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Luo Long told everyone to leave the room and stay out.

There was a hint of worry, anxiety and unease on his face.

Luo Qi was not behaving like himself right now. He seemed like a different person and felt like a complete stranger to Luo Long. He had no idea how powerful Luo Qi was at this moment. They were doomed if Jiang Ning couldn't beat him.

That would mean the end of Jiang Ning, Tianlian Sect and everyone else.

Time crawled. Every minute spent outside was torture.

Standing in the ancestral hall was an altar that was lined with numerous tablets that belonged to generations of ancestors from Tianlian Sect, including the past generations of sect leaders and elders. Their seniority and rank dictated where their tablet was placed.

These were the founders and builders of Tianlian Sect and men who had done great things for the sect.

Anyone who came after them should accord them the proper respect and awe that they deserved.

Luo Qi walked right up to the altar and allowed his eyes to sweep past the tablets.

"You must feel anxious for the sect and the mediocrity it has languished in for so long." He

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barked out a laugh. A flicker of scorn flashed across his eyes as he remained standing. "There's no point in fretting though. You're all dead. There's nothing you can do. I'm the only one you can count on now."

He reached out and let his fingers slide across one tablet. "You gave everything of yourself when you created Tianlian Sect and ended up sacrificing yourself so that the sect could secure its position in the mountain. But the sect wasn't powerful enough then. It was still too weak."

Luo Qi shook his head as he lost himself in the past.

Tianlian Sect had struggled to get to where it was today. He had witnessed its labors since he had been a child. When he had been made the chief, he had sworn that he would transform Tianlian Sect into the most powerful sect in the mountain.

He would resort to anything to fulfill his promise.

His ambition became the only thought in his mind. He seemed slightly crazed as his eyes gradually became colored with greed and lust. His current ambition no longer seemed enough.

Luo Qi wanted more.

PAK!

With a sudden flip of his hand, he knocked the tablet over and laughed. "I'm the one who's going to make a difference. This place is going to be mine too."

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Without any mercy, he swept his arm across the altar and shoved the founder's altar aside. The spot in the middle of the altar was now vacant.

He might not be dead yet, but he was confident that when he died, his tablet would occupy the vacant spot.

If any of the elders were present now, they would find Luo Qi's actions an utter travesty. In fact, they might attack Luo Qi and kill him for his blasphemous actions.

But they were not. Alone in the ancestral hall, Luo Qi was convinced that he had everything in the palm of his hand. He alone would control Tianlian Sect and everything in the mountain!

He was going to become the most powerful man in the mountain and the one who ruled over everyone.

"What a wonderful feeling this is," Luo Qi burst out into mad laughter, stretching his arms out and lifting his face skyward as he laughed. "This feels incredible!"

SWOOSH!

A sudden wind rushed towards him.

Luo Qi's face darkened.

"Who is it?" He roared thunderously as he whirled around, raised his fist and sent it flying towards his attacker without a single look.

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BAM!

A deafening thunder erupted from the forceful collision of two fists.

Both men were shoved aside.

Luo Qi looked up.

“It’s you!” He did not expect to see Jiang Ning here. In fact, he didn’t expect Jiang Ning to have the guts to assassinate him. “I’m going to kill you.”

A streak of black mist flashed across Luo Qi’s eyes. He went berserk instantly and charged at Jiang Ning with his fists waving angrily in the air.

“He’s really fast!” Jiang Ning’s pupils contracted. He watched Luo Qi charge towards him and concluded that he had never seen anyone move that quickly.



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BAM!

BAM!

BAM!

The two men exchanged a flurry of blows. Jiang Ning clearly sensed that Luo Qi's attacks were getting quicker by the second. He seemed to be powered by a limitless well of power.

He was more powerful than the Senior Elder of Qingshan Sect.

Jiang Ning wasn't going to give Luo Qi any chances to attack him. He unleashed the Extreme Fist Technique in a flurry of punches, swinging fists filled with power at his enemy.

They appeared to be evenly matched!

Luo Qi's punches were fluid and tainted with an air of darkness while Jiang Ning's punches were forceful and unforgiving.

As yin and yang collided fiercely with each other, Luo Qi found himself gradually being overpowered.

"There's something wrong with this technique of yours!" yelled Jiang Ning. "What technique is this?"

He could sense a trace of something abhorrent exuding from Luo Qi.

"Something's not right with him!"

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Luo Qi didn't answer him. He was slowly spiraling into madness and his reason was forsaking him. All his eyes could see was Jiang Ning and violence!

All he desired was his enemy's death!

Streams of black mist gradually appeared in his eyes and were on their way to coloring the white of his eyes black.

That strange, abhorrent aura was becoming more intense.

Luo Qi's attacks were becoming more powerful and faster.

"HA!" Jiang Ning's joints cracked loudly as he sped up suddenly and sent his fist flying forward.

KABOOM!

The blow drove Luo Qi back forcefully. He knocked into the altar and knocked over numerous tablets.

The commotion could be heard outside the ancestral hall. Something flickered in Luo Long's eyes then.

"Jiang Ning's made his move," he thought quietly to himself.

"What's going on? Did something happen?"

"What's going on in the ancestral hall?"

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A look of alarm appeared on the faces of a few elders. They were ready to rush into the ancestral hall any moment.

“It must be the ancestral spirits!” Luo Long shouted immediately before sticking his arms out and stopping the other elders from taking action. “It’s the ancestral spirits. The chief had shown disrespect to them and incurred their wrath. The ancestral spirits have made themselves and their anger known.”

Luo Qi had shown disrespect to their ancestors earlier. He had remained standing while the rest had gotten onto their knees. In addition, the way that he had carried himself had pointed to a complete absence of respect for the sect’s ancestors. The elders had been displeased by what they had seen.

But they had not expected their ancestors to make their presence and their displeasure known.

Luo Long fell to his knees the next moment and kowtowed.

“Greetings, esteemed ancestors!”

The other elders followed suit meekly and got onto their knees hastily as well. Their foreheads kissed the ground as they shouted in unison.

“Greetings, esteemed ancestors!”

Meanwhile, in the ancestral hall, Tianlian Sect’s ancestral tablets had been swept off the altar and now scattered across the floor. With a bestial growl, Luo Qi made another charge at Jiang Ning.

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Without any hesitation, Jiang Ning unleashed the Extreme Fist Technique and let loose another flurry of punches, striking from both sides as if he were two persons. One fist smashed into Luo Qi's face and the other struck Luo Qi down.

BAM!

A terrifying force shot through his body and struck Luo Qi's acupoints, immobilizing him.

"I'm not going to kill you," said Jiang Ning. "But I need you to stay down."

He couldn't kill Luo Qi right now. Mr Lang would know what was going on if he died. Jiang Ning needed him alive.

He pulled his fist back. Luo Qi lay motionlessly on the ground. He had passed out.

Jiang Ning didn't waste any time at all. He found the antidote on Luo Qi, pulled him up into a kneeling position, then vanished in a flash.

After a long while, Luo Long finally lifted his head up. The fight had ended.

Luo Qi had not stepped out of the ancestral hall. Jiang Ning had succeeded.

What a terrifying man!

Who was Jiang Ning? What was he truly capable of?

"Let's go in and take a look!"

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Luo Long got up and led the other elders into the ancestral hall. They were greeted with the sight of Luo Qi kneeling before the altar and a floor scattered with tablets that had been knocked off the altar. The sect founder's altar was found under Luo Qi's foot!

“Chief, what are you doing?”

“That's blasphemy! You're disrespecting our ancestors!”

“That must be why our ancestors have shown themselves!”



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Luo Long stepped forward and pretended to knock Luo Qi out with a blow to the back of his neck.

“Guards!” He yelled. “Lock the chief up!”

Fury colored his face. The other elders looked equally livid.

Luo Qi might be the chief of the sect, but even the chief wasn't allowed to disrespect the ancestors. This was an act of blasphemy! It was a grave crime!

Jiang Ning had knocked Luo Qi out earlier but Luo Long had concealed that fact with his timely blow. Luo Qi lay motionlessly on the floor right now.

“I'm glad everything worked out.” Luo Long released a sigh of relief secretly. He wondered how powerful Jiang Ning truly was. The man had managed to knock Luo Qi out without injuring the latter.

He must be way more powerful than Luo Qi.

“He's a monster,” cursed Luo Long. It seemed reasonable that he wasn't Jiang Ning's match.

They restored the tablets to their rightful places immediately. The elders got down on their knees then and sought their ancestors' forgiveness.

After some time, they finally got up and left the ancestral hall quietly.

“What should we do now?” Everyone eyed Luo Qi's

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prone form. "The chief's broken the rules of our sect with his actions."

This wasn't a mere misdemeanor. Anyone else would have been executed on the spot.

"He's still the chief. Let's lock him up, then discuss what we're to do with him," said Luo Long.

This wasn't the time to deal with Luo Qi. Besides, he was the chief of Tianlian Sect and the most powerful man in the sect. They couldn't just kill him.

He had been manipulated and used.

His top priority was to assist Jiang Ning in freeing the other sects' sect leaders and elders. They would need to put up a performance and it had to be sufficiently realistic that Mr Lang believed it.

Luo Long was the one who was in charge now. He immediately made changes to the sect's defenses.

Under the guise of strengthening the sect's defenses, he secretly created loopholes that would aid Jiang Ning's rescue mission.

He wasn't doing it for Jiang Ning or the prisoners. Once they were cured of their poison, it would be a piece of cake for them to walk out of Tianlian Sect.

He simply didn't want Tianlian Sect to suffer too many casualties.

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Meanwhile, Jiang Ning had returned to the cave where Elder Ting Feng and the other prisoners were held. No one dared to show any disrespect to the prisoners this time. Everyone was afraid of incurring Luo Long's wrath and being killed.

"Esteemed elders, please enjoy your meal." The disciples delivering the meals spoke to their prisoners in a deferential tone. They dared not do anything inappropriate at all.

Jiang Ning slipped the antidote to Elder Ting Feng and gave the latter a slight nod.

The elder nodded as well, then took the antidote discreetly. When Jiang Ning and the other disciples from Tianlian Sect left, he distributed the antidote to the rest.

Outside the cave, Jiang Ning was waiting.

"Did you know? Elder Luo Long killed the last group of disciples who delivered the meals because they'd disrespected these sect leaders and elders."

"They were asking for it. These prisoners are still sect leaders, after all."

"Humiliating them is akin to dishonoring Tianlian Sect's name. Of course Elder Luo Long was angry."

"We should all watch out and accord these seniors the respect that they deserve."

The disciples spoke in hushed tones. None of

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them wished to suffer the same fate that the previous group of disciples had.

Having packed everything, they got ready to leave. That was when they realized that Jiang Ning was just standing there.

“Aren't you leaving?”

“I'm waiting for someone,” said Jiang Ning.

“Who are you waiting for? Is there someone else still inside?”

A few disciples looked around in confusion. All of their fellow disciples had left the cave.

“They're coming out any minute.” Jiang Ning turned and looked. Upon hearing the sound of footsteps, he nodded. “They're out.”

As soon as he said that, the disciples saw Elder Ting Feng and the other prisoners step out of the cave.



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The Tianlian Sect disciples gasped in fear as alarm flashed across their faces.

“How...how did you get out?”

“Aren't you poisoned?”

“You...”

Their faces were pale. No one had expected the elders and sect leaders of the other sects to escape. They didn't know what to do.

“Get down on your knees,” said Jiang Ning. “Put your hands behind your head and shut your eyes if you want to live.”

The men hesitated for a moment. They knew that they were powerless before these sect leaders and could be killed within a blink of an eye.

They exchanged looks with one another after hearing what Jiang Ning had told them. One of them did as Jiang Ning had instructed and the others followed soon after.

Jiang Ning paid them no heed, turning instead towards Elder Ting Feng and the other elders and sect leaders.

“Let's get going. I'm going to kill Luo Qi!” Yun Zhongke growled furiously as his eyes glowed murderously.

He had been imprisoned and made to suffer such humiliation. If he could, he would slaughter everyone from Tianlian Sect and let rivers of

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blood stain their halls.

Li Xuan and the others were equally enraged. Luo Qi was the reason they were in such a state now.

“You’ll still die if you kill him,” said Jiang Ning calmly. “But I won’t stop you if that’s what you want to do.”

Yun Zhongke froze momentarily, then frowned slightly.

Elder Ting Feng had told Yun Zhongke who Jiang Ning was. Without Jiang Ning, they would have remained as prisoners in the cave for the rest of their lives. Despite that, Yun Zhongke couldn’t contain his disgruntlement at hearing Jiang Ning’s words.

“Are we going to let him off so easily?”

“If you want to kill anyone, you should kill the mastermind who’s behind everything.”

“The mastermind?”

They eyed Jiang Ning curiously.

“Let’s get out of this place first. We can leave the discussion to later,” said Elder Ting Feng. “I’ll suggest that we listen to what Jiang Ning has to say.”

Having said that, he nodded at Jiang Ning. Jiang Ning didn’t say a word as they headed down the mountain path.

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The ones who remained exchanged a silent look with one another before making their way out too.

It didn't take long for Tianlian Sect to realize that their prisoners had escaped. The group was waylaid by members of Tianlian Sect who tried to recapture them, but fortunately, the route that they had chosen was relatively deserted. The sect leaders easily broke through the sect's defenses and escaped from Tianlian Sect's grounds.

They left Tianlian Sect, made their way down the mountain and disappeared into the forest.

None of the men from Tianlian Sect caught up with them.

"What's going on? You're all good-for-nothings!" thundered Luo Long furiously. "Go after them right now. We must recapture them. Tianlian Sect is going to be in trouble if our rivals return to their sects."

The other elders were wracked with anxiety.

They had imprisoned a number of sect leaders and elders from other sects. Their escape was akin to letting their enemies loose.

Once the other great sects joined forces to seek revenge on Tianlian Sect, the latter would suffer attacks from all sides. They wouldn't be able to hold their ground.

Luo Long looked at everyone. "Who started this? Tell me, who's the one who caused this mess? Who's going to be marked as a sinner if Tianlian

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Sect were to perish?”

Rage came over everyone. This was all Luo Qi's fault!

But what could they do now?

Killing him wasn't going to solve their problem.

“My fellow elders, we must be prepared. This is going to be the toughest challenge that Tianlian Sect will ever face!”

Meanwhile, Jiang Ning and the others had descended the mountain.

They had finally regained their freedom. The respective sect leaders were overcome by waves of emotions. They turned around and stared at Tianlian Sect with a murderous glow in their eyes. How they wished that they could lead their men up the mountain right now and level the entire sect! That was the only way their wrath could be appeased.

“Who's the mastermind behind everything?” Yun Zhongke turned towards Jiang Ning. “Don't you dare think that we're going to do whatever you tell us to just because you saved us. I'm not going to go easy on you if you can't give me a name.”

Jiang Ning threw a glance at him.

“Seems like your poison isn't cured yet,” he said mildly. “Did it damage your brains? I'll kill you if you speak to me this way again.”