

Chu Zheng-Liang returned to the Chu family that night and requested to speak to the elders.

The council of elders had the power to rein in the authority and power that the head of the Chu family held.

Chu Zheng-Hong had no power to change any decision that was reached unanimously by the elders, even if he disagreed with them.

After all, there was a reason that for the Chu family's longstanding supremacy in the realm of martial arts.

A democracy that kept those in power in check was definitely better than leaving the family in the hands of just one person like the Qiu family did.

"What did you just say?"

"Did Zheng-Hong really deploy the family's resources and declared war on Japan without consulting anyone?"

"What a fool!"

"How could he act unilaterally without seeking anyone's advice?"

“His actions might disrupt the Chu family’s ambitions. How is he going to answer for that?”

In the meeting room, the upper echelons of the Chu family were bristling with rage after having heard from Chu Zheng-Liang that Chu Zheng-Hong had led a big group of grandmasters into Japan and carried out a massacre.

They reached a unanimous decision after a discussion.

“We will recall Chu Zheng-Hong’s authority as the head of the Chu family. Chu Zheng-Liang will be in charge of the family until the old patriarch returns! Chu Zheng-Liang will take the Cloud Sun Token with him to Japan and recall our grandmasters. He will command Chu Zheng-Hong to return to the Chu family and face punishment!”

The Cloud Sun Token was akin to a tally that could deploy and dispatch the troops under one’s command.

The council of elders at the Chu family was the ones who held it.

The Cloud Sun Token represented the will of the Chu family and possessed authority that surpassed that of the head of the family.

The Chu family's rules dictated that the head of the family must kowtow in deference when he was presented with the Cloud Sun Token. It was a powerful item that could rein in the power and authority of the head of the family.

The Chu family was going to use the Cloud Sun Token to summon Chu Zheng-Hong back home.

It was evident that the upper echelons of the Chu family were livid at what Chu Zheng-Hong had done.

Chu Zheng-Liang got to Japan in the nick of time and managed to summon everyone back before things spiraled out of control.

He also commanded Chu Zheng-Hong to return to the Chu family immediately to face punishment.

But Chu Zheng-Hong seemed oblivious to Chu Zheng-Liang's words.

His eyes glowed with an icy, murderous rage as he stared Chu Zheng-Liang straight in the eye.

"My dear brother, please don't make things difficult for me. You should return home with me right now as our elders have

commanded you to. You can disrespect me, but are you going to disrespect the orders of our elders? You should know the consequences of disobeying the authority of the Cloud Sun Token,” said Chu Zheng-Liang.

They were in Tokyo. With the Cloud Sun Token in his hands, Chu Zheng-Liang stared at the man before him with a serious look in his eyes as he spoke slowly in a deep voice.

His words were heavy with the promise of what was to come if Chu Zheng-Hong disobeyed his order.

As the saying went, the royal family was the most heartless of all families.

The Chu family was the most powerful family in the world of martial arts and were akin to kings and queens in that realm.

The family’s history was rife with struggles for power.

No love was shared or lost between brothers.

“Master, let’s go home. We did act rather rashly this time,” said Han in a pleading tone.

Ye Fan had been expelled from the Chu family long ago, so his death meant nothing

to the Chu family. But Chu Zheng-Hong had deployed the family's resources for a personal grudge, so he was in the wrong this time.

There was still time to turn back before everything was too late.

Han was worried about the irreparable wedge that would eventually drive Chu Zheng-Hong and the Chu family apart if they didn't turn back now.

Their misfortune would become the fortune of someone else.

The air of murderous rage around Chu Zheng-Hong gradually receded and faded away as Han continued to plead with the man.

Chu Zheng-Hong looked up and stared Chu Zheng-Liang in the eye.

"News travel fast, doesn't it? You managed to find out what's going on just as I was getting started. Did you receive a call for help? I find it hard to believe that you have nothing to do with Fan's death," said Chu Zheng-Hong in a frosty tone.

Something flickered imperceptibly in Chu Zheng-Liang's eyes as he feigned confusion.

“Fan? Who’s that? Are you talking about the child whom the old patriarch cast out from our family years ago? My nephew? What happened to him? Is he somehow involved in what you’re doing now?”

Chu Zheng-Liang’s performance was flawless. But the icy look on Chu Zheng-Hong remained unchanged. “I hope for your sake that you have nothing to do with this. If I find out that you’re the one who got Fan killed, I swear that kinship wouldn’t save you then. I won’t spare you even if you’re my brother!”

His merciless words were heavy with the promise of violence.

Anyone who heard him would tremble with fear as their hair stood on end.

Chu Zheng-Liang began to feel slightly uneasy for some reason.

He was aware that his brother still cared for that son of his, but he had not expected the boy, a bastard birthed by a lowly woman who came from a village, to hold such an important place in his brother’s heart.

The man had broken the family rules in trying to seek revenge for his son’s death.

He had actually risked his position as the head of the family for a child that had been cast out of the family.

Chu Zheng-Liang knew his brother's character. This was a man who loved and cared deeply and who would transform into the devil himself the moment his wrath was incurred.

Chu Zheng-Liang was beginning to regret what he had done. Perhaps he should not have killed that young man.

But it was too late for him to do anything about it now.

All he could do now was to conceal his involvement in the young man's murder and do his best to usurp Chu Zheng-Hong's power and status.

When he and his son finally seized complete control over the Chu family, it wouldn't matter if Chu Zheng-Hong found out that he was the mastermind behind Ye Fan's death then. There was nothing he would be able to do about it.

Chu Zheng-Hong ended up returning to the family with Chu Zheng-Liang to face punishment.

Sato finally released a long sigh of relief when the grandmasters of the Chu family left Japan. His heart fell from his throat and returned to its rightful place in his chest.

“Thank god, they’re finally gone. I thought I was done for.” His near shave with death had him on the verge of tears.

But Sato’s mind wasn’t fully set at ease.

He had a feeling that their departure was going to be temporary. No one knew when they would return again.

He couldn’t let his safety rest on the mercy and compassion of others.

“I have to think of a way to guarantee my own safety. Men, get the car ready! We’re heading to Sanshin Organization!”

One needed a grandmaster to deal with another grandmaster.

Sato headed straight for Tokyo and requested a meeting with Grandmaster Yukiteru, the chief of the Sanshin Organization.

He was going to request Yukiteru’s protection!

He did not expect the grandmaster to turn down his request.

“But I don’t understand, Chief Yukiteru. Why won’t you help me? Think of all those men that Chu Tian-Fan killed and all the men from Sanshin Organization whom you lost! Shouldn’t he pay for those deaths? By killing him, I avenged the deaths of the men from Sanshin Organization and the deaths of those in the Japanese martial arts circle. I don’t ask for your gratitude. I simply ask for your protection. Is that not the least that you can offer? Why won’t you help? I’m not asking for too much, only to save myself. Why are you leaving me in the lurch?” Sato stared at the person before him with bloodshot eyes as he howled in fury and disbelief.



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Sato couldn't understand at all. He couldn't understand why Sanshin Organization would leave him to perish.

Had he not done a service to the Japanese martial arts circle and righted a wrong done to them by killing Chu Tian-Fan?

Besides, he was a citizen of Japan and Sanshin Organization was the most powerful entity in the Japanese martial arts circle. It had a duty to protect the country's citizens, right?

Sato had expected to be treated as a hero upon his arrival at Sanshin Organization.

Instead, he had been faced with coldness and an absence of compassion. He had not expected that at all.

Yukiteru withstood Sato's furious questions emotionlessly, then replied coldly, "You seek answers that we do not have. Simply know that the Japanese martial arts circle never wished for Chu Tian-Fan's death. The Japanese military made the unilateral decision to interfere with the affairs of the martial arts circle, so the fact that Sanshin Organization did not punish you for your intervention should be seen as an act of utmost mercy. You have no right to ask for our protection. All I can say is that you have

made the wrong assumptions. Sword God, see our guest out.”

Having said that, Yukiteru turned away and walked off. With a flick of the hand, she issued the order to evict their unwelcome guest.

“No, you can’t do this to me! I avenged you. You should thank me. You should be grateful for what I’ve done. How could you leave me to die? You can’t do that to me!” Sato howled at Yukiteru as he gradually descended into a frenzied madness.

But the grandmaster had left the halls and was oblivious to Sato’s fits of rage.

Mochizuki Kawa sighed. “Commander Sato, please leave. Sanshin Organization can only protect you from Tsukuyomi Tenshin. The Japanese martial arts circle cannot save you from your other enemies. Your fate rests in the hands of god now.”

With a wave of his hand, Mochizuki Kawa got his men to escort Sato out.

The Japanese martial arts circle had every duty and obligation to offer Sato their protection.

Unfortunately, Tsukuyomi Tenshin had flown

into a rage when she had heard about Chu Tian-Fan's death and had ordered an investigation into the matter. She had intended to kill the men who had been involved in the operation and subject Sato to excruciating torture to avenge Ye Fan's death.

Yukiteru and her men had pleaded profusely with her and after a great deal of effort, had dissuaded her from her crazy plans.

That didn't mean that she wasn't dying to kill Sato. If Yukiteru and her men continued to shield Sato from further harm, their continued protection would be viewed as an act of open provocation against Tsukuyomi Tenshin.

Since her rebirth, everyone, including Yukiteru, had shown her nothing but the utmost respect.

No one dared to go against her wishes.

Yukiteru and her men had to use the greater good of the country as an excuse to stop Tsukuyomi from doing anything crazy.

"Why is Tsukuyomi Tenshin so madly in love with Chu Tian-Fan? What spell did the man cast on her? She nearly betrayed her own country for him." Mochizuki Kawa sighed

and shook his head after Sato left.

Fortunately, they had managed to dissuade her from carrying out her crazy plans. What would everyone else think if the beloved goddess of the Japanese martial arts circle ended up slaughtering her own people to avenge the death of a man who had killed countless martial artists of her own nation? The Japanese martial arts circle would become the laughing stock of the international martial arts community.

Meanwhile, Chu Zheng-Hong had been summoned by the Chu family's elders upon his return to the clan. He had been stripped of his duties and sentenced to three months of solitary confinement.

"Zheng-Hong, look at the folly that you've committed. Think of the disapproval you earned when you decided to have a child with a woman from a village without the clan's approval. You nearly lost your right to inherit the position of becoming the head of the family. Your fifth uncle and I worked so hard to place you as the head of the family, but look at what you've done. You deployed our martial artists without consulting anyone and led a charge into Japan."

“The old patriarch is still deep in the midst of his training. Should someone attack the Chu family while you and all our martial artists are away in Japan and affect the old patriarch’s training, how are you going to answer for that? What were you thinking? You’re a grown man, how could you act so rashly? How can we hand the Chu family to you? We won’t be able to rest easy in our sleep,” one of the elders reprimanded Chu Zheng-Hong angrily in the room.

As an elder of the Chu family, he was Chu Zheng-Hong’s senior and one of Chu Zheng-Hong’s staunch supporters in the Chu family.

The grave error that Chu Zheng-Hong committed had him boiling with rage.

Chu Zheng-Hong displayed no emotion as he suffered his senior’s chastisement. He simply said quietly, “Uncle, you know how I am. Status and power mean nothing to me. I’m not interested in becoming the chief of Chu Sect or the head of anything. I only entered the martial arts circle because I wanted to be able to protect my wife and son and I only accepted the position of head of the Chu family because I wanted to be able to welcome my wife and son back into the Chu family one day.”

He spoke slowly and in a deep sonorous voice that seemed heavy with inexplicable emotion.

One could sense grief and helplessness rolling inside him like waves in a deep and dark ocean.

Why had Chu Zheng-Hong yielded to the Chu family's wishes?

It was so that a day would come when he was in control of the Chu family and with a single command, he could have Ye Fan and his mother brought back to him.

But when he had risen to become the head of the Chu family, he had been struck with a horrible revelation. He had been wrong.

He had made a grave and terrible mistake.

This family was rotten to the core. Change from within was impossible.

It didn't matter that he was now the head of the Chu family. The prejudice that the family's elders and its old patriarch held towards Fan and his mother was here to stay.

Chu Zheng-Hong had realized then that he had chosen the wrong path.

Fan's path had been the right one.

Only a revolution that tore down everything old and standing could bring about change to this family which reeked with corruption and rot.

Their prejudices could only be gotten rid of when those whom they scorned rose to power and trampled them under their feet.

But it was all too late.

His son was gone.

"Zheng-Hong, think about what you've done. He's just a boy who's been cast out of the family. Is he really worth sacrificing your future for him?" The elder sighed, then left.

Chu Zheng-Hong sat silently in the middle of the room.

No one knew what he was thinking about right now.

The next day, Han arrived and handed him a set of documents.

An icy glint flashed across Chu Zheng-Hong's eyes when he read the contents of the documents.

“The first division. Sato!”

The man clenched his fist. His words were filled with murderous rage.

“Han, bring me my sword!”



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“Master, what do you intend to do? I think that we should set aside our plans for revenge right now. You’re in a worrying position right now. Your actions have made the elders really displeased. They’re going to be livid if you leave the house during your solitary confinement. Besides, the clan has given its orders. No one is to seek revenge for Young Master,” said Han hastily. Sheer fear had driven the blood from his face when he heard Chu Zheng-Hong’s words.

Chu Zheng-Hong had just been stripped of his authority and office by the clan. It was going to be tough for him to regain his position if he caused these elders further unhappiness.

But Chu Zheng-Hong wasn’t going to listen to Han’s advice.

“I told you to bring me my sword. Who cares about the clan? Who’s going to stop me if I insist on leaving?” His deep voice brimmed with power and strength. “Japan set my son up and killed him. Do they truly believe that my son will not be missed? I’m going to let them know that Fan is not a loveless orphan. He has a father!”

His words rang loudly like the sound of gold falling to the ground.

An intense murderous rage filled the room within an instant.

A biting wintry wind moaned, a long airy howl that sent the bamboos outside the window rustling angrily.

That night, Chu Zheng-Hong left the Chu Sect with his sword in hand.

He handed a journal to Han before his departure.

“Han, if Fan miraculously lives and returns, hand this journal to him. I have nothing for him, only this journal. It contains everything that I’ve learned. I hope he’ll find it of use. Tell him that I’m sorry. His mother was right. I’m not fit to be his father. I failed to protect them in the past. Ten years have passed and I continue to fail in my duty as a husband and father.”

The cold winds stirred countless fallen leaves and ruffled the man’s sleeves. The fabric flapped angrily in the air.

Anguish colored Han’s eyes red. He stared as the towering figure gradually faded into the darkness of the night.

It was a matter of time before the Chu family sent men to stop Chu Zheng-Hong.

Yet, what could they do against this man?

Chu Zheng-Hong made his way down the mountain and with a blade in his hand, slashed through countless chains and charged through countless obstacles.

Utter chaos lay beyond the gates of the family house.

The men who tried to stop Chu Zheng-Hong lay on the ground, beaten and immobilized.

Then, just as Chu Zheng-Hong was going to step out of the compounds of the Chu family, an old man stepped out of the darkness and revealed his ghostly presence.

The old man was dressed plainly and he had concealed his presence.

He appeared like an ordinary person as he stood there and barely garnered any attention at all.

Regardless, fear and awe appeared on everyone's faces as soon as they saw him.

Even Chu Zheng-Hong couldn't hide the hint of solemnity and caution that appeared in his eyes.

"Are you going to stop me too, Elder Xuan?"

said Chu Zheng-Hong as he lifted his head up slowly. His words rang loudly in the dark night.

The old man did not answer him. After a long moment of silence, he asked mildly, "Where are you headed, Master?"

"I'm going to challenge the heavens!" The man's voice boomed like thunder and was filled with grim determination.

"What if you do not survive the attempt?" asked the old man.

"So be it!"

Those powerful words reverberated in the night.

Upon hearing that, the old man stepped aside and let him pass.

Chu Zheng-Hong cupped his fists to show his gratitude, then, with his sword in hand, vanished into the night.

"Elder Xuan, how could you let him leave?" The upper echelons of the Chu family had finally turned up and were questioning the old man anxiously.

Xuan simply shook his head and murmured.

“His mind is made. I cannot stop him.”

HUU!

The wind was the only sound stirring a ripple in the silence of the night.

That night, a man and his blade crossed the ocean as he headed for the islands of Japan.

Waves rumbled beneath his feet as he raced across the sea at lightning speed, leaving trails of white foam in his wake.

From afar, they looked like white serpents thrashing about in the dark ocean.

Demon King Chu was making his return to the martial arts circle for his son.

No one could foresee the chaos that his return would bring to the Japanese martial arts circle.

In Jiangdong, Yunzhou that very same night, the lights of Mount Yunding Villa were kept alit till daybreak.

A sumptuous spread of dishes lined the dining table and remained untouched.

Qiu Mu-Cheng sat quietly at the table without uttering a single word.

She looked mesmerizing tonight.

Her white Versace dress brought out the curves in her flawless figure perfectly.

She did not enjoy putting on makeup, but she had made the effort to do so that night.

Her bright red lips, with its glossy sheen, resembled delicious, tempting cherries.

But there was no one around to admire her beauty.

Akin to the flower that blossomed in the late night, her beauty was one that languished alone.

“Mu-Cheng, it’s nearly midnight. You should go rest.”

“I’m going to sit right here and wait for him to show up.”

“When that rascal turns up, I’m going to drag him over here and get him to apologize to you,” blurted out Ye Xi-Mei angrily.

The news of Ye Fan’s death had been kept within the martial arts circle. Qiu Mu-Cheng

and Ye Fan's mother had no idea what had happened.

They thought that Ye Fan had been held up and was therefore running late.

Qiu Mu-Cheng shook her head when she heard Ye Xi-Mei's threatening words.

"Mum, it's alright. I'm not tired. I'm going to wait right here for him to show up. Let's see when he decides to show up," said Qiu Mu-Cheng almost sulkily as she sat there and waited.

The dishes on the table remained untouched.

The wine in her glass remained undrunk.

Qiu Mu-Cheng appeared composed but Ye Xi-Mei could sense her disgruntlement and anger.

The young woman had spent days preparing for the dinner tonight.

She had begun practicing her culinary skills two weeks ago.

Qiu Mu-Cheng had suffered countless failures before she had finally managed to whip up the sumptuous spread of dishes

that now lay on the table.

She had explained that she had done everything for the birthday celebration but Ye Xi-Mei knew that Qiu Mu-Cheng had cooked those dishes for Ye Fan.

She had poured her heart and soul into the dishes, but Ye Fan had broken his promise and failed to turn up for dinner. He hadn't even called. Anyone would be upset and feel resentful and angry.

An exasperated Ye Xi-Mei excused herself and headed for the bathroom, where she tried to call her son discreetly.

She was ready to give him a verbal lashing and demand that he call Mu-Cheng right this minute and apologize to her.

But he seemed to have turned his phone off. Ye Xi-Mei called a few times but couldn't reach him at all.

"That rascal, he's going to drive me to an early grave! He should have called to explain why he's late. Why did he turn his phone off? I'm going to break his legs when he turns up!" Ye Xi-Mei said furiously.

This wasn't the first time this had happened.

Ye Fan had made multiple promises to return home the very next day in the past, but he had broken those promises too.

He was doing it again.

And he had turned his phone off.

Anyone in her situation would be just as furious.



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The lights in Mount Yunding Villa remained lit throughout the night.

The steaming dishes on the table gradually turned cold.

The beautiful woman in the mansion sat in the living room the whole night and waited for the young man.

“Mu-Cheng, let’s not wait up for him anymore. Have some rest while there’s still time. You have to go to work in a while.” Ye Xi-Mei tried to persuade Qiu Mu-Cheng again. Watching the young woman sit there quietly was breaking her heart.

Qiu Mu-Cheng didn’t say a word. Her flawless face revealed nothing.

Yet her heart was drowning in disappointment and resentment.

She had played out what had been supposed to happen tonight in her head countless times.

Soft music would play in the dining room as they sat around the table as a family. Ye Fan would share the stories that he had come across while Qiu Mu-Cheng pointed out the ridiculous things happening at the office. The candles would be blown and the

birthday cake cut. They would savor the 1982 Lafite red wine.

Qiu Mu-Cheng had tried to imagine the utter look of surprise on Ye Fan's face when he got home and was greeted with a table full of dishes.

She had imagined the look of approval and admiration on his face.

He was supposed to realize that Qiu Mu-Cheng was no longer a wife who couldn't even put together a proper meal.

In fact, Qiu Mu-Cheng had considered the possibility of giving up the precious chastity that she had preserved for more than twenty years to him if he had pleased her. She would place herself fully in his hands, have his children and let him have her completely.

It was meant to be a night of romance and goodness, of familial warmth and bliss.

Qiu Mu-Cheng had not expected her perfect dinner—the dinner that she had been looking forward to—to end up in a graveyard of broken dreams.

She felt utterly disappointed by Ye Fan's failure to keep his promise.

She was mad that he had not called to explain why he wasn't going to turn up in time when he had known that he would be running late.

She could bear with his broken promises and his lies, but she couldn't bear his callousness and his complete disregard for her.

Was it that hard to pick up the phone and make a call?

Qiu Mu-Cheng had made up her mind. She wasn't going to speak to that bastard for the rest of her life if he didn't give her an explanation for what he had broken his word.

He was absolutely infuriating. What a horrible man!

She had spent so much time preparing the dinner, but Ye Fan had played her out.

The more Qiu Mu-Cheng thought about it, the angrier and more upset she got.

She was quite certain that she would give him a hard smack and send him flying into the wall if he turned up right now.

They wouldn't be able to pry him off the wall!

It was time to get to work.

Qiu Mu-Cheng cleaned herself up and got ready to leave the house.

Before she left, she decided to clear the dishes on the table.

Ye Xi-Mei stopped her hastily when she saw what the young woman was doing.

“Mu-Cheng, what are you doing? That’s the result of your hard work. We didn’t even manage to try anything. They look delicious. How could you throw perfectly decent food away?”

Qiu Mu-Cheng scoffed. “Doesn’t matter how great the food taste if somebody doesn’t appreciate it at all. We might as well throw it all away.”

“Don’t do it, Mu-Cheng. Leave them. Don’t worry, I’ll make sure you get a proper explanation. When that rascal comes back, I’ll make him get on his knees and finish everything. That scoundrel doesn’t know what a great wife he has. I’m going to give him a proper beating when he gets back!” Ye Xi-Mei said angrily as she cursed at Ye Fan.

Ye Fan might be her son, but that didn’t excuse him from what he had done. He was

in the wrong and she shouldn't side with him. She had to speak up for her daughter-in-law.

As Ye Xi-Mei continued to spew curses at Ye Fan, she suddenly heard the sound of a car approaching the mansion.

Qiu Mu-Cheng's eyes instantly lit up.

Had he finally come?

She nearly rushed out of the house to receive him like some disgruntled young wife who had been stuck guarding an empty house and had suddenly received news of her husband's return and couldn't wait to greet him at the door.

"That rascal's finally back. Mu-Cheng, don't go. You stayed up the whole night waiting for him. How dare he make you greet him at the door? We're going to sit right here and let him make his own way in and apologize to us."

Ye Xi-Mei yanked Qiu Mu-Cheng back. The two women landed up sitting in front of the table like a pair of judges in the courtroom waiting for the suspect to admit to his wrongdoing.

The sound of footsteps drew near.

Then, it stopped at the door.

Nothing stirred for a long time.

“Mum, I think I should go and take a look.”
Qiu Mu-Cheng appeared a little worried. This wasn't the Ye Fan she knew.

He wasn't the kind of man who lingered at the door, afraid to step into his own house.

“It's alright. The little punk's probably trying to come up with an excuse to get out of trouble. That's why he's lingering outside. We'll just wait. Let's see what excuse he manages to come up with. He missed his own mother's birthday and lied to his wife. What was he thinking? Is he trying to revolt?”
cursed Ye Xi-Mei. A warm and fuzzy feeling filled Qiu Mu-Cheng's insides when she heard her mother-in-law's words.

Ye Xi-Mei treated her better than her parents treated her.

Her parents had never spoken up for her this way.

After a long period of silence, they heard the sound of footsteps outside the door again.

Then, the sound of the door being pushed open could be heard.

Ye Xi-Mei raised her voice and started scolding her son instantly.

“You rascal, you’ve finally decided to come home, have you? What a fine man you’ve become! You’ve decided that you don’t need a mother or a wife, haven’t you? Do you know how much work Mu-Cheng put into cooking a sumptuous spread for us? Did you know that we stayed up all night waiting for you? You scoundrel, why didn’t you call if you knew you weren’t coming home? Why did you turn your phone off? Are you trying to drive me to an early grave? Get your ass in here right now and apologize to Mu-Cheng!”

Ye Xi-Mei stared at the open door and grew even more furious when the person outside continued to linger beyond her sight instead of stepping into the house.

Qiu Mu-Cheng didn’t say a word. Staying up the whole night had left her exhausted and it was showing on her face.

She simply sat there, sipping quietly at her wine without sparing a single glance at the door.

Her composure betrayed none of the emotions that were bubbling beneath her veneer of calmness.

She was upset that Ye Fan had lied to her but also overjoyed that he had returned.

She should be raining fire and fury on Ye Fan for bailing on her last night.

But she didn't have to. Her mother-in-law was speaking up for her.

All she had to do was sit there quietly and wait for that scoundrel to apologize to her for not showing up.

It struck Qiu Mu-Cheng then. Mothers-in-law were such wonderful creatures.

Neither Qiu Mu-Cheng nor Ye Xi-Mei expected the sight that greeted them next.

The person who walked through the doorway wasn't the former's husband and the latter's son, Ye Fan. It was a young woman with tears streaming down her cheeks.

"Nannan? Why are you here?" asked Ye Xi-Mei in bewilderment when she saw Chen Nan.

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Chen Nan's eyes were red from weeping and her pretty little face was filled with sorrow.

As soon as her eyes fell on Ye Xi-Mei and Qiu Mu-Cheng, the young woman couldn't hold the anguish she had been feeling inside any longer. She burst into another bout of tears.

"Oh god, Auntie Ye, Mu-Cheng, I'm so sorry! I'm so sorry..."

Ridden with guilt, Chen Nan fell to her knees.

Tears flowed ceaselessly down her cheeks as she sobbed uncontrollably.

Her weeping tugged at the heartstrings of the other two women.

"Nannan, what happened? What's wrong? Stop crying and tell us what happened. I'll make sure someone answers for what they've done."

Ye Xi-Mei remembered Chen Nan.

The young woman had made a special trip to Yeyang and paid her a visit before the new year.

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She had taken a liking towards the polite girl and had thought about making Chen Nan her goddaughter.

Then, she had found out that Chen Nan had come from a prestigious family and had been too embarrassed to bring that up.

Ye Xi-Mei couldn't have foreseen that Chen Nan would appear at their doorsteps early in the morning, fall to her knees and burst into tears while apologizing profusely to them.

Ye Xi-Mei was unquestionably shocked by her outburst.

Qiu Mu-Cheng was puzzled too. She hurried over and pulled Chen Nan up to her feet so that they could have a proper conversation.

But Chen Nan couldn't stop weeping and apologizing.

"You silly girl, come on, tell us what's wrong," said Ye Xi-Mei as she tried once more to get an answer out of Chen Nan.

"I'm so sorry, I'm so sorry...Fan...he's dead..."

BOOM...

Chapter 981 An Impending Upheaval

The news struck like a bolt of lightning.

Qiu Mu-Cheng froze to the spot when she heard those words. Blood fled her face instantly.

Ye Xi-Mei trembled as her eyes darkened.

The two most important women in Ye Fan's life stood rooted to the ground.

A sudden weakness in her knees had Qiu Mu-Cheng stumbling. Her eyes widened with disbelief as she asked Chen Nan. "What did you just say? What happened to Ye Fan?"

"He's gone. Fan is gone. He's left us forever. I'm sorry. It's all my fault. He would be alive if he hadn't tried to save me," Chen Nan sobbed inconsolably, tears flowing down her cheeks as she stared at her feet.

Her voice was filled with guilt and blame.

The images of fire and blood had been indelibly seared into Chen Nan's mind.

She could still see the flames when she shut her eyes.



Chapter 981 An Impending Upheaval

She was weeping uncontrollably right now. She dared not look Qiu Mu-Cheng or Ye Xi-Mei in the eye.

She might have lost an elder brother and a dear friend, but Qiu Mu-Cheng and Ye Xi-Mei had lost their whole world.

“No, that’s impossible. You’re lying to me. This is a lie. Ye Fan can’t be dead. He’s the King of Jiangdong and the leader of a group of powerful fighters. He’s learned martial arts! He thrashed everyone at the battle at Mount Tai and showed everyone what he’s made of during the Feast of the Sea and Sky. Japanese martial artists couldn’t do anything to him. No one could kill him. No one. How could he be dead? That’s impossible!”

Qiu Mu-Cheng shook her head furiously. Her reason and pride had left her as she gave in to despair.

Her eyes were filled with horror as she muttered on and on, her words fueled by devastation and denial.

Tears started streaming down her cheeks as she repeated herself.

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“Mu-Cheng, it’s true. Fan and I were onboard the Emperor when we were attacked. The ship sank. Fan risked his life to save me from the fire. He handed me two boxes before he died. He told me to tell that he couldn’t guarantee a life of peace for the both of you and that you’ll have to go on without him.” Chen Nan struggled to string her words together amidst her uncontrollable weeping.

Her words extinguished the final embers of hope burning inside Ye Xi-Mei and Qiu Mu-Cheng.

Ye Xi-Mei fell limply against her chair and trembled as she took a bloodstained box from Chen Nan’s hands.

She opened it. Resting inside was a beaded bracelet.

It was a birthday present from Ye Fan to his own mother.

She had no words for the torrent of emotions flooding her right now. She could not have foreseen this tragedy. Her son had died on her birthday.



Chapter 981 An Impending Upheaval

She could feel her world come crashing down on her.

“No...you’re lying. Ye Fan can’t be dead. He can’t be. He made a promise. We were supposed to celebrate mom’s birthday together. He told me that we’re going to have so many children together. He promised me a grand wedding. There are so many things we were supposed to do together. How could he leave me?”

Qiu Mu-Cheng’s heartbreaking cries filled the room.

Sorrow spilled from her lips and down her cheeks.

She had never looked as devastated.

Her life seemed to have ended the moment that she had found out that Ye Fan had died.

She felt as if the pillar that had been supporting her world had collapsed.

There was no one she could lean on anymore.

No words could express the sorrow, horror,



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despair and devastation that swallowed her alive.

News of Ye Fan's death reached the ears of Chen Ao and Li Er shortly after Qiu Mu-Cheng had found out about her husband's death.

"What? Mr Chu is dead?"

Li Er was in his family home in Yunzhou at this moment, resting comfortably within the arms of a young woman while soaking his feet in warm water. Chen Ao's call had him jumping into the air, knocking the basin of water over and soaking his face wet.

But that was hardly important right now.

Chen Ao's voice and the words that he had uttered had seized his full attention.

"But...how is that possible? How could Mr Chu...be dead?"

Li Er was rooted to the ground as he was lost in a stupor. His face was ghostly white.

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He couldn't believe it. It had been mere months ago when they had hosted a feast at the Haiyuan Restaurant and successfully made their way to the top in Jiangdong. Ye Fan's future had seemed limitless. Why had he died and how did it happen so suddenly?

It was as if they had been playing an intense and exciting piece of orchestral music and just as they had reached the climax of the piece, the music suddenly stopped!

A prodigy whose name would go down in history had had his light snuffed out just as he had begun to reveal what he was capable of.

Loss, regret, sorrow and anxiety flooded Li Er instantly.

Li Er had been the one who had benefited the most when Ye Fan had reigned supreme in Jiangdong.

But now, Ye Fan was dead.

An upheaval was going to descend upon Jiangdong.

That night, Chen Ao, Li Er and Lei San made their way hurriedly to Mount Yunding Villa.

They had to pay respects to the deceased Ye Fan and extend their condolences to Qiu Mu-Cheng and Ye Xi-Mei. They also had to verify if what they had heard was true and confirm if Ye Fan was truly dead.

Last night's dinner was still on the table when they arrived.

Qiu Mu-Cheng was sitting in front of the dining table. She was not crying at all. She was simply sitting there, like how she had last night, waiting for Ye Fan to come home.

She had not accepted the fact that Ye Fan had died.

"Miss Qiu, Nannan has told us what's happened to Mr Chu. We're really sorry for your loss. He's the leader of Jiangdong and its 18 cities. His death is a huge loss to Jiangdong too. But we cannot lose ourselves to grief. The living must still go on with their lives. Please pull yourself together, Miss Qiu, and help us sort things out in Jiangdong. The province cannot go leaderless for too long. Trouble will make its

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way to us that way.”

Li Er, Chen Ao and Lei San tried to make Qiu Mu-Cheng see sense after they had paid their respects.

Everything that they had said were words of well intentions that had come from the bottom of their hearts.

Li Er ended up bowing and pleading with the young woman.

“Miss Qiu, please, you have to take Mr Chu’s place as the chief and lord of Jiangdong!”
The trio said in unison as they tried to convince Qiu Mu-Cheng to assume power over Jiangdong.

As a woman, Qiu Mu-Cheng might not be the ideal replacement.

But Ye Fan had just died, so people still feared and respected him.

Letting his wife take over the reins while banking on Ye Fan’s reputation to keep everyone in place was the best way forward for them right now.

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No one would question her authority for the time being.

But she was going to have to rely on her own abilities to keep her place as the lord and chief of Jiangdong.

To the men's utter surprise, Qiu Mu-Cheng didn't seem to care for the immense power that was resting within her reach.

She simply sat there silently, seemingly oblivious to what they had said.

"Miss Qiu, won't you say something? Jiangdong was Mr Chu's lifework. It's going to fall into the hands of someone else if you don't do anything," pleaded Li Er earnestly.

Qiu Mu-Chen did not utter a single word. All she wanted to do was to tend to this house and wait for her husband to return to her.

She wouldn't believe that Ye Fan had died so easily.

The three men finally left in exasperation.

They gathered at the Haiyuan Restaurant to privately discuss what they were to do about



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Jiangdong.

Ye Fan might be dead but they still had plans for Jiangdong.

“What do we do now? Mr Chu is dead and he has no children. In Miss Qiu’s current condition, she won’t be able to rise to the task of managing Jiangdong. The province is leaderless right now. Trouble’s going to come knocking at our door when news of Mr Chu’s death spreads.” Li Er’s words were filled with worry.

Within the brief year that Ye Fan had taken control over Jiangdong, he had consolidated the various entities and powers in the province. The businesses under Ye Fan had boomed.

He had the businesses taken over from Zhao Wu-Ji’s men across the 18 cities in the province. He also had the Meng family’s businesses too. Coupled with the companies that were under the names of Li Er, Chen Ao and Lei San, Ye Fan’s empire spanned a sizeable portion of Jiangdong.

But as the saying went: beasts died for a meal while men perished for gold.

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Mr Chu's reputation had kept the other powers in Jiangdong at bay and stopped them from coveting his vast and sprawling businesses.

But the man was gone now. His vast empire was now leaderless. If someone with significant clout did not step up and take over, one wouldn't have to try too hard to imagine the chaos that would descend upon Jiangdong soon.

Silence stretched out amongst the three men.

Chen Ao and Lei San had no solutions to address Li Er's worries.

There was no way out of this!

They could find another leader for Jiangdong but they couldn't prevent the inevitability that was going to befall Ye Fan's businesses. Someone else would undoubtedly take them over.

This wasn't something that any of them wanted.

Ye Fan had tasked them with the



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management of most of his businesses.

The next leader of Jiangdong might not regard them as highly as Ye Fan had.

“Chen Ao, why don’t you take Ye Fan’s place? Your reputation in Jiangdong is second only to Mr Chu. With Li Er’s and my support, you should be able to hold the position of head of Jiangdong easily,” said Lei San suddenly.

Chen Ao’s face darkened instantly.

“Are you trying to sabotage me? Who cares if I can maintain control over the 18 cities in Jiangdong? I shouldn’t even if I can. I was well treated by Mr Chu. I can’t just take his place now that he’s gone. What would everyone think of me? They’re going to call me an ingrate. Besides, we’ve not located Mr Chu’s body. Who can be certain that he’s truly dead? He might come back. What am I supposed to do then? Mr Chu might massacre my entire family!”

Lei San’s suggestion wouldn’t work.

It couldn’t and shouldn’t be done.

If Chen Ao had possessed such capabilities,



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he would have united Jiangdong before Ye Fan had turned up.

“There’s no other option. We must keep this under wraps.”

The news of Mr Chu’s death had not spread in Jiangdong.

The three families were the only ones who knew that Ye Fan was dead.

They simply had to keep the news of his death under wraps. There would be no upheaval or revolt in Jiangdong then.

However, they knew that they were simply postponing the inevitable.

Everyone was going to find out sooner or later.

Drastic change would descend upon Jiangdong as soon as someone else found out that Mr Chu had died.

The meeting at the Haiyuan Restaurant lasted through the night.

At daybreak, the three men returned to their

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respective homes, then went about their business as usual. It was as if nothing had ever happened.

Chen Ao instructed Chen Nan to keep Ye Fan's death a secret and not to mention a single word to anyone.

Li Er and the others also paid a visit to Qiu Mu-Cheng and Ye Xi-Mei and told them not to speak about Ye Fan's death.

"Madam Ye, we're sorry for what happened to Mr Chu too. But you and Miss Qiu must not speak a word of his death to anyone. That is the only way to protect the Mufan Group's position as a leading business in Jiangdong. If anyone is to find out about Mr Chu's death, your daughter-in-law's and your positions of power will come under attack. You will lose everything. In fact, your lives might be at stake then. We only mean well. Please remember what we've said!"

Li Er and the others kept the news of Ye Fan's death under wraps.

A strange and uneasy peace settled over Jiangdong.

Li Er and the others continued to manage Jiangdong on Ye Fan's behalf and attended to mundane matters in the province.

Qiu Mu-Cheng had called in sick at work. Other than her absence from work, everything else remained unchanged in Jiangdong.

Li Er and the others had privately complained about Ye Fan in the past and pointed out what a comfortable job Ye Fan had had. As the leader of Jiangdong, he had done nothing and had thrown anything to them.

What had made things worse had been his frequent disappearing acts. It had been impossible to find him when they had needed him. He had been utterly irresponsible.

As they recalled the past, Li Er and the others began to realize the wisdom in Mr

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Chu's actions.

Right now, no one would suspect a thing despite Ye Fan's prolonged absence.

They had grown used to it.

Everyone in Jiangdong knew how this leader of theirs would disappear from time to time. They wouldn't sense anything amiss even if he were to remain out of the public eye for a few months.

Mr Chu had done similar things in the past.

As a result, even though something had happened to Ye Fan, there would be no upheaval in Jiangdong as long as they kept that a secret.

But how long could they keep this up?

The worry that Chen Ao and his comrades felt intensified when they thought about that.

They felt as if they were in the eye of the storm.

The calm that surrounded them was a mere illusion and served only to unsettle them

further.

“Mr Chu, have you truly abandoned Jiangdong?” Chen Ao sighed secretly as he stood before windows that spanned the full height of his walls at his residence in Jianghai and stared at the vast lands before him.

In the distance, storm clouds had begun to gather.

As undercurrents of change threatened Jiangdong, across the ocean lay New York, shrouded in darkness. It was late, yet at the Chu family residence, the lights in one of their studies remained lit.

A man in his middle age, dressed in refinery and exuding a stern and intimidating air sat quietly in the room.

The look on his face betrayed no emotion as his eyes wandered distractedly over the words on the page. He seemed to be waiting for someone.

A few moments later, a young man pushed

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the door open and walked in.

It was no other than Chu Qi-Tian, the young man who shared a complicated history with Ye Fan.

“You’re here, Qi-Tian. What’s the status of the investigation that I’ve tasked you with? Did you find anything?”

In order to legitimize his right to the position of head of the Chu family, Chu Qi-Tian had changed his name to Chu Tian-Qi recently.

But habit was a stubborn creature. His father continued to call him Chu Qi-Tian when they were alone.

Chu Qi-Tian shook his head upon hearing his father’s question.

“Father, I followed your instructions, widened the search area and hired the best divers. But we didn’t find his remains,” said Chu Qi-Tian softly.

The look on his father’s face grew sterner when he heard that.

“So, you didn’t manage to find anything then.

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Could he have survived and escaped?”

“Father, I think you worry too much,” laughed Chu Qi-Tian. “No matter how lucky he is, the bastard couldn’t have survived. He must have been smashed into pulp. That’s why we can’t find his body. Invoke the Celestial Cloud is the most powerful offensive martial arts, after all. The bastard was injured when you found him. I wouldn’t be surprised if you turned him into dust when you hit him.”

Chu Qi-Tian sounded nonchalant as he spoke. He was convinced that his father was just being excessively cautious.

He might not have been present at the fight that day, but after hearing his father recount what had happened, he was certain that Ye Fan had no chances of surviving the encounter.

He had been attacked by a missile, then shot at by dozens of fighter jets.

Chu Qi-Tian’s father, Chu Zheng-Liang, had given him the final blow.

The series of attacks had been a flawless ambush. No one who was ranked in the top



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ten positions in the Sky Ranking could have survived such an ambush.

Their target had only been a young punk who had just made a name for himself. He had stood no chance at all.

“Father, you must have overestimated him. The young punk’s just a bastard that belongs to a lowly village woman. He’s insignificant and not worth your attention. It was sheer luck that got him where he was.”

Chu Qi-Tian had had nothing but scorn and disdain for Ye Fan since he had been a child.

Even though Ye Fan had become famous across the globe and had made a name for himself in the Japanese martial arts circle without anyone’s help, Chu Qi-Tian would not recognize his talents.

Such prejudices were rooted deep in his bones. They could not be changed that easily.

Besides, Ye Fan was dead.

Chu Qi-Tian was the one who had outlasted him.



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That knowledge made Chu Qi-Tian more arrogant and obnoxious.

“You think I overestimate him.” Chu Zheng-Liang looked up suddenly and stared at the young man with a serious look on his face.

Chu Qi-Tian felt vulnerable and exposed under his father’s gaze. He felt an invisible weight burdening his shoulders.

“It seems that you don’t. What happened? You watched as he became stronger and more powerful, and turn from a nameless little boy from a small village into a man whose name instils fear and awe across the globe. He nearly wrecked the plans that we have carefully crafted and carried out over ten years. It’s been ten years and you couldn’t even manage to get rid of a bastard. You needed your father to step in and do your dirty work for you so that you stand a chance at anything.”

“Chu Qi-Tian, tell me. What exactly are you proud of? What right do you have to be so arrogant? Let me be honest with you. If you hadn’t started off in a better position than he had, the one who had died that day would have been you, Chu Qi-Tian, and not Chu



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Tian-Fan!”

Chu Zheng-Liang’s voice reverberated like thunder in the study. His voice was filled with rage, terrifying Chu Qi-Tian visibly. His son’s face paled.

“I’m sorry, Father. I should have known better. I’ll keep your words in mind and strive to not disappoint you,” apologized Chu Qi-Tian fearfully as he stared at his feet.

Chu Zheng-Liang regained his composure swiftly.

He kept talking.

“Remember, never underestimate your enemy. Arrogance will only bring about one’s downfall. Alright, you can leave now. Continue the search at sea. I want him found, dead or alive. You’ll bring me his ashes if that’s what became of him when he died. A dead body doesn’t vanish into thin air just like that,” said Chu Zheng-Liang coldly, his words like an icy wind that sent the temperature in the room plummeting sharply.



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“Yes, Father. I’ll do as you say,” said Chu Qi-Tian fearfully before he left and continued the search for Ye Fan’s body.

“Hold on, there’s something else.” Chu Zheng-Liang summoned Chu Qi-Tian back into the room after he remembered something.

“What other instructions do you have, Father?”

After a long moment of silence, the man spoke.

“We must exercise the utmost caution. When you return, inform everyone working for the Chu family to keep an eye out for anyone who’s appeared from nowhere and is called Chu Tian-Fan.”

“But...” Confusion filled Chu Qi-Tian’s eyes when he heard his father’s instructions. Before he could raise any questions, Chu Zheng-Liang barked fiercely.

“Don’t ask any questions. Just do as you’re told! We must be prepared for everything if we want our great plans to succeed.”



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With a wave of his hand, Chu Zheng-Liang sent Chu Qi-Tian away. It was obvious that he wasn't interested in continuing the conversation.

Peace and quiet descended upon the study once again.

Throughout their entire conversation, Chu Qi-Tian had not noticed the shadow hidden in the dark behind his father. It had been guarding Chu Zheng-Liang silently like his second shadow.

The man's voice rang out from the darkness.

"Master, aren't you being excessively cautious? Third Young Master has a point. No one could have survived under those conditions."

Chu Zheng-Liang simply shook his head. "You're right. No one ordinary could have survived. But Chu Tian-Fan is no ordinary man. He rose from poverty and from the lowest rung on the ladder, climbed his way up and became a supreme grandmaster. He got his name in the Sky Ranking. Ordinary rules do not apply to him. He'll become a huge threat if he manages to survive. That is



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why I cannot rest easy unless I see his dead body with my own eyes.”

Chu Zheng-Liang made his way to the window as he spoke.

Darkness loomed outside and was filled with the howls of wintry winds.

The next day, after receiving Chu Zheng-Liang’s orders, every man across the world who was working for the Chu family started to keep an eye out for anyone who went by the name of Chu Tian-Fan.

Chu Zheng-Liang was a cautious name who never went without a backup plan.

He intended to have Chu Qi-Tian continue with his search for Ye Fan’s body.

In addition, he made plans for the possibility that Ye Fan had survived the attack.

If he had survived, then Chu Zheng-Liang would have no choice but to kill him a second time.

Of course, he had to find Ye Fan first.



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Meanwhile, somewhere in Jiangdong, a young man was hobbling down the streets of a remote little town. With his disheveled hair and dirtied clothes, he looked like a beggar who was having trouble walking.

Everyone who passed him threw disgusted glances at him and kept their distance.

No one saw the bright and fierce eyes that were hidden under his messy hair.

They shone as brightly as stars in the night!

“Life’s hard. We should help each other out if we can.”

There would always be a few kindhearted folks in every small town.

An old farmer who had just returned from the farms saw how terrible the young man looked and felt sorry for him. He bought a few steaming buns from a stall on the street and handed the buns to the young man.

The young man appeared oblivious to his gift.

His feet never stopped. In fact, he hadn’t



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spared the old man a single glance.

One could spot the pride exuding from him from miles away.

“You’re going to be chewing on grass when you starve later. Serves you right for not taking food when it’s given to you. Fine, you’ve got guts. You don’t accept donations. Starve then! I hope the hunger kills you!” The old man was livid.

His well-intentioned gesture had been spurned and met with ingratitude instead.

He couldn’t believe it. A beggar had refused his help.

“You should’ve minded your own business, Wang.”

“There’s a reason why some people are poor.”

“People like him don’t deserve your sympathy.”

The town residents around him shook their head as they eyed the young man with scorn and mockery.



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Amongst them was a young woman who did neither. Her eyes followed the man as he walked away. They shimmered with a strange, bright light.

Her instincts told her that a passionate and resolute soul hide underneath the mop of disheveled hair and dusty clothes.

“He’s not an ordinary man,” murmured the young woman.

The man remained silent and oblivious to the looks that the crowd threw him.

He held onto a bamboo stick and very slowly and painfully made his way forward.

His steps might be unsteady but he never gave up.

He persisted like a moth towards the flame, moving stubbornly and single-mindedly towards the place that he had to be.

The countless thorns sunk deep in his feet didn’t seem to bother him at all. Neither did the long, difficult and seemingly endless journey ahead of him.



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The young girl was stunned by the sight before her. It was incredulous.

Her curiosity was piqued. She wondered where the young man was headed. What kind of place would drive him to travel vast stretches of land and roam the lands like a homeless nomad?

The man walked into the distance and gradually disappeared from the young woman's line of sight.

After leaving the small town, the man headed for a mountain in the vicinity.

On the small mountain sat a huge and sprawling mansion. It crouched on the mountain like a mighty beast gazing upon the skies and lands that stretched into the distant horizon.

Before the young man realized where he was, he had arrived at the doorstep of the ancient mansion.

He had taken hours, walking from noon till evening, to reach the end of the path that had only spanned a hundred meters.



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Then, he collapsed in a heap before the door whilst all covered in blood.

Before he lost complete and utter consciousness, he looked up and stared at the house that he had not stepped into for ten years. His eyes fell on the plaque and the bright red “Chu” written on it, and the sight of that opened the floodgates that had held his emotions back all this while. Despite his stubborn stoicism, he couldn’t stop himself.

Tears streamed down his cheeks instantly.

He struggled to raise his arm then, before using everything that he had to rap his knuckle on the door that had withstood the passing of a century.

“Great grandmother...your unfilial great grandson, Chu Tian-Fan, is back...”

What an incredible string of words, where layers of sorrow unfolded to reveal joy and layers of despair peeled away to reveal hope.

This disheveled young man was Ye Fan, the man who had supposedly died days ago.



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Chu Zheng-Liang had not managed to kill him at sea.

Through sheer will and the aid of his Dragon God Body, Ye Fan had survived Chu Zheng-Liang's attack.

Then, he had turned the overwhelming force of Chu Zheng-Liang's blow to his advantage and escaped.

His return to China had been arduous and difficult.

Even though he had escaped with his life, he had suffered severe injuries.

Without his training of his Dragon God Body, he wouldn't have survived until now after escaping from Chu Zheng-Liang.

Fortunately, the heavens were on his side.

He had made his way out of Japan and back to China alive.

The Chu family had cast him and his mother out when he had been a child, removed his name from the family clan's records and cut off all ties with him and his mother.



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Yet Ye Fan couldn't forget the fact that he was still a descendant of the Chu family.

Sometimes, he would still introduce himself as Chu Tian-Fan.

Why? You might ask.

Because of the old lady in the old Chu family home, that was why.



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Even though Ye Fan had been away for most of his life, the old lady in this house had remained on his mind and in his heart all this while. She was his safe harbor.

His time spent with the Chu family had been a painful childhood that Ye Fan never wished to speak of.

He hated everyone in the Chu family.

His father. His grandfather. His uncle.

This so-called family was but a herd of pigs in Ye Fan's eyes.

They had given Ye Fan nothing but their scorn and mockery.

There had been only one exception.

That was the Old Madam Chu, the old lady who had remained in the old family house and had kept solitary watch over the house.

When Ye Fan had been born, his mother Ye Xi-Mei and his father Chu Zheng-Hong had still been working for the Chu family business in China.



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His parents had been overwhelmed with work and had no time to take care of him.

Ye Fan had been sent to the Chu family's old family house and placed under the care of Old Madam Chu.

Ye Fan's great grandmother was the only elder in the Chu family to share a deep bond with Ye Fan.

In fact, she had been the one who had given Ye Fan his name.

She had everything to do with Ye Fan's greatest secret—his possession of the Book of Celestial Cloud.

Ye Fan's achievements were largely due to her efforts.

Those few years spent with the old lady had transformed Ye Fan's life and shaped his future.

Ye Fan would never forget the tears in the old lady's eyes the day Chu Zheng-Hong had brought him and his mother back to the family.



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He would run to his great grandmother weeping when he had been bullied by the others.

Old Madam Chu would do what she had done when Ye Fan had first learned to walk. She would pull him into her arms, brush his hair and speak to him in a soft, comforting manner.

.....

“Fan, your great grandmother knows that the rest of the family disapprove of you and want you gone. But it’s alright. Your great grandmother is on your side. I have your back.”

.....

“I chose you. You’re the only one in your generation to have a ‘Tian’ in your name. No one can change that fact. Not even your horrible grandfather can do anything about it.”

.....

“Fan, you can hate your grandfather, your uncle and your other relatives. But you can’t



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hate the entire Chu family clan. You can't hate our ancestors. The blood of the Chu family and our ancestors flow inside you. You would not be here without their sacrifice. Neither would your father nor the power and prestige that the Chu family enjoys today. Without their sacrifice, you would not possess the limitless power that you will have when you grow up. Remember, no matter what happens, always remember. Your family name is Chu. It was passed down from your ancestors. One day, you will find out the power that lies behind that family name."

.....

"Remember, Fan. No matter where you go, no matter what obstacles you face, you will always have a home and a safe harbor at your great grandmother's place. As long as I'm around, I'll protect you from harm. Nothing will touch you."

.....

Those had been the words that the old lady had uttered to him during his last visit after he had been cast out from the Chu family.



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In Ye Fan's memories, his great grandmother had been a godlike figure who could do anything.

She had the power to make withered plants blossom, make the waters rise in riverbeds that had dried out, and bring life back to dead dogs and cats.

She had been the one whom he would run to as a child whenever he had been faced with a setback.

No matter the problem that had confronted him, it would be easily solved as soon as his great grandmother got to it.

The kind old lady glowed with a heavenly light in Ye Fan's memories.

She had seemed invincible.

The reliance that he had developed since he had been a child could be the reason why he was here now. At his most despairing and hopeless moment, Ye Fan had chosen to return to the place where his first memories had been made and where his dream had begun.



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Within the ancient mansion, everything appeared peaceful and quiet.

It was May. The leaves on the trees were lush and a bright verdant while beautiful flowers had begun to blossom in the pomegranate bushes flanking the gates.

There was a small farm on the left side of the courtyard. Planted along the rows were vegetables commonly seen in rural villages like chives and cowpeas.

Sprawling next to the vegetable patch was a black farm dog. It was napping.

An old lady stood in the courtyard. She had a head full of white hair. Despite her age, she looked in the pink of health and in great spirits.

She was carrying a bucket of water and watering the vegetables in her vegetable patch. She resembled a mother as she took care of those young plants like she would her own children.

“I wonder how Yun is doing? She’s been



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away for six months. I can't believe I haven't heard any news about her," the old lady muttered to herself worriedly as she watered her vegetables.

She shook her head and sighed.

"These children are more trouble than they're worth," said the old lady with an exasperated smile. She stopped worrying about Yun and instead turned her attention to the plants under her care.

She might be old and no longer had any grand ambitions, but she still had to find something to do to fill her time.

How else was she going to spend the days?

She was halfway through watering her vegetables when she heard the faint sound of dragging feet outside.

Then, someone knocked on the door.

A terrible cry rang out. It sounded familiar, and came like a shot out of the past, striking her squarely in the heart.

"Great grandmother...your unfilial great



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grandson, Chu Tian-Fan...is here to see you..."

The weak and faint voice boomed like thunder in the old lady's ears.

Suddenly, all she could hear was the voice outside the gates.

"Is it...is it Fan?"

She stood, frozen to the spot, as if struck by lightning.

Tremors coursed through her aged body.

The ladle in her hand fell to the ground with a loud thud, sending fresh and sweet water that had been drawn from the well splashing across the ground.

Breaking out of her momentary daze, the old lady raced to the gates as quickly as she could and pulled the doors to the old mansion open.

She was greeted with the sight of Ye Fan, disheveled, dirty and sprawling on the ground weakly. He was breathing faintly, his puffs of exhalation as weak as a dying flame



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that could go out at any moment.

“Fan...is it really you?”

The old lady was overwhelmed with emotion at the sight of the young man.

Her voice shook as tears began to wet her cheeks.

Ye Fan struggled to lift his head and call out to the old lady. “Great...great grandmother...”

His voice was faint and weak, easily carried away by the slightest wind.

The young man fell silent after that and collapsed onto the ground.

Waves of weakness rose like a tsunami and pulled him under.

Sheer willpower had gotten Ye Fan this far, but he had reached his limits and had finally collapsed.

Fortunately, he had arrived.

Like a wanderer, he had arrived home and found safe harbor just as he was going to



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die alone in the cold and frozen wastelands.

Ye Fan's consciousness slipped into a deep and seemingly infinite darkness.



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A faint beam of light shone into the darkness.

Ye Fan regained consciousness after he had slept for a long time.

He slowly opened his eyes. The sunlight shone into the room through the window blinds and cast a rainbow of colors onto the floor.

“Where am I...”

Ye Fan was experiencing a moment of memory lapse.

His listless eyes looked at his surroundings.

The room was very simply furnished, yet one could tell they had been through some history.

There was a vintage-looking table and chairs in front of him, while a few portraits of China’s forefathers hung on the wall.

A radio that was playing hits from the 90s was placed on a table by the side.

Ye Fan remembered standing in front of that



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radio and listening to a female singer with a very sweet voice. She sang a very popular song called “Returning Home”.

There was a grandfather clock that hung on the wall above the radio.

The ticking sound from the clock’s pendulum was once part of Ye Fan’s childhood.

Ye Fan was astounded at the familiar yet foreign place he was in.

For a moment, it felt like he had gone back to his past.

It was in this small house that an elderly lady in her 70s stayed by his side and took care of him throughout his childhood.

Years had since passed and Ye Fan, now an adult and married, was sitting in this same room. When his gaze fell on the furnishings, it felt like he was looking back in time at himself when he was only a young child, going about doing various things in the same room.

It brought back beautiful memories of his



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growing up years when he was so carefree.

Nothing had changed here.

Everything was still the same.

When Ye Fan looked at the vintage radio, grandfather clock and everything else in this room that was so familiar to him, he became overwhelmed and choked with emotions.

“Cry if you feel like it, silly boy. Your great grandmother’s place will always be your safe harbor,” a kindly voice sounded suddenly in his ears.

Ye Fan looked up as an unassuming old lady walked through the door.

The moment he saw her, all the emotions that Ye Fan had been suppressing broke loose.

He rushed into her arms just like when he was a young child.

Ye Fan could not speak as he bawled his eyes out in the arms of his great grandmother.



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Chen Ao and the rest would have been shocked by this scene if they were here.

Who would have thought that a man who once commanded all of Jiangdong and topped the list of the powerful in Japan would one day be crying like a baby in the arms of an old lady?

But if one thought about it carefully, there was nothing really surprising about Ye Fan's actions.

After all, Ye Fan was only a youth who had just turned 20 not long ago. Others at his age would probably still be a student in school.

No matter how strong a youth in his early 20s appeared to be, he would still be considered a child in the eyes of his elders.

Besides, humans were bound to have vulnerabilities. This was regardless of one's age or strength.

Sometimes, in the dark of the night and under the influence of alcohol, even a man in his 40s would be wailing out loud on a friend's shoulder.

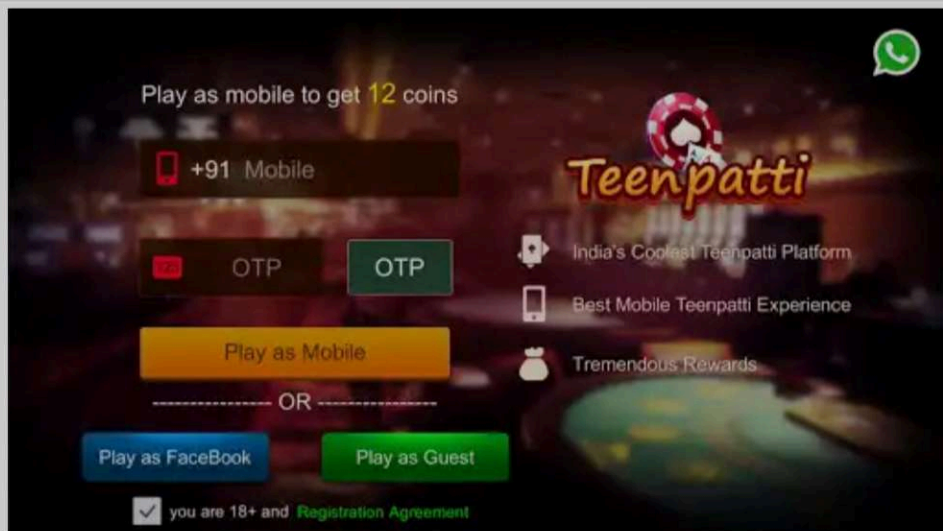


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Life could be difficult.

No matter how strong and independent a person was, there would be times when things became too much to bear and would cause emotional breakdowns.

It has happened to Qiu Mu-Cheng in the past and now, the same happened to Ye Fan.

It was far more heart-rending when an adult went through an emotional breakdown.

This was what Old Madam Chu experienced as she heard the heartbreaking cries from the youth in her arms.

She could guess what Ye Fan went through even without him saying anything.

This silly boy must have had suffered a lot all these years. Otherwise, her Fan would not have fallen apart like this.

Ye Fan finally stopped crying after he let all his pent-up emotions out.

Ye Fan had suffered too much all these years.



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He had suffered humiliation as he grew up among the members of the clan.

His clan threw him out of the Chu family together with his mother subsequently.

Ye Fan had thought that his nightmare was over once he had left the Chu family.

But he was wrong. A worse nightmare had begun for him instead.

Ten years. The Chu family had tried to kill him for ten years.

He had lived on the edge for the past ten years.

It had never occurred to Ye Fan that even his uncle would try to kill him personally.

Ye Fan was perplexed by how much these people seemed to hate him and couldn't wait to have him killed.

Ye Fan had not shed a single tear in the past, no matter how tough life was.

To him, tears were only meant for the weak!



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But in front of his great grandmother, Ye Fan could safely remove his facade and reveal his true self to her.

It was simply because Ye Fan trusted his great grandmother the most.

Ye Fan wouldn't be where he was if not for his great grandmother.

“Fan, you need to rest and heal first. We can talk later. You are very badly injured this time. If you had arrived any later, even I would not have been able to save you from the gates of hell,” Old Madam Chu said with a small laugh that sounded sad as she tried to make light of the situation. It was clear that Ye Fan's injuries really broke her heart.

When she first saw Ye Fan lying at the gate, Old Madam Chu found it hard to believe that this youth who was so badly injured and on the brink of death was the same mischievous boy who loved to run around in the courtyard.

She has lived for so many years and had been through life's many ups and downs, but she hardly ever saw anyone with injuries to this extent.



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“Ok.” Ye Fan said while nodding his head.

He followed the instructions given by his great grandmother and stepped into a wooden tub filled with medicinal herbs.

“Although your external injuries are serious, they should heal on their own as you have the powers from Invoke the Celestial Cloud. Your internal injuries are what’s worrying. There is an energy force that has penetrated deep into your arteries and lungs. It would take some time to drive it out of your body, but it isn’t a big deal.”

“Your great grandmother’s Revitalization Bath is able to regenerate your flesh and bones, so your injuries are not a problem. As long as you follow my instructions and soak in these medicinal herb baths for some days, your arteries and lungs will be healed. I guarantee that you will be able to walk and jump about in less than a month. But it will take more time for you to heal completely.”

“Alright now, just soak in this bath for now. We will talk when you feel better later.” Old Madam Chu had to hold back her questions as Ye Fan had just woken up and was feeling weak. He needed more rest. She would ask



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her questions when he felt better in a few days.

“I would like to know who is the person who had the audacity to do this to the eldest grandchild of the Chu family!” Old Madam Chu muttered to herself with an icy look in her eyes.



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Ye Fan continued his recuperation with the medicinal herb baths over the next few days.

He could feel the warm currents that flowed continuously into his body as he soaked in the medicinal herb baths.

The pain stopped wherever the warm current flowed to and was replaced by a very pleasant feeling.

Within a few days, Ye Fan felt a significant improvement to his internal injuries.

It showed on his face as his complexion started to turn a healthier hue.

“Great grandmother, your medicinal herb baths are really good. Can you share the formula with me so that I can prepare this for myself if I am injured in the future? Otherwise, I have to run all the way here and trouble you every time,” Ye Fan said with a wide smile to his great grandmother. The moment Ye Fan felt better, he started to behave cheekily again.

“You little rascal, are you now even scheming against your great grandmother? I didn't charge you for the medicinal herb



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baths and you even want the formula now? You are really greedy." These words sounded like a reproach from Old Madam Chu but one could hear an indulgent tone in her voice towards Ye Fan.

"You will not be able to concoct the Revitalization Bath even if you have the formula, so you can forget about having it. The concoction requires an opportune time, place and a person with the right skills in order for it to work. This means that this medicinal herb bath will only work in my hands and in this mansion." Old Madam Chu shook her head as she laughed. It all sounded very mysterious to Ye Fan.

Old Madam Chu has always given Ye Fan the impression that she was shrouded in mystery since he was young.

He felt that his great grandmother was different from the other elderlies out in the world. She was definitely not ordinary and was certainly holding onto a lot of secrets.

But there was nothing strange about it. Old Madam Chu was the most senior person in the Chu family.



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Every year during the Lunar New Year, the head of Chu family would lead the clan members to the old mansion to pray to their ancestors and pay their respects to Old Madam Chu.

This showed the seniority of Old Madam Chu in the Chu family!

But as far back as Ye Fan could remember, his great grandmother never stepped out of this old mansion.

She seemed to be guarding this piece of land and the old mansion that stood on it, day after day, just like a nightguard.

Ye Fan had once thought that his great grandmother must be a very powerful martial arts fighter, a supreme grandmaster at the very least.

But he discovered that he was wrong because he could not sense any internal energy force coming from her at all.

Old Madam Chu was simply an ordinary person without any martial arts skills.

This was unbelievable as the Chu family was



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ranked number one in the martial arts world.

Yet the most respected person in this number one family was a person who did not know martial arts.

Then again, Ye Fan was not bothered by the mysteries that surrounded his great grandmother.

It was enough for him to know that his great grandmother loved and doted on him!

“Alright now, let’s talk about what happened. If my senses are correct, you have reached the third level of Invoke the Celestial Cloud, right? With your current prowess, there are very few people in China who can be a threat to you. So how is it possible that you were injured so badly? I have also detected some remnant traces of energy force from Invoke the Celestial Cloud in your injuries. Could it be that your injuries were caused by someone from the Chu family?” Although Old Madam Chu had asked Ye Fan these grave questions with an expressionless face, her eyes were glinting shrewdly.

Ye Fan clenched his fist and nodded his



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head.

“Great grandmother, it was third uncle, Chu Zheng-Liang, who tried to kill me. He conspired with the Japanese military to attack me. I was already badly injured by their latest and most advanced artillery, so he took advantage of the situation and tried to kill me with Invoke the Celestial Cloud. If I hadn't trained up my Dragon God Body, I doubt I would be alive now,” said Ye Fan grimly, his words echoing faintly in the room.

The memories of that day still sent shivers down Ye Fan's spine.

That was the first time he had such a close brush with death ever since he started practicing the Book of Celestial Cloud years ago. The near-death experience disconcerted him.

BAM!

Old Madam Chu smashed the table in front of her with her palm in fury when she heard what Ye Fan had said.

“That scoundrel! It's really him! When your father took over as the head of Chu family



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years ago, number three had tried to prevent it and caused a lot of troubles. I had thought that he had yielded after your father had gained firm control over the Chu family. To think that as an elder in the family, he actually had the cheek to strike out and bully his own nephew! This is really a misfortune for the Chu family to have such a brute!”

Old Madam Chu had already guessed that Ye Fan's tribulation was likely the result of the internal politics within the Chu family, but to hear it from Ye Fan directly made her furious nonetheless. As the most senior member of the Chu family, the last thing she wanted was to see her descendants fight and kill each other. “Fan, don't worry. I will seek justice for you. I will ask your father to beat this scoundrel when they come back here next year!” Old Madam Chu said angrily.

Ye Fan laughed softly and said, “Great grandmother, don't worry about my affairs. I will exact revenge on my own. I will make that pair of father and son regret all that they have done!” There was a cold glint in his eyes as Ye Fan clenched his fists.

Old Madam Chu wanted to urge Ye Fan against having any thoughts of revenge, but



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she decided against it.

“Alright then, I am old and won't be able to do as much. I will let you youngsters resolve your own grudges. But Fan, I still stand by what I told you before. No matter what happens between you and your other relatives, you have to remember that your surname is Chu. You are a son of the Chu family. The blood of the Chu ancestors flow in your veins!” Old Madam Chu solemnly emphasized these things to Ye Fan.

She had learnt to let go of a lot of things after having lived for so long.

The younger generation had already grown up with their own ideals. She knew that the words of an old lady would no longer carry as much weight as before.

As such, Old Madam Chu chose not to be involved in the politics within the Chu family.

She had already been through the upheavals of life and had seen many deaths. Her only hope was to ensure Chu family's posterity and legacy!



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After a short moment of silence, Old Madam Chu suddenly spoke to Ye Fan about his father, "By the way, Fan, I hope that you can have a heart to heart talk with your father when you have some time. Ultimately, both of you are father and son. It doesn't serve either of you any good if your relationship continues to be so strained. Besides, your father is the only one in the Chu family who can speak up for you. Zheng-Hong is not a heartless person and he loves you and your mother a lot. I'm sure he had his difficulties and therefore could not do anything when both of you were cast out from the family. There must be a misunderstanding between both of you."

Ye Fan turned his head away from Old Madam Chu and replied, "Great grandmother, I do not wish to talk about him. I am tired and would like to rest now."

When she saw Ye Fan's reaction, Old Madam Chu decided not to push further. She shook her head and sighed as she left.

Ye Fan continued with his recuperation at the old mansion in the ensuing days.

Old Madam Chu would meticulously change



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the medicinal herb bath for Ye Fan every day. Under her detailed care, Ye Fan's injuries began to heal swiftly.

One month passed.

During this past month, Chu Zheng-Liang and his son continued their search for Ye Fan without any success.

The divers they hired to search for Ye Fan's remains in the Japanese sea had no luck either.

The unease that Chu Zheng-Liang felt increased with each passing day.

"Qi-Tian, I want you to increase the manpower searching for Ye Fan. The search has to be widened to include the whole world but remember to do this quietly. I am increasingly convinced that he is still alive," said a solemn Chu Zheng-Liang coldly.

Chu Qi-Tian raised his head in surprise, "Father, how can this be possible? Didn't you say that you killed him with your own hands? The Chu family's Invoke the Celestial Cloud is best known for offensive attacks and you had executed the moves personally. How



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could that bastard have survived? I think it is more likely that his remains were eaten by the fishes in the sea, that's why we are not able to find him," Chu Tian-Qi guessed.

But Chu Zheng-Liang shook his head. "I had the same thought previously. But I have just received news from Japan that Ye Fan had mastered Dragon God Body."

What?

Chu Qi-Tian turned pale immediately in shock.

"Dragon God Body? How...how is this possible? Only the head of Chu Sect can master Dragon God Body! That bastard was born to a lowly village woman and exiled from the family! How could he master Dragon God Body? This is not possible!" Chu Qi-Tian was truly shocked.

Bitterness filled his heart.

It was extremely rare for any martial arts manual to include techniques for mastering physical invulnerability. Because it was so rare, the martial arts world would be in an uproar whenever such a manual appeared.



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Dragon God Body was the most powerful known technique for strengthening one's body in the martial arts world.

Chu Sect had only won this manual after sending out all their powerful martial artists to that monumental fight that involved many martial arts powers long ago.

The head of Chu Sect had always been the one to guard this manual all these years.

No one else had the right to look at the manual, let alone master it.

Even the head of the Chu family was not allowed to master it.

Chu Qi-Tian had his grandfather persuade Tang Yun, the head of Chu Sect, to take him in as a direct disciple some years back in a bid to obtain the Dragon God Body manual.

He had presumed that as a direct disciple to the head of Chu Sect, he would be able to learn this technique from Tang Yun.

Dragon God Body was able to dramatically increase a person's fighting abilities through the increase of the strength and defense



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powers of the human body.

With the powers from Dragon God Body, even a grandmaster would be able to challenge a supreme grandmaster.

Chu Qi-Tian had been hankering after this manual to master this incredible technique.

However, despite being a direct disciple of the head of Chu Sect for so many years, he was not able to even catch a glimpse of the Dragon God Body manual, let alone to master it.

And now, this powerful technique that he could only dream about, was Ye Fan's.

Jealous and bitter, Chu Qi-Tian found it hard to believe what he just heard.

"Father, this is impossible. There must be a mistake somewhere." Chu Qi-Tian shook his head several times in disbelief.

Chu Zheng-Liang nodded, "I agree, they must be mistaken. The moves of Dragon God are the highest martial arts techniques of the Chu Sect and it can only be mastered by the head of Chu Sect. There is no way he could



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have laid his hands on the manual. But there is one thing for sure, he must have mastered some sort of technique that makes his body invulnerable. A lot of powerful Japanese martial artists were at Tokyo Skytree that day and they had witnessed the battle. So, I suspect that he must have managed to survive because of this technique he has. We cannot ignore this possibility, no matter how slim the chance is. Do you understand what I am saying?" Chu Zheng-Liang's voice sounded grim as he said these.

Chu Qi-Tian immediately nodded and said, "I understand, Father. Rest assured, I know what to do. I will increase the manpower and look out for any news on him. I will also put his relatives and friends under close surveillance."

After he left, Chu Qi-Tian began to shift his focus from finding Ye Fan's remains to tracking his whereabouts.

At the same time, he got his subordinates to mobilize everyone the Chu family had in Jiangdong.

"Third Young Master, the Chu family's investment in Jiangdong has not been much



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as the economic growth in Jiangdong has been slow in the recent years. I have looked at the investment records for the past ten years. The Chu family had a total of 32 investment projects in Jiangdong, of which 20 of them had failed and another five were aborted. Only seven investment projects showed some level of success.”

“We were able to gain considerable influence in Jiangdong from two of these projects. One source of influence is from a man named Zhao Wu-Ji, who owns businesses across eight major cities in Jiangdong. The other source of influence is the Meng family from Liaocheng. They have considerable prominence in Jiangdong.” Chu Qi-Tian sat at his desk with his eyes closed as he listened to the report from his subordinate.

With the possibility that Ye Fan was not dead, Chu Qi-Tian had to hunt him down first before he could have him killed again.

A missing person’s hometown would be the best place to start looking and hence, Jiangdong topped his list.

“Good! Contact the heads of both the Zhao and Meng families, have them mobilize all



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their powers and influence to locate Chu Tian-Fan's whereabouts! Report to me immediately once there is any news," Said Chu Qi-Tian. His subordinate left to carry out his order immediately.

However, the subordinate returned shortly and told Chu Qi-Tian with an appalled look, "Third Young Master, I have just gotten to know that the influence from Zhao and Meng families in Jiangdong had been destroyed by Chu Tian-Fan. Young Master Meng was forced to commit suicide and the entire Meng clan has moved elsewhere. As for the head of Zhao family, Zhao Wu-Ji was sealed into a coffin alive and thrown into the Yellow River!"

"What?" Chu Qi-Tian's pupils constricted in shock when he heard this.



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“What about the rest of the influences that our Chu family has in Jiangdong? Without these two, we should still have five people, right? Go and contact the rest of them!” Chu Qi-Tian yelled as his expression darkened.

His subordinate sighed and shook his head. “It’s all gone. The investment unit just informed me that about half a year ago, all our informants and allies in Jiangdong were eliminated overnight. It was as though a demon had personally reached out and uprooted us with his hand. There are no organizations that are even remotely linked to us in Jiangdong now.”

BANG!

Chu Qi-Tian already pale face turned an even more ghastly shade.

The glass of red wine fell from his hand and shattered as it hit the floor, coloring the floor with a vivid shade of red.

“All our influences are go...gone?” Chu Qi-Tian muttered in panic to himself after a long period of silence. His heart seemed to quiver in fear.



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It was not hard for him to guess that this must have been done by Ye Fan.

Whenever Chu Qi-Tian tried to create trouble for Ye Fan in the past, the latter had only defended himself and resolved the problems passively.

Chu Qi-Tian only just discovered that unbeknownst to him, the hunted had become the hunter.

It has never occurred to Chu Qi-Tian that Ye Fan would proactively deal with and get rid of everyone connected to the Chu family.

The Chu family's influences in Jiangdong had been eliminated by Ye Fan without anyone realizing.

“Chu Tian-Fan! You’ve really outdone me this time! You sneaked an attack on us and destroyed our influences and informants in Jiangdong! No wonder I have so little information on you over there. It looks like you have plans to make Jiangdong your base camp huh?” Even as Chu Qi-Tian said these words coldly, he felt panic and fear. It was only now that he truly comprehended the kind of opponent he was up against!



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“Father was right, I was too arrogant and had underestimated him all this while. But, Chu Tian-Fan, did you really think you can rest easy just because you’ve gotten rid of everyone I have in Jiangdong?” After recovering from his shock, Chu Qi-Tian seemed to know what his next course of action should be.

“Third Young Master, what do we do now?” his subordinate asked worriedly. Without anyone on their team there, it would be a lot more difficult for them to gather any sort of intelligence and carry out any plans.

“Simple. The people we supported in Jiangdong are gone, but we can always send others in! I remember reading from a report that Chu Tian-Fan is supposed to be the King of Jiangdong, correct? Since he has been defeated, it is time for Jiangdong to have a new master,” Chu Qi-Tian sneered with deviousness.

That very night, Chu Qi-Tian sent his cronies on a plane to China.

No one knew the kind of storm that was coming to Jiangdong under the instigation from the Chu family!



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Over in Jiangdong, Chen Ao and Li Er did not have the slightest inkling on what the Chu family had schemed. All was peaceful and calm.

Chen Ao and the rest carried on their daily lives as though nothing had happened.

Whenever someone asked about Mr Chu, Chen Ao and the rest would calmly reply, “Mr Chu always keeps his whereabouts private. He was in Japan some days back, but who knows? He may be in Thailand enjoying himself now. Haha, nobody knows exactly when he will be back.”

No one doubted this explanation.

But while Chen Ao and the rest could act normally, the suddenly widowed Qiu Mu-Cheng couldn't.

“Mu-Cheng, what happened to you? How long has it been since you went to work? The new employees don't even know what their boss' name is.”

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“Mu-Cheng, say something! Don’t scare me like this! What happened? Did you quarrel with Ye Fan again?”

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Qiu Mu-Cheng had been staying in Mount Yunding Villa throughout this time as she continued to stubbornly wait for the young man to return home.

She couldn’t care less about the company’s affairs.

She had established Mufan Group with the goal of creating a better life for both Ye Fan and herself.

But Ye Fan was not around anymore.

What was the point of having power and wealth now?

Qiu Mu-Cheng’s behavior frightened Su Qian.

She would visit Qiu Mu-Cheng every other day and asked her what happened.

But Qiu Mu-Cheng refused to speak. She continued to wait quietly in front of Mount



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Yunding for Ye Fan to return every day without fail.

Days akin to these did not last for long in Jiangdong.

On a particular day, a multitude of cars from another province drove into this piece of land.

With their arrival, the peace that Jiangdong had been enjoying was broken as it became embroiled in another turmoil.

The afterglow from the sunset painted the sky with a brilliant shade of red.

Ye Fan has just completed the last round of his medicinal herb bath treatment and was sitting in the courtyard with his face turned towards the sky, avidly basking in the warmth of the last remaining sun rays.

As he stretched his body lazily, a series of gentle crackling sounds could be heard coming from his bones.

“Mm, looks like your recovery has gone well



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in the past month. The external injuries have all healed but the injuries to your arteries will take a little longer. You have to avoid using your internal energy before you are completely healed.” Old Madam Chu appeared behind Ye Fan, pleased to see her great grandson filled with vigor again.

Ye Fan nodded, “Alright great grandmother, I will remember this.”

“Oh, didn’t you say that you are already married? My great grand daughter-in-law must be worried sick for the past month without any news from you. Do you want to contact her to let her know you are safe? Or perhaps, to see her in person?” Old Madam Chu asked suddenly.

Ye Fan kept quiet for a while before shaking his head, “I don’t think I will let her know. If my guess is correct, the Chu family should be looking for me everywhere right now. I have not completely recovered yet, so contacting Mu-Cheng now will put her in danger and expose my whereabouts.”

Ye Fan had thought about this at length.

After considering all factors, he felt that his



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whereabouts should be kept a secret before he made a complete recovery.

His opponent was no longer Chu Qi-Tian but the more treacherous Chu Zheng-Liang!

It was definitely better for him to err on the side of caution.



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Chapter 990 Yin Yang Dragon Body

Ye Fan stood to lose everything if he was careless when crossing paths with a merciless opponent like Chu Zheng-Liang.

Hence, it would be best to conceal his whereabouts before his abilities had fully recovered.

Ye Fan wasn't too worried about the situation in Jiangdong.

Jiangdong would not fly into chaos so long as news of his death wasn't leaked.

Ye Fan hadn't heard of any unrest in Jiangdong while he recuperated for a month.

Since Jiangdong had remained peaceful as usual, Ye Fan could direct his focus on improving his abilities from now on.

"Great grandmother, you said Dragon God Body was a formidable physical martial arts skill that could help improve physical strength, defense, and self-recovery. Why can't I sense any ability to self-recover? Did you get mistaken, or did I make a mistake while I was mastering it?"



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Chapter 990 Yin Yang Dragon Body

Ye Fan's grandmother gave him the Dragon God Body manual back in the day.

Otherwise, Ye Fan would never have had the chance to obtain such a formidable physical martial arts technique, considering his status back then.

Old Madam Chu instantly laughed when Ye Fan asked.

"You're pretty smart. I was wondering when you would figure it out. To be honest, you didn't make any mistakes, and I didn't get it wrong. After Dragon God Body reaches its pinnacle, you will be able to achieve an impenetrable physique and self-recovery skills, so it's a particularly rare and powerful technique. You can't self-recover because you haven't mastered Dragon God Body completely.

What?

"It's incomplete?"

Ye Fan was instantly stunned.

He finally found answers to the doubt hovering in his heart.



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Chapter 990 Yin Yang Dragon Body

“Is there another volume to the technique manual?” asked Ye Fan in surprise.

His great grandmother nodded.

“The Dragon God Body manual consists of two volumes. The one you have mastered is the Yang volume. The Yang Dragon God Body makes you physically indestructible, be it by force or elements, so it is particularly strong and powerful. The Yin volume allows its practitioners to gain a Yin Dragon God Body that grants them powerful self-recovery skills, so even broken bones and internal injuries can heal quickly. Since you have only mastered the Yang volume, you don’t have any self-recovery skills,” explained his great grandmother slowly in an unhurried and calm tone.

Ye Fan was incapable of staying calm when all the doubts that plagued him for years were finally answered.

Armed with the knowledge, he asked anxiously, “Great grandmother, where is the Yin volume? Do you know where it is?”

Ye Fan sounded absolutely anxious.



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Chapter 990 Yin Yang Dragon Body

After all, the Yin Dragon God Body's self-recovery skills would improve his survival chances and provide greater stamina to fight.

He wouldn't have almost died in Japan when he met with this disaster if he had mastered Yin Dragon God Body.

Also, Ye Fan wouldn't have to come all the way here to trouble his grandmother to help treat him.

He could have recovered using the Yin Dragon God Body instead.

Hence, Ye Fan was very interested in the Yin Dragon God Body after Old Madam Chu explained the difference to him.

"You certainly are greedy. First, you wanted Revitalization Bath's formula, and now you want to learn the Yin Dragon God Body? The next thing I know, you'll be asking for my mansion, right?" teased Old Madam Chu.

Ye Fan blushed. He instantly scratched his head and chuckled, "Great grandmother, I didn't want to trouble you. Just think about the number of times I will get hurt in the

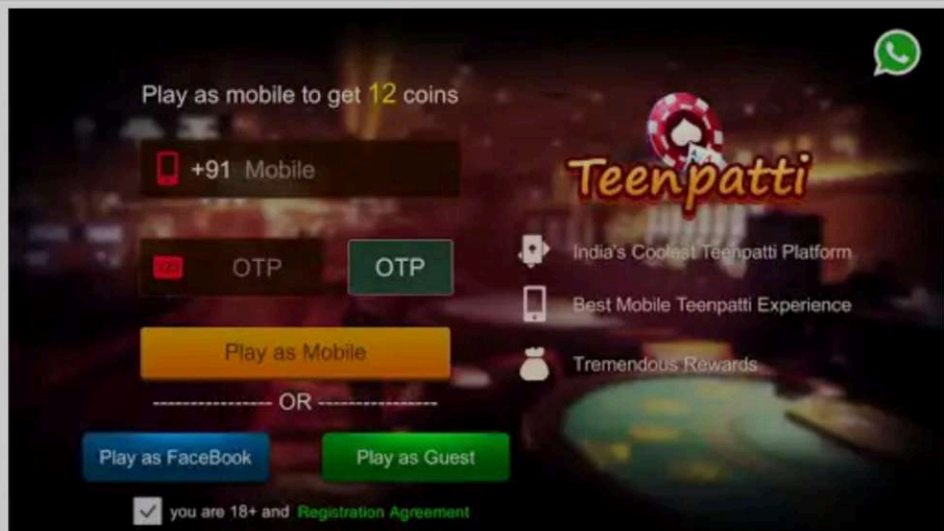


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future. I can't keep running over whenever I get badly injured, right? I feel bad for bothering you."

Ye Fan had a thick skin and was very good at saying sweet things.

Even though he clearly coveted the Yin Dragon God Body, he acted as though he was a filial grandson.

However, Old Madam Chu was keenly aware of the tricks Ye Fan was up to.

"I know you are just saying nice things to please me, but it's useless even if you have the Yin volume. Men can't practice it, so you can dream on. The Yin Dragon God Body isn't meant for you."

Old Madam Chu poured cold water on him mercilessly.

Ye Fan's mood instantly sank.

He ended up being happy too soon.

However, Ye Fan refused to give up and kept asking, "Great grandmother, is it really impossible for me to master it? Can't both



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Yin and Yang Dragon God Body co-exist?"

"Well..." said Old Madam Chu hesitantly before she continued, "...they can co-exist."

"Aha! Then what are you waiting for? Hurry up and tell me where I can get the manual, so I can practice it now," said Ye Fan anxiously in joy as his disappointment instantly lifted.

Old Madam Chu continued, "But it can only be mastered using an unusual technique and doesn't rely on cultivation alone."

"How?" asked Ye Fan.

"Through..." Old Madam Chu parted her lips and was just about to speak when she decided, "Forget it. The method doesn't suit you, so you should forget about it."

"Great grandmother, stop messing with me and tell me. I can withstand any suffering so long as I can master the Yin Dragon God Body," asked Ye Fan anxiously.

"Do you really want to learn it?" asked Old Madam Chu once more. She ended up giving in, considering how persistent Ye Fan was.



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“That goes without saying!”

Ye Fan was determined to master it.

He had to become stronger now.

Ye Fan’s abilities would certainly improve once he mastered Yin Dragon God Body.

Ye Fan was confident that he could even challenge Sky Ranking’s top ten martial artists after he had mastered Yin Yang Dragon God Body.

“Fine, Fan. Since you insist, I will give you a chance to master it. However, whether you can grasp it will depend on fate. To be clear, this was what you wanted, so you can’t blame me if anything else happens.”

Old Madam Chu seemed to be up to something when she refused to be held accountable for its outcome.

She sounded as though Ye Fan’s choice came with some serious consequence.

Since Ye Fan wasn’t dumb, he sensed something amiss and instantly asked quizzically, “Great grandmother, are you



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keeping something from me?”

Old Madam Chu became angry and turned to leave.

Ye Fan hurriedly pulled his grandmother and chuckled as he said, “Great grandmother, I was kidding. I know how much you care about me. What harm would you ever do me since I’m your biological grandson, right? I trust you. Now tell me, what do I need to do?”



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