

Chapter 1414 Chu Zheng-Liang's Fear

“Silence! Do you truly think it is your place to speak such words?” thundered the chief elder.

Chu Qi-Tian fell silent instantly.

But the chief elder did not pursue the matter.

Chu Qi-Tian was the Young Master of the Chu family, after all, and the only son of the head of the Chu family. His was a position of high regard and privilege.

Despite his position as the chief elder of Chu Sect, he should not put the young man in too difficult a spot.

Having voiced his displeasure, the chief elder left.

“Since Old Madam Chu left, the Chu family’s been getting worse with each new head. The previous head of the family clan, Chu Zheng-Hong, was an irresponsible young man who spent all his time with women and even messed around with a woman from the countryside. But he turned a new leaf and became the head of the family. He did a good job for many years and for some time, I thought he was going to be a good leader

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for the Chu family.”

“But a leopard never changes his spots. I heard that he deployed vast resources of Chu Sect and made a charge into Japan for some woman. How ridiculous! Chu Zheng-Liang’s become the new head of the Chu family and he appears to know the rules. However, he hasn’t done anything great to prove himself.”

“The Chu family used to be the most powerful of the three families in Chu Sect. They were spectacular. Numerous martial arts prodigies were born from the Chu family. The former great patriarch, Chu Yuan, had been a well-known figure throughout the martial arts circle. Chu Zheng-Hong might have been unruly and displayed improper conduct, but he’s also earned himself the name of Demon King Chu. Look at the Chu family now. You can’t call them anything else but mediocre. Their glory didn’t manage to last.”

Perhaps he was nostalgic for the past, because the chief elder began talking about the Chu family on the way back.

The recent upheaval in the Chu family had

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created quite a commotion.

The Chu family was an important part of Chu Sect, after all. Any changes in the Chu family would mean changes in Chu Sect too.

For example, Chu Zheng-Hong had been one of the deputy sect leaders of Chu Sect. His position had since been replaced by Chu Zheng-Liang.

However, they didn't really know the details of the upheaval that had occurred in the Chu family.

No one would air their family clan's dirty laundry in the open.

The chief elder had to piece together whatever he had heard from others. It was natural that he hadn't gotten the full picture.

With Tang Yun's orders, the incident with Ye Fan finally came to a rest.

Chu Sect did not hold another funeral. Instead, they buried the elders who had died by Ye Fan's hand that very night.

After being reprimanded by the chief elder,

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Chu Qi-Tian returned to the Chu family dejectedly.

“What happened? Why do you look so down? Did you get reprimanded by your master again?”

Chu Qi-Tian approached his father so that he could report to him what had happened at Chu Sect today.

As the deputy sect leader of Chu Sect, Chu Qi-Tian's father, Chu Zheng-Liang, was one of the five most powerful men in Chu Sect.

He was too important a man to attend the funeral of a few mere elders. That had been why he had sent his son, Chu Qi-Tian, to attend the event in his stead.

He was currently in his study dealing with matters of the family clan.

He frowned when he saw Chu Qi-Tian.

Chu Qi-Tian shook his head. “It's not my master. It's the chief elder.”

“Did that old man yell at you?” Chu Zheng-Liang's frown deepened.

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Even though the chief elder was a well-respected figure in Chu Sect, that didn't mean that he could disrespect the Chu family.

Chu Qi-Tian did not attempt to hide anything as he told his father exactly why the chief elder had reprimanded him.

The crease on Chu Zheng-Liang's brow smoothed. He turned away and continued working.

"Well, you deserved that. Tang Yun isn't simply your master, she's also the sect leader of Chu Sect and the leader of the three families in the sect. I wouldn't have dared to speak those words. How dare you disrespect her in that fashion. You're lucky that the chief elder let you off with a scolding. I would have given you two tight slaps," Chu Zheng-Liang said sternly.

Chu Qi-Tian looked away. "I know what I did was wrong, father. But I couldn't help myself. I was upset. I told you about the woman who stormed Chu Sect and who could rival the sect leader, didn't I? Do you know why she stormed Chu Sect?"

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"Why?" Chu Zheng-Liang seemed intrigued.

Chu Sect was a huge place.

Even though the Chu family clan's manor was located on the same mountain, it was still a significant distance from the main halls of Chu Sect's headquarters.

As a result, Chu Zheng-Liang might have heard about the commotion that had happened at the headquarters, but he had not known the details because he hadn't been there.

"It's for Chu Tian-Fan! She came because of Chu-Tian Fan. My master killed Chu Tian-Fan, so she came to avenge him."

What?

"She came for him?"

Chu Zheng-Liang seemed shocked. Tension stiffened his features as alarm rippled across the veneer of calm he had on his face.

"Well, who would have thought that a child who had been abandoned by the Chu family

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would have someone so powerful as his ally? We've all underestimated him."

No matter how powerful Ye Fan had been, this pair of father and son had been convinced that the young man had been fighting a one-man war, without any allies.

That had been why they had merely been startled when they had realized that Chu Tian-Fan had become a supreme grandmaster. His newfound status might be a threat to Chu Qi-Tian's position as the heir to the Chu family, but it hadn't posed so great a threat that they had been genuinely fearful or worried.

After all, they had the backing of the Chu family as well as its vast resources and army of martial artists at their beck and call.

Alone, Ye Fan was hardly a threat when pitted against the monstrous behemoth that was the Chu family.

With the appearance of that powerful young woman though, things had changed. Chu Zheng-Liang couldn't help but be taken aback.

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Her appearance meant the possibility that Ye Fan might have other equally powerful and terrifying allies on his side.

That meant that Ye Fan would become a threat not only to his own son's inheritance of the family clan but to the Chu clan itself!

"Fortunately, the sect leader Tang Yun killed him. It doesn't matter what kind of connections he's managed to build himself while he was alive. He's dead now. None of that matters anymore. We don't have to be afraid of anything," said Chu Zheng-Liang.

In the past, Chu Zheng-Liang was just like his son and hadn't treated Ye Fan as a genuine threat.

Then, he had a personal encounter with Ye Fan out in the Japanese seas. That had been when he had become wary of the danger that his nephew could pose to him.

Now, it seemed that Ye Fan had allies who were Tang Yun's match all along.

Chu Zheng-Liang couldn't bear to think about how great a risk Ye Fan might become if he hadn't died.

“Qi-Tian, you didn’t tell anyone that Ye Fan is Chu Tian-Fan, did you?” asked Chu Zheng-Liang as he leveled a solemn look at his own son.

Chu Qi-Tian shook his head. “No, father. No one knows that Ye Fan, the man who died by my master’s blade in the rainforest, is Chu Tian-Fan, the child who had been cast out from the Chu family.”

“Good.” Chu Zheng-Liang nodded. “Take that secret to the grave. Tell no one. We cast him out of the Chu family. His reputation as a powerful martial artist will only bring embarrassment to the Chu family. It would appear that we made a mistake by casting him out. It’ll also affect your status in the Chu family adversely.”

Chu Zheng-Liang was speaking the truth.

Everyone knew that Chu Qi-Tian was the most talented martial artist amongst the young ones in the Chu family.

Should anyone in the sect find out how powerful a martial artist Chu Tian-Fan was, they would start to compare him with Chu Qi-Tian.

It was clear who would emerge victorious.

Be it martial arts or his appeal to women, Chu Qi-Tian couldn't compare with Ye Fan at all.

That was why they wanted to keep Ye Fan's true identity a secret.

Chu Qi-Tian knew why they had to do so, of course.

That didn't mean that he wasn't unhappy about having to do it.

"Father, what does that country bumpkin have that I don't? It's upsetting enough that he's a stronger martial artist than I am, why does he get all the powerful women as well? How does he do it? What did he do to deserve them? Why? What has Chu Tian-Fan done? Why would such a powerful woman do something like that for him? Am I really not a match for some bastard child of a woman from the countryside?"

These repeated blows to his ego had left Chu Qi-Tian feeling defeated.

He had begun to question his own abilities.

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The confidence and arrogance that he had once possessed had been utterly crushed by Ye Fan.

Up to this point, he had not realized the chasm that separated him and Ye Fan.

While he had been alive, Ye Fan had been a far more powerful warrior than he could possibly be.

Now that he was dead, Ye Fan was still the victor. He had won the hearts of women whom Chu Qi-Tian could never hope to possess.

Chu Zheng-Liang's heart softened when he saw how defeated and frustrated his son was. He patted the young man's heart and said softly, in a comforting voice. "My son, why do you belittle yourself? I was inferior to your uncle in many ways in the past as well. Everyone's attention was drawn to your uncle. They said that he was a rare prodigy and the hope and future of the Chu family."

"But look at us now! Look at who's got the last laugh and who's the one who's the head of the family clan. It's me. One defeat hardly matters in the grand scheme of things. The

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victor is the one who gets the last laugh. Chu Tian-Fan's older than you. It's natural that he's the stronger martial artist. Who knows? You might be more powerful than he was when you reach his age."

"As for women, well, don't give up just yet. I've hunted down the perfect wife for you many years ago and gotten her father to promise her hand to you. Just make sure you marry her. Your father will have everything else all planned out for you. In a few decades, you'll be the one occupying the position that your master, Tang Yun is occupying now."

Chu Zheng-Liang's words were like a fireball that had erupted in the room, setting everything ablaze.

The ambition he had revealed in his words was grand beyond measure.

Chu Qi-Tian reeled with shock and awe.

"Father, are you saying...that I'm going to be the sect leader of Chu Sect? Are you telling me that I'm going to be the most powerful man in the world?"

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Chu Qi-Tian's greatest ambition had been to inherit the position as the head of the Chu family clan.

He had never imagined that he could be the head of all three families in Chu Sect and the most powerful man in the martial arts circle.

After all, all three families in Chu Sect were filled with powerful men and women.

There were also plenty other incredible and gifted martial artists in Chu Sect.

He was hardly a contender for the position of sect leader. He wasn't powerful or influential enough.

But his father had just told him that he had a chance. Chu Qi-Tian was stunned.

"Why not? My son's got the look of an emperor! I won't be surprised if you advance to the god realm and become as powerful as an actual god," laughed Chu Zheng-Liang. His voice was filled with love and pride for his son. "We still have a long way to go though. All you have to do now is to focus on your training. You have to become a grandmaster within the next two years. You

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should also spend more time with your future wife. Ideally, she should fall in love with you and not marry you because she was betrothed to you. Only then will she willingly give you everything she has.”

“Don’t worry, father. Look at how charming your son is! I can handle any woman. Tell me whom you’ve picked out for me! Who’s the one who caught your eye?” asked Chu Qi-Tian curiously.

Chu Zheng-Liang smiled. “You’re no stranger to her. She’s the young princess of the Jones family, Angie Jones.”

“Her? That eccentric loner?”

Everyone in the three families under Chu Sect had heard about the freak from the Jones family.

Chu Qi-Tian was no exception.

He was naturally displeased when he realized that his future wife was a freak.

“What’s wrong with you, father? How could you have me marry that freak? I don’t want to marry a woman and have her hang out

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with wild animals all the time.”

Chu Zheng-Liang wasn't irked by Chu Qi-Tian's protests. He simply gave his son a curious smile. “Don't make up your mind just yet. You should try to know her better. She's got a secret. If you manage to make her fall in love with you and have her submit completely to your will, you'll earn yourself an invincible ally.”

Chu Qi-Tian's curiosity was piqued. He asked his father what secret Angie harbored.

“It's still too early to say. Spend some time with her. You should pay her a visit today. Take a look at your future wife. I don't think you've met her before. I heard that she went missing a while ago and was recently found. As a representative of the Chu family, we should pay her a visit.”

Angie had been confined to her family home all these years. Besides her family, outsiders hadn't had much of an opportunity to see her.

“Alright. I'll do as you say.” Chu Qi-Tian nodded. He would pay a visit to the Jones's tomorrow.