

Han Jingru brought both Zhantai Liuyue and Fei Lingsheng to the Fei Lingsheng's home for a check-up. Both women suffered from serious injuries, but they were in no danger of losing their lives. As long as they were still alive, Han Jingru would still be able to nurse them back to their normal states.

Now, Han Jingru had every right to move into the palace. After all, he was the new Emperor. However, he did not do so as he had no interest in the privilege of an emperor. To him, the most important mission now was to defeat the Qilin.

He was worried after his conversation with the familiar. If what he said were true, then the combined powers of Xenos would be useless against him. Even his own plans would be rendered useless.

“What happened, Master? You're already the Emperor, so why do you look unhappy?”  
Confused, Huang Xiaoyong asked when he saw Han Jingru's unhappy expression. To him, one should be absolutely excited to take the position as the Emperor.

“So what if I am the Emperor?” Han Jingru asked him.

“You have absolute authority in Imperial Court. Isn’t that enough?” Huang Xiaoyong could not understand the other man’s perspective. To him, the Emperor’s position would be a lifetime glory. Moreover, with such power and authority, one could do anything one wanted.

“How superficial. These so-called rights and authority are nothing to me. So what if I am the ultimate authority figure?” Han Jingru said coolly.

“Master, if the Longyun City’s Chen family finds out that you are now the Emperor, how regretful do you think Chen Yanran will be?” Huang Xiaoyong laughed. He could already picture the woman’s regretful face. The entire Chen family would probably be sorry for how they had treated Han Jingru!

However, Han Jingru was completely disinterested in such things. To him, the Chen family was merely one of the passersby in his

life. Now that it was over, he had no desire to know how the Chen family would treat him.

Even if they were sorry, their apologies were meaningless to him. This was because, from the very beginning, he was only using them to conceal his true identity.

“Go back to Longyun City if you want to find out then,” Han Jingru said.

Huang Xiaoyong sighed. *I would like to go back to show off, but how can I leave under such crucial circumstances?*

*Based on my current identity, all the fighters at Dragon Emperor Palace will have to bow respectfully to me when they see me. This will feel so much better than just showing off in front of regular folk.*

“Master, I won’t leave now. I still have to serve you,” Huang Xiaoyong said shamelessly.

At this moment, the two women woke up from their coma.

Han Jingru hurriedly walked to their bedside.

Both of them still looked rather pale, but that was to be expected. After all, they were both seriously injured; it would take some time for them to go back to normal.

“How are you?” Han Jingru asked worriedly.

Fei Lingsheng was still weak, but when she saw that both Han Jingru and Huang Xiaoyong were safe, she knew the Emperor had been defeated. She said to Han Jingru, “You’re the Emperor now, aren’t you?”

“Of course. Look at who my Master is. There is no way that old bugger could be my Master’s opponent.” Before Han Jingru could speak, Huang Xiaoyong had interrupted him.

Fei Lingsheng smiled helplessly. She had never expected that there would be someone who could overtake the Emperor. This was a person even a Pinnacle Master would be afraid of.

Not only did Han Jingru do it, but he also



escaped unscathed.

“You should have achieved the Alpha Stage by now,” Fei Lingsheng stated blandly.

Huang Xiaoyong could not respond to that. After all, he didn’t know Han Jingru’s current state.

The latter deliberately took a look at his disciple. “Why aren’t you saying anything?”

Huang Xiaoyong scratched his head in embarrassment. “Hehe. Master, this... I don’t know anything about this.”

“Even though I have already reached the Alpha Stage, my strength alone is no match for the Qilin,” Han Jingru responded. He knew what Fei Lingsheng was about to ask, so he simply explained everything in one go.

From Fei Lingsheng’s perspective, Han Jingru would be on par with the Qilin when he arrived at the Alpha Stage. However, why did he still insist that he was not the Qilin’s match?

“Alpha Stage... The actual Alpha Stage. How could that not be the Qilin’s match?” Fei Lingsheng questioned with disbelief. This was the highest level according to the legends in Xenos. Therefore to her, this was an invincible stage, so he would definitely be able to handle the Qilin.

There were no outsiders here, so Han Jingru said, “I had a conversation with the Qilin when I was absorbing the spiritual power from the heavens and the earth.”

*A conversation?*

Fei Lingsheng and Zhantai Liuyue were both in disbelief they heard his words.

*As a beast, how could the Qilin have a conversation with human beings?*

*Moreover, Dragon Emperor Palace is thousands of miles away from the Dark Forest. How could the two of them have talked?*

“I know it’s hard to believe, but it’s true.

Moreover, the Qilin told me that he's stuck in the Dark Forest not because of how strong the formation was. He went in on purpose. In fact, the formation worked because of he helped," Han Jingru said.

*Nonsense.*

This was utter nonsense to Fei Lingsheng.

*Why would the Qilin do that? What benefit would it get from sleeping for a thousand years? And it helped trap itself secretly? Nonsense.*

"It must be a lie if it really told you this," She stated decidedly.

Han Jingru shook his head. He had considered that possibility, but he felt that the Qilin had no reason to lie to him. There was also no reason for it to make a big deal out of it.

"How are you so certain?" Han Jingru asked.

"The Alpha Stage is the highest level and is at the pinnacle of this world. Numerous fighters have

contributed their strength to capture the Qilin. Based on the legend's records, they were finally able to confine the Qilin when all of them reached the Alpha Stage and combined their powers. There is no one, not even the Qilin, who can fight against this stage," Fei Lingsheng said.

She felt that her understanding was not wrong. However, the Qilin had already said that it was not of this world but from a Higher Realm.

"If I were to tell you that the Qilin is from a Higher Realm, would you still think that way?" Han Jingru asked coolly.

*The Ether Realm!*

Fei Lingsheng was stunned.

Upon hearing that, Zhantai Liuyue was stunned as well.

Huang Xiaoyong's jaw nearly hit the ground.

It took a long silence before Han Jingru finally said, "It came to Xenos to avoid its enemies. I

don't know whether these are lies, but I feel that it had no reason to lie to me.”



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“Based on what you’re saying, Master, Xenos is no match for the Qilin.” With a terrified face, Huang Xiaoyong looked Han Jingru. Even though the man was not very intelligent at times, he was very clear and aware when it came to this matter.

the Qilin was from a Higher Realm and not from their world. Hence, Xenos was no match for its power.

Han Jingru glanced at Fei Lingsheng. There was a very low possibility of success if he were to attempt to use his powers to defeat the familiar. However, it might still be possible with the plan he had made up with Fei Lingsheng.

The woman understood the message he was sending her with his eyes. She also knew very well that if the Qilin’s origins were as described by Han Jingru, they could only win this battle with the use of divine punishment.

“I will increase my powers as quickly as possible,” Fei Lingsheng stated firmly.

Han Jingru nodded and told the two women, “Go and rest. We will continue this conversation when you recover from your injuries.”

As he left the room, Huang Xiaoyong followed him around like an eager little dog.

“Master, do you think Xenos will really be destroyed this time?” his disciple asked him cautiously.

“There’s a huge possibility of that happening.” Han Jingru sighed. He used to see the Qilin as merely another powerful beast that he could still handle. However, now that the familiar was from a Higher Realm, it made him feel a little powerless.

“Master, looks like this spells the end for us if even you think so.” Looking grim, Huang Xiaoyong suddenly lost all hope in the world.

“Don’t worry. As long as I am here, I will think of a way to solve this issue.” Han Jingru patted Huang Xiaoyong’s shoulders in an attempt to instill hope. He will never admit defeat easily, be



it for Xenos or himself. After all, he still had his wife, Su Yimo, and daughter, Han Xiang, back on Earth. He will definitely not allow himself to die at Xenos.

After parting ways with Huang Xiaoyong, Han Jingru headed to Imperial Archives.

Now that he was Emperor, he had every right to be in Imperial Archives.

The Emperor's trusted aide was now Han Jingru's subordinate.

“Your Majesty, do you need my assistance in any way?” the trusted aide asked Han Jingru.

“What's your name?”

“Yuexia.”

*Yuexia?*

Even though this name sounded rather strange, he found it rather poetic.

Han Jingru let out a soft laugh. “Alright, Yuexia. When did the last Emperor begin the plot to kill me?”

The other man did not dare to conceal anything as Han Jingru was his master now. “From the moment he found out that you killed someone from Imperial Court.”

“Looks like he had a lot of endurance then.” Han Jingru chuckled .

“He was wary of your powers as well. He would have ordered your death immediately had it been someone else,” said Yuexia.

Han Jingru was suddenly reminded of the Bailing family. There were many different versions of the story explaining why the entire clan was wiped out.

“Why was the Bailing family wiped out back then?” he continued asking.

Such an event was from the past; it had already been done. However, Yuexia remembered every

single detail vividly because the Emperor had ordered him to personally supervise the familicide.

“Even though the Bailing family was very influential, they did not pose any threat to the last Emperor. However, he was not willing to see them grow in strength, so he worked together with the Ximen family to wipe the Bailing family out,” Yuexia replied.

Han Jingru nodded. *In some of the rumors, there was talk of the Ximen family being part of the mastermind. It seems like the urban legends were not completely untrue.*

“I heard Ximen Chang was a subordinate of the Bailing family back then?”

“He was not really their subordinate. To the Bailing family, Ximen Chang was really considered a lesser man. This was why he was completely dedicated to helping the last Emperor. He had already planned to take over the Bailing family but was helpless as the family was just way too powerful. It was only after the last

Emperor summoned him that he found his opportunity. In the end, he became a rabid dog that killed everyone and anyone related to the Bailing family,” Yuexia explained.

“Didn’t it occur to the last Emperor that another similar family would appear as a threat to him even after killing off the Bailing family? Wouldn’t it be better to come up with a solution to gain control over the Bailing family instead?” Han Jingru was puzzled. Had he been the one to handle this, he would definitely not choose such an extreme path. To him, this was merely a short-term, not a long-term solution.

“He was still too young and impulsive to consider all these then. However, when the Ximen family grew stronger, he did mention that he had some regret over wiping out the Bailing family,” replied Yuexia.

*Regret?*

Han Jingru sneered. *What was the point of regret after killing so many people?*

Bailing Wan'er was just a newborn then. If not for her nanny, who had secretly brought her away, there would have been a baby amongst the victims.

“There’s still a living descendent of the Bailing family. I want to reverse the case for that family, no matter what crime he had pinned on them back then,” Han Jingru told Yuexia.

Bailing Wan'er's biggest goal in life was to avenge her clan. Even though the last Emperor was already dead, Han Jingru knew that her wrath would not be dissipated so easily. He hoped that her resentment could be reduced after he reversed their case.

Actually, he did not have to pay attention to her feelings at all. However, he was too kind-hearted and just wanted to make things better after promising her some things.

While most men's promises were not trustworthy, he was a man of his word.

“Yes, Your Majesty,” replied Yuexia. Han Jingru

was the new Emperor, and no matter what, Yuexia had to accede to his commands.

However, the man was somewhat bothered by the knowledge that there was still a living descendent of the Bailing family. After all, Ximen Chang had been an uncontrollable rabid dog back then. The Bailing family was spread across many places and he did not even leave a pet alive, let alone a human life.

Han Jingru entered the Imperial Archives after Yuexia went on to arrange the appeal for the Bailing family.

The last time he was there, he had been restricted to certain domains. However, as the new Emperor, every single item here was free for his perusal.

However, Han Jingru was not here for the books.

A handover event must've taken place with the instatement of every Emperor. Only then could the new Emperor learn what the previous Emperor's powers were. However, since Han Jingru killed the Emperor directly, there was no such event - the man had to discover this secret by himself.

The Imperial Archives was a forbidden area in Dragon Emperor Palace. No one was allowed access to it except the Emperor. That was why Han Jingru thought the previous Emperor's secrets must've been hidden there.

Han Jingru was powerful enough to rule over the entire world, even without having to be imprisoned in Dragon Emperor Palace, but his power was not enough to deal with the Qilin. If he managed to incorporate the power the previous Emperor left behind to his own abilities, he would have a better chance against the familiar.

Even though he already had a plan for defeating the Qilin, he didn't want to cast all his hopes on divine punishment. He wanted to give himself a



way out in case that didn't work out.

The Imperial Archives wasn't incredibly big. Everything was in plain sight, and nothing was out of the ordinary. However, he believed there to be a secret chamber somewhere - he needed to slowly search for it.

After making a few rounds at the Imperial Archives, Han Jingru finally stopped in front of a mural.

The mural was made by carving into the wall, and a craftsman was probably responsible for it. It consisted of a life-sized human, and judging by the clean streaks of every single detail, the craftsman must've been extremely skilled.

However, even though the body was very delicately carved, the face was unexpectedly vague. Besides that, it showed no signs of tampering, so it was probably an intentional design by the craftsman.

“Why didn't you carve a clear face?” Han Jingru mumbled to himself, finding it bizarre.

*Was it because the person was too ugly?*

He smiled to himself and shook his head. It was just another silly thought of his, so he paid it no mind.

At that moment, he discovered a small snake circling the figure's left arm. He couldn't help but touch the Ruby-eyed Python on his arm as he said, "Don't tell me you're a Beastmaster of the Ruby-eyed Python? This is such a coincidence because I am one too."

"Since we're fated in this way, why don't you tell me what secrets lie in the Imperial Archives?" Han Jingru casually joked.

*The stone figure can't talk, so of course it can't tell me the Imperial Archives' secrets.*

Next, Han Jingru discovered an odd stone eye on the top left corner of the mural. In terms of size, it was well-proportioned with the rest of the stone figure. It wasn't the only one. Han Jingru soon found another stone eye after that.

“Is the figure’s face scattered in different places and needs to be pieced together like a puzzle?” he guessed aloud.

A moment later, the man spotted a few facial features in some other places. Unbeknownst to him, the previous Emperor actually spent most of his days observing this stone figure, but he never figured out the secret behind it. Han Jingru managed to do what he couldn’t in just a few minutes.

However, even though he had discovered the scattered facial features, the whole mural was an entity, so it cannot be moved. If he wanted to piece the puzzle together, he needed to destroy the entire mural.

“Wow, you really left me with such a burdensome task. But, this figure’s appearance isn’t important to me; finding out the Imperial Archives’ secret is more important.” Han Jingru smiled and waved his hands in a flurry.

There was an abnormally smooth region on the mural; it was evident that it was the result of

wear.

Sure enough, when he pressed that spot firmly, the whole mural started to move, soon revealing a hidden door.

“Geniuses like me are rare nowadays.” Han Jingru was quite good at flattering himself.

When he stepped across the stone door, he reached a small room that had dried corpses hanging all around. It was a horrifying sight, but it was nothing to him - he had seen far worse.

He counted a total of eight corpses hanging on the wall, which meant that they were the corpses of the past Emperors of the Imperial Court. The previous Emperor’s rapid increase in power probably came from these corpses.

“They’re still being exploited even after their deaths. It’s certainly not an easy job to be an Emperor of Imperial Court,” mumbled Han Jingru chidingly. Usually, the dead would be buried for them to rest in peace. A prominent figure like an Emperor should have a luxurious

tomb built for him. However, they ended up being hung in this tiny room, unable to seek peace even after their death.

He sat cross-legged in the middle of the room. These dried corpses were there to give the presiding Emperor the power to control other fighters. Hence, as the newly appointed Emperor, Han Jingru needed to exploit the remaining power these corpses had.

However, he used a different method from the previous Emperor. He was not going to tap on them—he was going to absorb all the power from these corpses into his body.

“Dear elders, don’t worry. I’m not an evil person. After I finish using you, I’ll give you a glorious burial.” With that said, he closed his eyes.

The power from the dried corpses visibly surged into Han Jingru’s body. As the power came from different people, they repelled each other. However, this did not pose a challenge to him. He merely needed more time.

Three days later, Fei Lingsheng and Zhantai Liuyue's body had already recovered. When they walked out to breathe in some fresh air, they spotted Huang Xiaoyong sitting alone in the pavilion, with Han Jingru nowhere in sight. They could not help but feel a bit puzzled.

Fei Lingsheng approached Huang Xiaoyong and asked, "Where's your Master?"

Looking tired, the man turned around and shot Fei Lingsheng a glance before saying, "He went to the throne room. It's been three days. He hasn't returned yet."

"What's wrong with you? You look so hopeless. Did you suffer a bad blow?" asked Fei Lingsheng confusedly.

Huang Xiaoyong sighed. Ever since he heard from his Master that Xenos might be destroyed by the Qilin, he had been constantly worried about such a scenario. He was a person who feared death. If even his Master could not defeat Qilin, no one else could be up for the job.

Although Huang Xiaoyong already knew Fei Lingsheng's true identity, he was used to addressing her with that name. Furthermore, as he was Han Jingru's disciple, he no longer needed to treat the woman as a mighty figure. Hence, he did not change how he addressed her.

Thankfully, the woman was not bothered by this either. After all, as Huang Xiaoyong was Han Jingru's disciple, he had a special status.

However, she was confused by what the man said.

*We're all going to die?*

*Is he saying that Han Jingru has given up on defeating Qilin?*

*That's impossible!*

*From my understanding of Han Jingru, he's certainly not the type to give up so easily.*

“Did your Master tell you that?” she asked.



Huang Xiaoyong shook his head. “Although he did not state it directly, I know that’s what he vaguely meant. If we can’t find a way to defeat Qilin, how can we have a chance of survival?”

Fei Lingsheng glared at the man exasperatedly. *Luckily, Han Jingru did not say it personally. Otherwise, we’ll really be doomed.*

*As long as Han Jingru did not give up, there will certainly be a way to overcome this hurdle.*

“You’re so unlike your Master. How’s a coward like you worthy enough to be his disciple?” she remarked disdainfully.

Huang Xiaoyong glanced at her unhappily and rebuked, “Who are you to say that about me? If even I’m not worthy enough, are you?”

“Your Master is not someone who’ll give up so easily. He’s definitely thinking of a way to deal with the Qilin. On the other hand, despite being his disciple, you are here lamenting and waiting to die instead of thinking of a solution. Do you think you’re worthy enough?” replied Fei

Lingsheng.

Huang Xiaoyong was stunned. *Master will definitely not give up. She's right. As his disciple, how can I despair so easily? If I don't even believe in him, there's no one else who I can trust in this world.*

“To be honest, although you're a fighter in the Pinnacle Stage, I have never seen you as an equal. However, what you said earlier really made me look at you in a different light,” said Huang Xiaoyong.

“Do I, a Pinnacle Master, need your acknowledgment? Is it important that you're looking at me in a different light?” scoffed Fei Lingsheng.

Huang Xiaoyong knew that a fighter like her would not care about his opinions. However, that did not matter. Thanks to her reminder, he was determined not to remain so listless anymore.

“How are you, Madam Zhantai? Are you feeling better?” He walked toward Zhantai Liuyue and

asked gently.

Fei Lingsheng gritted her teeth. Although she did not care much for Huang Xiaoyong, she was a woman like Zhantai Liuyue. This differential treatment made her feel a little frustrated.

“Huang Xiaoyong, before you try winning someone else’s favor, why don’t you gauge yourself first?” she commented, sounding annoyed. *He’s clearly not in Zhantai Liuyue’s league. He’s acting so ridiculous!*

Pretending like he had not heard what she said, Huang Xiaoyong continued reminding Zhantai Liuyue, “Madam Zhantai, you must rest more now. It’ll be bad if there are any lingering side effects.”

An embarrassed look crossed Zhantai Liuyue’s face. Although the man acted so flippantly toward Fei Lingsheng, she did not dare to.

“I’m fine now. Thank you for your concern,” she answered.

“You’re welcome. This is what I’m supposed to do, anyway. A distinguished lady like you deserves to be shown more concern,” flattered Huang Xiaoyong with a smile.

Fei Lingsheng clenched her jaw when she heard that. *If Zhantai Liuyue is a distinguished lady, am I - a Pinnacle Master - not one?*

Despite her anger, the woman did not fly into a rage. She knew Huang Xiaoyong was deliberately trying to provoke her. If she overreacted, it meant that he would have achieved his objective.

“Why aren’t you looking for your Master?” Suppressing her anger, she asked Huang Xiaoyong.

The latter waved his hands dismissively. “My Master went to the throne room, so he’s definitely doing something important. I’d be asking for a beating if I disturb him now.”

“But he left for three whole days. What on earth is he doing there?” Fei Lingsheng frowned in

confusion.

“How would I know? If you are bold enough, ask him yourself. But if you disrupt my Master in the middle of something important, I can’t guarantee what’ll happen to you,” he replied.

She had actually wanted to ask Han Jingru what his subsequent plan was. However, after hearing what Huang Xiaoyong said, she dismissed that thought.

For three entire days, Han Jingru absorbed the power of the dried corpses in the Imperial Archives. Throughout the process, he could feel his power surging. The power of these corpses was undeniable. It was no wonder that they served as the Emperor’s trump card, allowing an Emperor at the Eighth Stage to be powerful enough to challenge a Pinnacle Master.

When Han Jingru opened his eyes, a bright golden light flashed across them. The power in his body was increasing and even morphing into something different. In the past, he could feel the power inside his body as a strong torrent. Now,

although the power was flowing within him more calmly, it had evolved.

His powers in the past could be described as flowing water, but it had now become like sludge—slow-moving but powerful.

He stood up and stretched, his joints cracking loudly.

At that moment, he suddenly felt an unknown force tugging him as if it wanted to drag him out of this place.

An alert expression crossed his face as he briskly left the secret chamber. As he did not turn around as he left, he did not notice that the missing facial features had returned to the man on the mural. When pieced together, it looked exactly like him!

When Han Jingru left the Imperial Archives, the initially clear skies were already filled with looming dark clouds while thunder roared loudly.

“Could it be that... This is the divine punishment?” exclaimed Han Jingru in surprise.

He could sense that this drastic change in weather had something to do with him and that the menacing thunder was meant for him.

He quickly tried to suppress his chakra. When he entered the Alpha Stage, he had not faced any divine punishment. Initially, he had been confused about it, assuming that divine punishment did not come because of the bones.

Unexpectedly, he was faced with one immediately after his period in seclusion.

Luckily, he had absolute control over his chakra. After suppressing his powers, the thunder stopped rumbling and the dark clouds in the skies cleared gradually, revealing the bright sun.

At that moment, everyone in the city was puzzled. It was sunny before dark clouds suddenly loomed over. However, a short while later, the clouds disappeared again. The people had never witnessed such a weird scene.

At Fei Lingsheng's house, Huang Xiaoyong was gazing at the sky and asking confusedly, "What's



wrong with this crazy weather? It's sunny one second and cloudy all of a sudden. What's going on with it?"



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Almost everyone thought this was just an erratic weather pattern. When the sun shone again in Yun City, no one paid any more attention to what had happened earlier. Only Fei Lingsheng, who was in the Pinnacle Stage, felt something amiss.

The dark clouds that had appeared earlier gave her a strong sense of oppression. That was definitely not a natural cause.

“What’s wrong?” Noticing the solemn expression on the woman’s face, Huang Xiaoyong asked curiously.

“What happened earlier wasn’t something that simple. It might have something to do with your Master,” she replied.

“My Master?” Huang Xiaoyong was confused. *How can the change in weather have something to do with my Master? Can he possibly control the weather?*

After a short while, Han Jingru returned to Fei Lingsheng’s home.

As Huang Xiaoyong had not seen him in a long time, he excitedly ran toward the man. He feigned a look of extreme longing and looked like he was on the verge of bursting into tears.

“Master, I missed you so much! I...”

Before he could complete his sentence, Han Jingru glared at him sharply. *This bloke is like an unscrupulous scammer. His acting is horrible! I can't stand this anymore.*

“Why did the weather change so suddenly earlier?” Fei Lingsheng walked toward Han Jingru and asked him directly. She trusted her own instincts, so she wanted to seek confirmation from him.

As there was no need for him to conceal it from any of them, Han Jingru directly revealed, “When I reached the Alpha Stage earlier, it might've been a fluke. I have only truly reached the Alpha Stage now.”

Han Jingru had been mulling over it on his way here. The seemingly late divine punishment

might not have been late at all. Instead, he might have been mistaken about his true abilities. The earlier Alpha Stage might not have been the true one, which was why he was not faced with a divine punishment even after the breakthrough.

Only after absorbing the powers of the previous Emperors did he finally reach the Alpha Stage, therefore triggering the divine punishment.

“The true Alpha Stage? Are you saying that the change in weather earlier was because of the divine punishment?” questioned Fei Lingsheng.

“You’re right.” Han Jingru nodded and continued, “I could feel a force tugging me as if it wanted to bring me away from this world. The Higher Realm which Qilin referred to probably exists.”

“The divine punishment is a test that can bring you to an Ether Realm?” Fei Lingsheng was intelligent enough to immediately grasp the situation. Divine punishment could not only allow one to evolve, but it could also bring one to a Higher Realm.

Of course, one had to pass the trials of divine punishment before that. Failure would probably lead to the destruction of the body.

“That’s probably the case,” answered Han Jingru.

“Divine punishment disappeared because you suppressed your chakra. If you had a chance to leave this place, why didn’t you take it?” Fei Lingsheng looked at him in confusion. Xenos was now being threatened by the crisis brought by the Qilin, and the entire world might be destroyed because of it. Yet, although Han Jingru had a chance to leave this place, he had not taken it.

*Is he scared?*

The woman immediately dispelled this possibility. From her understanding of Han Jingru, she knew the man would certainly not fear divine punishment.

Everyone had their own secrets. Although Han Jingru would openly share the secrets of Xenos with Fei Lingsheng and the rest, he never

revealed anything about his time on Earth.

Han Jingru was extremely curious about the Higher Realm, but he felt no urge to visit it. What he wanted to do was to return to Earth through the hidden Dimensional Tunnel in Xenos. After all, the people he cared for were on Earth.

“There’s no reason for that,” he stated.

Fei Lingsheng knew how important Jiang Yingying was to Han Jingru. For that woman, he had ruthlessly killed Yi Qingshan.

*Could he have no desire to visit the Ether Realm at all?*

“You might die with her if you stay. This is a risk you could’ve avoided completely,” probed Fei Lingsheng.

Smiling, Han Jingru shook his head. He had never really considered the risks. From the moment he decided to come to Xenos, he was already mentally prepared. There were only two things he needed to accomplish upon arrival.

Firstly, he needed to think of a way to dissolve the threat Earth was facing, and secondly, he had to return home. Nothing else mattered to him.

“Master, are you saying that the change in weather earlier was a channel for you to enter the Ether Realm?” Huang Xiaoyong, who was utterly dumbfounded by their conversation, finally returned to his senses. He had a look of disbelief on his face.

The Ether Realm and divine punishment were beyond the man’s knowledge. Although he had heard from Han Jingru that the Qilin came from the Ether Realm, there was nothing to prove it. Hence, he had always been skeptical about it. Yet, now that the Ether Realm had almost appeared in front of him, he had no choice but to believe it.

“Why? Are you interested in the Ether Realm?” asked Han Jingru.

Huang Xiaoyong shook his head subconsciously, thinking that he was not capable enough to visit it. Even after reaching the legendary Alpha Stage,



one only had a slight chance of going there. After all, they had to survive the divine punishment in order to pass the trial. He was not bold enough to take such a huge risk.

“Master, will you leave Xenos one day in the future?” he asked. Even if Han Jingru did not leave via divine punishment, he would still have to confront this matter in the future. As he was already the most powerful fighter in Xenos, there was no compelling reason for him to stay. If he wanted to become stronger, he had to leave for a Higher Realm.

It was true that Han Jingru wanted to leave, but the reason was different from what his disciple had assumed. The former was not fixated on pursuing higher stages or going to the Higher Realm. All he wished for was to return to Earth and live peacefully with Su Yimo and his daughter.

“Yes, I will leave one day.”

A disappointed look crossed Huang Xiaoyong’s face. However, he knew clearly that no matter

what he did, he could never convince his Master to stay; he had no right to do so either.

“Since you can already trigger divine punishment, when do you intend to deal with the Qilin?” Fei Lingsheng asked Han Jingru.

Initially, the latter planned to use Fei Lingsheng’s divine punishment to deal with the Qilin. However, there was no need for that now. There was a long way to go before she could reach the Alpha Stage, anyway. In Han Jingru’s eyes, Fei Lingsheng was too weak for such a task. As the difference between the Alpha Stage and the Pinnacle Stage was drastic, it would be impossible for her to reach the Alpha Stage in a short period of time.



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More importantly, the Qilin was currently in the stage of recovery, providing them with the perfect opportunity. If they delayed any longer, the Qilin would become even more powerful - it would be more difficult to defeat it.

Hence, now was the best time to deal with the familiar. If they missed this timing, it might lead to an irreversibly dangerous crisis.

“I came back to inform you that I’m planning to go to the Dark Forest,” announced Han Jingru.

“Now?” Fei Lingsheng stared at him in shock. Although she had already guessed that he would alter the plan, she had not expected him to do it so soon.

“Now that it’s still recuperating, this is the perfect opportunity to strike,” he explained.

She understood what he meant. As he had already decided, no one could reverse his decision.

“Have you thought it through, Master Han?” Zhantai Liuyue, who had been silent, finally

asked Han Jingru. Although the woman could not offer any help, she thought that it was unwise to make such a rash decision. After all, the Qilin was extremely powerful. Almost all the fighters in Xenos perished when they tried to seal it way. It was ridiculous to think that Han Jingru wanted to defeat the all-powerful Qilin on his own.

Furthermore, the man did not need to shoulder this responsibility. As this concerned the fate of Xenos, all the cultivators should work together to solve this problem.

“You don’t need to worry about me, Madam Zhantai. If we miss this window of opportunity, Xenos might really be destroyed. I must do this,” asserted Han Jingru.

“Master, what if... What if you don’t return? How can I break the news to Yingying? She’ll kill me,” Huang Xiaoyong said worriedly. Contrary to what he said, he was not actually afraid of what Jiang Yingying would do to him. By mentioning her, he merely wanted to make the man think more carefully about going to the Dark Forest.

“If I die, no one else will survive. You don’t need to worry about her killing you,” joked Han Jingru as he smiled. He was the most powerful fighter in Xenos now. If he died in the Dark Forest, Xenos would definitely not escape its demise. Everyone would end up with the same fate—death.

Huang Xiaoyong’s eyes twitched as he hurriedly said, “Master, I’m sure you will return peacefully. To me, you’re unparalleled. It’ll be impossible for the Qilin to defeat you.”

When Han Jingru heard his disciple’s self-consolation, he merely smiled. To be honest, he was a hundred percent confident in his mission either.

As the Qilin came from the Higher Realm, it was extremely powerful—to the extent that Han Jingru could barely imagine the limits of its power. Furthermore, he did not know how effective divine punishment would be against it. Hence, he was simply treating himself as a guinea pig, sacrificing his life for a mere experiment.

If he had other options to choose from, he would not do this. Unfortunately, he did not have the luxury of choosing.

“Alright. Now that I’ve said what I needed to say, I’m going to leave now. All of you should take care!” declared Han Jingru.

Huang Xiaoyong and the rest walked with him to the entrance. Although they had a lot of things to say, they could not utter those words. All they could do was watch as he walked away.

“Will Master ever come back?” Huang Xiaoyong’s head drooped, looking like he had lost all hope in the world.

A solemn expression crossed Fei Lingsheng’s face. In her opinion, Han Jingru only had a meager chance of success if he tried to challenge the Qilin alone. However, there was no one else in Xenos who was powerful enough to help. Even the most powerful fighter in the Pinnacle Stage was nothing more than useless cannon fodder.

However, not wanting to say something so

pessimistic, she replied, “Don’t you think he’s undefeatable? Why don’t you have any confidence in him?”

Huang Xiaoyong was stunned for a while before taking in a deep breath. He then stuck his chest out and exclaimed, “How is it possible that I’m not confident in my Master? He’ll definitely beat the Qilin up. Let’s wait. We will soon be able to taste what dragon meat tastes like.”

Fei Lingsheng smiled. Although the man sounded a little exaggerated, his pep talk was still quite encouraging.

People always joked about eating dragon meat, but no one was capable enough to do that.

“Madam Zhantai, do we continue staying in Dragon Emperor Palace or return to Jingru Sect?” Huang Xiaoyong asked Zhantai Liuyue.

“Let’s return to Jingru Sect,” replied the latter unhesitatingly. She felt nothing for Dragon Emperor Palace. Furthermore, as she had left for such a long time, she did not want the members



of the sect to worry. It was time for them to return.

Huang Xiaoyong summoned his Manticore, which descended from the sky. Traveling via air was the most convenient method for them.

“Fei Ling’er, we’re going to leave now. When we host a dragon feast, I’ll definitely tell my Master to invite you!” exclaimed Huang Xiaoyong.

“Don’t worry, I’ll definitely show up to witness that.”

Carrying Huang Xiaoyong and Zhantai Liuyue, the mantichore flew into the sky and sped away toward Jingru.

Fei Lingsheng watched as their figures disappeared on the horizon. Only then did she lower her head and return to her room.

News about Han Jingru killing the Emperor and becoming the new Emperor had already reached Jingru Sect. In fact, almost all of Imperial Court knew about it. Even though Jingru Sect had just

been established, it became the most powerful sect in Imperial Court. After all, it was an irrefutable fact that the Master of the sect was the current Emperor.

However, even though everyone was brimming with excitement, Jiang Yingying felt worried. She had a strange feeling that something bad had happened to Han Jingru. This premonition kept circling in her mind, refusing to disappear.

A day later, Huang Xiaoyong and Zhantai Liuyue returned peacefully. When Jiang Yingying heard the news of their arrival, she dashed to the entrance of the sect.

However, she only saw Huang Xiaoyong and Zhantai Liuyue - Han Jingru was nowhere to be seen.

“Huang Xiaoyong, where’s Jingru?” She immediately strode to Huang Xiaoyong worriedly.

The man could see the worry in her eyes. However, as there were too many people around

and news about the Dark Forest must not be circulated widely, he could only say, “Yingying, I’ll tell you somewhere else when no one is around.”

At that, the woman directly dragged him out of the sect and headed toward the back of Mount Phoenix.

Huang Xiaoyong had no choice but to follow her helplessly.

When they reached the back of the mountain, Jiang Yingying immediately released him and demanded, “What happened? Did something dangerous happen to Jingru?”



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The man relayed everything he knew to Jiang Yingying without hiding anything.

After the latter heard what he said, she wanted to leave immediately.

Huang Xiaoyong quickly asked, “Where are you going, Yingying?”

“To the Dark Forest, of course,” the woman replied solemnly.

When the man heard that, he instantly turned flustered. Before he could hold her back and convince her otherwise, she punched him and sent him flying away.

A look of agony crossed his face as he curled up into a ball on the floor. “Yingying, you mustn’t go. Master is going to deal with the Qilin by activating divine punishment. You won’t be able to help him in any way! You’ll only bring unnecessary trouble to him.”

At that, Jiang Yingying turned around and glanced at him coldly. “Then, do I just stand idly

by?”

“Only Master can fight the Qilin. At such a critical juncture, you mustn’t create any trouble for him. What if he gets distracted when trying to protect you? Won’t you be sabotaging him?” Although Huang Xiaoyong did not want to attack her like that, he had no choice but to say such harsh words. It was the only way to make her stay.

“I can protect myself,” the women scoffed indignantly.

“How can you protect yourself from divine punishment? If you go there, only Master can protect you. He must be capable enough to defeat the Qilin alone, but your presence might cost him his life instead. You’re not helping him by going. You’ll only be sabotaging him. Do you want him to die?” yelled Huang Xiaoyong through gritted teeth.

Jiang Yingying walked toward him murderously.

However, he was not intimidated at all. Looking

straight into her eyes, he continued, “You don’t even know how powerful divine punishment or the Qilin is. You can’t even defeat Yi Qingshan!”

“Do you want to die?” Furious, Jiang Yingying grabbed his neck. If she exerted more force, he would die instantly.

However, the man was not scared. He knew that if he relented and Jiang Yingying went to the Dark Forest, she might bring unnecessary trouble to Han Jingru.

“Have you forgotten that Master came all the way back to save you because you got caught by Yi Qingshan? You overestimated your abilities and assumed that you could help, but you couldn’t even defeat Yi Qingshan!” he continued provoking her.

The woman only wanted to go to the Dark Forest because she was concerned about Han Jingru. She never considered whether she would be of any help to the man.

Although Huang Xiaoyong’s words were a huge

blow to her ego, he was stating the truth. If she could not defeat Yi Qingshan, she would not be capable enough to help Han Jingru deal with the Qilin.

If she headed there, she might only become a burden to the man. Not only would he need to fight the Qilin, but he would also need to protect her.

When Huang Xiaoyong saw that Jiang Yingying had calmed down, he heaved a sigh of relief.

“Yingying, all we can do is wait for Master to return peacefully. In all of Xenos, he’s the only one who’s up for the task. If anyone else tags along, it’ll only be more troublesome for him.”

Jiang Yingying took a deep breath and released Huang Xiaoyong.

With much difficulty, the latter stood up and asked, “Yingying, don’t you believe in Master’s abilities?”

“Of course I believe in him,” she affirmed unhesitatingly.



“In that case, we mustn’t cause more trouble to him.”

“He’s risking his life because of Xenos. If anything bad happens to him, I’ll kill everyone here,” she declared calmly.

Jiang Yingying sounded like she was merely joking. With her current abilities, she definitely couldn’t do so.

However, Huang Xiaoyong had a strange feeling that she was not joking at all.

On Mount Jingwu in Xia Nation, Su Yimo was hugging the sleeping Han Xiang in her arms. The former gazed in the direction of the Dark Forest.

No more challengers were appearing at Mount Jingwu. Su Yimo was so powerful that none of the fighters in Xia Nation dared to act boldly. Although they felt quite humiliated, they had learned their lesson from all their previous failed attempts. No one dared to challenge her - they did not want to end up severely injured.

Stroking Han Xiang's head gently, Su Yimo mumbled to herself, "You haven't even seen your daughter yet, so how can you do such a dangerous thing?"

When she sensed Han Jingru suppressing his power, she instantly knew what he wanted to do. His trip to the Dark Forest made her even more certain of her guess. However, she knew much better than him that his plan was doomed to fail.

After gaining Fu Yao's memories, she understood the Qilin better than anyone else. As the familiar had already experienced divine punishment, it was impossible to defeat the Qilin with it.

Unless a miracle occurred, Han Jingru would definitely die.

"No matter what, the three of us must be together." With that, Su Yimo stood up.

Her sudden actions caused her daughter to open her eyes in a daze. She asked her mother, "Mommy, are we leaving now?"

Su Yimo smiled and nodded. Despite the dangers before them, she did not show any anxiety or fear. Instead, she said, “We’re going to meet Daddy.”

When the little girl heard that, her once-sleepy eyes instantly filled with excitement. She exclaimed, “Is Daddy going to pick us up? Where is he?”

Watching as she glanced around, Su Yimo could not help but kiss her cheek and say, “Daddy’s in a dangerous place. Will you be scared to go there?”

Han Xiang shook her head unhesitatingly. “I’m not scared. As long as I can find Daddy, I’m not afraid of anything.”

Her mother nodded. “I’m going to bring you along to look for Daddy. He’ll definitely be overjoyed to see you.”

With that, they left the mountain.

This was the first time Su Yimo was leaving Mount Jingwu after coming to Xia Nation. Her

action instantly alerted numerous fighters.

“She’s left the mountain!”

“What’s she planning to do? Is she going to challenge us?”

“We’re doomed! Will she come after us?”

This seemingly inconsequential action triggered the fear of many people. It was obvious how stressed these fighters were because of Su Yimo.

Even the President of Xia Nation could not hide his panic after hearing about it as he was afraid that she would create a ruckus again. After all, no one was powerful enough to stop her.

To prevent her from causing a stir, he had no choice but to steel himself and meet her.

“Don’t worry; I’m going to leave this place. You don’t need to fear me anymore,” said Su Yimo calmly when the president appeared in front of her.

*She's going to leave?*

At that, the president heaved a sigh of relief, but he could not help but feel a little helpless. After all, it was not advantageous to Xia Nation if a powerful figure like Su Yimo went to another nation either.



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In the outskirts of the Dark Forest.

When Han Jingru arrived at the scene, he could clearly sense the presence and hostility of the Qilin.

Though he was not completely certain that his plan to take down the Qilin with divine punishment would work, he knew that he had no other choice. Moreover, he had to act as fast as possible before the familiar rose to its peak strength.

“May the gods protect us,” he prayed, even though he had never believed in gods and deities. Having the courage was one thing, but facing imminent death was another.

Every time he thought about Su Yimo and Han Xiang, his will to live would intensify. He could not leave the two of them behind.

As soon as he stepped into the Dark Forest, a thick, ominous fog enveloped him.

“I didn’t expect you to come here to end your life

this soon.” The Qilin’s voice resounded in Han Jingru’s ears.

The latter’s expression turned icy-cold as he made his way toward Mount Xenos.

On the way, the familiars that crossed paths with him chose to retreat and avoid him upon sensing his powers.

While familiars did prey on humans, they were smarter beings than the common animals. They could tell that Han Jingru was a threat.

As the man continued on his path, many familiars began following him as if looking for an opening to attack from. Some of which had not ever been documented before. After all, the Dark Forest was shrouded by mystery - even the Pinnacle Stage fighters were not fully aware of the diversity of the familiars there.

The pack of familiars tailing him gradually grew in size, like an army of soldiers marching behind. However, Han Jingru was not at all bothered by them. For him, his only enemy in the Dark Forest



was the Qilin. Everything else was not even worthy of being concerned over.

“Hey, help me clean up those bothersome ones behind me, won’t you?” he said calmly.

The Ruby-eyed Python immediately sprang into action, dispelling all of the familiars away at once in all directions.

After hissing and revealing its fangs, the Ruby-eyed Python did not return to Han Jingru’s arms, choosing to walk alongside him instead.

“Hey, little guy. If I die here today, please run for your life. Run as far as you can,” Han Jingru said to the Ruby-eyed Python.

The snake hissed again, evidently displeased with his plan.

He could not help but lament to himself how nice it would be if the Ruby-eyed Python could speak the human tongue like the Qilin. *Then, we would understand each other so much better.*

However, the Ruby-eyed Python and the Qilin were obviously not on the same level. Getting it to talk was but a fantasy.

As Han Jingru neared Mount Xenos, the presence of the Qilin felt stronger and stronger. He slowed his footsteps as he felt its power. *It's even stronger than before.*

“It seems like you have regained much of your strength,” he spoke to the air.

With the Qilin's powers to control the entire Dark Forest, it could sense Han Jingru's voice even from a great distance away.

“If you're aware of that, why aren't you running away?” the Qilin asked.

“I'm here to end you. Why should I run?” he replied.

At that, the Qilin burst out in hysterical laughter. *End me?*

*A weakling from Xenos trying to end me? What*

*a joke!*

*My strength has grown far beyond all other beings of Xenos. Nobody can lay a finger on me.*

*Only someone who came from the Higher Realms can.*

“You little brat! Are you trying to joke around with me? Though I must say, you’ve made quite a funny joke,” the Qilin scoffed in disdain.

Han Jingru was unmoved. He knew the Qilin would underestimate his powers, but he meant what he said.

“A funny joke? Let me tell you this. You’d better watch your back, or you’ll regret it,” he replied coldly.

“Don’t try feigning to be what you’re not. I’ll never see you as my equal or a worthy opponent. That’s just self-degrading, don’t you think?” the Qilin taunted.

The familiar’s words did not really affect Han

Jingru's mental state because he was not feeling too confident in the first place. Coming to the Dark Forest was a gamble for him.

“Enough about that. Why did you come to Xenos in the first place? Was your life so miserable that you needed to escape here to regain your sense of self-worth?” Han Jingru asked crudely. Evidently, the Qilin was a creature that originated from a Higher Realm. It must have come to Xenos for a reason.

One possible explanation would be that the Qilin would rather rule a place like Xenos than live as a lowlife in a Higher Realm. However, that would mean that the beings in the Higher Realms were stronger beyond his imagination.

“I come and go as I please. What are you trying to imply?” the Qilin said defensively.

“But why come here? It doesn't seem like the environment here is at all beneficial to your growth. I wonder why you would sacrifice your potential to grow stronger and choose to stay here. Is someone stronger chasing after you? Or

perhaps... You're just a loser whom nobody respects apart from the beings in Xenos?" Han Jingru feigned an inquisitive voice.

The Ruby-eyed Python shuddered a little upon listening to their conversation. It knew that Han Jingru was clearly trying to provoke the Qilin on purpose. *At this rate, the Qilin's going to kill you before you even get to Mount Xenos! Why are you doing this?*

"You little brat. Trying to anger me with mere words? You're too naive," the Qilin said in an oddly calm voice.

However, Han Jingru knew that it had something to hide beyond its facade.

"Oh, no, no way. That's not my intention. I'm simply trying to figure out if you're still stuck on Mount Xenos," he chuckled.

"With that all-mighty power that you claim to have, why haven't you attacked after getting insulted by me? It's because you cannot leave Mount Xenos, right? Oh, I wonder what will

happen if you do manage to leave?" Han Jingru continued.



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From the moment he entered the Dark Forest, the Qilin had not appeared before him to strike him to death. That was when he began suspecting that it was trapped in the mountains.

To confirm his suspicions, he decided to provoke the familiar with his questions.

And as it turned out, his guesses were correct. For an unknown reason which could be linked to its healing process, the Qilin could not leave Mount Xenos for the time being. That was good news for Han Jingru.

His chances of striking the Qilin with divine punishment would increase greatly if it were stuck at one spot.

“You little brat. Why would you make such a preposterous assumption?” the Qilin hissed.

Han Jingru pursed his lips. With the Qilin’s reaction, he was now certain that his speculations were right. Otherwise, the familiar would not be acting that defensively.



“It’s just a simple observation of mine. Nothing impressive about that,” he said while letting out a laugh.

“Even if I can’t leave Mount Xenos, I can still kill you any time I want! Stop pulling your little tricks on me and tell me why!” The Qilin was clearly growing emotional.

Han Jingru replied placidly, “Do I get a less painful death if I tell you?”

“Now you get it. Make your choice. Do you want a slow, painful death or a quick one?” the Qilin sneered.

Needless to say, Han Jingru had no intentions of dying that day, even if the familiar was the most formidable opponent he had ever come across.

*I’m not giving in no matter what.*

Han Jingru continued his march toward Mount Xenos. Soon, he got close enough to see the outlines of the mountain.

However, as one might expect, the mountain was further away than it looked. The man still had some distance to cover.

Still, even from a distance away, he could not help but tremble a little when he saw the Qilin resting atop Mount Xenos.

It was a creature that was almost as large as the entire mountain. To the naked eye, the Qilin seemed to be more than a hundred feet long.

Mount Xenos seemed to be a lot less impressive in size in comparison. All in all, it was a rather trippy sight to behold.

“Hey, little one. Now that I think about it, you were fortunate and brave to have survived your fight with the Qilin,” Han Jingru told the Ruby-eyed Python. Back when they had met for the first time, he was really stifled by how a creature that strong could be so severely injured. After looking at the familiar in person, he could finally understand why.

“Oh, wow! That creature is your familiar? I

starved for an entire day because it escaped!” The Qilin laughed.

The Ruby-eyed Python could feel his body boiling with rage. Never had he imagined that one day, he would be seen as prey.

However, those words seemed plausible coming from the Qilin itself.

“You really look like one, don’t you?” Han Jingru suddenly exclaimed, staring at the Qilin.

“Look like what?” the familiar demanded.

In his head, the man was comparing the Qilin to the image of a dragon as described in the legends back on Earth.

He had always been fascinated with dragons. Though some experts had hypothesized dragons to be purely a figment of their ancestors’ imagination, He had always believed that dragons were real. After all, the details recorded were way too specific for it to be purely fictional.

*It seems like even the experts can make errors sometimes. They have denied the existence of a creature just because they only believe in what their eyes can see. How egoistic.*

“You look like a mythical creature from my world. We call it a dragon,” he said.

Upon hearing that, the Qilin got up from its resting position, causing huge boulders to crumble down from the mountain. *Bang! Bang!* The sounds of them crashing down reverberated throughout the woods.

“You are not a being from Xenos?” the Qilin asked in shock.

From its dramatic reaction, Han Jingru knew that the familiar was starting to fear him. *He probably thinks I’m from a Higher Realm now.*

“It’s not that shocking of a thing, now is it? You say you come and go to different realms as you please. Well, so do I,” he replied nonchalantly.

Fear.

For the first time, the Qilin could feel the unsettling feeling of fear creeping up its spine. As they would say, the strongest fear one could ever feel was the fear of the unknown.

The Qilin began to suspect that Han Jingru might have been concealing his true powers all that while. If so, he would be an opponent that must not be underestimated.

“Where are you from!” the creature growled.

*Hah... It does fear me!*

He could not help but cackle. It was just as he had expected. The Qilin was a coward who shuddered in the presence of beings from a Higher Realm.

Despite so, the man knew that he must not let his guard down. He needed to stay cautious, even if his opponent was a cowardly dragon.

“Do you want to see my true powers?”

The Qilin could sense something ominous lurking

around the corner. However, it knew that it had to stay on Mount Xenos.

In the Higher Realms, the divine familiar was nothing but a lowly steed. If Han Jingru really hailed from a Higher Realm, the familiar would have no chances of surviving a fight with him.

“Don’t try to act stronger than you are in front of me!” the Qilin roared in distress.

In response to that, Han Jingru unleashed his chakra. If he wanted to defeat the Qilin with divine punishment, he needed to do it as quickly as possible, or the creature would recuperate and become even stronger.

With him letting loose his chakra, divine punishment was immediately summoned.

Dark clouds and the ominous sounds of thunder enveloped the Dark Forest.

Initially, the Qilin was a little baffled by the situation. However, as it looked up to the heavens above, things became clear to it.

*Divine punishment?*

*This brat is trying to use it on me?*

*What a joke! Is that his so-called true powers?*



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“You little brat. Are you trying to use divine punishment on me? Is that all you’ve got?” the Qilin jeered. It turned out that Han Jingru was not as strong as it had feared. *Hmph. How disappointing.*

Its words were soul-crushing for Han Jingru. Obviously, the Qilin was unafraid of divine punishment, yet it was the only card that the man could play. If the familiar were to survive divine punishment, Han Jingru would face certain death.

“So you think you can survive divine punishment?”

Upon hearing that, the Qilin burst out in hysterical laughter. Clearly, Han Jingru had planned on ending its life with divine punishment.

*This truly is hilarious.*

“You’re not just a rude little brat. You’re a complete idiot! Hah... I have faced divine punishment before, and here I stand, alive and well. Divine punishment means nothing to me!”

the Qilin sneered arrogantly.

Han Jingru's plight was turning more devastating by the second. He froze, then asked, "What do you mean?"

"Have I not made myself clear enough? To go to the Higher Realms, one has to go through divine punishment. How do you think I've gone there in the first place?" the Qilin replied.

Desolation. All that Han Jingru could feel at that moment was desolation.

The divine familiar before him had already gone through divine punishment once in order to enter the Higher Realms, meaning that using divine punishment on it might not ensure fatal damage to be caused.

However, Han Jingru refused to admit his defeat.

He would proceed with his plan no matter what came his way.

It was not an act out of determination but one of

desperation. He was ready to fight to his death.

Gritting his teeth, he stepped up the chakra he was releasing to exacerbate the impact of divine punishment.

The greater the magnitude of divine punishment, the better his chances at wounding the Qilin.

On the other hand, the creature simply watched on, as if it was all a spectacle. It chose not to repress whatever Han Jingru was attempting to do. It would strike back at the right time to show the man how futile his efforts were.

“Take your time, you little brat. I’ll be patient,” the Qilin smirked.

Ignoring the Qilin’s taunts, Han Jingru remained focused on what he was doing. He had to be steadfast, or he would never be able to amass sufficient power to defeat it.

The storm raged on. Countless lightning strokes gathered into a single glowing rod amidst the dark clouds.

At that very moment, every single Cultivator in Xenos could sense that the heavens above were in utter chaos.

Meanwhile, at Dragon Emperor Palace.

As Fei Lingsheng felt the power raging in the distance, she instinctively looked in the direction of the Dark Forest. Though she could not see it from afar, she knew that Han Jingru was making his attack on the Qilin - he only had one shot at it.

“I wish you all the best. If you don’t make it, Xenos will be done for.”

Back at Jingru Sect, Jiang Yingying, Huang Xiaoyong, Zhantai Liuyue, and Yan Qinghua stood on the mountaintop, staring in the direction of the Dark Forest.

“It seems like Master has finally unleashed his chakra. I hope the lightning of divine punishment will be enough to end the Qilin,” Huang Xiaoyong said, putting his hands together to pray.

On his side, Jiang Yingying remained silent, her

expression grim.

While she had confidence in Han Jingru from all the things they had been through together, she was still worried about him.

She knew killing the Qilin was almost like a suicide mission.

Should Han Jingru make a wrong move, his life would be in peril. That was something that she could never bring herself to accept.

“Jingru, please come back alive. Yimo and Xiang are still waiting for you,” Jiang Yingying said softly.

While everyone was making their prayers for Han Jingru, a woman and a young girl were bolting toward the Dark Forest.

As it turned out, the woman was Su Yimo.

Unbeknownst to Han Jingru and Jiang Yingying, Su Yimo and Han Xiang had already arrived in Xenos.

“Mom! Mom! I hear thunder!” Han Xiang whined, hiding in her mother’s embrace.

Patting her head reassuringly, Su Yimo said, “It’s okay. We’ll meet up with Daddy soon. He will protect us.”

Han Xiang calmed down a little upon hearing Su Yimo talk about her father. To the girl, Han Jingru was an all-powerful hero, one who could protect her from any harm that came her way.

After all, her mother had been telling her stories about her father every day.

However, Su Yimo knew all too well that things were not looking good for Han Jingru this time around. The Qilin’s strength was literally otherworldly.

*Boom!*

At that moment, the glowing rod in the sky intensified, marking the first strike of divine punishment.

Knowing that he was the target of divine punishment, Han Jingru dashed toward the Qilin so that the lightning strike would land on it.

However, the creature also made its move at that moment.

Without even moving its body, the Qilin raised its long tail and cut through the stroke of lightning.

“You little brat. Haven’t you heard me? Divine punishment can’t hurt me at all!” the Qilin roared.

Han Jingru looked at the familiar in disbelief - the Qilin’s tail which came into contact with the lightning was unscathed.

Never had the man felt so helpless and disheartened before. His plans were in shambles.

“That’s just the first stroke,” Han Jingru said, clenching his teeth. *There’s no turning back now. I have to push through and try my best.*

Unmoved, the Qilin did not try to stop Han



Jingru. It did not mind wasting time since he was putting up such an entertaining show.

*It's not too bad of a spectacle, being able to watch something this amusing after a thousand-year-long slumber.*

“Good luck, you little brat! There are two more strokes of lightning. Two more chances to defeat me,” the Qilin cackled.

Taking a deep breath, Han Jingru ignored the creature's taunting and began amassing a second wave of energy in the sky.

To his surprise, a voice he was all too familiar with abruptly called out to him from behind.

“Jingru.”

Han Jingru jumped. Every single muscle in his body seemed to tense up.

When he turned around and saw Su Yimo in the distance, he did a double-take.

“Daddy.”

Han Jingru trembled upon hearing his daughter’s voice.

He could not believe Su Yimo and Han Xiang had come to Xenos.

If they were to have reunited in a different setting, it would have been a pleasant surprise.

However, the family of three was currently in the Dark Forest, fighting a wicked and all-powerful dragon.

With more lives on the line, the man could feel even more weight on his shoulders.

In a split second, he appeared beside Su Yimo. Countless thoughts flashed in his mind, and yet he found himself at a loss for words.

“Daddy,” Han Xiang spoke again, looking at him with expectant eyes.

He nodded lightly in response.

His sense of helplessness intensified as Han Xiang opened her arms, wanting a hug from him.

Han Xiang was only a tiny baby when he had left earth. And here she was now, calling out his name.

Judging from the time he had spent in Xenos, it was clear that there was a time dilation effect that caused a time difference between Earth and Xenos.

“What are you waiting for?” Su Yimo remarked gently.

Han Jingru came back to his senses and quickly locked his precious daughter in a tight embrace.

Though it was her first time meeting her father, he did not feel like a stranger to her at all. She happily kissed him on the cheek and smiled at Su Yimo. “Mommy, we found Daddy!”

Han Jingru’s heart throbbed as he felt an overwhelming sense of regret. While he had left Earth voluntarily to protect it from harm, it had

slipped his mind that his daughter needed him too.

At that moment, he felt that he was undeserving of being called a father.

“What’s with your expression? Aren’t you happy to see us?” Su Yimo said, pouting her lips. It had been a long time since she last talked to her husband like that.

Han Jingru nodded frantically. He had always been thinking about his wife and daughter, even in his dreams.

Unfortunately, there was no time for him to immerse himself in the bliss of a family reunion. In fact, he was feeling even more disheartened by the second. With his chances of defeating the Qilin bleak in the first place, fighting with his family by his side would make it even harder to focus.

“Why did you come here?” Inhaling deeply, Han Jingru asked Su Yimo.

“Our daughter misses you. Of course, I’d have to bring her here,” the woman replied in a matter-of-fact tone.

“Yimo, this place is really dangerous. The two of you need to leave immediately. I’ll come looking for you once I finish what I’ve started,” Han Jingru said worriedly.

Su Yimo shook her head. “Jingru, I have regained most of the memories of Fu Yao, so I understand a lot more about the Qilin than you. I know how you plan on defeating it. I know that’s not going to work.”

Han Jingru had expected Fu Yao’s memories to be awakened within Su Yimo one day, especially when the woman had obtained all the fighting expert’s powers. In a way, she was a reincarnation of Fu Yao. However, he did not quite understand what his wife meant when she told him that his plans weren’t going to work.

*Is she saying the Qilin cannot be defeated? It can't be!*

“What are you trying to tell me, Yimo?” Han Jingru asked shakily.

Su Yimo turned to look at the Qilin. *What a horrendous giant. A high-level familiar like that definitely possesses powers beyond our comprehension.*

“That creature does not belong to Xenos. With its powers, it can crush the entirety of Xenos effortlessly. Using divine punishment on it’s pointless,” Su Yimo stated dispassionately.

As the Qilin listened in on the two’s conversation, it smiled smugly. “It seems like she’s more knowledgeable than you! You can’t play any tricks in front of me! Forget about divine punishment. Even if all the legendary fighters in the history of Xenos were to be revived, they wouldn’t be able to defeat me. I can’t be defeated unless someone from the Higher Realm where I came from comes after me.”

Han Jingru felt his heart grow heavy because he knew Su Yimo was telling the truth. However, it

was a truth too heavy for him to carry.

If the Qilin could not be defeated, he would die there.

*No, not just me. Yimo and Xiang will die too.*

Looking despondently at his wife, he asked, “Yimo, why did you come? Why did you come, knowing that we can’t defeat it?”

Su Yimo locked gazes with Han Jingru, her eyes sparkling like fireflies in the dark. She had entered the Dark Forest to reunite with her husband, knowing that it could very well be the last moments they spend together.

“We must stay together as a family no matter what comes our way, even if it’s death,” she said with a resolute expression.

“But... But Xiang is still so young! She deserves better!” Han Jingru sounded exasperated. He was baffled by the woman’s seemingly irrational behavior. *How could she bring Han Xiang here? Isn’t that too cruel?*



Su Yimo replied calmly, “The Dimensional Tunnel for us to return to Earth is located on Mount Xenos. I did not expect us to be stuck here in Xenos. Even if we leave you to die now, we’ll not be able to survive the destruction of Xenos, which will inevitably happen.”

Han Jingru sighed. *So she has already thought it all through. All that she wants now is for the three of us to reunite as a family.*

As they shared their heartfelt thoughts, the Qilin began to laugh in an untimely manner.

“What are you laughing at?” Han Jingru glared at the familiar, hatred burning in his eyes.

As it turned out, the Qilin was laughing at Su Yimo’s words.

It was rather amusing for the creature to think back on how it had overestimated Han Jingru’s powers when he said he was from a different world. However, Su Yimo had just revealed that they were from Earth, a realm that was less advanced than Xenos. *How amusing!*

In comparison to Xenos, Earth was lagging far behind in the field of cultivation. Not to mention that high-level cultivators had long abandoned the civilization on Earth. There was no way that beings from Earth could pose a threat to the Qilin.

“I can’t believe it! Beings from Earth? That’s a place full of weaklings! Earth has long become unsuitable for any form of cultivation. To think that I believed that you were from a Higher Realm! What a joke!” the Qilin cried, laughing away.

Unlike Xenos, the art of cultivation was not accessible to everyone on Earth. Moreover; Earth’s environment was not conducive for cultivation. From that perspective, Earth was less advanced than Xenos.

However, it would be a hasty generalization to say that the beings on Earth were all weaklings.

After getting Su Yimo to take care of Han Xiang, Han Jingru readied himself for the final battle.

He was not going to give up - even when he knew he was no opponent for the Qilin, even if divine punishment couldn't hurt it.

“Daddy, you can do it!” Han Xiang remained strong-willed as well.

He smiled at his daughter, then said to his wife, “The two of you need to move a little further away from me. It’s okay. I’m not going to give up.”

Su Yimo nodded. Han Jingru’s fortitude was always something she admired. *Jingru, please don’t give up. Stay strong,*

There was also a spark of hope in her mind, telling her that a miracle might happen.

“Hmph. You’re really insisting on not giving up?” the Qilin growled at Han Jingru.

“Why should I?” the man asked.

“Hah... Alright then, I do need to stretch my body a little after sleeping for all those years. Do keep in mind, though, that your wife and daughter will die painful deaths, should you fail,” the Qilin said, its expression turning serious.

Han Jingru’s eyes turned icy cold. The familiar before him had touched his bottom line, and he would never forgive it for that.

As he amassed the powers within him, the lightning of divine punishment reappeared in the skies, looking even more violent and intense than before. The strokes of lightning that he summoned seemed to envelop the entirety of Xenos.

At some distance away from Han Jingru, Su Yimo stood there, holding Han Xiang close to her as she looked on with mixed feelings - she was proud that her husband was doing his best. Still, she also knew that it was not enough to defeat the Qilin, and a sense of sorrow crept into her mind.

“Mommy, Daddy will defeat this giant worm, right?” Han Xiang asked.

“Well, he’ll try his best.” The woman could not bear to tell her daughter the truth. She wanted her daughter to remember Han Jingru as an almighty hero.

And so, the second stroke of divine punishment began tumbling from the skies.

A deafening roar reverberated throughout Xenos. Even from miles away, Cultivators trembled at the echoes coming from the Dark Forest.

“Take this!” Han Jingru yelled, striking the Qilin with the lightning.

The aftermath of his attack was demoralizing. Even though the second strike made a greater impact, the Qilin did not even flinch. In fact, the creature seemed uninjured.

Su Yimo could not help but sigh even though she had expected things to turn out that way.

“How is this possible?” Han Jingru cried out, gritting his teeth. When the lightning struck the Qilin’s tail, even its scales remained intact, as if

nothing had happened to it at all.

“I’ve repeated myself so many times, haven’t I? It’s meaningless to use divine punishment against me. You can try doing that a hundred times. I’ll still be fine,” the Qilin declared contemptuously.

Han Jingru clenched his fists so hard that his knuckles were turning white. His entire body was shaking in utter rage.

For the first time, he felt a cureless sense of helplessness. All hope seemed to be lost.

Faced with an over-powered opponent, he was at his wits’ end, and yet he did not want to give up.

“Let me ask you something. Do you know what the key to fulfilling one’s greatest potential is?” the Qilin asked.

The Qilin’s words were unsettling to hear.

“Hah... It’s rage! Rage! Only with rage can one be reborn as someone stronger, better!” the Qilin exclaimed.

“What are you playing at?” Han Jingru shouted.

“I’m trying to get you there.” The next thing he knew, the familiar was hurling its tail toward Su Yimo and Han Xiang. Its attack was so fast that everything seemed to be in a blur.

“Yimo! Xiang!” Han Jingru’s cries were shrill and blood-curdling. He felt as if his head were about to explode.

Su Yimo and Han Xiang. The most important people in his life. His beloved family, whom he had sworn to protect with his life. *How dare you!*

Han Jingru sprinted as fast as he could to his wife and daughter, but the Qilin was too fast.

While Su Yimo was a pretty strong fighter herself, she was definitely no match for the divine familiar. She knew the Qilin could obliterate Xenos if it wanted to, not even to mention killing off two beings from Earth.

“Yimo! Xiang!”



*Bam!*

In the blink of an eye, the Qilin's tail blasted Su Yimo, who was shielding Han Xiang with her body, into the air.

The impact was so great that even an Alpha Stage fighter would not be able to survive the attack.

A gruesome red mist spewed out from the site of impact.

With his very own eyes, Han Jingru caught sight of Han Xiang smiling at him, blood oozing from the corners of her mouth, as well as Su Yimo's mellow gaze.

At that moment, Han Jingru felt that all was lost. The world seemed to be crashing down onto him.

"No, no! I won't let you die! I won't let you die!" he said shakily as if in a trance, as he knelt before the two who had already fallen to the ground.

Even though Su Yimo was slowly losing consciousness with blood spewing out of her

mouth, her arms were still tightly wrapped around Han Xiang.

The young girl lay in her mother's arms, eyes closed and deathly quiet.

Something snapped within Han Jingru.

“Trust me, Jingru. We'll meet again,” Su Yimo said with her last bit of strength.

“No, no! I want you to stay with me now! Now!”  
The man hugged the two of them hysterically, speaking gibberish.

To his despair, the woman soon turned deathly still in his arms, her eyes destitute of life.

Su Yimo was no damsel in distress. She was a strong fighter who challenged all of the strongest fighters from Xia Nation, and yet, she fell with a single blow from the Qilin. Needless to say, Han Jingru would end up the same should the Qilin attack him.

Kneeling on the ground, he was shedding tears of

blood.

*I must avenge their deaths.*

*Even if I ultimately die, I'll bring this damned dragon down with me!*

Gently placing the bodies down, he stood up once more, his expression cold as ice.

“Do you feel the rage now? Only with anger can you uncover your true powers! Show it to me!” the Qilin yelled.

“Why haven't you killed me yet? What are you waiting for?” the man asked in an eerily calm voice.

“Can't you feel it? You're the fighter of the millennium. Your true strength is far greater than this. Show it to me! I need your powers to seal the heavens. Only then will I be able to stay here in Xenos forever, without fearing the beings of the Higher Realms.”

Han Jingru was baffled by its words. *The fighter of the millennium? What is it talkin*

*g about?*

*It can't be possible that I have had some sort of connection with Xenos a thousand years ago, can it?*



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“I don’t care what you’re scheming. I’m ending your life today,” Han Jingru said dispassionately.

Knowing that divine punishment could not be used against the Qilin, he decided to change his strategy.

As an Alpha Stage fighter, he was nowhere as strong as the Qilin, but it was just as the creature had said. His anger could help him fight to his greatest potential. At that moment, his body was like a black hole, sucking in the energy from the heavens and the earth. He was not holding back as he did in his fight with the Emperor. He could not care less about the toll that it would take on his body.

Su Yimo and Han Xiang were already dead. There was nothing for him to live for.

*I will avenge them no matter what it takes!*

“Oh, yes! That’s it! Let out the beast within you, and become my medium to seal the heavens!”  
The Qilin sounded excited as he watched on.

For many years, the familiar had been evading its death by hiding from the beings of the Higher Realms. However, it would never truly be safe unless it could seal off Xenos completely such that nobody could enter or leave.

A strong surge of power was needed for the heavens to be sealed.

The Qilin had tried doing it once, back when it set up the magical formation in the Dark Forest. However, its powers back then were not enough. And so, the Qilin had no choice but to wait a thousand years for someone who could help it to come along.

Now that the chance to succeed presented itself before the Qilin, it was absolutely thrilled. If Han Jingru could unleash sufficient power, it meant that the heavens would finally be sealed.

“Don’t you dare disappoint me. I’ve waited a millennium for this. I’m not waiting any longer.” The Qilin was nervously praying for its wish to come true.

Before the Qilin's eyes, Han Jingru's strength steadily upsurged toward the peak. His clothes became tattered and eventually fell apart, revealing his most primitive state.

All of a sudden, he sensed waves of energy emanating from a few spots within Xenos. It was a type of energy that felt familiar.

*My bones!*

*It's the power of my bones!*

Han Jingru closed his eyes and focused his mind on the sources where the energy was surging from.

“Come,” he commanded.

Instantly, the bones began speeding through the air toward him from different directions.

The sight of Han Jingru summoning his bones made the Qilin even more excited.

“Hah... To think that you're really the one! I got



it right! I got it right!” the Qilin gushed.

On the other hand, the man was ignoring the creature completely. As the bones merged with his body, he felt that he had gone up yet another rank as a fighter. The immense power contained within him was almost going haywire.

“To avenge my wife and daughter! Take this!” the man cried. A ring of violent winds encircled his entire body as he charged toward the Qilin.

“How impressive. Unfortunately, you’re still a little too weak to fight me. But I guess it’ll be enough to seal the heavens,” the Qilin remarked smugly.

Just as it finished its sentence, the colossal dragon warped into a human donning a mystic white robe.

Though the creature had morphed into human form, Han Jingru remained unaffected. He only had a single goal in mind - to kill it.

“Die!” Han Jingru bellowed, throwing a punch at

the divine familiar.

The Qilin simply smiled as if his attacks were nothing but child's play.

“Let me show you the gap in our strengths,” it uttered crudely.

As Han Jingru's punch was about to land, the Qilin, in human form, raised its left hand nonchalantly and blocked the attack with its palm.

The man instantly felt as if he was punching a giant wall made of steel.

“How can this be?” Han Jingru finally had a taste of the Qilin's strength. Even with him unleashing his true potential, the creature could still stop his attacks without breaking a sweat!

“This is nothing to be surprised about. This is simply the gap in power between us. Have you forgotten about what your beloved wife said to you?” the Qilin said as it gently flicked its left hand.

As if struck by an invisible gush of wind, Han Jingru stumbled backward in a haphazard manner.

*Bam!*

He collided harshly into a boulder on Mount Xenos.

All of the power he had amassed moments ago seemed to dissipate. He felt his body slowly falling apart.

“Without me, you’d be the dictator of Xenos. I have no doubt about that. Perhaps you would even be able to use divine punishment to travel to the Higher Realms and see what true strength is. Sadly, fate has brought us together. You’re nothing but a tool for me to use to seal the heavens,” the Qilin said, smiling at Han Jingru.

Knowing that it was close to impossible for him to seek revenge on the Qilin, Han Jingru sank into distress.

When faced with an almighty power, everything

he did seemed insignificant.

As pain consumed his body, he was suddenly struck by an idea.

He had once read a book about the Dimensional Tunnel back at the Imperial Archives. The book had even depicted how one could turn back time.

*If I find the Dimensional Tunnel... If I can turn back time, will I get a second chance?*

*If I return to the past, will Su Yimo and Han Xiang still be alive?*

His idea was outlandish, but that was all that he had left. He wanted to give it a shot, even if he had to be the first person in history ever to try it.

*Giving up?*

*Backing down?*

*Hmph. Like I'd ever do that.*

Getting into the stance to run, the man acted as if

he was trying to escape. “Well, since I can’t defeat you, I’ll be on my way then!” he yelled.

The Qilin chuckled. *Who would have thought that the courageous, determined fighter from just now would become a cowardly loser in a matter of seconds?*

*It is really as they say. Nobody stands unafraid in the face of death.*

“How foolish can you get? Do you really think you can escape the Dark Forest?” the creature cackled.

Turning a deaf ear to the Qilin’s words, Han Jingru focused on his search for the Dimensional Tunnel. His wife had told him that it was located on Mount Xenos. With sufficient time, he would likely be able to find it.

]”Oh, what a poor little boy. Even if I let you run, you won’t get anywhere. Why can’t you be obedient and help me seal the heavens?” the Qilin snarled. It chose not to stop Han Jingru immediately, thinking that he was already in the

palm of its hands.



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Han Jingru was not affected by the Qilin's words. This was the only opportunity that he had – he had to try no matter the result.

There was no room for giving up in the man's life. Furthermore, unless he died, he must reverse Su Yimo and Han Xiang's death.

“Where's the Dimensional Tunnel? Where is it?” Han Jingru muttered to himself in a state of panic. He knew he didn't have much time. If this dragged on and the Qilin lost its patience, he would become its tool to seal the sky!

Meanwhile, the creature was still unaware of the man's plans. It thought Han Jingru was a lost and destitute man who was now making futile attempts to escape. To the Qilin, it seemed like Han Jingru was simply desperate for survival.

However, no human would survive this ordeal. Not in front of the divine familiar anyway.

Its abilities were more than sufficient to dominate and rule Xenos - no one could deny it.



“Han Jingru, why don’t you accompany your wife and daughter in the afterworld? Even if you escape, will you be able to live in peace, knowing that they are dead?” the Qilin scoffed. It felt extremely superior seeing the man struggling endlessly, especially when it recalled how the stronger fighters would bully it in the Higher Realm and how destitute it looked.

By then, Han Jingru had arrived at the top of Mount Xenos. There was a ginormous hole through the mountain, and it was like a deep abyss from his point of view. It was probably the best spot to hide the Dimensional Tunnel, but he could not feel any energy fluctuations.

“Ah, so you are looking for the Dimensional Tunnel. You want to leave this place.” Though the Qilin finally came to a realization about what the man was doing, it did not seem worried at all.

“Is this the Dimensional Tunnel then?” Han Jingru asked.

“You’re right. This is indeed the Dimensional Tunnel you’re looking for. Unfortunately, it’s no

longer in effect. There's no way for you to leave Xenos and return to the original world," the Qilin explained.

Just when Han Jingru thought his day could not get any worse, his last chance to escape vanished into thin air just like that. He was truly in despair.

If the Dimensional Tunnel were truly inactive, he could not carry out his plan.

*Will it really end like this?*

*Am I destined to die today?*

Suddenly, he leapt forward.

The Qilin broke into laughter as it witnessed this. It could not believe that Han Jingru was so stubborn. *This is a wasteland. What use would it be even if he jumped?*

"I would not have wasted my time with you if I had regained my true strength," the Qilin scoffed. It needed its own powers, combined with a sacrificial lamb like Han Jingru, in order to

complete the sealing of the sky. There was no guarantee that it would be a success if the Qilin was not at its peak. Hence, it could only wait for the right time to arrive. Sealing the sky was a rare opportunity, and there was no way the Qilin would allow such an important project to fail.

Han Jingru continued his freefall down the abyss. Just like what the familiar said, this tunnel seemed to be dormant. There were no energy fluctuations even when he dropped to the bottom.

The man bled tears because he knew that his last opportunity was definitely gone. All he could do was accept his wife and daughter's death. At the same time, he would have to face his own demise too.

His body turned very restless upon this; he was not satisfied with the outcome. This was the only time in his life he felt this helpless.

Gradually, the restlessness in his body transformed into an energy storm. As he mustered up all his strength, the storm grew larger and larger. Strong gusts of wind blew as

the earth around him started to rumble.

With Han Jingru centered at its core, the energy storm expanded into a large typhoon. It was so large that it almost covered the entire cavity of Mount Xenos.

The man was still unaware of what was happening around him. He shut his eyes while blood-streak tears rolled down his cheeks.

At that moment, he thought of the paragraph he had seen in the Bible.

“What the hell’s going on?” The Qilin was slightly taken aback when he felt the changes to Mount Xenos.

It had spent more than a thousand years in Mount Xenos and was the most familiar with the Dimensional Tunnel. Many years ago, the Dark Forest had absorbed all the energy in the tunnel, and it became a piece of wasteland. *How could such strong fluctuations in energy occur now?*

“This is definitely not from the Dimensional

Tunnel. Could it be from that man earlier?” The Qilin was in disbelief. It thought that Han Jingru had already displayed all his powers previously. Furthermore, he was at his peak then! How could a mere being from Earth become even stronger now?

At the same time, something unbelievable happened at the Apocalypse.

Many Platinum rank fighters rushed to the Restricted Area, including Mr. Yi.

“What’s going on? Why is the Dimensional Tunnel shrinking?”

“Is it going to seal itself off?”

“If the Dimensional Tunnel seals off, will the threats to Earth be gone too?”

“But Han Jingru is still not back! Is he going to stay in the second world forever?”

Everyone began to speculate the matter. Some thought that this was good because Earth would

no longer be threatened by the second world if the Dimensional Tunnel closed.

However, some were worried about Han Jingru. After all, the man had risked his own life to venture into the second world. Perhaps the shrinking of the tunnel was his doing. If he could not return before the tunnel fully closed off, he would never be able to come back.

Mr. Yi was trembling. He treasured Han Jingru very much and was his Master of sorts. He even felt that Han Jingru was the future of the Apocalypse - he was the only man who could revive the place.

But now, there was a high possibility that he would not return.

Such news was quite a blow to Mr. Yi. Nothing was more important to him than Han Jingru returning safely. Not even the closing of the Dimensional Tunnel, or the threats on Earth going away, or the irrelevance of the Apocalypse could surpass that.

“How much more are you going to sacrifice for this? Are you really going to give your own life to help Earth?” Mr. Yi exclaimed in exasperation. While it was a noble act, he did not want this to happen. After all, Su Yimo and Han Xiang had headed into the second world too, and it would be tragic if the entire family died.

However, the Head of Four Gates had no choice but to face reality.

“Kneel down, all of you,” he commanded. Then, he led by example and got on his knees.

The others around him followed suit as they saw this. It was possibly the greatest act of gratitude they could afford now.



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What was previously a dormant Dimensional Tunnel gradually became active again in Mount Xenos.

When Han Jingru opened his eyes once more, the Dimensional Tunnel appeared in front of him!

The Qilin was very astonished by this. It had been confident that nobody could accomplish this after what happened many years ago. But Han Jingru had just proved it wrong.

“What’s going on? How’s this possible? Just how?” In a panic, the Qilin tried to stop Han Jingru. However, it was one step too late. The tunnel was too narrow for the familiar to make any moves. Furthermore, Han Jingru’s powers engulfed the entire mountain together with the energy fluctuations from the Dimensional Tunnel, so the divine familiar dared not act recklessly as it could not predict what would happen if it triggered any changes to the tunnel.

“Han Jingru, stop right there!” The Qilin’s voice boomed.

However, the man could not hear anything.

Within a short moment, there was a strange phenomenon in the skies of Xenos. A large hole appeared in the sky as though someone was tearing it apart. The spiritual energy in the entire world of Xenos was gradually awakened too.

“What are you doing? Are you going to destroy Xenos?” The Qilin was at a loss and in a panic. After leaving the Higher Realm, it took many years to find a place like Mount Xenos. More importantly, Mount Xenos was far away from the eyes of the other fighters at the Higher Realm. If Han Jingru destroyed this place, it would become homeless, and its foes might discover its location.

“Stop! Stop! I can resurrect your wife and daughter,” the Qilin yelled desperately, but it was now impossible to stop Han Jingru. He could only lie to get his attention.

Unfortunately, Han Jingru could not hear its words. Even if he could, he would not believe the words of a cunning familiar.

Su Yimo and Han Xiang had died in his arms. While the Qilin could resurrect them, it would not solve the root problem.

What Han Jingru wanted was to bring them out of the second world. Hence, time-traveling backward was his only choice.

The hole in Xenos' skies became larger and larger. The entire world was facing energy fluctuations concurrently.

The Qilin finally understood what he wanted. It looked at the objects which regained their lives and understood that this was all due to time reversal.

Many familiar which were previously extinct now came back to life. Large trees turned small, and dried leaves became green – these were all signs of time going backward.

“Han Jingru, stop now! Or else, I will never let you go. I will hunt you down and kill you, no matter where you go!” The Qilin knew that the time-reversal was already taking its effects on its

body. What was worse was that nobody could stop it. All it could do was threaten the man angrily and helplessly.

Meanwhile, Han Jingru was still unaware of the happenings around him. He remained centered in the typhoon while the entire world was changing because of him.

There was finally some light at the end of the tunnel.

The next moment, Han Jingru was awakened by a splash of cold water on his face. He looked around and realized he was in a rather familiar yet strange environment. The arrogant-looking young man in front of him made him feel like this was all a familiar dream.

“Han Jingru, I bet that was comfortable!” A young boy stared at him gleefully with a basin in his hands. Obviously, it was him who splashed the water on Han Jingru earlier.

The latter quickly got up in shock. He strode to the mirror and saw his younger self – he had

time-traveled back to when he was fourteen!  
Immediately, he was struck in a daze.

While he retained all his memories and knew what was going on, he was still in utter disbelief.

He had just reversed the time in Xenos, and now, he was fourteen!

He touched his own face to make sure that this was all real.

“Han Jingru, you have not greeted me yet!” The young boy - his brother, Han Yu - pouted at him.

Han Jingru turned to look at him with a cold expression, and his brother recoiled slightly in fear.

“What are you doing? I’m going to whack you if you continue to look at me like that!” the latter threatened.

Han Jingru laughed and walked forward, giving his brother a punch in the chest.

Upon the impact, Han Yu cringed in agony and collapsed to the ground.

“Did that hurt?” he asked.

“Of course!”

“That’s good. That means this is indeed real.” Han Jingru’s words left Han Yu very confused.

Only the former knew what was going on in this world.

While this was not the best outcome for him, it was within his expectations. Unfortunately, he would only meet Han Xiang much later.

Han Yu caught his breath and ran out of Han Jingru’s room in tears.

The latter knew that Han Yu would most likely beg Nangong Shuxian for help. But this time, he was not afraid. Though he was now fourteen, he was not the boy from before.

Previously, he could only tolerate and accept all

the bullying and unfair treatment he received in the Han family. However, he no longer had to do that. In fact, he could control the entire world with his powers!

This resurrection was also a chance for him to prove himself.

He opened the door and walked out of the room.

It was still that dilapidated backyard that he lived in. Even the servants in the Han family did not bother to tend to this piece of land.

He smiled. He had never thought that he could relive his life again, especially not the period in his life when everyone thought of him as a scourge.

Just then, a servant ran up to him. He remembered him as Chen Yi - the only person who would speak to Han Jingru back then.

“Young Master, you should quickly find a spot and hide!” Chen Yi told Han Jingru as he rushed over.



“What’s going on?” he asked calmly.

“I saw Young Master Yu complaining to your grandmother in tears. You’re most likely in trouble!” Chen Yi told him. He was the only servant - out of the many in the Han family - who felt injustice on behalf of Han Jingru. While Han Yu and he were twin brothers, the former received all the love and attention while the latter was treated like trash.

Han Jingru shook his head. Last time, he would most likely run away from the Han family to avoid any trouble. However, he no longer had to do that. Even without the Han family, he could still achieve what he wanted.



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“It’s alright. She can come,” Han Jingru said nonchalantly.

Chen Yi became worried when he heard this. He knew how biased Nangong Shuxian could be. As long as Han Yu exaggerated the matter, Han Jingru would be in deep trouble.

“Young Master, don’t be stubborn. Go and hide!” the servant urged.

“It’s okay. You better run. If Nangong Shuxian sees you, you might be implicated too,” Han Jingru said.

At that, Chen Yi froze. Even though Han Jingru didn’t really respect Nangong Shuxian, the servant had never once heard him call his grandmother by her name.

*Hmm... Young Master seems different, but I can’t put my finger on what exactly it is.*

However, Chen Yi knew that he would be dragged down if he continued to stay here.

“Young Master, I’m really sorry. I’ll be heading first,” Chen Yi said apologetically before dashing off. After all, he was just a servant; his job was to warn Han Jingru beforehand. There was not much else he could do to help the boy.

Han Jingru inhaled sharply. The air was fresh and no longer felt as oppressive as before.

The old him had to put on an act in order to hide his powers away from everyone. But now, that was not necessary. He could do everything on his own now.

To him, it no longer mattered whether he would fall out with the Han family or be kicked out by them.

Shortly later, Nangong Shuxian stomped over with a ruler in her hands.

That ruler was no insignificant object. It was, in fact, the tool for corporal punishment in the Han family. Normally, it was only used on Han Jingru because Nangong Shuxian would only punish him, no matter who was in the wrong. Han Yu

would never be at the other end of this ruler, even if he were really at fault as his grandmother would always find excuses and protect him.

“Han Jingru, how dare you! How could you hit your brother?” Nangong Shuxian was infuriated when she heard Han Yu complain about his brother hitting him. To her, Han Yu was the future of the Han family. How could he be bullied by a loser?

“Nangong Shuxian, don’t you want to know why I hit him?” Han Jingru asked with a smirk on his face. Even though it was an irrelevant question, he still wanted to prove his stance.

“What did you just call me?” The elderly woman almost imploded on the spot. *How dare this brat call me directly by my name!*

“Han Jingru, what are you doing? How can you call your grandmother by her name?” Shi Yan chided. She rushed over to save Han Jingru but was similarly angered by her son’s disrespectful behavior.

“She’s never treated me as her grandson. Why should I treat her like my grandmother?” The man shot the question back at his mother.

Shi Yan was stunned. *Why did Jingru turn into a different person overnight?*

At that moment, Nangong Shuxian approached Han Jingru, raising the ruler in her hands.

Han Yu smirked as he guessed that his brother was going to get beaten. He even stuck his tongue out at his brother, obviously gloating over his predicament.

Han Jingru merely flashed him a faint smile. He looked at the ruler coming down on him and lifted his right arm. With a swift movement, he blocked Nangong Shuxian’s arm mid-air.

“Nangong Shuxian, why are you hitting me?” he asked coldly.

The woman’s blood was boiling by now. *This rascal has become so disrespectful and daring!*

“Do I need a reason to hit you?” Nangong Shuxian wanted to retract her arm after saying this, but she soon realized that the ruler would not budge no matter how much strength she used.

“Try harder. Shouldn’t you have some strength if you want to hit someone?” Han Jingru asked indifferently.

The color drained from his grandmother’s face. This was the first time he had rebelled against her, and it was in such an unexpected manner!

Shi Yan was incensed. She walked over to her son and grabbed his arm, commanding, “Let go.”

This was such a familiar scene to Han Jingru.

He had not experienced such unfairness in a long time. Nonetheless, this was a familiar memory that was etched in his mind.

Perhaps, these people thought that he should receive such unfair treatment no matter the reason.

“Alright then.” Just when Nangong Shuxian exerted strength again, he let go of her hand.

As she had exerted too much strength, his act made her stumble backward and fall to the ground.

Shi Yan was shocked to see this, and she quickly helped Nangong Shuxian up.

The elderly woman was now the head of the Han family - she had taken on the role of the matriarch after Han Xiuzhi passed away. The Han family would be in deep trouble if something happened to her.

Of course, nobody knew that Han Xiuzhi was actually still alive.

“You rascal! You ingrate! How dare you treat me like this!” Nangong Shuxian trembled in extreme anger.

When Han Yu saw his grandmother collapse to the ground, he wanted to grab this window of opportunity and attack his twin brother from



behind.

But Han Jingru was now a different man. Even though he had gone back in time, his strong powers remained. Every single action by Han Yu was within his sight.

Just as it seemed like his brother was about to succeed, Han Jingru sent a merciless kick in his direction.

Poor Han Yu was sent flying into the air before he collapsed heavily on the ground. He sat on the floor and wailed loudly.

“Get Yan Qiong over here! This boy is getting uncontrollable!” Nangong Shuxian said to Shi Yan.

The latter shot a cold stare at her son. While she didn't understand why he had acted that way, she knew that he would definitely regret his actions later. Even if Yan Qiong treated Han Jingru quite well, there would be no reason to side the boy now since he committed acted in such a disrespectful way.

Shortly after, Shi Yan brought Yan Qiong to the scene.

Upon seeing the only person in the Han family who treated him well, Han Jingru turned more docile.

He treated Yan Qiong like his own grandfather even though he was powerful now.

“Grandpa Yan,” he greeted politely.

Nangong Shuxian assumed he was scared and let out a mocking scoff. “There’s no point in admitting fault now.”

“Fault? What did I do wrong? Why should I admit fault?” Han Jingru asked.

The elderly woman could no longer tolerate his fearless and indignant behavior. She said to Yan Qiong, “Look at his attitude! He has no respect for me. I know you treat him well, but look at him! He’s now a threat to the family. You should know what to do.”

*Threat?*

*It seems like Nangong Shuxian wants to kill me since she just labeled me a “threat.”*

Han Jingru never once thought that his grandmother saw him this way.

*Would I already be dead if I acted like this last time?*



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Yan Qiong glanced at Han Jingru suspiciously. Based on his understanding, the young boy would never do something like this. Even though he was still young, he was quite shrewd and knew what he could or could not do.

If he fell out with Nangong Shuxian, he would lose the major support from the Han family, which would affect his secret plans. Hence, under normal circumstances, Han Jingru would never do what he just did.

Hence, Yan Qiong was quite puzzled and confused about the man's behavior. *Why would he choose to show his temper at such a moment?*

He was oblivious that everything had changed for Han Jingru.

Now, the latter no longer needed the Han family as his support.

While Han Jingru looked fourteen to others, he was, in fact, invincible.

He was akin to the Qilin from Xenos now.

“What are you waiting for? Hurry up!” Nangong Shuxian rushed Yan Qiong. To her, only Han Yu was her biological grandson. She disliked Han Jingru and always wanted to kick him out of the family. After all, it would be best if he were out of her sight, but she had never managed to find a good excuse to do so.

Today was a good opportunity. Since Han Jingru had acted this disrespectfully, it was the perfect excuse she needed to remove him from the family.

“Grandpa Yan, do what you have to,” Han Jingru remarked. He didn’t want to put Yan Qiong in a tough spot. After all, the older man was here to ensure stability and peace in the Han family. His job was to remove any threats to the family, even if it constituted punishing members of the family.

Yan Qiong raised his brows upon hearing that comment. *What’s wrong with this young man? Does he have a new plan? Is that why he doesn’t really care about Nangong Shuxian’s attitude? Is that why he doesn’t care whether he can continue being a part of the Han family?*

“Jingru, hurry up and apologize to your grandmother,” Yan Qiong suggested.

“Grandmother?” Han Yu sneered in a dissatisfactory manner, “He never once treated Grandma with respect. He shouldn’t even be a part of the family.”

“He’s right. This boy never thought of me as his grandmother. Yan Qiong, don’t tell me you’re going to disobey my orders for him?” Nangong Shuxian said.

“You must be mistaken. I don’t have to obey your orders. On what basis are you commanding me around?” Yan Qiong questioned her authority. He was never under the control of anyone apart from Han Xiuzhi. His position in the Han family was a unique one - even Nangong Shuxian didn’t have the right to boss him around.

However, the man was obliged to help the Han family whenever it was under threat because it was Han Xiuzhi who had given him that order.

Nangong Shuxian was quite annoyed at this. She

knew very well that she had no right to command Yan Qiong. Any commands were a joke to him, and she was aware that she had spoken carelessly. However, she had not expected him to retort her in front of everyone else.

“I might have no right to order you around, but you have a duty to the family. Am I right?” The elderly woman raised her voice.

Han Jingru let out a sigh when he saw Yan Qiong being put in a difficult spot. He knew that the latter treated him well, so he didn't want him to be caught in such a situation.

“Grandpa Yan, I'm sorry.” Han Jingru struck first right after he said that.

One must know that Yan Qiong was once known as the conqueror. Everybody knew of his prowess when he fought with Han Xiuzhi in Yan City.

How could a fourteen-year-old boy challenge him?

*Bang!*



A loud boom echoed.

Everyone in the backyard had their jaws dropped to the ground.

Han Yu hid behind his grandmother, trembling in fear.

Shi Yan's eyes widened with her jaws agape. The scene rendered her speechless.

Even Nangong Shuxian trembled slightly at the scene. She could only look on in astonishment as Yan Qiong was sent flying in the air by Han Jingru's punch.

*How could this be!*

*What on earth is going on?*

*Yan Qiong can't even defend himself against a punch from a small boy?*

Nangong Shuxian rubbed her eyes. She thought her eyes were failing on her. However, nothing changed when she reopened her eyes.

“Come look for me if you ever want your revenge.” Han Jingru left him with these words before walking off.

Yan Qiong looked calm, but deep down, he was extremely astounded. As Han Jingru’s trainer, he was familiar with the man’s abilities. However, the strength he had just displayed was beyond his wildest imagination.

More importantly, Yan Qiong was not severely injured. This meant that Han Jingru had controlled the use of his power when he attacked – this was a skill that even Yan Qiong himself could not achieve.

“Yan Qiong, are you putting on an act?” Nangong Shuxian spat. She could not believe Han Jingru was this powerful and instinctively concluded that Yan Qiong was being lenient. She thought such a scene had been scripted and agreed upon between Yan Qiong and Han Jingru.

Yan Qiong shook his head and told her, “If you think this is all a ruse, you can get others to try it. I dare say that no one in the Han family can stop

him now.”

Nangong Shuxian gritted her teeth. This was not the outcome she wanted nor expected, but the reality was right in front of her.

*How can this be?*

*How could Han Jingru suddenly become so powerful?*

Shi Yan and Yan Qiong both had the same questions in mind.

Meanwhile, Han Yu only had fear in him. He did not understand how his useless brother had suddenly become so strong, but he realized that he probably could no longer afford to offend him.

“Grandma, are you going to let him off?” the boy asked his grandmother. Even though he was still young, he knew he could not let Han Jingru snatch away his limelight as the Young Master of the family. Hence, he must find a way to weaken his position in the family. Since he could not do it personally, he could only seek help from his

grandmother.

“Don’t worry. Grandma will take revenge for you.” Nangong Shuxian stroked her grandson’s head and promised him. It was obvious that she spoiled Han Yu. Her treatment of her two grandsons was day and night.

She saw Han Yu as her own but treated Han Jingru like trash.

The latter strode out of the Han residence after the ordeal, feeling relieved and joyful.

It seemed like going back in time to when he was fourteen was not an entirely unacceptable matter as well. He could undo many of his regrets and could even live a very different life from before.

Previously, he had lived a very oppressed life. All he did was tolerate and accept, to the extent that he was on the verge of breaking down.

Now, he no longer needed to do the same and could act however he wanted.

He wanted to create his own empire, and this time, Nangong Shuxian must witness his success with her own eyes. He wanted her to regret her behavior badly!

As for Su Yimo, he wanted to see how she looked like when she was young. He chuckled to himself upon this thought.



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At Dynasty.

The company was still in its infancy during this time. Han Jingru was merely a shadow owner, and most of the company's matters were handled by Qin Fu, who was like his puppet.

Han Jingru secretly made use of the Han family's resources and sought benefits for his company. However, it was tough to do so; it was not smooth-sailing for Dynasty.

Qin Fu was panicking in the office when suddenly, his secretary came in and said a boy was looking for him.

He immediately thought of Han Jingru but quickly brushed the thought aside. He knew very well that the boy had to hide his tracks to prevent the Han family from finding out his plans. Thus, it was not likely that he would appear in the office during day time.

However, who else could it be?

“Let him in,” Qin Fu told his secretary.

A moment later, the secretary brought Han Jingru into the office.

When the man saw that it was indeed Han Jingru, a weird sensation arose within him. He instructed his secretary to close the door and leave the office before he stood up and walked over to the boy's side.

“Young Master, why are you here?” he asked in a puzzled manner.

Despite their huge age gap, Qin Fu had nothing but respect and admiration for the young boy. It was Han Jingru who had rescued Qin Fu when the man was homeless. Thus, he never once treated Han Jingru like a child.

What kind of child would be as shrewd as him?

Furthermore, Qin Fu had seen with his own eyes how Han Jingru murdered others. Even an adult would not be as ruthless as him.

“I want to see how I can help,” Han Jingru calmly announced.

*Help?*

Qin Fu grew even more confused. *Isn't he always paving the way for me? I thought he left me to handle most of the company's matters. Why is he offering to help today? Isn't he afraid of the Han family finding out about this?*

“Young Master, don't worry. I can handle this on my own,” Qin Fu assured.

“I don't have to hide from the Han family anymore. From today onwards, I will officially take over Dynasty,” Han Jingru told him indifferently.

Qin Fu's heart skipped a beat. *Take over the company?*

*Isn't he afraid that the Han family would try to sabotage his projects?*

*Dynasty has no resources to fight the Han family as of now.*

*Furthermore, the company will face even more*



*difficulties for future expansions without the Han family*

Qin Fu could not figure out why Han Jingru made such a sudden and puzzling decision.

“Young Master, what is going on? Did you have a falling out with the Han family?” Qin Fu asked with a worried expression on his face. If that indeed had happened, Dynasty was in jeopardy. All their efforts would go to waste!

“You are right, but it’s alright. I do not need the Han family’s connections to expand Dynasty.” Han Jingru paused momentarily and looked at the man before continuing, “Don’t you trust me?”

Qin Fu quickly shook his head. “Young Master, of course I trust you.”

“I will settle the partnership with Yao Corporation. You can get busy with other projects,” Han Jingru instructed.

The recent project with Yao Corporation caused a lot of trouble for Qin Fu. This was a rare and

good opportunity for Dynasty, but the Yao Corporation never thought highly of the company.

In his previous life, the partnership between the two corporations fell through because Han Jingru was not powerful enough. The Yao Corporation looked down on Dynasty and was unwilling to cooperate with it.

But now, things were different. Han Jingru was very confident that he could make Yao Yuhai agree to a partnership with Dynasty.

The man remembered clearly that the Yao Corporation had faced a crisis around this time. Yao Yuhai's son ran into trouble by owing huge gambling debts, and the creditors even sent a hitman to end the matter. Alas, Yao Hanxing died in the hands of the hitman, causing an uproar in Yan City.

If he could help Yao Yuhai solve this problem, the latter would definitely agree to work with him.

After leaving Dynasty's office, Han Jingru headed went to visit Yao Yuhai. The former still had to go to Yun City later, so it was best for him to resolve this matter as soon as possible.

He refrained from rushing to Yun City because it was perfect timing for him to meet the Yao family. If he procrastinated and delayed the matter, Yao Hanxing would meet his death, and the partnership would not go through.

Of course, this was just a small matter to Han Jingru now.

With his current powers, he no longer had to bother about whether Dynasty followed through with the initial expansion plans, nor did he need to care about others' judgment of him. However, he still wanted to prove himself to Nangong Shuxian. It was impossible to hide his competitive spirit in front of the elderly woman.

No matter whether it was before or now, he still had the same determination to prove himself to his grandmother. He wanted Nangong Shuxian to regret all her actions; he desperately sought her

approval on his capabilities.

Meanwhile, at a villa estate in Yan City.

Yao Yuhai was panicking. His son was in hot water, and the other party was relentless. They threatened to take his son's life, making the man grow very worried.

He was aware of how powerful the other side was. There would be no use for Yao Hanxing to hide if they truly wanted him to die as they had the ability to hunt him down anyway.

“Dad, have you thought of anything?” Yao Hanxing looked very pale. The young man was obviously terrified of his fate.

He was naive and had never thought of the threats as a real problem. That was until his father told him who the other party was - he started to fear for his life after.

Furthermore, his father had made it very clear that he would die sooner or later if the other party wanted him dead unless he could hide at home

forever.

This made Yao Hanxing even more afraid. He knew that he could never be imprisoned in his own home this way. It was even more intolerable than death!

Yao Yuhai glared at his son angrily. “I warned you to be low profile when you’re overseas. You can’t go around offending everyone. But it seems like you don’t like to listen, do you?”

“Dad, I’m sorry! I will definitely mend my ways. I won’t go overseas anymore. I will stay in the country! Please! You have to save me! I’m your only son!” Yao Hanxing pleaded with his father pitifully.

Yao Yuhai let out a sigh. He wanted to save his only son too. However, none of his ideas would work. In addition, many of his contacts did not want to interfere in this matter as they were afraid to be implicated too.

“That group of people has close connections to an international assassin group. None of my friends

and contacts want to help. I don't know what else I can do," he sighed.

At that moment, the doorbell rang.

Yao Hanxing was startled, jumping up at the sound.



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“Dad, are they here?” Yao Hanxing asked fearfully.

Yao Yuhai was initially shocked as well but didn't feel like it was possible after thinking about it.

No matter how bold those people were, they would not dare to force their way in during broad daylight. Yao Yuhai was aware that given his status in Yan City, they would not display such insolence.

“Let's go and take a look,” Yao Yuhai said to his bodyguard, an expert whom he had specially hired just to deal with that matter. The man was a retired member of the Special Forces and Yao Yuhai was confident of his fighting skills.

The bodyguard nodded and walked towards the door. Keeping on high alert, the man looked through the peephole and let down his guard after seeing that it was just a child.

“It's a child,” the bodyguard told Yao Yuhai.



“A child?” Yao Yuhai was confused for a moment before saying, “Open the door.”

The bodyguard opened the door and before he could ask any questions, Han Jingru already said, “I want to speak to Yao Yuhai. I will be able to help him with the problems he’s currently facing.”

The bodyguard burst out laughing after hearing that. *Where does this brat who’s spewing nonsense come from?* Yao Yuhai had racked his brains but was still not able to come up with a solution and a kid like him was saying that he could help? That was just absurd!

“Little boy, you should go home. If there’s nothing else, get going,” the bodyguard said.

Han Jingru knew that given his current age, it wouldn’t be easy for him to gain anyone’s trust. The only way for them to look past his age was to show them his abilities.

“I’m sorry,” Han Jingru apologized before launching a powerful kick.



The bodyguard had a look of disdain on his face. No matter what, he was previously from the Special Forces. How dare the brat try to attack him?

Just when he was about to teach the brat a lesson, he suddenly felt a hard hit to his chest. He was thrown off balance by the forceful impact and retreated a few steps before falling backward on the ground. It was an utterly miserable sight.

After witnessing the scene from the living room, Yao Yuhai and his son looked horrified, thinking that their enemies had shown up.

Yao Hanxing hid behind his dad immediately, which was probably what every coward would do, because Han Yu had done the same previously.

“Who are you?” Yao Yuhai looked at Han Jingru cautiously. He could hardly believe that the bodyguard, whom he had spent so much to hire, was knocked unconscious by the small guy in front of him.

*How could this brat be so powerful!*

“Don’t be afraid. I’m here to help you,” Han Jingru said calmly.

Yao Yuhai would never believe that a stranger with an unknown background and had beaten up his bodyguard was there to help him.

“Let me warn you that this territory belongs to the Yao family. If you dare to stir trouble here, don’t even think about leaving this place alive,” Yao Yuhai threatened.

Han Jingru walked towards the living room nonchalantly and sat on the sofa. “If I’m here to kill you, do you think you’ll still be talking to me like that? That guy was hired to protect you right? It’s a pity that he’s so weak.”

Yao Yuhai’s expression turned increasingly grim. He had never expected that the fighter whom he had hired was just a paper tiger and was absolutely useless.

“Who exactly are you?” Yao Yuhai asked.

“Han Jingru. Even if you’ve never heard of my name, you should be aware of the young master from the Han family. However, I’m no longer related to the Han family,” Han Jingru replied indifferently.

Many people in Yan City were familiar with the name ‘Han Jingru’ but most of them wouldn’t pay much attention to him as Han Yu was Nangong Shuxian’s favorite. As for the so-called ‘young master’, he was just a joke to many.

“Oh, so you are that piece of trash from the Han family.” From the look of contempt on Yao Hanxing’s face, it was obvious that he knew who Han Jingru was and seemed to have forgotten the fact that his bodyguard had just been defeated by this boy.

Han Jingru was not bothered by that comment as that was indeed the public’s opinion of him in general.

“I’m the only person who can save you now, so you’d better take back what you have just said,” Han Jingru advised placidly.

“Ha!” Yao Hanxing sneered. After knowing Han Jingru’s identity, he couldn’t help but look down on the ‘boy’ and seemed to have forgotten everything that had happened just a while ago.

“Han Jingru, I know who you are. Even the servants from the Han family are better than you. How can you possibly save me?” Yao Hanxing asked.

Han Jingru pointed at the bodyguard who was lying on the floor and said, “Do you wish to join him there too?”

Yao Hanxing jumped with fright and took two steps back, distancing himself from Han Jingru. Only after that did he feel safer.

Yao Yuhai was frowning deeply. It was a fact that Han Jingru had displayed his powerful capabilities and that alone was enough to make up for his age, identity and background.

Regardless of what his status in the Han family was, he had indeed displayed true capabilities.

However, what Yao Yuhai was unable to comprehend was why Han Jingru would volunteer his help when everyone else avoided him at all costs?

“Why are you helping us?” Yao Yuhai asked.

“Of course it’s because of the influence that the Yao Corporation has in Yan City. I have a company called Dynasty and I’m keen to cooperate with Yao Corporation,” Han Jingru explained.

“Dynasty?” Yao Yuhai had heard of that company as his secretary had mentioned to him multiple times. However, wasn’t Qin Fu the boss of that company? Why would Han Jingru has got anything to do with it?

“That company is mine. Qin Fu is merely a figurehead. My original intention was to grow Dynasty secretly, but I’ve changed my mind,” Han Jingru elaborated.

When Yao Yuhai heard that, he knew that that brat in front of him wasn’t as simple as he looked

as it was impossible for a young boy to be so scheming. Besides, there must be something extraordinary about Han Jingru for Qin Fu to be willingly controlled by him.

Of course, Yao Yuhai had personally witnessed his extraordinary prowess. The fact the bodyguard who was hired by him at a high cost was no match for Han Jingru was more than enough to prove it.

However, Yao Yuhai had to carefully think through Han Jingru's trustworthiness. After all, he did not dare to make a hasty decision as his son's life was at stake.

“To be honest, I'm the only person who can save him. Otherwise, he will definitely die. So it's best that you consider it carefully and make a wise decision. Here's my number. I'll give you till tomorrow to decide and I hope to hear a positive reply from you.” Han Jingru left after scribbling down his number.

The moment Han Jingru stepped out of the door, Yao Hanxing's expression changed.

“Dad, that brat is really too much! We should get someone to teach him a lesson,” Yao Hanxing said.

Yao Yuhai shot a glance at his son before walking towards his bodyguard. *Just how powerful was that kick for him to be knocked out in one blow?*

After taking a deep breath, Yao Yuhai said, “Perhaps he’s indeed the only person who can save you.”

“Dad, you can’t be serious. Do you really believe what he said? He’s just a brat! How is it possible that he is able to save me?” Yao Hanxing grumbled.



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Yao Hanxing was clearly aware of the danger he was in. Otherwise, given his arrogance and bossiness, he would never be content to hide at home all day. As such, he was extremely reluctant to place his hopes on a brat like Han Jingru.

Besides, Yao Hanxing had heard quite a bit about Han Jingru. Even though he was the young master of the Han family, his status was even lower than a servant. All along, Han Yu had been the only one representing the Han family at any important functions where Han Jingru was never even given a single chance.

If he were indeed as powerful as he claimed to be, why would the Han family not take him seriously?

Without replying to his son, Yao Yuhai poured a bucket of cold water over the bodyguard's head.

The sensation of the cold water on him was enough to jolt him awake and he finally opened his eyes.



When he saw Yao Yuhai staring at him, the bodyguard's first instinct was to apologize for underestimating Han Jingru, which resulted in the current situation. If the father-son pair were harmed in any manner, he would have failed in his duty as their bodyguard.

However, just when the man started apologizing, he was interrupted by Yao Yuhai who said, "If given another chance, do you think you could defeat him?"

The bodyguard was momentarily stunned at that question and did not know how to respond. If he weren't being knocked unconscious, he wouldn't even bat an eyelid fighting against that brat. However, given what had happened, he had to think about his answer carefully.

That kick was still fresh in his mind. Besides, in order to be able to knock someone unconscious with just one kick, it had to be an exceptionally forceful one.

If given a second chance, the bodyguard would certainly not let his guard down. However, he

was not able to give Yao Yuhai a definite answer.

“Mr. Yao, maybe... perhaps the outcome would still be the same.” Even though the bodyguard was reluctant to admit that he was indeed weaker, he dared not lie. Moreover, he would never underestimate Han Jingru again.

Yao Yuhai took a deep breath. Actually, he already knew the answer but still had some reservations because of Han Jingru’s age.

If he were a grown man, Yao Yuhai would have agreed to his proposition straight away.

“It seems like I have no other choice but to trust him,” Yao Yuhai said.

“Dad!” Yao Hanxing panicked when he heard that. He was an extremely egoistic and arrogant heir of a wealthy family and found it difficult to accept help from a young brat. He would become the butt of the joke if word got out.

“Dad, are you really going to trust a little boy? His words are not credible. How can you hand

your son's life over to him?"

"Do we have any other options?" Yao Yuhai looked at Yao Hanxing coldly. He had already exhausted all his means but not one else wanted to get involved in the matter. If things continued the same way, Yao Hanxing would definitely die. As such, as a last resort, Yao Yuhai could only choose to trust Han Jingru.

"With our family's wealth, can't we hire more fighters? If there aren't enough of them in Yan City, we can hire them from other cities," Yao Hanxing suggested.

Yao Yuhai gritted his teeth, feeling extremely annoyed with his son. It was exactly Yao Hanxing's insolence that brought such trouble upon himself. It was indeed time he to correct his son's attitude.

With that, Yao Yuhai lifted his hand and gave Yao Hanxing a tight slap on his face. Lashing out at his son, he said, "I hope you will remember this lesson and not repeat the same mistake in the future. Before you stir up any trouble again,

please open your eyes wider to see who you are pitting yourself against; otherwise, no one would be able to save you next time. As for Han Jingru, I have already decided to accept his offer so you should just keep your mouth shut. If you don't like that, think of a solution yourself.”

Covering his face with one hand, Yao Hanxing dared not comment any further as he knew that he had really incurred his father's wrath. If he continued objecting and Yao Yuhai decided not to help him, he would definitely be doomed.

After Han Jingru left the Yao family, he loitered on the streets aimlessly. He had never imagined that he would go back to being a teenager again. Besides, as it was already an irreversible fact set in stone, he could only accept it.

Since he was back to being fourteen, naturally, Han Jingru would want to rewrite his story. Back then, even though he was a young master of the Han family, everyone treated him as trash and a joke. He needed to remove such a label which was placed on him.

While Han Jingru was walking, he was stopped by a group of hot-blooded youths.

“You... Are you Han Jingru?” One man with shoulder-length hair, who seemed like the leader of the group, looked at Han Jingru in surprise and asked, making sure that he had not recognized the wrong person.

After taking a closer look, Han Jingru realized that the man was Zhao Lei, who was extremely good friends with Han Yu. That man often came over to the Han residence and played pranks on him together with Han Yu. The both of them often took pleasure in his misery and Han Jingru had never expected to bump into him on the streets.

“Zhao Lei,” Han Jingru said indifferently.

Zhao Lei laughed and said, “I can’t believe it’s really you. Why are you roaming the streets instead of hiding in the backyard in your house? Aren’t you afraid of being spotted? Your brother is not gonna let you off if you embarrass the Han family.”

Han Jingru merely smiled. That was exactly how the others viewed him. He was a risk of damaging the Han family's reputation even when he was outside.

*Does that mean that I can only stay at home all day long?*

*This is clearly an exaggeration. Am I capable of tarnishing the image of the Han family by just stepping out of the house? What can I possibly do?*

“I have something on.” Han Jingru tried to leave after saying that. He knew that his encounter with those dandies wouldn't be anything pleasant and wanted to avoid getting into any trouble.

However, Zhao Lei wouldn't let him leave so easily and stood in front Han Jingru, obstructing his way.

“I heard from your brother that you can pee like a dog. Show me how you do that. If you do it well, I'll let you off. How about that?” Zhao Lei said to Han Jingru smugly.

The rest of the guys in his group begin to cheer and appeared to be very excited to see how a man could pee like a dog.

“Come on, show us!”

“Quick, show us how you do it. Otherwise, we’ll beat you to a pulp.”

Han Jingru had a cold expression on his face. It was exactly because he silently endured every ill-treatment on him in the past that he was constantly bullied by those guys. He did not have a choice back then but it was no longer the same. He wouldn’t choose to behave in the same manner anymore.

“Zhao Lei, I suggest that you stop blocking my way. Otherwise, I am not going to show you any mercy,” Han Jingru said coldly.

Zhao Lei’s expression changed when he heard that. Since when did the useless young master from the Han family have the right to threaten him?



“Damn you, Han Jingru, you’re asking for it!”  
Given Zhao Lei’s hot temper, he raised his fist, feeling offended by Han Jingru’s words.

Zhao Lei, who took boxing classes, was definitely one of the best fighters among others his age and had never once lost to anyone in a fight. When the rest of the guys heard Han Jingru challenging Zhao Lei, they couldn’t help but sneer at him.

*He must have a death wish to incur Zhao Lei’s wrath!*



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Just as everyone was ready to witness Han Jingru making a fool out of himself, their expressions froze at the same time.

Even Zhao Lei himself was shocked and stood rooted on the spot.

That was because when he was about to strike Han Jingru with his fist, Han Jingru grabbed his wrist and he wasn't able to move at all after that.

Zhao Lei was aware of his own capabilities and knew for sure that no one from his age group was his match. However, at that moment, his wrist was being grabbed so firmly and forcefully that he was unable to move even an inch. He tried to retract his hand but was unable to do so.

“How is this possible?” Zhao Lei's expression changed and commented in disbelief.

“Why? You can't move?” Han Jingru said in a provocative tone mockingly.

Zhao Lei could not tolerate himself being humiliated in front of his friends. As such, he

aimed a kick at Han Jingru's stomach.

But Han Jingru would never let him have such a chance. At a swifter speed, he launched a counterattack. Han Jingru let go of Zhao Lei's wrist at the same time his kick landed on his opponent, such that the man staggered a few steps backwards and fell onto the ground. It was a moment of utter embarrassment for him.

The most interesting part was Han Jingru had not used his full power during the attack. If he had, Zhao Lei's current situation would have been worse than that bodyguard.

“Zhao Lei, how are you feeling?”

“Are you alright?”

“How did he become so powerful?”

The rest of the guys were suddenly looking at Han Jingru in a different light, with fear reflected in their eyes.

Zhao Lei was the best fighter among them.

Whenever someone else picked a fight with their group, Zhao Lei would be the one to handle it and he had never been defeated. That was the first time they had seen Zhao Lei landed himself in such a miserable state.

More shockingly, the person who defeated him was the useless young master of the Han family!

All of them could not help but wonder when did that piece of trash become so formidable.

Zhao Lei's expression was extremely grim and he stared at Han Jingru with murderous intent. It was the first time someone had embarrassed him and the person who did it was that trash!

Han Jingru walked towards Zhao Lei with an expression as cold as ice.

The rest of the guys quickly took a few steps backwards when they saw Han Jingru approaching. They wanted to show concern and stand up for Zhao Lei, but did not have the guts to do it. After all, that was someone even Zhao Lei was no match for.

“What... are you trying to do?” Zhao Lei was scared that Han Jingru was going to strike him mercilessly again.

“I know that you will definitely seek revenge but I’ll let you off today. When you come for me next time, you should bring some better fighters along,” Han Jingru said placidly. He knew that an arrogant person like Zhao Lei would certainly not take it lying down and it was just a matter of time that he took revenge.

Zhao Lei did not dare to reply as he was worried that Han Jingru would change his mind and not let him off if he exposed his intent to seek revenge.

After Han Jingru left, Zhao Lei got up on his feet with a menacing expression on his face. After dusting his pants, he said through gritted teeth, “Han Jingru, just you wait!”

Meanwhile, a girl among Zhao Lei’s group of friends was staring at Han Jingru’s figure as he walked away, reluctant to see him go. There was a hint of admiration in her eyes and it seemed as

if she was impressed by his capabilities.

“Zhao Lei, what should we do?”

“We can’t just let this slide.”

“Exactly! We need to get back at him.”

Zhao Lei sneered silently at those words from his friends. If it weren’t for their family backgrounds, he would never associate himself with them. Where were they when he needed them most? Those so-called friends were just all talk but no action.

“Of course I will be taking revenge. I’m quite close to a few of my boxing seniors. I’m sure they will help me if I ask,” Zhao Lei said.

“Are you guys... sure?” The girl who was secretly admiring Han Jingru suddenly asked. “What if your seniors are not his match too?”

“How is that even possible? My seniors are some of the top boxers around and will certainly beat that guy to a pulp!” Zhao Lei rejected that

possibility straight out. Even though it was a fact that he had lost to Han Jingru, he believed that his seniors would definitely be stronger than him.

The girl kept quiet after hearing that but still felt that even if Zhao Lei got his seniors to help, they would still lose to Han Jingru.

Han Jingru had already made it very clear. He knew that Zhao Lei would be taking revenge and had even warned him to bring some better fighters along with him. He would never have said that if he was not confident enough.

However, Zhao Lei wanted to play save so he rang Han Yu after he got home to find out what exactly was going on. How did that useless brother of his suddenly become so formidable?

When Han Yu got to know of the conflict between Han Jingru and Zhao Lei, his first thought was to make use of Zhao Lei to teach Han Jingru a lesson. As such, he deliberately kept the fact that Han Jingru had beaten Yan Qiong from Zhao Lei.

“All he did was to learn a few random moves from Yan Qiong, so you don’t have to be too worried. Just get some men to teach him a lesson properly. You can beat him to death if you want. Don’t hold back just because he’s my brother.” Han Yu said.

Zhao Lei did not overthink Han Yu’s words as he trusted his friend wholeheartedly. “Don’t worry, even without you saying, I don’t intend to let him off easily. I will make him regret for embarrassing me in front of so many people.”

That was the typical behavior of an arrogant heir from a wealthy family. Zhao Lei was still a teenager but was much more vicious than many adults.

“Feel free to let me know if you need my help. As you know, I don’t consider him as my brother at all, so I’m definitely on your side,” Han Yu said. Even though they were twin brothers, Han Yu refused to have any association with Han Jingru. It was indeed an undeniable fact that there was absolutely no place for Han Jingru in the Han family.



As it happened, Nangong Shuxian was the cause of it. She was biased against Han Jingru ever since he was a child and had influenced Han Yu to see his brother as an outcast of the family as well.

“Sure. I guess there’s nothing for me to worry about with your reassurance. I will not go easy on him.”

When night fell, Han Jingru did not return to the Han residence. Even though that place was supposed to be his home, he didn’t feel any sense of belonging there. He would rather sleep on the streets than to go back.

Initially, Han Jingru had planned to stay in a hotel for the night and arrange for proper long-term accommodation the next day. However, what Han Jingru had not anticipated was that a seemingly easy matter would be very difficult for him to accomplish in his current state.

It was impossible to book a room in a hotel without proper identification documents and Han Jingru had not prepared for such a contingency.



“Do I really have to sleep on the streets tonight?” Han Jingru muttered to himself with a wry smile on his face. No matter what, he was no doubt the best fighter on Earth currently and could hardly believe that he would land himself in such a predicament.

While Han Jingru was passing by a nightclub, he saw a drunk lady being supported by a man as they walked out.

The woman was dressed skimpily in a bodycon mini skirt. As for the man, even though he reeked of alcohol, he still looked sober. It was obvious to Han Jingru that the man was preying on drunken women in the nightclub.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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That was hardly an uncommon sight. People who visited nightclubs could be broadly classified into two categories, the hunter and the prey. Those men and women were usually aware of what they were getting into by exposing themselves to such an environment.

However, when Han Jingru walked past that man, he overheard him talking on the phone.

“It’s settled. That drug is really effective. I bet she wouldn’t know what has happened when she wakes up tomorrow morning.” The smug tone in the man’s voice when he said that was exceptionally unpleasant sounding to the ears.

Han Jingru never liked meddling in the affairs of others but he truly despised such dirty tricks.

Mutual consent was crucial when it came to nightclub affairs and obviously, it was not applicable between those two people especially with the lady.

“OK then. I’ll take the first half of the night and you can come over for the second half once I’m

done with her.” The man ended the call after saying that sentence.

Han Jingru suddenly stopped in his tracks. He had no intention to be a busybody but those words uttered by that man were too filthy and despicable that he had to interfere.

“What are you trying to do? She’s my sister,” Han Jingru stood in front of the man and said.

“It’s none of your business, brat. Get lost now!” The man said to Han Jingru impatiently. It was no surprise that he did not take a boy like him seriously.

“I promise I won’t hurt you if you let go of her now and leave,” Han Jingru said placidly.

“Ha! What an arrogant little brat! Looks like I have to teach you a lesson today so that you will learn how to behave.” Han Jingru had infuriated that man by trying to ruin his plans for the night.

That man launched a kick, thinking that Han Jingru would scurry away obediently after getting

beaten up.

However, Han Jingru raised his leg at the same time and aimed a kick towards the man's knee.

“O-o-ouchhhhh!” The man cried out in agony as Han Jingru's foot landed on his knee, crushing his patella.

The moment he let go of the woman, Han Jingru caught her and said coolly, “You didn't have to go through this. Why didn't you heed my warning just now?”

The man remained glued to the ground. As the pain was so excruciating that it felt like his heart was being ripped apart, he did not hear Han Jingru's words and neither was he bothered with it.

Just then, Han Jingru saw a cab approaching and flagged it down.

After helping the woman into the cab, Han Jingru went through her bag and found her home address.

By right, for a teenager Han Jingru's age, it would be quite difficult to support a grown woman's weight. However, it was as easy as pie for Han Jingru.

When he carried the woman while walking through the entrance of her residential area, the security guards looked shocked.

“Which family does this kid belong to? He's unbelievably strong!”

“He doesn't look familiar but that woman lives here. Could he be her brother?”

The two security guards gasped in astonishment as they watched Han Jingru walk further away into the distance.

Han Jingru got into the lift and reached the woman's apartment shortly after. There, he was surprised to find that the place was spick and span.

After Han Jingru carried the woman into her room and tossed her onto the bed, he returned to

the living room.

Even though he had the mental and emotional states of an adult, Han Jingru was not the least interested in that type of woman.

“I’ll sleep here in your living room for one night as my reward for saving you,” Han Jingru thought out loud. As he had no accommodation for the night anyway, that seemed to be the most natural thing to do.

As for the woman inside the bedroom, Han Jingru was not worried about her at all. She was merely drugged and should recover very quickly after the effects of the drug wore off.

The next morning when the woman woke up, she was still feeling groggy and in a daze. However, she felt relieved to see the familiar surroundings and knew that she was at home.

“Thank goodness, it seems like that guy is a decent man after all. But why do I not seem to recall anything that happened last night?” The woman mumbled to herself as she removed her

clothes after feeling disgusted by the stench of alcohol on it.

She walked out of her bedroom towards the living room naked, intending to take a shower.

“Ahhhh!” The woman let out an ear-piercing scream that jolted Han Jingru up from his sleep.

The moment he opened his eyes, Han Jingru saw a woman trying to cover up her body with her hands in a fluster.

Han Jingru immediately turned his head away and exclaimed, “What are you doing!”

The woman dashed back into her bedroom without looking back. As she stayed alone, she was already used to behaving freely at home and had not expected an unfamiliar man to be in her apartment.

*Fu\*k! He must have seen everything just now!*

The woman wondered why Han Jingru would be in her house as he looked like a kid to her.



She swiftly got dressed and calmed herself down before going back to the living room again.

“Who are you and why are you in my house?” The woman asked Han Jingru in an interrogative tone.

“You were drugged last night. I happened to walk past and saved you. As I had no place to stay last night, I decided to sleep here,” Han Jingru replied honestly.

“Drugged?” The woman was momentarily stunned to hear that. A while ago, she was just feeling glad that the man from last night was a gentleman. Who knew that he’s just a despicable bast\*rd. No wonder she could not recall any of the events from the previous night.

“I heard him talking to someone over the phone. He even told the other guy to take over for the second half of the night. You should know what they intended to do without me spelling it out right?” Han Jingru said.

The woman’s expression changed as she listened

to Han Jingru. If that really happened last night, her life would be doomed.

However, it seemed rather impossible to her that a child had saved her from the hands of an adult.

“How did you manage to save me?” The woman asked out of curiosity.

“If I’m not wrong, he should be in the hospital now,” Han Jingru answered.

The woman looked at Han Jingru suspiciously. Even though he had the appearance of a typical young boy, she felt as if she was conversing with a mature man. He did not have the innocence or childish ways that were usually displayed by a child.

Then, the woman returned to her room, likely making a phone call to confirm what Han Jingru told her was true.

Moments later, she was back to the living room and thanked Han Jingru.

“I shall leave now if there’s nothing else,” Han Jingru said.

As he stood up, the woman suddenly asked, “Did you see anything just now?”

“Do I look like I’m blind? But it’s not my fault,” Han Jingru replied while feeling speechless. It was completely out of his control. He also had not expected that the first thing he saw when he opened his eyes was a woman’s naked body!

The woman lowered her head with her face flushed red with embarrassment and regretted asking that question at once. She remembered meeting Han Jingru’s gaze just now. How was it possible that he had not seen anything?

But she was glad that she had not been taken advantage of. If it weren’t for Han Jingru, she would probably be in a truly precarious situation right then.

“Since you saved my life, I should buy you a meal to show my appreciation. But you’ll have to promise me that you won’t tell anyone about

what happened just now,” the woman said.

Han Jingru shook his head. He didn't need the treat and besides, he didn't help her expecting any reward.

“There's no need for that,” Han Jingru rejected the offer coolly.

When the woman saw that Han Jingru was leaving, she started panicking. As for why she didn't want him to leave, she did not know the reason as well.

“My name is Wu Xin. What's your name? Let's be friends.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Don’t tell me you have feelings for me. I’m a minor.” Han Jingru smiled at Wu Xin. He only saved her on a whim, and there was nothing else. So, leaving now was the best choice for him.

However, he didn’t expect her to say such words.

For a damsel to repay a hero who came to her rescue with her body was something very normal. However, he was only fourteen now.

Wu Xin looked at Han Jingru and said mockingly, “Little brat, I know you’re underage, so there’s no way I’ll have any feelings for you. Look at your tiny and skinny body. Will you be able to satisfy my needs?”

Suddenly, Han Jingru’s phone rang. Seeing that it was an incoming call from an unknown number on the screen, he immediately knew who it was, and waved his phone at Wu Xin. “I’ll get going now if there’s nothing else. As to satisfy your needs, it’ll be best if you don’t go to a bar, or else you won’t be so lucky next time.”

With that, Han Jingru opened the door and left.

Wu Xin bunched up her face and said, “Kids these days really have no taste in women. Isn’t having a beautiful woman like me a good thing?”

After leaving Wu Xin’s house, Han Jingru answered the call, and Yao Yuhai’s voice could be heard at the other end.

Yao Yuhai said, “Han Jingru, we, the Yao Corporation, will cooperate with Dynasty if you can help me solve the problem this time.”

Han Jingru didn’t expect Yao Yuhai to come up with this answer. But given that Yao Hanxing died in the past life, this meant Yao Yuhai tried everything he could, but still failed to save his son. So, he didn’t have any other choice but to seek help from Han Jingru.

Han Jingru said indifferently. “Don’t worry. It’s a piece of cake for me.”

Yao Yuhai couldn’t believe those big words coming from a fourteen-year-old, but considering the power and capabilities Han Jingru showed the previous day, it didn’t seem like he was bragging.

*If Han Jingru really couldn't do it, he wouldn't show up personally.*

*Maybe the young master of the Han family was misunderstood by everyone else because of the false rumors. In fact, he is the one who can lead the Han family to prosperity.*

Yao Yuhai asked, "What should I do next?"

"I'll go to your house now." After saying that, Han Jingru hung up.

Yao Yuhai was one of the influential figure in Yan City, and no one dared to hang up on him except Han Jingru. This made Yao Yuhai think the latter was quite arrogant.

However, he needed Han Jingru's help, so he let him off the hook.

Yao Hanxing wore a helpless look as he sat on the sofa. He was reluctant to admit the fact that he needed a kid to protect him. *What more he's known for being useless in Yan City! If others know of this, they'll call me a wimp. I won't accept that!*



“Dad, can’t we discuss this matter properly?” Yao Hanxing spoke softly, as he didn’t wish to anger his father.

Yao Yuhai took a glance at him. “Can you think of another way to solve this matter?”

Yao Hanxing shook his head. He wished he had the capabilities to solve it himself, but it was impossible for an arrogant young master like him. His elders were always the ones who came to his rescue whenever he got into trouble.

Yao Hanxing spoke in a tone dripping with disdain. “I can’t believe I need a little brat to protect me. Never did I think I will end up in this state.”

The bodyguard standing at a side took a glance at Yao Hanxing. *Although Han Jingru is only a kid, his strength mustn’t be underestimated. I was one of the Special Forces, but he is way stronger than I am, and I couldn’t even hold my ground when I clashed with him.*

With those thoughts in mind, the bodyguard reminded, “Young Master Yao, please don’t underestimate him.”

Yao Hanxing glared at the bodyguard. *If it weren’t for you, things wouldn’t have gotten out of hand.*

Yao Hanxing gritted his teeth. “Can’t you stay quiet? I get irritated every time I see your face. I spent a fortune to hire you, but you’re so useless as you couldn’t even beat a kid.”

Although his words were rather harsh, the bodyguard didn’t feel ashamed about losing to Han Jingru. *Try it yourself. I can say that not many people in Yan City can fight against Han Jingru.*

Yao Yuhai warned, “Stop spouting nonsense! Go see for yourself if you think you can beat him.”

Listening to Yao Yuhai’s words, Yao Hanxing could only stay silent, as he didn’t dare to retaliate.

After a while, the doorbell rang, indicating Han Jingru's arrival.

The bodyguard opened the door before lowering his head slightly at Han Jingru. Although it wasn't very obvious, his deliberate actions meant he had changed his perception of this young boy. Even if Han Jingru was a kid, the bodyguard acknowledged his strength.

Han Jingru smiled indifferently at the bodyguard's actions and entered the living room.

Yao Yuhai got up and welcomed Han Jingru while Yao Hanxing sat on the sofa, reluctant to move. After all, Han Jingru was only a piece of useless trash the Han family abandoned.

Yao Yuhai looked at Han Jingru. "I'll tell you who they are, and their background."

Han Jingru waved his hand and said, "No need. I've learned everything."

Han Jingru knew of their enemies' background because he still remembered everything from his

past life. However, he couldn't tell Yao Yuhai something so absurd.

*Yao Yuhai froze. Han Jingru knew everything about them in just one night? It looks like he isn't someone ordinary.*

Yao Hanxing rolled his eyes said dully. “Han Jingru, you're so good at bragging, you should participate in the bragging competition.”

Han Jingru couldn't care less about Yao Hanxing's attitude because he knew he was arrogant. Otherwise, he wouldn't get himself into such a big trouble.

Han Jingru turned to Yao Hanxing and asked, “Which nightclub do you always go to?”

When Yao Hanxing heard the word ‘nightclub,’ he immediately got interested. However, his father was in front of him, so he tried his best in concealing his excitement.

Yao Hanxing said, “What are you on about? Mind your own business.”

Han Jingru explained, “They must’ve done a lot of investigation on you. So, if they want to take action, they’ll do it at the places you often go.”

Noticing Yao Hanxing’s nonchalant attitude, Yao Yuhai was enraged. “Just answer his questions. It seems you haven’t realized how dangerous it is. What if they ordered their men to assault you? You’ll have to avoid those places, or else you’ll die!”

Yao Hanxing didn’t care much because he believed Yao Yuhai could settle everything for him.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Yao Yuhai was too protective of his son since he was young. Whenever he got into trouble, the former would always help him handle the matters. So, the boy believed that his father could solve everything he couldn't.

Yao Hanxing pretty much didn't worry about this matter right from the beginning.

“Dad, I'll just refrain from going to those places that I frequent, so why do I need to tell him?” Yao Hanxing was reluctant to cooperate with Han Jingru because he couldn't convince himself to let a kid protect him.

Han Jingru announced, “No. We're going.”

Yao Yuhai turned to Han Jingru with a shocked look on his face while many questions flooded his mind. *Shouldn't we avoid those places to avoid our enemies? Why are we going there? Is Han Jingru out of his mind?*

The bodyguard froze for a while and finally understood Han Jingru's idea. *He's trying to bait the enemies, but this is too dangerous. If something we couldn't foresee happened, Yao Hanxing might as well just be dead.*

*As the saying goes, the boldness of execution stems from superb skills. Is this why Han Jingru is so confident in himself?*

Yao Yuhai asked, “Han Jingru, did I get you wrong?”

Han Jingru shook his head and said matter-of-factly, “Of course not. Since they’ve sent their men to Yan City, we’ll have to finish them off quickly, or else we can’t settle this problem. And Yao Hanxing will be our bait to make those enemies hidden in the shadows show themselves.”

Yao Yuhai took in a deep breath. *It makes sense, but it’s way too risky.*

Yao Yuhai was a merchant, so he would always opt for the lowest risk for everything, but Han Jingru was the complete opposite of him.

Yao Yuhai asked, “Why do you think you can ensure my son’s safety?”



Before Han Jingru could say anything, Yao Hanxing interrupted, "Dad, don't listen to him. He just wants me dead."

Han Jingru stared at Yao Hanxing coldly. "Will killing you benefit me in any way? And if I want to kill you, do you think I'll leave the rest of your family alive?"

Yao Hanxing glared at Han Jingru, wanting to keep him in a stalemate. But as soon as his eyes met Han Jingru's intimidating glare, he got scared and averted his gaze subconsciously.

Yao Hanxing argued, "Dad, we mustn't trust him."

Han Jingru insisted, "This is the only way out. We can't run away from them every time, and once they're desperate to carry out their mission, they might show up at your house and kill you."

Yao Yuhai took in a deep breath. It was difficult for him to decide, as his son's life was at risk.

However, Han Jingru's words made sense. There

was no way Yao Hanxing could hide forever.

Yao Yuhai lowered his voice as he wore a serious expression. “How confident are you in this?”

“A hundred percent.” Han Jingru replied in confidence because no one on Earth could fight against him. Even taking on the entire Apocalypse by himself was a piece of cake for him.

“How can I trust you?” It was a tough decision to make, so Yao Yuhai wanted to make sure everything was right before laying his trust in Han Jingru. *He has only beaten the bodyguard I hired, and I can't trust him fully just with that.*

Han Jingru was troubled, as he wasn't sure how to prove his strength. After all, the bodyguard was too weak to be his opponent, and there was no way he would use him as a target to show his capabilities.

Han Jingru turned to look at the bodyguard.

The bodyguard felt chills running down his spine

when he thought Han Jingru wanted to spar with him. “I can’t fight you, and you already know that. There’s no point in using me as a sparring opponent.”

Han Jingru said, “Right. I have something to ask you.”

The bodyguard replied, “Ask away.”

Han Jingru asked, “Have you heard of Apocalypse?”

Although Han Jingru hadn’t become a member of the Apocalypse by then, he thought of using the Apocalypse to gain their trust. After all, the Apocalypse was the place for fighters.

However, the prerequisite for that to happen was that the bodyguard had to know what Apocalypse was. Or else asking him this question was just like talking to a wall.

“You...” The bodyguard looked at Han Jingru in terror, as he couldn’t form his sentences.

*It seems he knows about Apocalypse.* Han Jingru smiled indifferently, looking at the bodyguard fidgeting in his place.

On the other hand, the Yaos were confused, as they knew nothing of the Apocalypse.

Han Jingru continued. "Platinum rank."

Colors faded from the bodyguard's face when he heard the word "Platinum," and he finally knew why he was so weak against Han Jingru.

*He... He's a Platinum rank fighter!*

The bodyguard knew of the existence of Apocalypse because the Apocalypse once recruited new members from the battalion he was in when he served in the army.

His friend was a member of Apocalypse, so he knew what a Platinum rank fighter meant.

The bodyguard froze for a while and immediately knelt in front of Han Jingru to beg for forgiveness because he was disrespectful to the latter before.

The Yaos were completely puzzled at the sight of this.

*Why did he kneel suddenly and look so apologetic?*

*Is Apocalypse so powerful?*

“What’s wrong?” Yao Yuhai knitted his brows.

“Mr. Yao, you can trust him fully. No one other than him can save Young Master Yao.” Lowering his voice, the bodyguard turned to Yao Yuhai and wore a serious expression.

He couldn’t disclose information about the Apocalypse to Yao Yuhai because it was taboo to speak of the organization. So, he could only assure Yao Yuhai to trust Han Jingru.

*There’s no one that deserves our trust if a Platinum rank fighter doesn’t.*

Seeing the change in the bodyguard’s attitude, Yao Yuhai didn’t know about the details, but he could sense that Han Jingru had no ordinary

background, so trusting him was his only choice.

“Han Jingru, I trust you, and I’ll leave this matter to you. Yao Hanxing shall assist you in this. Tell me at once if he refuses to.” After saying his words, Yao Yuhai glared at his son, pressuring him to obey Han Jingru.



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Yao Hanxing had never seen such a fierce gaze from Yao Yuhai, so he didn't dare to talk back, and nodded.

Yao Yuhai turned to look at Han Jingru. "I'll leave it to you. If you can solve it, I'll do whatever I can to aid in Dynasty's development."

"Thank you, Mr. Yao." Han Jingru smiled. *With Yao Yuhai's help, Dynasty will develop faster.*

In his past life, Han Jingru used ten years to establish Dynasty, but this time, it would only take two to three years, or maybe one year for Dynasty to become the top enterprise in Yan City, an even surpass the Han Corporation.

*God knows what Nangong Shuxian would think when Dynasty rode roughshod over the Han Corporation.*

*She always valued Han Yu as the pillar of the Han family and totally disregarded me. She thinks that he is the only one who can bring glory to the Han family, but I'll make her regret for looking down on me.*



Han Jingru could stay calm and poised about anything, because his aspirations were extraordinary. But he still couldn't keep his heart calm, no matter how nonchalant he pretended to be when it comes to the Han family.

Han Jingru turned to Yao Hanxing and said, "I'll accompany you tonight. Have as much fun as possible."

Yao Hanxing felt a tinge of excitement in his heart. Staying at home all day bored him to death, and he wanted to go out for a breather. As he didn't take the troubles he had gotten himself into seriously, he wasn't worried at all.

Yao Hanxing sneered, "Sure. I'll show you the lifestyle of yours truly. After all, an abandoned young master like you has never seen the world since you're not even welcomed by your family members."

Hearing his ignorant remarks, the bodyguard trembled with fear. *Young Master must have a death wish. How dare he act all high and mighty in front of a Platinum rank fighter?*

*The Yao family is wealthy and holds a high social status in Yan City's business community, but these were useless to Apocalypse. If Young Master enrages Han Jingru to the point that the latter wants to kill him, the money and status of the Yao family won't be enough to save him.*

Yao Yuhai warned, "Yao Hanxing, from now on, you'll have to show some respect to Han Jingru. Otherwise, you won't get anything from me."

As soon as Yao Hanxing heard those words, he immediately became obedient. To Yao Hanxing, that was the biggest threat. After all, he didn't have any accomplishments in life, and he could only rely on Yao Yuhai to live a lavish life.

Han Jingru said, "I'll come see you tonight. You can invite some friends, and spread the news of you going out."

Yao Hanxing retorted softly, "I know what to do, and I don't need you to remind me." *Of course, the more the merrier. I'll invite my friends, and our room must be also full of pretty girls. Does he think I don't know that?*

After Han Jingru left, Yao Yuhai called the bodyguard to his study. *Knowing my son's personality, I can't ask these questions in front of him because the news will spread like wildfire if he knows.*

Once they entered the study, Yao Yuhai asked directly, "Why did you kneel in front of him?"

The bodyguard replied, "His identity deserves my respect." When he knelt in front of Han Jingru, it was out of genuine sincerity. And now, he respected Han Jingru from the bottom of his heart.

*He's so young, yet he's already a Platinum rank fighter in the Apocalypse. This isn't something an ordinary person can do.*

*Han Jingru must be telling the truth. Apocalypse has kept themselves hidden from most people. Since Han Jingru could name the Platinum rank, this means he is truly one of the Apocalypse.*

Yao Yuhai continued asking the bodyguard to quench his curiosity, "Is Apocalypse an

organization? Are they powerful?"

The bodyguard explained, "Mr. Yao, it's better if you don't know. Knowing too much wouldn't be good for you, especially when it is related to the Apocalypse, as it may danger your life. I can only tell you that Han Jingru deserves your trust, and you can try to win him over because becoming his ally will only make the Yao family stronger. Becoming friends with him is what many have been dreaming of."

The bodyguard's words made Han Jingru seemed like a powerful being to Yao Yuhai. He couldn't imagine what kind of person Han Jingru was, but he didn't inquire any further and tried to suppress his curiosity.

Having lived his life in the business community, Yao Yuhai understood it would only bring him danger and unwanted troubles if he were to continue pursuing the matters.

So, he could only lament. "It seems the young master of The Han family isn't someone ordinary."

The bodyguard said, “He’s more than that. The Han family will regret their actions one day.”

Yao Yuhai burst into laughter as he thought of the Han family’s foolish decision. *Ever since Nangong Shuxian took over the Han family, it isn’t as strong as it was in the past. What’s even worse is that Nangong Shuxian placed her hopes on Han Yu, and totally disregarded the hidden pearl in her family. Let’s see how will she react when she knows of Han Jingru’s capabilities.*

Yao Yuhai said, “The old lady of the Han family is stubborn. I doubt she’ll admit her mistakes even after she knows of Han Jingru’s capabilities. But that’s not a bad thing, given that Han Jingru can only rely on me to develop Dynasty. It’ll only benefit us, the Yao family, if we can use this opportunity to befriend him.”

“But... Young Master’s attitude toward Han Jingru...” The bodyguard couldn’t bring himself to finish the sentence. In his opinion, Yao Hanxing was only asking for death, as he was rude to Han Jingru. If Han Jingru haggled over what Yao Hanxing said, there was no way the

latter wouldn't die, even if he had ten lives.

Yao Yuhai said, "I know what to do. Call my son here and you may leave now."

"Yes, Mr. Yao." The bodyguard bowed politely and left.

After a while, Yao Hanxing came into the room.

"Dad, is there anything you want me to do?" Yao Hanxing asked as he wore a gloomy expression. It was obvious he was feeling a little displeased.

Yao Yuhai announced, "Let me warn you. You better be good to Han Jingru from now on and behaved yourself in front of him. He isn't someone to be trifled with. I want you to befriend him because this will strengthen the Yao family."

Yao Hanxing was stunned by his father's demand. "Dad, you want me to please that piece of trash from the Han family?"

*Bang!* Yao Yuhai slammed the table and stood up angrily, while Yao Hanxing flinched.

Yao Yuhai scolded, “Stop calling him ‘trash.’ He’s not useless, and you don’t have any right to look down on him. Just do as I say. Otherwise, don’t expect me to hand you any family assets.”

Yao Hanxing was flustered. “Dad, calm down. Don’t be angry, I’ll do as you say.”



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