

Wu Wei-Tao, who had been observing the fight from afar, noticed the commotion in the distance.

When he saw the Audi's license plate and the number "00001" printed on it, he leapt from his seat in alarm.

"Mayor Wu, isn't that the provincial secretary's car? Why is he here? Is he here because of Ye Fan as well?" one of Wu Wei-Tao's men said in a trembling voice.

This was the head of a province that they were talking about.

Such men were akin to the dukes and lords of old.

He called the shots in Jiangdong.

A single command from this man could have Wu Wei-Tao stripped of all his titles and expelled from his office.

Wu Wei-Tao and his men shook with terror.

"Stop asking so many questions and hurry up. We've got to receive Secretary He."



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Wu Wei-Tao had his own questions about why He Lan-Shan was here, but this wasn't the time for that.

He hurried downstairs to receive He Lan-Shan.

He might have been suspended from his duties at the moment, but he was still the mayor of Yunzhou.

His superiors had just arrived in Yunzhou. As the host, he had to receive his new guests.

“Secretary He, you should have told me that you were coming. I wasn't prepared to receive you at all. I feel bad for not making the necessary preparations for my esteemed guests.”

The fleet of black Audis had stopped next to the Haiyuan Restaurant.

The doors to the cars swung open. He Lan-Shan was the first to alight from his vehicle and was followed by a group of officials. He had a suit on and a stern look on his face. An intimidating aura exuded from his person.



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The crowd couldn't help but be cowed by the overpowering aura that this group of new arrivals exuded.

It was akin to staring into a deep abyss. The officials inspired a deep sense of awe in the onlookers.

“Is this the man who heads our provincial government? Is that the kind of authority and power you're supposed to exude when you're the head of a province?”

This was the first time that many in the crowd had seen such influential figures at such a close distance. Excitement bubbled inside them as they stared from afar with eyes filled with admiration and awe.

Everyone craved power.

Men of power naturally drew the awe and respect of the people around them.

Even Wu Wei-Tao, who was the mayor of a city, had to show He Lan-Shan and his men the utmost respect. Before these men, he was nothing but a lowly subordinate who had to present his most humble and modest self.



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He Lan-Shan simply frowned with displeasure and scoffed.

“I’ll deal with you later for the mess you made in Yunzhou.” He looked at his watch, then turned towards his colleagues. “We’re running late. Come on, let’s receive the Old Master.”

He shoved Wu Wei-Tao aside and paid no attention neither him nor Ye Fan. He ignored Xur Jun-Lin and Xur He entirely.

They headed for an empty field nearby and waited.

Everyone was befuddled by their action. It was then that a loud deafening sound erupted in the air.

Harsh winds began to stir and howl.

A storm rose in their midst, stirring fallen leaves and dust and sending violent waves rippling across Yunwu Lake.

A deafening rumble reverberated in the air.

“What’s that noise?”

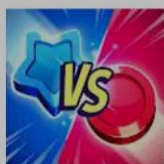


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A dark shadow appeared in the horizon amidst everyone's alarm.

Initially, it was only a small blemish in the sky.

Then, it became more visible as the rumbling in the air grew louder.

"That's a plane!"

"Yes, it's a plane!"

"No, wait, it's a helicopter!"

"Is Secretary He waiting for that helicopter?"

"Heavens, who's powerful enough to warrant a personal reception by the head of the Jiangdong provincial government?"

"Is it the head of the state?"

The appearance of the helicopter caused a commotion in the crowd.

The air brimmed with fear, alarm, shock and incredulity.

Li Er and the others had lived a long life. The



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most memorable scene that they had witnessed had been at the bottom of Mount Tai, when Wu He-Rong had leapt from the skies.

That appeared underwhelming when compared to what they were witnessing right now.

The head of the provincial government was waiting to receive a visitor who had flown into Yunzhou in a helicopter.

“What’s going on? It seems like everyone important is gathering in Yunzhou today.” Gasps of shock rose in the air. A few onlookers appeared on the verge of tears.

The helicopter slowly landed amidst the public’s looks of shock and awe, sending fierce winds lashing out and yellowed dust flying in the air.

Dirt and dust blinded everyone’s eyes momentarily as a cold wind whipped their forms mercilessly.

Li Er, Chen Ao and the others squinted and grunted at the deafening sound of the helicopter’s engine as the latter threatened





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to burst their eardrums.

The rumbling of the engine finally ceased. An old man with a head of white hair was helped out of the helicopter.

He Lan-Shan and his men bowed immediately and extended their greetings towards the old man with the utmost respect and deference. "On behalf of the people of Jiangdong, I, He Lan-Shan, welcome Old Master Lu!"

The other officials of the Jiangdong provincial government followed suit.

"Old Master Lu, welcome to Jiangdong!" A chorus of voices resounded in the air as they extended their greetings towards the old man.

Their voices were like the clash of cymbals reverberating deafeningly in the ears of the rest.

"Old Master Lu? Are they referring to the head of the Lu family, the most respected pioneer of our nation, Lu Cang-Qiong?"

Dear heavens!



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Li Er nearly wet himself. Blood drained from Chen Ao's face while Lei San trembled and nearly fell to the ground.

Wang Jie-Xi stood rooted to the spot, his eyes staring widely at the sight before him. He was utterly dumbstruck.

Dear heavens, was Lu Cang-Qiong here as well?

Would the Lu and Xur families not rest until they killed Ye Fan?

The men and women of Jiangdong trembled with fear.

These were men and women of immense influence in their own cities. Yet they shook like leaves in a storm in the presence of Lu Cang-Qiong. The immensely powerful man had all of them shrinking into themselves and trembling quietly in fear.

They had not committed any grievous misdeed but should the government wish to have them dealt with, it could easily find fault with them.

They were terrified that Lu Cang-Qiong might



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try to exterminate all of them.

As Li Er, Chen Ao and the others worried about their fates, the Xur family and Wu Wei-Tao were rejoicing.

“I can’t believe it. Old Master Lu is here! Ye Fan’s not going to get out of this alive,” Wu Wei-Tao thought gleefully to himself.

This was a man whom He Lan-Shan had to personally receive when he had arrived at Yunzhou. Who was Ye Fan compared to such a powerful man? The latter wouldn’t even have to lift a finger to get rid of Ye Fan!



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“Fei, leave before anyone notices you.”

Everyone at Haiyuan Restaurant started making plans for their loved ones amidst the shocking news of whom they were to receive next.

Shen Jiu-Yi and Old Master Xia secretly urged Shen Fei and Xia Xue to slip away while everyone was still in a state of shock.

After all, Lu Cang-Qiong’s arrival was only going to make matters worse for them.

“What are you afraid of, Dad? We have Mr Chu. He got an entire army to kneel before him. Even the Military God has declared his loyalty to Mr Chu. Lu Cang-Qiong is just an old man. He might be amazing when he was young but he’s retired now. Why should we be afraid of someone who doesn’t have any real power? Besides, he might not even be as incredible as Mr Chu is right now when he was younger,” said Shen Fei confidently.

Shen Fei had known Ye Fan for a long time. His Brother Fan had never disappointed him when it came to showing others what he was truly made of.

He had proven himself during the fight at Mount Tai, at the Midautumn Night Auction and at the battle at Dongchang Lake.

The Xur family had thrown everything that they had got at Mr Chu and the young man had taken them down effortlessly.

Shen Fei was convinced that he had made the right choice in pledging his loyalty to Brother Fan.

“That’s right, Grandpa. Shen Fei makes a lot of sense. Look at how amazing Mr Chu is! Lu Cang-Qiong is just an old man who’s retired a long time ago. His presence isn’t going to change anything. He doesn’t hold any actual power,” said Xia Xue as she echoed Shen Fei’s sentiments.

Neither Shen Fei nor Xia Xue believed that Lu Cang-Qiong’s arrival would change anything.

Mr Chu had made the army and the Military God submit to his authority, after all. That was how incredibly powerful he was.

What power did the Lu family hold? Did they truly possess such incredible power that

they could turn the tide of this fight?

“You children know nothing. Lu Cang-Qiong might be retired but his words still hold sway in China. You cannot imagine the degree of power and influence that the Lu family wields. Lu Cang-Qiong’s son, Lu He, is one of the most powerful men in China. He’s a top ranking official in the government and has the ear of our most powerful leaders. Lu He’s the one with actual and immense political clout.”

What?

“Lu He is his son?” blurted out Shen Fei. The mention of that name had him reeling back in shock.

He had heard that name mentioned countless times in the news.

But he had not expected this incredibly powerful figure to be Lu Cang-Qiong’s son.

That explained why He Lan-Shan had had to receive Lu Cang-Qiong in person when the old man had arrived in Yunzhou.

It had been because the old man’s son was

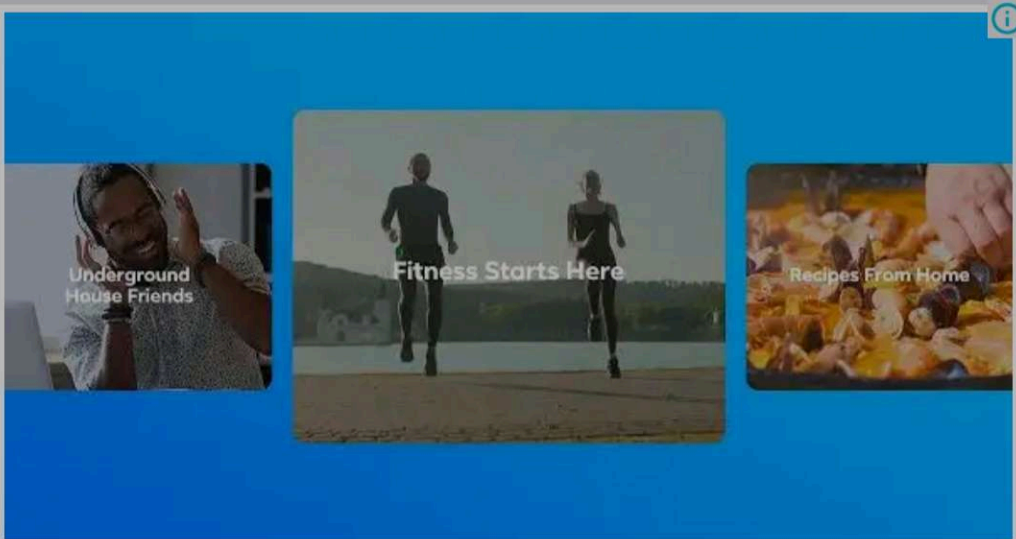
Lu He.

“Whose son did you think he was? The Lu family is one of the four most powerful families in Yanjing because of the political influence that they wield. The members of the Lu family are scattered across the whole country and hold important positions in various levels of the government.”

“Lu Cang-Qiong himself is one of the pioneers of this nation and a well-respected figure in the country. He fought alongside our head of state. He’s one of the few reasons why the descendants of the Lu family are able to enjoy their current prestige right now. He might be old but he continues to hold sway in our country.”

“He Shan-Lan’s got to listen to what he says too. Do you still think that he’s just an old man whom we do not have to fear at all?” said Shen Jiu-Yi sternly to his son. His face had gone pale.

Shen Fei and Xia Xue had reeled back in shock after hearing Shen Jiu-Yi’s words. Their legs seemed to have turned to jelly while tremors coursed through their bodies uncontrollably.



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They knew why their elders were so afraid of the Lu and Xur families now.

The power and influence that these families in Yanjing held wasn't something that an ordinary person could rival or fight against.

"Brother Fan seems to have gotten himself into some really serious trouble this time." Shen Fei's eyes glimmered with worry and fear as he stared at the slim figure in the distance.

He Lan-Shan appeared oblivious to the gasps of shock around him as he spoke warmly to the old man.

"Old Master Lu, I gathered my men and hurried here when I heard news of your arrival. I'm glad that I caught you in time. I wouldn't want you to feel unwelcomed when you arrive. Why are you here though? Yunzhou's a small city. I would have expected you to choose Jianghai instead. Jianghai's a great place for a visit. I know the place and can bring you around," said He Lan-Shan with a mixture of deference and confusion.

He Lan-Shan had received news this

morning that Lu He's father would be making a visit to Yunzhou.

He took action immediately. Lu Cang-Qiong was a well-respected figure in China and his son, Lu He, extremely powerful and influential. He had to receive the old man in person and extend his sincerest welcome.

Lu Cang-Qiong merely scoffed angrily. "He Lan-Shan, do you truly not know why I'm here? Are you asking a question simply for the sake of asking it?"

Lu Cang-Qiong's furious words made He Shan-Lan tremble momentarily. The latter explained hastily. "Old Master Lu, I was away at a meeting in the South and only returned yesterday. I've not exactly caught up with any matters that might have taken place during my absence."

"I see. Let me share with you what happened then. A few days ago, a terrible murder happened in Jiangdong. Two young men were killed. One of them is Xur Shao-Hua, the only son of Xur Hai-Sheng. You would know Xur Hai-Sheng as the commanding officer of Jiangbei. The other young man who was tragically murdered is my

grandson, Lu Ming-Feng!”

What?

Lu Cang-Qiong's words struck He Lan-Shan like a bolt of lightning.

His face paled instantly while his pupils contracted in alarm.

“I can't believe that something so terrible happened while I was gone!”

He Lan-Shan was not lying. Jiangdong saw their fair share of murders and deaths every day, but this was the grandson of Old Master Lu that they were talking about here. He had been killed in Jiangdong. As the head of the Jiangdong provincial government, he could not help but be alarmed and worried about the repercussions that might follow.

“What happened while I was away?” He turned and started questioning one of his men who was in charge of safety and security in the province.

The man appeared torn as he reported meekly. “Secretary He, I was going to report this to you this morning but we didn't have

time because we were in a hurry to reach Yunzhou. A few days ago, in Yunzhou...”

“Stop right there. I’m not interested in the details. Just tell me if the murderer’s been caught,” hollered He Lan-Shan.

The fear in the man’s eyes intensified. “Our team has arrived in Yunzhou and is aiding the city with its investigation. We will need to speak to the person in charge of the criminal investigation.”

He Lan-Shan summoned Wu Wei-Tao immediately.

“Get your ass over here right now. What the hell is going on? You’ve done a fine job as the major of the city, haven’t you? Why didn’t you protect the safety of Lu’s grandson? How are you going to answer for what’s happened?” yelled He Lan-Shan furiously at the mayor.

Wu Wei-Tao quaked with fear. He Lan-Shan stopped him before he could explain himself.

“You don’t have to say a word to me. Old Master Lu is here. Speak to him instead. You

Chapter 1139 I Won't Let You Off

should pray that he'll forgive you for your oversight. I won't if he doesn't!" said He Lan-Shan coldly.



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