well as become more and more powerful.

If the next generation of younger disciples did not rise to the occasion, then the sect would not live long.

“The next part is the real test.” Mr He sighed. He didn’t know if he would survive or not. But if his death helped more people to wake up from their delusion, then he wasn’t afraid to die.

“This Jiang Ning is really someone sent by the gods. He’s really very different.” He couldn’t help but compliment Jiang Ning.

That was something very rare for him to do.

Liu Chuandao was also filled with praise for Jiang Ning.

He would never have done such a thing otherwise.

An elder of Tianlian Sect had been executed in Qingshan Sect!

And they had done this in front of another elder of Tianlian Sect. That was as good as pushing himself right to the front of this impending war, and the one leading the way was Jiang Ning!

He didn’t dare to risk everything that Qingshan Sect had accumulated over the last few hundred years, but his silent approval of Jiang Ning was

# NH

already a risk.

The Senior Elder had shut himself in for several days and didn't move at all. He was just like a stone statue.

He had remained still until the news reached him that Jiang Ning had given the order to behead Luo Feng in front of Luo Long.

He opened his eyes with a start, even though he was already mentally prepared that this crazy boy would really do such a thing.

But when it really happened, he still felt his heart shudder violently, as if it had been pulled on by something and nearly left his own body.

"This nutcase!" he couldn't help but curse. But he was also filled with deep admiration for Jiang Ning.

This was a really huge risk!

This was as good as cutting off any escape routes for Qingshan Sect. Thorns lay ahead of the sect, but a deep abyss was waiting behind them as well.

"Senior Elder, some elders would like to see you," came a voice from outside the study.

"Let them in," said the Senior Elder calmly.

He knew why these people were here.

"Senior Elder." The other elders walked in with

# NH

different expressions on their faces. Each person's expression was rather conflicted.

“What do all of you want to say?” asked the Senior Elder.

He didn't like beating around the bush, so he went straight to the point. “Qingshan Sect has no way of turning back now. Either we'll live or we'll die. If you want to back out now, I won't stop you.”

These people were going to run off in the face of an impending crisis, but it was too bad that they hadn't gotten what they wanted before Qingshan Sect collapsed.

“Senior Elder, we're here to listen to your opinion on his,” said one of them. “We know that Jiang Ning's actions have cut off any escape route for Qingshan Sect.”

“But this has happened because Chief Liu and yourself have silently allowed it to happen. So we would like to hear from you.”



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# NH

The Senior Elder laughed and said, "I don't have any other opinions. I'm getting old and I've been the Senior Elder for a few decades now. But I've not brought anything good to Qingshan Sect, and I've actually allowed Qingshan Sect to decline instead. This is my crime."

"This is a crime punishable by death!"

"I'm willing to die in battle. If my death can change some things around here, then it's all worth it."

He got up and put his hands behind his back as he calmly said, "That's my opinion. I don't have any other thoughts."

They were going to war!

That was what the Senior Elder meant.

No matter who they were going to face, how they were going to fight or what he used to think, he only had this opinion now.

He was going to fight to the very end! It didn't matter even if he died!

All the elders felt their eyes narrow violently. They didn't expect the Senior Elder to be willing to fight to the very end.

"We won't leave." The Second Elder took a deep breath. "We're all partly to blame for everything that's happened in the past."

"As an elder of Qingshan Sect, I haven't done

# NH

anything for the sect besides work for my own gain. This is a crime.”

“This is also a crime punishable by death!”

Everyone exchanged glances and nodded.

They had seen how all the disciples of Qingshan Sect had been filled with energy and were all willing to stand up against Tianlian Sect and the elders of Tianlian Sect. This was a fighting spirit that they hadn't seen in decades!

“We're all willing to defend the glory of Qingshan Sect even if we die!”

“We are willing to live together with Qingshan Sect and die together with Qingshan Sect!”

All the elders chimed in.

The Senior Elder turned and looked at all of them before nodding slightly.

“I never thought that a bunch of old fogeys like us actually needed someone from outside the sect to educate us. What a disgrace we are.”

It was indeed disgraceful, but if this embarrassment could wake them up from their old ways, it wasn't a bad thing.

“Let's get ready.”

“Yes, Senior Elder!” shouted everyone in unison.

Meanwhile.

## NH

Jiang Ning was sitting in his usual rattan chair and was rocking the chair in a leisurely manner.

It as if he enjoyed the quiet before the storm even more than peace.

He always enjoyed this moment of quietness right before a battle. It was relaxing to him.

At the training area further out, the captain of the guards led a group of men to work hard and train. Jiang Ning had personally crafted this training for them, so none of them were going to slack off.

During this time, they had been secretly training. If they weren't assigned any mission, they would be found at the training area. They refused to even rest for one moment.

The visible increase in their speed and prowess was shocking. It had also helped these lowly guards find something to be proud of!

“Hurry up! We must improve ourselves in the shortest time possible!” barked the captain. “We have to take hold of our own destiny! We shall decide what sort of people we want to be!”

These were all things that Jiang Ning said to them before. The words acted like a boost of motivation that helped everyone to keep going.

“We're all part of Qingshan Sect, and we're all guardians of Qingshan Sect! We'll protect Qingshan Sect!”

“Protect! Protect! Protect!” shouted the guards.

# NH

Liu Qing watched them from afar and could barely believe her eyes.

These guards had been with her for the past seven or eight years, but she had never seen them like this before.

“What do you intend to do?” She turned around to look at Jiang Ning.

This man was definitely a nutcase, but he was also a strange yet admirable man.

He could transform anyone in a short time, and he could transform a person from head to toe.

Even though these guards were considered the lowest ranked people in Qingshan Sect, Jiang Ning never differentiated them because of that. In fact, he seemed to like these guards better.

“They’re super soldiers,” said Jiang Ning. “They’ll be Qingshan Sect’s super soldiers.”

“Super soldiers?” Liu Qing narrowed her eyes. “You want them to join the battle too?”

“They’re not going to just join the battle,” replied Jiang Ning calmly. “They’re going to be the ones who decide whether we win or lose!”



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# NH

What?

Liu Qing thought that Jiang Ning had to be joking.

The best thing that these guards could do was merely to maintain order within Qingshan Sect. They were pretty well trained, but they weren't very gifted in martial arts, so no matter how hard they worked, they couldn't outperform what their bodies were capable of.

Jiang Ning had proved to be very impressive so far, but it was impossible to turn these men into great masters overnight.

When it came to battles between sects, it was normally a showdown between the disciples of both sides, the elders, and even the sect leaders.

The guards were never part of this.

But now Jiang Ning was saying that they were going to be powerful enough to decide whether they won or lost?

"Don't do anything rash," said Liu Qing quickly. "There's no need to send them to die like that."

Jiang Ning looked rather deeply at Liu Qing.

"You don't have to send yourself out to die either."

"What are you talking about?" retorted Liu Qing. "I'm a disciple of Qingshan Sect, and I'm the daughter of the leader of the sect! I will live with Qingshan Sect and die with Qingshan Sect!"



## NH

“But you’re not Chief Liu’s biological daughter,” said Jiang Ning. “You could completely withdraw your participation.”

Liu Qing scoffed. “But I’m still a disciple of Qingshan Sect! As long as you’ve been one of Qingshan Sect’s for even just one day, you’re one of us even if you die!”

Jiang Ning laughed and pointed to the guards training like no tomorrow in the distance.

“It’s the same case with them.”

Liu Qing looked over and saw how the guards were trying their best to improve themselves. They didn’t care how much blood, sweat and tears they went through and only sought to become better in the shortest time possible for the sake of Qingshan Sect.

She had never seen anything like that before.

It wasn’t just herself and her guards, but all of Qingshan Sect. Regardless of whether it was the Inner Court, Outer Court or even the Portico disciples, everyone was getting ready to fight.

Nobody dared to take this lightly because they knew that a huge battle was inevitable.

They were going to protect the dignity of Qingshan Sect and protect everything that Qingshan Sect had worked so hard to accumulate all these years. This was a road where they could see the end of.

# NH

The end was death!

But none of them thought about retreating.

Nobody wanted to become the next Luo Heng. They didn't want a sect that was too cowardly to seek redress even if they had been killed by someone outside the sect.

"Are you confident?" Liu Qing took a deep breath.

"We have to win," replied Jiang Ning.

He didn't need to explain too much.

This was a battle that they could not lose. Even if he was fighting the gods, Jiang Ning was going to trample all over them!

He wasn't going to lose, and he couldn't lose either.

"Brother Jiang, Chief Liu has invited you over," called out someone at the door.

Jiang Ning got up. Liu Qing opened her mouth to speak but didn't say anything.

She watched Jiang Ning leave and she really wished he would just leave like this. Jiang Ning wasn't part of this fight in the first place. Even though he had ignited this fight, she still didn't want to see Jiang Ning die in this battle.

Once Tianlian Sect launched their counterattack, they would go all out to kill everyone, and Jiang Ning would be their number one target for killing

# NH

their elder.

“Jiang Ning, you’ve got to keep living.” Liu Qing’s eyes were slightly red. “I hope we’ll meet again in our next lives.”

Meanwhile.

Outside Liu Chuandao’s study.

Jiang Ning reached a hand out to knock on the door.

“Come in.” Liu Chuandao had changed out of his usual long robe and was now in clothing suitable for going to battle. He looked like he was ready to fight anytime.

“Are you going to start fighting already?” said Jiang Ning with a laugh. “Do you regret letting me do such crazy things?”

Liu Chuandao shook his head.

“I’ve thought about it already. If Qingshan Sect doesn’t do anything extreme, we’ll never change. What we lacked was someone who was willing to do crazy things like you.”

He sighed. “We were all too stuck in our old ways and behaved like frogs slowly getting boiled in a pot, so Qingshan Sect slowly lost its fighting spirit. Sometimes, it just takes one battle to wake us all up from our ways.”

“You did the right thing.”

# NH

Jiang Ning had seen the situation very clearly, while Liu Chuandao realized that he hadn't seen the situation clearly at all even though he had lived for so many years.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

Liu Chuandao finally saw everything clearly now. The sect needed to go through a crisis in order to stir up the fighting spirit within Qingshan Sect, but this was really their last chance.

Otherwise, Qingshan Sect would definitely perish.

If they did not give their best last shot, then they were going to just fade into obscurity!

“So why did you call me here?” asked Jiang Ning.

Liu Chuandao took out a bottle from his coat and passed it to Jiang Ning.

“This is the antidote that you need, I’ve been working on it all this time. So I’m passing it to you now, and you can save your wife with this.” He looked at Jiang Ning. “This battle is Qingshan Sect’s battle to fight and has nothing to do with you. You’ve already done a lot for us, and there’s no need to stay here and die for nothing.”

Jiang Ning took the bottle from him and smelled the contents. A faint fragrance hit his nose.

With this antidote, Lin Yuzhen could regain consciousness.

“I’m not leaving,” said Jiang Ning.

Liu Chuandao looked at him. “If you don’t leave and die here, then your wife will not be able to regain consciousness. Then this dose of the antidote will go to waste.”

“I will not die here,” said Jiang Ning. “I said that

# NH

we will win.”

“And we must win.”

Qingshan Sect was the last barrier to reaching the mountain gate. Their mission all these years was to guard the mountain gate, so that the people within the mountain would never move out to the cities outside.

As the sect leader of Qingshan Sect, Liu Chuandao knew this very well. This was his life mission and responsibility.

If Qingshan Sect was destroyed or was taken over by someone who didn't accept this mission, then the people outside the mountain gate were in trouble.

Jiang Ning had to stay here and he had to make sure that Qingshan Sect became powerful enough to truly guard the mountain gate!

“But it's going to be really hard.” Liu Chuandao laughed bitterly and shook his head. “If it was just Tianlian Sect, then we still stood a chance. We might end up losing more people than the enemy, and that's fine. But now...”

“What's happened?”

“I've received news that the other sects have sent someone to talk to Tianlian Sect. They're all hoping to take this chance to destroy Qingshan Sect and open the mountain gate!”

The major sects within the mountain wanted to

# NH

join forces to attack and destroy Qingshan Sect!

Liu Chuandao was furious when he heard this news, but there was nothing he could do about that.

The various major sects initially tried to use peaceful methods to slowly infiltrate Qingshan Sect, but now they decided to stop pretending and were ready to fight them head on.

They now had a legitimate reason to fight, so there was no way they would give up such an excellent opportunity.

“Then all the more I must stay,” said Jiang Ning. “If you guys get wiped out, then things will really get tricky.”

“This is not a discussion,” said Liu Chuandao gravely as he shook his head. “I’m just informing you.”

“Jiang Ning, thank you for everything. This day was bound to come sooner or later, and it’s better that it’s come now than later.”

If it came any later, Qingshan Sect wouldn’t even stand a chance at all.

He thanked Jiang Ning very seriously, then lightly rapped on part of the table. Part of the wall opened and Liu Chuandao pushed Jiang Ning in before Jiang Ning could say anything.

“This is the only thing I can do for Liu Qing.

## NH

Liu Chuandao sighed and closed the door again.

Liu Qing had begged him for a long time because she didn't want to see Jiang Ning die. Of course Liu Chuandao knew why she was behaving like this.

She was really very deeply in love.

He had no idea how Jiang Ning had made his daughter fall head over heels in love with him in such a short time.

But at the same time, he was very grateful to Jiang Ning. At the very least, Jiang Ning had helped Qingshan Sect to regain the dignity they used to have. Even if they died in battle or if Qingshan Sect was destroyed, it was their own responsibility to bear.

Liu Chuandao took a deep breath and a violent and murderous air slowly seeped out from him.

"If we're going to fight then bring it on!" he roared loudly and kicked the study door open. "Send the command out! All disciples of Qingshan Sect are to be on standby for battle!"

"No matter who comes our way, as long as they dare to set foot into Qingshan Sect, we're going to mow them down and kill all of them!" Liu Chuandao bellowed angrily with a determined look on his face. "All of us shall be responsible for protecting Qingshan Sect!"



# NH

Jiang Ning's vision started to spin and grow colorful, but it lasted for barely a moment.

When he opened his eyes again, his surroundings seemed a little familiar.

He was in the depths of Mount Zhongnan. He was back?

It turned out that Liu Chuandao's study had a passageway that led to the outside of the mountain gate.

He looked around and saw a camera hidden between the tree branches.

"I'm back," said Jiang Ning.

He knew that someone would spot him. These cameras were fitted by one of his own people just so that they would know in the shortest possible time that he was back.

Donghai.

Butler Zhao had specially arranged for people to watch these cameras 24 hours a day, and they would inform him if anything happened.

"Huh?" The person staring at the screen right now suddenly spotted a familiar figure and his breathing quickened.

"Is it...is it Big Boss? Big Boss is back!"

He clapped his hands loudly and nearly fell off his chair as he bounced up and started shouting

# NH

maniacally, "Big Boss is back! Big Boss is back!"

Butler Zhao soon heard about it and his eyes reddened with excitement as he ran into the room to look at the footage for himself.

When he saw Jiang Ning show him a signal via the surveillance cameras, Butler Zhao nearly burst into tears.

"Send someone to bring him home now!"

Meanwhile.

The eight reclusive clans had received the news too. Mount Zhongnan was now fitted with real time communication and Fang Qiu had been watching all this time.

The moment he heard that Jiang Ning was back, he quickly ran to the deep section of Mount Zhongnan with his men.

"Master!"

Fang Qiu spotted Jiang Ning from afar and his tears started falling. He ran over and fell to his knees.

"You're back! That's great! That's great!"

Jiang Ning reached out and helped Fang Qiu to his feet. He patted him on the head and said, "What are you crying about? I'm not dead yet."

He looked up and saw the other elders standing behind Fang Qiu. He could sense that the air

# NH

around them was a little different now.

Before going into the mountain, he had told them everything he understood about the Extreme Fist Technique. He didn't know how much they could learn from it, but it was definitely useful to a certain extent.

"Master, we were all very worried for you." Fang Qiu took a deep breath.

He had been really afraid that Jiang Ning would go and never come back.

He wanted to follow Jiang Ning in, even though he might not be of much help. But at least if Jiang Ning ran into danger, he could help to take a blow for Jiang Ning.

"The other side..." The cemetery caretaker had come along too.

His empty sleeve flapped gently in the wind. "Is the other side alright?"

"It's not doing well," said Jiang Ning. "Something is going to happen."

The cemetery caretaker paled.

"We'll talk when we get back," said Jiang Ning.

This was not the time or place to talk about such things. He had the antidote on hand, so the first thing he needed to do was to save Lin Yuzhen.

Jiang Ning didn't waste any time and didn't even

# NH

leave Fang Qiu with any instructions, and just left Mount Zhongnan.

The wolves were all waiting at the foot of the mountain.

They were standing in a row and their bodies were straight.

“Big Boss!” greeted the wolves in unison.

Jiang Ning nodded. He could sense the change in their aura as well.

While he wasn't around, they didn't slack off and continued to work hard and train hard in order to improve themselves while waiting for him to come back.

“We knew you'd definitely make it back,” said Brother Gou.

He never doubted that.

From the moment he had decided to follow Jiang Ning, Jiang Ning had become his one and only god!

There was nothing that Jiang Ning couldn't do. As long as Jiang Ning wanted to do it, he was able to.

“Let's go home!” Jiang Ning hopped onto the helicopter and they left for Donghai.

He couldn't wait to get back.

# NH

He had the antidote that Liu Chuandao prepared for him. This antidote would help Lin Yuzhen to regain consciousness.

His wife and child were at stake, and these were the two most important people to him.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

The atmosphere in Donghai seemed to change because Jiang Ning was back.

Lin Wen and Su Mei were even more overjoyed to hear that Jiang Ning was back.

The helicopter landed in front of the Lin family bungalow. Both Lin Wen and Su Mei's eyes were bloodshot from crying.

"Mum! Dad!" Jiang Ning quickly went forward to hug them both tightly.

"I'm just glad you're back safely! I'm so glad you're back!" said Su Mei as she cried. "We're all waiting for you. Yuzhen and the child are both waiting for you!"

Jiang Ning nodded and ran upstairs immediately.

He did not waste even one second.

Jiang Ning pushed the room door open and a faint fragrance hit his nose. That was the fragrance that Lin Yuzhen's hair always had.

Even though she was lying motionless on the bed, her parents had taken good care of her.

"Yuzhen, I'm back." Jiang Ning's eyes teared up a little.

He wasn't used to seeing Lin Yuzhen so quiet. He still liked that active and energetic Lin Yuzhen.

Lin Yuzhen quietly lay on the bed without moving. Her slight breathing really made Jiang Ning's

# NH

heart ache.

He walked over and sat down on the bed before gently picking Lin Yuzhen's hand up.

"Did you miss me?"

"I missed you so much."

"I'm back, so you'll be fine, don't worry."

Jiang Ning spoke softly to himself, but also seemed to be speaking to Lin Yuzhen. He gently caressed Lin Yuzhen's face and took a deep breath.

He took the bottle in his jacket out.

He uncorked it and a refreshing smell immediately wafted out.

Jiang Ning took out a pill, pried Lin Yuzhen's mouth open a little, then put the pill into her mouth. He hoped that she would wake up immediately.

Time went by slowly. Jiang Ning sat there and continued to hold Lin Yuzhen's hand without moving.

Jiang Ning's gaze was filled with gentleness as he looked at the face that he thought about every single day and night.

The only person in the world who could make him have such a tender gaze in his eyes was Lin Yuzhen.

## NH

He never lived for himself for the first half of his life. But now, Lin Yuzhen had taught him how to live for himself, and how to be happy.

But his happiness was Lin Yuzhen.

Suddenly, Lin Yuzhen's finger moved a little.

Even though Jiang Ning had been through a lot in life and was calm almost all the time, he started getting excited, as if he had been electrocuted.

"Yuzhen?" Jiang Ning called out.

He could see Lin Yuzhen's eyelashes flutter slightly and he felt tears coming to his eyes. "Yuzhen! Can you hear me? Yuzhen!"

Lin Yuzhen's eyes slowly opened and her vision was slightly blurry. But she could tell that the man sitting by her bed with reddened eyes who seemed to be crying was her husband.

"Hubby, why are you crying?" Lin Yuzhen's voice was very soft and a little confused. "How long have I been sleeping? My head feels so heavy."

"Not very long." Jiang Ning tried to calm himself down. "How do you feel?"

"That was such a long dream." Lin Yuzhen bit her lip and some color started returning to her face. "I seem to have slept through a really long dream and nearly couldn't wake up from it."

Jiang Ning's heart nearly dropped.



# NH

He was so glad that he had found the antidote. He couldn't imagine what he would do if Lin Yuzhen had remained in that dream all by herself.

"What dream was that? Why was it so long?" he asked.

"I don't want to talk about it." Lin Yuzhen shook her head and slowly sat up. She wrapped her arms around Jiang Ning's neck and hugged him tightly. "It was a nightmare and I don't want to remember it."

Jiang Ning nodded and gently patted her back.

"Don't think about it anymore then. It's over anyway. You won't have such nightmares anymore." He took a deep breath. "I'll always be by your side, so you won't go through such nightmares anymore."

"Uh huh." Lin Yuzhen enjoyed this familiar embrace, the familiar warmth, and his familiar smell.

"Hubby, I missed you."



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

# NH

“I missed you too.”

Jiang Ning gently caressed Lin Yuzhen’s hair and didn’t want to think about how he had managed to get through the last few weeks.

He never let anyone else see his disappointment or sadness because he was a man, and more importantly, he was this family’s pillar of support.

If he couldn’t remain strong, then everyone would collapse.

Jiang Ning knew this very well.

But now, Lin Yuzhen had regained consciousness, and she was still the way she used to be. Jiang Ning suddenly felt like the world had become alive again.

He had always known that Lin Yuzhen was his entire universe.

The two of them didn’t say anything and just held each other like this.

It was as if this warm embrace was enough to make both of them feel secure.

After some time, Lin Yuzhen’s stomach suddenly started growling.

She immediately blushed.

“You’re hungry?” Jiang Ning’s eyes immediately widened. “You can’t go hungry! Neither mother nor child must go without food!”

## NH

He quickly got up and helped Lin Yuzhen to lie down again.

“Lie down first, I’ll get the doctors to check you over, uh, what do you want to eat?” Jiang Ning said everything in one breath and spoke very quickly.

“I just want to eat Mum’s cooking, anything will do.”

Lin Yuzhen nodded obediently.

Jiang Ning immediately walked out of the room. Su Mei and the rest were already waiting anxiously outside.

“Is she awake?” asked Su Mei with bloodshot eyes.

“She’s awake and a little hungry. Mum, could you cook something she likes?”

“Of course!”

Su Mei glanced into the room quickly, then ran down to the kitchen to get busy.

Jiang Ning immediately got the doctors waiting outside to give Lin Yuzhen a full checkup and to see if the baby was alright.

Even though he had gone through so many storms in life and escaped death so many times, Jiang Ning was still rather nervous now.

Half an hour later, the doctors walked out again.

# NH

“Mr Jiang, Miss Lin is in good health, and the baby is normal. Everyone can relax now.”

“Thank you.”

Jiang Ning finally breathed a sigh of relief.

He walked into the room to see Lin Yuzhen lying a little restlessly on the bed.

“I want to get up and walk about.”

“The doctors said that it’s better for you to lie down for a while more,” said Jiang Ning gently. “After you have something to eat, I’ll go walk with you, alright?”

“Ok.” Lin Yuzhen nodded.

In no time, Su Mei had come back upstairs with food and the smell filled the air.

“Mum!”

Su Mei couldn’t stop her tears when she heard Lin Yuzhen call out to her. She immediately hugged Lin Yuzhen and burst into tears.

“I’m so glad you’ve woken up! I was so scared!” Su Mei rubbed her eyes. “Eat up while it’s hot, otherwise it won’t be tasty anymore.”

It was a good thing that Lin Yuzhen had regained consciousness, so she shouldn’t be crying.

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief as they watched Lin Yuzhen eat.

## NH

Jiang Ning didn't say anything and just quietly watched as Lin Yuzhen ate everything. He didn't get tired of looking at her at all. After she finished the last of the soup, he took a tissue and wiped her mouth.

"Are you full?"

"Uh huh. I'm full." Lin Yuzhen gently rubbed her tummy. "He's full too."

This long and terrible nightmare had finally passed and everything had returned to normal again.

After resting for a while more, Jiang Ning helped Lin Yuzhen out of bed. This was the first time in a long time that she went down the stairs and walked into the courtyard outside. She hadn't seen the sun in such a long time, and she suddenly felt like being able to come out in the sun was such a wonderful thing.

Ye Shan and the rest had come too.

After finding out that Jiang Ning had returned, they knew that Lin Yuzhen would definitely regain consciousness. After all, Jiang Ning had gone into the mountain gate precisely to bring the antidote out.

And he had clearly succeeded in doing so.