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Jiang Ning had kept the other seven elders behind and let Fang Wei go. But the one that Fang Qiu wanted to kill the most was Fang Wei!

The one who truly caused the death of He Daoren was really Fang Wei!

He was also the same man who had imprisoned and tortured Fang Ran for twenty years. Wasn't Jiang Ning allowing Fang Wei to return to his home base like this?

"You could have killed him for revenge!" Fang Qiu took a deep breath. His voice sounded agitated.

"I've already said that killing him is your thing," said Jiang Ning. "As for the rest, the other reclusive clans don't deserve to die. The only ones who deserve to die is the Fang clan."

"Rest well, the day you've been waiting for will come soon."

Jiang Ning didn't elaborate too much.

Fang Qiu didn't ask anymore either. After following Jiang Ning for so long, Fang Qiu knew that Jiang Ning did everything with a lot of considerations in mind.

He never only looked at the present or the things before him. He always thought about the future.

He knew that Jiang Ning's possession of the manual and even He Daoren's death was a way to lead Jiang Ning to pursue even more things. Fang Qiu was aware of this, and Jiang Ning was even

more aware of this.

He had kept the rest behind for this very reason. He wanted to collect all the pages of the manual and eventually unravel the secret behind the map on the pages.

“Master,” Fang Qiu called after Jiang Ning when he had reached the door. “Thank you.”

Without Jiang Ning, he would still be kept in the dark, unable to be reunited with his biological mother, and would still have continued to call a crook his father...

Jiang Ning didn't say anything. He nodded slightly, then turned and left.

Meanwhile.

Fang Wei had returned to his home in Mount Zhongnan.

He was still a little fearful.

This forbidden territory of Donghai...

It was really terrifying!

Even though someone stronger than an advanced grandmaster could forget about getting out of that city alive.

Every single person in that city was a soldier! That was the feeling Donghai gave him.

Anyone who went in would feel like they entered a

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gigantic whirlpool, and it was impossible to get out again.

“Call Fang Hongshan here right now!” yelled Fang Wei angrily.

“Master Fang, Elder Hongshan says he will not see anyone, he says...”

Fang Wei got up with a start and his expression was grim. “If he’s not coming out here, I’ll go and see him!”

Fang Wei marched to Fang Hongshan’s living quarters.

Fang Hongshan was still in his training room. He hadn’t gone out at all, and hadn’t taken a step past the main door at all.

He was still waiting for news. He wanted to see how many pages of the manual the eight reclusive clans could get once they joined hands.

Fang Hongshan sat cross legged in the room in front of a tea table. The fragrance of the tea filled the entire room.

BAM!

Suddenly, the door was kicked open.

In the sunlight, Fang Hongshan could see that Fang Wei was standing at the door with a grim expression on his face and fury in his eyes.

“Even the head of the clan should knock on the

door before entering someone else's room, right?" Fang Hongshan didn't panic and actually became a little angry instead. He put his teacup down and said calmly, "I don't want others to say that the Fang family is made up of people with no manners."

"Fang Hongshan!" Fang Wei's expression was murderous now. "You knew long ago about how powerful Donghai and Jiang Ning really is, didn't you?"

"You knew, but you purposely hid this information!"

Fang Hongshan looked back puzzledly at Fang Wei.

"Master Fang, what are you talking about? I don't understand what you're saying." Fang Hongshan shook his head. "Ever since I returned from Donghai the last time, you told me to stay in my room to reflect on myself and I've not left this place ever since. I've already told you all about Donghai."

"Bullshit!"

Fang Hongshan laughed.

"Oh, I remember. I did have some more information to report to you, but it seems like you didn't want to give me the chance to speak at all."

He looked up at Fang Wei with a strange little smile, making Fang Wei look even more murderous than ever.

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“So...” Fang Wei clenched his fists tightly. “You were to blame for Fang Xia’s death?”



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BAM!

Fang Hongshan pushed the tea table aside violently, causing all the crockery on it to break to pieces.

“Fang Wei! Don’t you dare accuse me falsely like that!” he shouted loudly. “Don’t you know who’s the one who really caused Fang Xia’s death?”

“You! You’re the one!”

Fang Hongshan didn’t bother being polite at all. He had no more respect for this head of the Fang clan.

The two of them looked directly at each other.

Fang Hongshan was never going to let Fang Wei blame him for Fang Xia’s death.

“Fang Hongshan!” Fang Wei narrowed his eyes and the murderous look on his face intensified. “You’ve been eyeing the position of head of the family for the longest time. Did you think I wouldn’t know about that?”

“So you made use of Donghai and Jiang Ning to kill Fang Xia! Even Heishan’s death has something to do with you as well, I’m sure!”

“Haha! Fang Wei, you must have gone nuts and now you’re biting me in desperation?” Fang Hongshan glared back at him and raised three fingers. “I can swear right here that their deaths have nothing to do with me!”

“If you want to push the blame for these things onto me, I, Fang Hongshan, will tell you right now. NO WAY!”

He took a step forward and wasn't afraid of Fang Wei's glare and murderous aura.

On the contrary, he had become even more powerful now.

Fang Wei was back, but this was his reaction.

That meant that even though all eight reclusive clans had joined hands and headed for Donghai, they had come back with nothing. Otherwise, there was no other reason why Fang Wei would come looking for him.

Fang Hongshan was the one who told Sima Heng about the manual. That man had a glib tongue and would definitely find a way to make all eight reclusive clans join hands.

The other seven clans would think that they were clever and view this as a trap laid by the Fang clan, so they would purposely allow the Fang clan to be the leader so that they would minimize their losses.

Fang Hongshan had already thought of all this. It was clear that even though the eight reclusive clans combined forces, they had still failed.

They hadn't managed to take a single page from Jiang Ning, so Fang Wei had returned angrily to make trouble for him.

“Fang Wei, as the head of this family, you cannot escape punishment for the current state of the Fang clan!” shouted Fang Hongshan. “Even if I have to face our forefathers, I can still say these things. But do you even dare to face our forefathers?”

Fang Wei’s face was all red from fury and he didn’t say anything.

He knew that Fang Hongshan would never admit to it, but he was very sure that Fang Hongshan knew right from the beginning that Jiang Ning was very powerful.

All the elders from the other reclusive clans had to stay in Donghai, but Fang Wei had returned. How was he to answer the other seven clans?

And how would those seven clans look at Fang Wei?

Fang Wei was sure that this was definitely Fang Hongshan’s scheme, and he regretted not realizing this earlier. He couldn’t believe he had been upstaged by this asshole.

The Fang clan was now filled with both internal problems and an external disaster

Within the clan, all the elders had their own ulterior motives and their own opinions on things.

Outside, the Fang clan had no issues with the other seven clans, but now, Jiang Ning was driving a wedge between them and made it difficult for Fang Wei to be accountable to the

other seven clans.

How was he going to explain himself in such a way that others would believe he wasn't in cahoots with Jiang Ning?

There was simply no way to explain this. The fact that he had one page of the manual from Jiang Ning made it impossible to explain!

When he thought about it, he realized that everything had gone according to Fang Hongshan's plan. But he didn't know that even Fang Hongshan himself was part of Jiang Ning's plan.

"Fang Hongshan, don't force me to do this!" said Fang Wei. "If you push me into a corner, I'll kill you too!"

The more angry Fang Wei became, the calmer Fang Hongshan was.

He even started feeling gleeful about Fang Wei's misfortune.

"There are plenty of reasons you can use to clean out any member of this clan," said Fang Hongshan quietly. "If you want to kill me, go ahead. However, you have to get the go ahead from the forefathers to kill an elder. Have you consulted the forefathers yet?"

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Fang Wei scoffed and didn't want to continue this argument with Fang Hongshan.

He knew that Fang Hongshan would never admit to it, and he wouldn't dare to.

He also knew that the Fang clan had suddenly entered this state of trouble all because of Jiang Ning!

But the most important thing now was how he should approach the other seven clans, calm them down and even make them work together with the Fang clan to rescue all their elders from Jiang Ning.

Fang Wei didn't say anymore. He glared fiercely at Fang Hongshan as if to warn him, scoffed, then stormed off.

Fang Hongshan started laughing coldly as he watched Fang Wei slowly disappear into the distance.

It was easier to go to outer space than to get those pages from Jiang Ning after all.

But he was still a little surprised. The eight reclusive clans had joined hands, and that meant eight advanced grandmasters had come together!

Jiang Ning could still face them without problems, came out unscathed, and even...

"Men!" Fang Hongshan gave a shout and one of his subordinates came running in. "Tell Fang Dong that I have something important to discuss

with him.

“Yes, Elder Hongshan!”

Fang Hongshan narrowed his eyes.

This Jiang Ning was really impressive.

He had caused trouble for the Fang clan both internally and externally so easily.

Of course, the internal conflict was exactly the way Fang Hongshan wanted it. If Fang Wei didn't make a scene, then they wouldn't stand a chance.

The external conflict was nothing to him.

As long as they found a way to get those manual pages, they would have the greatest say!

That was the most basic rule!

In no time.

Fang Dong reached Fang Hongshan's study and greeted him very politely.

This wasn't their first time meeting privately. They both knew what each other wanted.

“Your father has failed,” Fang Hongshan went straight to the point. “I believe he has gone to look for the forefathers, but I don't think the forefathers will forgive me so easily. Your chance is here.”

Fang Dong smiled so brightly that his eyes

curved.

He nodded slightly.

“Elder Hongshan is really impressive,” Fang Dong clasped his hands together politely. “I just heard that Father got into a huge argument with you and left in a huff.”

“The Fang clan now has to face the fury from the other seven clans. I wonder how my father intends to deal with this.”

The elders of the seven other clans were imprisoned in Donghai by Jiang Ning, and they had to take out a suitable ransom to get their elders back. This wasn't just a physical loss but also a loss of reputation!

The eight reclusive clans had teamed up but the result turned out like this. All the heads of the clans felt like they had just been slapped in the face!

All of this was because of Fang Wei...

Even if it wasn't entirely because of Fang Wei, they were going to blame him for everything.

“That's his business. Fourth Young Master, you have to make preparations. If the forefathers decide to have a new head of the clan, you are the best candidate.” Fang Hongshan looked at Fang Dong. “And I will support you.”

Fang Dong immediately clasped his hands and replied respectfully, “I am very grateful to Elder

Hongshan.”

He bowed and looked down, but his gaze was fairly complicated.

He was definitely going to become the next head of the clan. It was only a matter of when.

Fang Xia was dead, Fang Qiu had betrayed them, Fang Chun only cared about controlling household matters. Who else was there?

But he couldn't wait.

He didn't want to wait until Fang Wei died from old age, and become the head of the clan when he was nearly fifty years old. He wanted to become the head now!

He wanted to become the head now, at a time where the Extreme Fist Technique Manual had appeared, and the Fang clan could rise to greater heights!

“As for that Jiang Ning...” said Fang Hongshan.
“We must think of a way to get rid of him!”



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No matter how Fang Hongshan looked at it, Jiang Ning was their roadblock.

On top of that, Jiang Ning's prowess was definitely a great threat to them!

If Jiang Ning didn't die, how could they get the pages he had on hand?

Fang Hongshan knew that without the manual, even if Fang Dong became the head of the Fang clan, it would be meaningless.

The reclusive clans existed purely to wait for the manual to appear. The eight reclusive clans had to combine forces in order to fully decode the map behind the manual pages and hunt that place down.

Only those with the manual had a say, and would have the right to speak once they found that place.

Otherwise, they would be like giving their hard work away to someone else for nothing.

"Jiang Ning..." Fang Dong narrowed his eyes. He was rather wary of this fellow who killed Fang Xia and made the Fang clan a mess.

He wasn't like Fang Xia, so he never underestimated others. He wasn't like Fang Wei either, so he never ignored other people's opinions and suggestions.

Fang Dong knew very well that if he wanted to succeed, he needed to rely on others for their



support. It was impossible to achieve this all by himself.

“What do you think this Jiang Ning is plotting?” Fang Dong wanted to try to understand where Jiang Ning was coming from.

Once he knew what Jiang Ning was trying to do, he could then set a trap and kill off Jiang Ning!

But Fang Hongshan shook his head.

“I have no idea. I still can't tell what he wants,” said Fang Hongshan. “If he wanted to take revenge, he could have just killed your father. He has more than enough pages of the manual and will have plenty of say. But he doesn't seem very interested in this manual either.”

Otherwise, why did Jiang Ning allow the pages to be put on display?

He allowed any student of the academy in Donghai to view and meditate on the pages.

Fang Hongshan simply couldn't understand what Jiang Ning was trying to do and why he would do such a thing.

“But regardless of what he's trying to do, we only have one aim. We have to kill him and take the pages he has! That's all!” said Fang Hongshan very determinedly. “I have a feeling that Jiang Ning is going to be our greatest opponent. He will greatly affect our future plans, so he must be removed!”

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Fang Dong frowned slightly.

Of course, he would remove anybody who got in his way. But it was also clear that this Jiang Ning was no simple obstacle.

Even after the best of the eight reclusive clans joined hands, they didn't get their way in Donghai. Fang Dong wasn't stupid. He knew that it would definitely be very difficult to deal with Jiang Ning.

"Elder Hongshan, are you confident of getting rid of Jiang Ning?" asked Fang Dong after thinking through it for a moment. "If you can get rid of him, then the position of the top elder in the Fang clan is yours."

The two of them looked at one another and they could see what each other was scheming.

After a short moment of silence, Fang Hongshan nodded. "It's a deal!"

Fang Dong left.

Fang Hongshan snapped his fingers and his subordinate came running in.

"I'm afraid Fang Wei doesn't dare to let anyone else know that he's back. Go make some rounds out there."

"Yes, Elder Hongshan!"

Fang Hongshan narrowed his eyes. "Fang Wei, I'm going to see how you handle this."

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As for getting rid of Jiang Ning...

This wasn't an easy task. Fang Dong was clever in passing this task to Fang Hongshan, and even dangled the position of being the top elder as a carrot.

But Fang Dong had no idea that Fang Hongshan wasn't interested in just being an elder!

"I'm not stupid enough to just let you use me as a weapon!" Fang Hongshan scoffed.

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Meanwhile.

In Donghai.

Jiang Ning didn't bother about those reclusive clan elders and even allowed them to walk about freely within the academy.



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The reclusive clan elders were also allowed to freely walk into the room where the manual pages were displayed. The pages on display were high quality copies anyway, so the elders wouldn't be interested in taking them.

The Sima clan elder walked about freely and looked at the students of Extreme Martial Arts Academy. All of them were practicing very seriously, so even though their punches and kicks were still very mediocre, their attitude was excellent.

At least they were much more serious than the youngsters in the Sima clan.

He walked all the way to the room where the manual pages were. Nobody stopped him from going in and he was rather surprised.

Even though these pages were just copies, the importance of this manual was incredible beyond words. Was Jiang Ning really so nonchalant about the manual?

"Tsk, I'm going to see what these manual pages look like."

The Sima clan elder didn't think so much about it. Since nobody was going to stop him from entering the room, he sauntered in.

More than ten students were seated in cross-legged in the room as they all seriously studied the pages and meditated on them. Nobody cared about the Sima clan elder and nobody even looked at him.

It was as if he was nothing but air.

The Sima clan elder was shocked and didn't know what to say.

He felt as though making any noise would affect the meditation of everyone in this room, and it would make him feel very guilty!

It was a strange feeling, but he felt it very strongly.

He wanted to cough earlier, but he managed to suppress it.

He walked over to the display cabinet and looked at the few pages inside. He wasn't too interested in the techniques described on the page.

In fact, he had seen all these basic techniques before.

Every reclusive clan had their own set of moves, but the ones on these pages were basic techniques, so it could be used as the basis for any boxing, palm or even kicking techniques.

He never thought that these techniques meant anything much.

But after he witnessed Jiang Ning's prowess, he suddenly realized that he had been wrong all along.

He had been very wrong!

He stood there for a long time and kept staring at the manual. He still didn't have any special

feelings towards the boxing techniques on the front, and the map at the back was equally complex.

These were just part of the full set, but even if they were pieced together, he might still be unable to make anything out.

In that way, it was true that security wasn't needed. Even if someone was given all nine pages, they wouldn't understand it anyway.

BAM!

Suddenly, someone threw a punch and caused the air around his fist to explode. It was clear that the amount of strength in this punch had gone up exponentially.

"I made it?" That man was instantly overjoyed and looked in disbelief at his own fist. "I really made it!"

Everyone around him was instantly filled with envy and wished they were the one who got it.

"Congratulations!"

"Congrats! You've understood the manual! Wow!"

"Congrats, my junior! Mr Jiang will be so proud of you!"

Everyone was filled with envy and admiration as they congratulated him.

The man quickly thanked them and couldn't hide

the confidence and excitement on his face. “My fellow brothers, hang in there! I’ll be waiting for you guys!”

He then got up and left.

The rest of them stopped looking enviously at him and went back to their meditation. It was as if nothing happened earlier.

The Sima clan elder was completely stunned.

He was already very shocked that these ordinary people here could gain some insight into the manual. But he was even more shocked that everyone else just congratulated him and envied him, but nobody was jealous or hateful!

“That’s...that’s impossible!”

The Sima clan elder couldn’t believe it. It seemed like the students of Extreme Martial Arts Academy would be happy to hear of someone improving, even if that person wasn’t themselves.

Nobody was selfish. Nobody!



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How was this possible?

Under such circumstances, the competition was very stiff, and things got more intense when one could see others become better than yourself. Even someone as old as the Sima clan elder felt that he would have been jealous.

But he saw that besides the tinge of envy in the other students' eyes, they weren't too bothered by this and just went right back to what they were doing earlier.

This atmosphere and behavior really confused him.

"This Donghai...is really a very different sort of place."

The Sima clan elder frowned.

He didn't say anything and didn't disturb the other students, and just left the room.

He went back to the room and saw that the other elders had also come back from going round the place.

It was clear that everyone's expression was a little grim, but also a little surprised and confused.

It was clear that everything they had seen and heard made them view Donghai and Extreme Martial Arts Academy very differently now, and they were getting more and more curious about Jiang Ning as a person.

“What did all of you see?” the Sima clan elder couldn’t help but ask after hesitating for a while.

“And what did YOU see?” the Huangfu clan elder paused and asked the Sima clan elder in response. “Sima Quan, you tell me first. What did you see?”

“I saw how backward and selfish the reclusive clans really are,” said Sima Quan slowly after a short period of silence. He pursed his lips.

His gaze was rather complex and he turned to look at the other clan elders. “What about all of you?”

Nobody said anything.

“The reclusive clans were high and mighty, a class above the martial arts circle and were in pursuit of a higher calling and universe,” Sima Quan suddenly laughed self-deprecatingly. “I suddenly feel like I’m such a joke. All these so called reclusive clans are such a joke.”

He shook his head and just walked right into his own room and closed the door behind him.

Everyone else exchanged equally complicated glances.

Their minds were filled with the images of how every student in the academy were united and helped each other. They all supported one another for the same aim.

They walked out of the practicing arena and saw

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how the members of the illegal circle who should have been groveling at the bottom of society were so well respected and loved by the city folk.

They even saw how everyone living in this city looked peaceful, and everyone was clearly living in bliss and security here.

They thought about their own clans, about how they could kill even their own siblings for the sake of power and position, how they could sacrifice everything for the sake of gaining more for themselves...

It felt like a comparison between a civilization and a barbaric world. The difference was painfully obvious.

How could they say that they were a class above others? They were just greedy for more, and pursued greater things to satisfy their growing greed. They were just good at hiding all of this away.

How did Jiang Ning create such a city?

And what sort of person was Jiang Ning exactly?

They were both curious and confused...

Meanwhile.

Back at the Sima clan.

Sima Ru sat in the main hall with a darkened expression on his face. His hands were on the armrest and he was about to crush the wooden

armrest with his bare hands.

“Master Sima, my master wants me to tell you that Fang Wei, the head of the Fang clan has really returned but didn’t tell anybody else about it. If Mr Hongshan didn’t discover this, I have no idea how long all of you would be kept in the dark!”

“The eight reclusive clans combined forces and couldn’t even make a dent in Donghai? And they’ve been imprisoned?!” Sima Ru slammed a palm on the table and roared, “Is there anything more embarrassing than this?!”

“What about the other clans?” His voice was filled with fury and murder.

“I suppose they haven’t heard anything yet. I came to the Sima clan first,” said Fang Hongshan’s subordinate.

Fang Hongshan had always been close to the Sima family, and he would let them know first when he had any information on hand.

They never thought that the coalition of the reclusive clans would fail.



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All eight clans sent out advanced grandmaster level fighters who were all at least an elder in their clans, so they were definitely very capable. How did they...

What crazy place was this Donghai?

“Master Sima, Mr Hongshan would like me to tell you that it’s not that Donghai is frightening, but that Fang Wei and Jiang Ning of Donghai are working together and they laid a trap for the other seven families.”

Sima Ru’s expression changed.

He had thought of this possibility before, but he didn’t think it could really be true.

The Fang clan was one of the reclusive clans, and none of the eight could do without any one. Otherwise, even if he got the manual, there was no way to decode the map. Why would Fang Wei do this?

Unless he was aiming to get more say after the map was decoded.

“Master Sima, I’ve said everything I was supposed to already. Donghai is quite a formidable place, but there’s no way this would have happened if the eight clans had truly joined forces. My master says that you must be careful and beware of Fang Wei!” Fang Hongshan’s subordinate clasped his hands together to bid Sima Ru farewell and was about to leave.

Suddenly, a mad rush of wind hit him!

PAK!

A figure flew in and slammed Fang Hongshan's subordinate onto the floor.

"AHH!" Before he could scream, someone stepped on his chest and broke his chest bone with a loud crack!

The terrible pain made him faint immediately, but the great pain also made him regain consciousness again.

"When did the Sima clan need to listen to the Fang clan?"

A low and murderous voice filled the air.

Sima Ru immediately stood up.

"Greetings to Senior Elder!"

He frowned slightly. He didn't expect the most senior elder, Sima Gang, to come out.

"Shut up!" Sima Gang's expression was fierce and his gaze was icy. He didn't have any regard for Sima Ru even though Sima Ru was the head of the clan.

After being shouted at, Sima Ru's expression looked rather nasty, but he didn't dare to retort.

The position of being the Senior Elder in these reclusive clans was always higher than the head of the clan. In fact, they could even overthrow the head of the clan and change it to someone else!

“Answer me! Where is Sima Heng?!” Sima Gang didn’t even look at Sima Ru. He looked down at the man beneath his feet and shouted, “Answer me!”

“He’s...he’s been incapacitated by the people in Donghai...”

“And where’s Sima Gao?!” shouted Sima Gang again. The murder in his voice intensified.

“He’s...he’s dead...”

CRAAAACK!

He stepped even harder on the man and broke more of his ribs. The subordinate immediately let out a blood curdling scream.

“Useless thing!” Sima Gang gave a kick and sent the man flying. His head crashed heavily against the wall and cracked open with a loud blast. Red and white mushy substances flowed out from his head and he stopped breathing immediately.

The entire hall immediately fell silent. Sima Ru held his breath and didn’t dare to make any sound.

Sima Gang walked over to him and looked at Sima Ru with those icy eyes. Sima Ru’s heart was trembling in fear.

“I let you be the head of the clan and this is how you carry out your duties?” His voice carried disappointment, rage and was intensely murderous. “Someone is practically taking over

your place and you're being so cowardly?"

"Senior Elder..."

PAK!

Sima Gang slapped Sima Ru across the face and five finger marks immediately appeared on Sima Ru's cheek. Sima Gang didn't care that there were others in the hall.

He didn't care that Sima Ru was still the head of the Sima clan!

"Sima Gao was an elder that I nominated, while Sima Heng is my nephew. One got killed and the other was incapacitated but you still sit here without moving at all. Sima Ru, it looks like you don't want to be the head of the clan anymore!"



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Sima Ru's face turned red. After the Senior Elder reprimanded publicly like this, he felt very embarrassed.

He knew that the Senior Elder had the most say in the clan, and even though he was the head of the clan, he still had to take orders from the Senior Elder.

But reprimanding him in front of so many others was going a little too far.

"Sima Gao decided to act on his own, I didn't send him out of the mountain. Sima Heng..." Sima Ru grit his teeth and explained, "He's the one who suggested getting all the reclusive clans to team up and pressurize Donghai and Jiang Ning into handing over the manual. Since you've allowed him to be part of the clan's decision making process, I had to listen to his suggestion, right?"

He didn't spell it out, but surely Sima Heng's suggestion was really the Senior Elder's suggestion, right?

He couldn't do anything even though he was the head of the clan.

Sima Gang nodded and laughed coldly. "So you're blaming me for interfering too much?"

"I wouldn't dare." Sima Ru clasped his hands together politely. "The Sima clan would never have achieved our current status without you. As a member of the Sima clan and the head of this clan, I'm well aware of my responsibilities and will do my utmost best to make sure that the Sima

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clan can make full use of the opportunity to get the manual and to rise to greater heights!”

His expression was stern and he behaved politely, but he didn't hide any of his displeasure in his voice.

Sima Gao had acted on his own and thought that he alone could force Jiang Ning to hand the manual over. But in the end, Jiang Ning turned out to be way more powerful and Sima Gao ended up losing his own life.

As for that Sima Heng...

If Sima Gang wasn't supporting him from behind, who would have even cared about what he said?

He deserved to be incapacitated!

Sima Gang didn't say anything and stared at Sima Ru for ten whole seconds before scoffing.

“Excellent, Sima Ru, excellent!” he nodded. “I've underestimated your temperament!”

“The Sima clan has turned into this state and you dare to talk to me like this?”

“Fine! Sima Gao's death has nothing to do with you, and Sima Heng's injury has nothing to do with you either. I'll settle their matter myself!”

“Senior Elder...” Sima Ru frowned and his expression was nasty. What was Sima Gang driving at?

“HUMPH! I’m going to see what sort of person dares to humiliate the Sima clan!”

Sima Gang then stormed off dramatically.

Everyone in the hall looked at each other. The atmosphere was extremely solemn now.

Nobody expected the Senior Elder to make an appearance, and nobody expected him to completely lose his cool over Sima Gao and Sima Heng.

“Master Sima, Senior Elder...”

“Tsk, he’s always been like this. He does whatever he wants to and doesn’t care about whether it would benefit the clan or not,” scoffed Sima Ru as he spoke unhappily. “Since he wants to do that, let him be.”

He looked at everyone else. “We should just take care of ourselves.”

The advancement of a clan, especially at an important time when the manual had appeared and there was a chance to find that place and bring the Sima clan to greater heights, was not something that one Senior Elder could accomplish on his own.

Sima Ru was well aware that Sima Gang was someone who protected the ones close to him fiercely. He knew that since the day he insisted on letting a youngster like Sima Heng into the main hall to participate in clan discussions and decisions.

“Master Sima, so now we should...”

“This Donghai is not simple and that Jiang Ning is even more complex. I don’t think the Fang clan is really working with Jiang Ning,” scoffed Sima Ru. “I know Fang Wei very well. He’s a man who believes only in himself and doesn’t listen to anyone else at all. Why would he work with Jiang Ning? He probably doesn’t even have any regard for Jiang Ning, so there’s only one possibility!”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Sima Ru wasn't dumb. He wasn't going to be fooled so easily by Fang Hongshan.

Since matters had reached this stage, there was only one possibility. Jiang Ning was very powerful, and he was powerful beyond their imagination!

Otherwise, there was no way he would have gotten his hands on so many pages, and there was no way all the reclusive clans would have suffered such severe losses at his hands.

"Sima Gao deserved to die! Sima Heng brought this on himself! Let Senior Elder deal with that part. We have to make preparations, because I sense that Mount Zhongnan is not going to remain calm anymore," said Sima Ru in a stern voice.

He hadn't been sitting around and doing nothing all these years. He had been expanding his circle of influence and the entire clan was filled with people on his team. Even though Sima Gang was the Senior Elder, he was aggressive and of high status, but he didn't have anything else.

Sima Ru was well aware of what Sima Gang was trying to do by purposely planting Sima Heng into the highest circle of the clan.

The advancement of the clan was affected by all these selfish people!

"I hope this old geezer doesn't give the Sima clan any trouble."

Sima Ru had a bad feeling about this.

Given Sima Gang's temperament, he was going to march right up to Donghai to settle this feud with Jiang Ning directly.

If that was the case, then they were certainly in trouble. Sima Ru had to make preparations in advance.

Meanwhile, over in Donghai.

Everything went on as usual.

The energy emanating from the city made the reclusive clan elders more and more befuddled, and they became more and more curious about Jiang Ning.

Over the next few days, Jiang Ning didn't limit their movement at all. They could move about freely in the city.

When they walked around outside, all the children were very polite to them. When they saw that the elders had white hair and were clearly elderly, everyone was genuinely respectful towards them.

As long as they stood around for a short period of time, someone would come forward to ask if they needed help.

Sima Quan felt like he had come to another world.

This was truly a world that was a class above the martial arts circle!

Back inside Extreme Martial Arts Academy.

Sima Quan didn't say anything and just sat by the side of the practicing arena. Nobody bothered about him and just let him watch on.

To Sima Quan, all these students were as amateur as a bunch of children.

Their moves were hilarious, but Sima Quan didn't look at them disdainfully at all. Instead, he was filled with praise for these youngsters.

"What exactly do all of you want?" Sima Quan finally turned to look at Tan Xing as he guided the students. "What is Jiang Ning trying to achieve? What is this city trying to achieve?"

Tan Xing glanced at him and didn't say anything. He continued to patiently guide the students.

"Don't any of you know about the meaning behind the boxing manual?"

Sima Quan really had many questions on his mind.

"Of course we know," Tan Xing finally replied.

"To all of you, the most important part about the manual is the secret of the map behind. But to the martial arts circle, it carries the hope of a revival." He glanced at Sima Quan. "Do you know what is the most precious thing in this era?"

"That's right, it's hope."

“The hope of an ordinary person on the street, the hope of a martial artist, the hope of this city, the hope of this world...”

“What Jiang Ning is trying to do, or rather, what Jiang Ning and his wife are trying to do, is to give more people hope. That’s something that you reclusive clans will never understand.”

Tan Xing spoke very calmly. He took a long time of interacting with Jiang Ning and Lin Yuzhen before he finally understood what they were trying to do.

This sort of unconditional love and broadmindedness wasn’t something that these reclusive clans would understand.

Sima Quan murmured to himself. His heart started to tremble as he repeated the word ‘hope’ to himself.

BAM!

Suddenly, there was a loud blast from outside followed by a loud shout.

“Jiang Ning! Come out here NOW!”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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When he heard this voice, Sima Quan's expression paled and he quickly stopped Tan Xing from going out.

"Don't go out." His expression was rather grim. "It's the Senior Elder of the Sima clan!"

Sima Quan was rather surprised. Why was the Senior Elder here? And he sounded like he was here to make trouble.

Donghai was no place to make trouble!

Sima Quan didn't dare to think of the consequences and quickly walked out. A few dozen men were blocking the way outside the Extreme Martial Arts Academy and looked like they were about to go to war. Sima Gang stood outside the door with a murderous look on his face.

"Senior Elder!" Sima Quan hurried over to greet him. "Greetings to Senior Elder!"

He couldn't help but worry.

Everyone around this academy listened to Jiang Ning, and there were thousands of them!

This place could be surrounded in less than five minutes, and even someone as powerful as Sima Gang would end up dying here.

He had learnt his lesson well about how united and powerful Donghai was.

"Aren't you imprisoned?" Sima Gang frowned

NH

when he saw Sima Quan walk towards him. He had come in such a great hurry only to find that Sima Quan was free to walk about.

“Senior Elder, Jiang Ning did not limit our freedom...”

“Since you are not imprisoned, why didn’t you return to Mount Zhongnan?!” Sima Gang shouted immediately without giving Sima Quan any chance to explain himself.

His expression immediately darkened.

He could see clearly that Sima Quan wasn’t imprisoned and could walk about freely, Sima Quan continued to wander about Donghai and didn’t return to Mount Zhongnan. Didn’t Sima Quan feel embarrassed for the clan?

“Senior Elder, please calm down!” Sima Quan started to get anxious. He could hear the others passing on the message, so a huge group would be here in no time.

“Senior Elder, please calm down first and listen to me explain.” He quickly ran up and said respectfully, “Senior Elder, Jiang Ning did not imprison us, but he did not allow us to leave either, so...”

PAK!

Sima Gang didn’t want to listen to him at all. He slapped Sima Quan hard and Sima Quan staggered backwards a little.

“How dare you say such things!”

This Sima Quan wasn't imprisoned, could move freely, but he remained in Donghai and even spoke up for Jiang Ning.

Didn't Sima Quan know that Sima Gao had died at Jiang Ning's hands and Sima Heng had been incapacitated by one of Jiang Ning's?

That alone was enough for the Sima clan to come and take revenge!

Sima Quan wasn't thinking about killing Jiang Ning for revenge and was still explaining himself?

“Move aside!” Sima Gang's expression was murderous as he looked up at Tan Xing and the rest at the door. He didn't bother being polite at all. “Hand Sima Heng over and I will kill you with one blow instead of prolonging it!”

Tan Xing frowned and nodded slightly. Tan Long immediately ran back into the academy, and brought out a hundred people with him after that!

The one leading the pack was Fang Qiu!

Even though he was still recovering from his injuries, he still stood right in front. He was the most senior student of this academy, so he had to take responsibility for protecting this place.

“You think these pieces of trash can stop me?” Sima Gang snorted and said rudely, “I'm giving you one last chance. Hand Sima Heng over now, otherwise...don't blame me for getting vicious!”

“You’ve come so aggressively and you want to kill someone from the minute you stepped in. What a violent man,” said Tan Xing calmly. “Sima Heng is here, along with all the other elders. They are all limited to moving within Donghai. Jiang Ning did not agree to let them leave, so they are not allowed to leave, regardless of who it is.”

He didn’t bother being polite either. He looked at Sima Gang and could sense the violent and brazen aura from him. Tan Xing knew that this fellow must be very powerful!

But this was Donghai!

Jiang Ning said that no matter who came their way, they must never allow anyone to ruin Donghai’s reputation of being a forbidden territory.

It didn’t matter what price they had to pay!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Senior Elder!” Sima Quan was really getting anxious.

This was Donghai!

This was a place where nobody was allowed to make trouble!

The people here were so united that they were willing to sacrifice their lives in order to protect Donghai. And even if Jiang Ning was all by himself, Sima Gang might not win either.

“Senior Elder, please listen to me!” said Sima Quan anxiously. “This is for the sake of the Sima clan!”

If they angered Jiang Ning, the consequences were too much for them to bear!

Sima Gang narrowed his eyes and looked at Sima Quan with a disdainful smile on his face.

He shook his head and could hardly believe his ears.

Sima Quan was actually speaking up for the people of Donghai! Was he betraying the clan after being imprisoned by Jiang Ning?

“For the sake of the Sima clan?” Sima Gang stared at Sima Quan and the murderous look on his face intensified. His eyes were ferocious looking. “This Jiang Ning killed Sima Gao and incapacitated Sima Heng. I’m here to kill him and you tell me not to do that, and you even say that it’s for the sake of the Sima clan?”

“Sima Quan!” He suddenly bellowed, “I think you’re asking to be killed!”

THUD!

Sima Quan immediately fell to his knees. “Senior Elder, please calm down! Please, listen to me... AHH!”

Before he could finish his sentence, Sima Gang kicked him and sent him flying out. He slid along the floor for more than ten meters and rolled several times before coming to a stop.

PFFT...

Sima Quan couldn’t even one word out. The moment he opened his mouth, he spewed blood out.

He wanted to explain things, but his anxiety made it worse and he simply couldn’t get any words out.

They were in Donghai!

This place was a forbidden territory!

This place was Jiang Ning’s territory!

This was really for the good of the Sima clan, because Jiang Ning...was not someone they could afford to offend.

“I give all of you one minute.” Sima Gang looked at the people around him, then back at Tan Xing. “Hand Sima Heng over, and get Jiang Ning out here so that I can kill him!”

He clenched his fists tightly and his knuckles cracked loudly.

If these people refused to listen to him, then he was going on a massacre.

How could they call Donghai a forbidden territory? It was clear to Sima Gang that none of the people before him was his match.

He couldn't stand it at all. The Sima clan had been humiliated repeatedly in front of such people.

How could Sima Quan embarrass the clan like that!

Once he had killed Jiang Ning, he was going to punish Sima Quan well!

"I won't let Sima Heng go," came a voice from behind Sima Gang. Sima Quan heard this voice and shuddered. He quickly climbed up from the floor despite his injuries and his face paled when he saw Jiang Ning walk in.

"But I'm here. Were you the one who wanted to kill me?"

Jiang Ning's footsteps were very light, and he looked like he was taking a stroll in his own backyard.

He walked over to Sima Gang and remained calm and expressionless. He pointed to the people around them and said, "If you want to kill me, you've got to ask these people if they're agreeable first."

“You’ve got to ask this city if the people would agree to that!”

Everyone immediately shouted furiously, “We won’t agree!”

Sima Quan face was even paler now.

But Sima Gang continued to look contemptuous as he looked around and had no regard for these people.

“We don’t agree!”

“We don’t agree!”

“If anyone dares to hurt the principal, we’ll fight it out with him!”

“Who dares to kill Mr Jiang? I’m going to kill him first!”

The number of people gathered around Sima Gang grew in numbers. Even those who happened to be passing by immediately ran over when they heard that someone had come to make trouble in front of Extreme Martial Arts Academy.

The crowd was swarming in from the street. Once one person started shouting, another started shouting too. The huge crowd flowed towards the academy like the surging waves of the sea...

At first there were hundreds of them!

Then thousands of them!

Then tens of thousands of them!

They had completely surrounded Sima Gang!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The immense crowd jammed all the roads around Extreme Martial Arts Academy!

When they heard that someone was here to kill Jiang Ning, even the old man selling vegetables by the road picked up two hard potatoes and stormed over.

The crowd included men, women, old folks and even children. They pressed in fiercely!

All of them looked furious.

They had heard that someone had come to make trouble at the academy, and he even wanted to kill Jiang Ning! Who could take this lying down?

When he saw the huge crowd outside, Sima Quan felt his legs turn wobbly.

Even though he was an advanced grandmaster, one mouthful of spit from each of these ordinary people were enough to drown him.

Even Sima Gang felt his heart tremble violently.

He didn't expect so many people to come forward to stop him from killing Jiang Ning.

This city...

He didn't think that more and more people would gather around him. It seemed like the academy was right in the heart of Donghai and more and more people continued to rush over to surround the academy!

NH

There was no way he could escape even if he had wings to fly!

“Who’s here to kill Mr Jiang? We’re going to fight him first!”

“Who is it?! Come out here, I’ll smash his head in with my potatoes!”

“Who is awful enough to bully Uncle Jiang? We’re not going to let him off!”

Voice after voice shouted out and Sima Gang swallowed hard. He felt that his heart was beating more quickly than before.

The pressing crowd was exerting a great pressure on him, and it crushed him like a mountain.

These people...were so protective of Jiang Ning?

“You want to kill me?” Jiang Ning remained standing in the same spot. “I’m here, come at me!”

Sima Gang didn’t move.

Just the looks from the people around him could kill him.

Sima Quan immediately ran over. He was so tense and all his hair was standing on end in fear.

Over the last few days, he realized how frightening Donghai could be, and how frightening Jiang Ning could be. Everyone here was willing to protect and guard him, and they were even willing



to sacrifice their lives to do so.

Even if Sima Gang really tried to fight Jiang Ning, he might still lose!

And even if he did manage to kill Jiang Ning, Sima Gang wouldn't be able to leave this place alive.

The angry crowd would swallow him up and they might even head to Mount Zhongnan to exterminate the Sima clan.

They couldn't afford to offend Jiang Ning nor Donghai for this very reason.

"Senior Elder!" Sima Quan grit his teeth and shook his head. "Please think again!"

This was not the time to be concerned over his own pride and it certainly wasn't the time to vent his frustrations. He had to consider the consequences of his decisions!

Sima Quan knew that this could be difficult for one to swallow, especially for someone like Sima Gang. Sima Gang had been the Senior Elder of a reclusive clan for a long time and his position was extremely high in the clan. But now, someone else was going to press head down hard against the floor.

Even Sima Quan found it hard to swallow and felt that it was an insult to him, but he had to endure all this for the sake of the Sima clan.

Sima Gang didn't say anything and his face was livid.

NH

He looked at the crowd around him and figured there were at least ten thousand here.

But that was not all!

There were still some more people running in and he could hear the sounds of cars honking. More and more people were coming in, and it was as if the entire city had been mobilized!

He didn't expect Jiang Ning to be able to command so many people. He had underestimated Jiang Ning.

But now, there was no way out of this. Jiang Ning was standing right there. If he didn't dare to attack him, then it was an embarrassment to himself as the Senior Elder of the Sima clan.

But if he attacked Jiang Ning...

Then he could forget about leaving Donghai alive.

What a pain!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Jiang Ning stood in front of Sima Gang and looked at him, but Sima Gang didn't dare to make any moves.

He had just declared loudly that he was going to kill Jiang Ning and wanted him to release Sima Heng, but right now, he couldn't do anything. He had no say in Donghai at all.

Sima Gang didn't do anything in the end.

Even though he really wished he could run across and smash Jiang Ning's face in with one punch, he didn't do that. He knew that once he did that, he would have no way out and he would end up dead.

Jiang Ning looked at Sima Gang and said calmly, "Oh, not killing me anymore?"

This was as good as slapping Sima Gang in the face again!

"Humph," Sima Gang clenched his teeth. "What must I do in order to get the person I want back?"

His eyes were filled with murder, but he held himself back and just glared straight at Jiang Ning. If looks could kill, Jiang Ning would be covered in cuts by now.

"As I said, you have to give me something in exchange," Jiang Ning pointed to Sima Quan. "As long as what you give me is good enough, he can go."

"What about Sima Heng?"

NH

Sima Gang didn't care about Sima Quan. He only cared about his own nephew.

"Same," said Jiang Ning. "I have no interest in keeping that piece of trash around."

"Fine!" Sima Gang nodded and tried to hold his anger down. "What do you want?"

He didn't have anything valuable on himself since Sima Quan wasn't worth much to him. And worse still, Sima Quan had embarrassed the Sima clan today!

"I want you to write a phrase for me." Jiang Ning waved his hand and Brother Gou immediately came with pen and paper, and placed a table in front of Sima Gang. Sima Gang was quite confused and wasn't sure what Jiang Ning was trying to do.

Not even Sima Quan knew what Jiang Ning was trying to do.

Write a phrase?

Sima Gang's calligraphy wasn't worth much. But he just needed to write a phrase and Jiang Ning was willing to release him?

"What do you want me to write?" Sima Gang went straight to the point.

"The beginning of the universe!" Jiang Ning enunciated each word clearly.

Was that it? What deeper meaning did these



words have?

Sima Gang didn't feel anything.

He was about to start writing when Jiang Ning held a hand up. "I'm not done with my instructions."

"You have to use the same font as the words 'Sima' that's carved on the sign above the clan's residence, understand?"

The sign above the Sima clan's residence?

The font used on that sign was a way of writing that was passed down from their ancestors and weren't a standard way of writing. Why did Jiang Ning want the words written this way?

Sima Gang frowned and his hand held onto the pen without writing. He didn't know why Jiang Ning wanted these words, and he didn't know how Jiang Ning knew about this way of writing either.

He didn't know how to write many characters, but he could handle 'the beginning of the universe'.

"This phrase can redeem one person," said Jiang Ning calmly. "If you find it a good deal, then carry on writing. If you don't think it's worth it, then forget it."

"I'll write it!"

Sima Gang scoffed and immediately started writing. At one glance, it just looked like gibberish and was in a strange shape. They looked nothing

like words.

They looked more like a bunch of symbols.

Sima Gang finished writing and flung the pen aside as he stared at Jiang Ning. "Take it!"

Jiang Ning nodded. Brother Gou came up and took everything away carefully.

"Ok, you can take him away," said Jiang Ning as he pointed to Sima Quan.

"I want to take Sima Heng with me!" Sima Gang shook his head and couldn't be bothered with Sima Quan. "Release Sima Heng! You can do whatever you want with this one here, I don't care!"

Sima Quan's expression immediately changed upon hearing these words. His face was ashen now.

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 Wait! I Have Something to Say!

 Send a Gift to the Writer!

The Sima clan's Senior Elder had just given up on Sima Quan like that?

It was true that Sima Heng was Sima Gang's nephew, but Sima Quan was an elder of the Sima clan. How could Sima Gang do this to him?

"Senior Elder..." Sima Quan looked in disbelief at Sima Gang. He never thought that he would be abandoned like this.

"Humph! You're worthless to me!" Sima Gang didn't bother to sound polite. He glanced at Sima Quan, then ignored him as he stared back at Jiang Ning. He didn't care about anything else as long as he could take Sima Heng with him.

He was already in a very bad mood.

Being forced to give in to Jiang Ning's demands already made him very uncomfortable but he had no choice.

Donghai was not a place where he could throw his weight around, even though he was a Senior Elder of the Sima clan and was very powerful himself.

There was no way he could make anything happen in Donghai!

Jiang Ning remained expressionless and waved his hand. Someone soon brought Sima Heng out.

"Senior Elder! Senior Elder!" Sima Heng fell to the floor and it was difficult for him to make his way over. He continued to shout, "Senior Elder, you're

here! You're here to save me!"

Sima Gang's entire body was trembling when he saw how crippled Sima Heng had become. His face was livid, but after seeing the crowd around him, Sima Gang had to continue to hold his temper down.

"Senior Elder! Kill him! Kill Jiang Ning! He's the one who caused me to become like this, he's the one..."

"Shut up!" Sima Gang roared angrily at him with an icy expression on his face. "If you say anymore, we can forget about leaving this place!"

Sima Gang was really going to explode inside.

When did the Sima clan have to suffer like this quietly? When was the last time anybody humiliated them like this?

"Jiang Ning, you have humiliated the Sima clan today, so I will make you pay for it a hundred times over in the future," Sima Gang left Jiang Ning threatening words, but Jiang Ning wasn't bothered at all.

It was as if Sima Gang didn't even exist, and he allowed Sima Gang to leave with Sima Heng.

Brother Gou and the rest dispersed the crowd. The mass fury subsided like the tide.

Jiang Ning protected this city and protected the people within, so they would protect Jiang Ning too.

They would never allow anyone to make trouble in Donghai or to harm Jiang Ning!

“Elder Sima, it looks like you’re going to spend a little more time here,” said Jiang Ning as he looked at the dejected and despondent Sima Quan. “Perhaps the Sima clan will discover your value and come back to get you.”

Sima Quan laughed bitterly and shook his head in self-deprecation. He didn’t say anything and walked back into the academy, back to his room and shut the door behind him.

He had been abandoned by his clan.

It was certain that Sima Gang had given up on him on behalf of the clan.

He couldn’t accept it at all. How could he be forsaken by his own clan? He was an elder of the clan, so he was an important person to the Sima clan!

Perhaps the Senior Elder only cared about the people close to him, and everyone else wasn’t as important.

Jiang Ning didn’t care about him.

He looked at the words. They looked like drawings a temple priest made on talismans.

These were clearly a different way of writing, like how the word for ‘Fang’ resembled a red cloud, and told a different story.

“The beginning of the universe,” Fei looked at the paper and shook his head. “I’d never tell that these words were read that way.”

“Big Boss, do these words have something to do with the secret of the manual?”

He didn’t know what Jiang Ning was trying to do or why he suddenly changed his mind.

He was already prepared to make sure Sima Gang died today!

“Perhaps.” Jiang Ning wasn’t very sure either. He turned to say to Brother Gou, “Tell the other elders to do the same thing. Use the font that’s on their own clan’s signage to write these words, and they can go after that.”

“They can go?” Brother Gou was shocked. “Aren’t you keeping them to get more resources?”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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These reclusive clan elders were all important people in the clan, so they could be exchanged for quite a bit of resources. But now Jiang Ning was going to let them leave after writing a few words.

“They’re not worth much,” said Jiang Ning. “If I could get anything out of keeping them here, the reclusive clans would have sent people here by now. I’m afraid that the role of an elder is really to sacrifice themselves for their clans.”

“As for whether they want to leave or not, that’s up to them.” With that, Brother Gou went to make arrangements.

Jiang Ning took the words from Sima Gang and went straight to Butler Zhao.

Lu Jing was still very immersed in his work at his research center.

When he saw the words that Jiang Ning brought to him, he looked like he had just been struck by lightning. His eyes and mouth were wide open and his breathing quickened from being too excited.

“These words...” he looked at Jiang Ning in disbelief. “Where did you get these words from?”

He paused for a moment, then asked again, “Jiang Ning, are you saying that my guess was right? That these symbols are actually words and they were really in use once upon a time?”

Jiang Ning nodded.

“Professor Lu, I’ll try to get you more words, but I’ll have to count on you to decode them and discover everything there is to know about them,” laughed Jiang Ning. “I’m not very cultured and I don’t know any of these things.”

Lu Jing shook his head profusely.

“You are cleverer than everybody else!”

He gently touched the words with great excitement. It was as if every stroke told a tale of its own, and had a history of its own!

“Don’t worry, the one thing that I want to do most and that I have to do in my lifetime is to make a full discovery of this matter! Don’t worry! Leave it to me!” Lu Jing’s voice was so excited that it was trembling.

Of course he was excited!

One ‘Fang’ had opened the doors to a new world, and these additional words had confirmed his guess, so the direction of his research was correct.

He needed more time and more information now, while Jiang Ning would get him the resources he needed. If he still couldn’t decode it after all this help, he would be too ashamed to face Jiang Ning.

“Alright then, continue with what you were busy with, let me know once you get anything.”

Jiang Ning didn’t stay for too long and left after a

few words.

Butler Zhao was already waiting for him at the door.

His information network didn't just cover Donghai or just the areas near to Donghai. It wasn't limited to the north or Shenghai or within China, but he also had information overseas.

But right now, Butler Zhao knew that Jiang Ning's focus was on the deep forests of Mount Zhongnan.

But it was too hard to infiltrate those places.

The clans were very well-guarded against outsiders and would not let anyone who wasn't a clan member to enter.

"Mr Jiang," said Butler Zhao. "We're still unable to monitor Mount Zhongnan. These clans only allow their family members to go in and out, so it's hard for us to send anyone in."

"Do you have a better way of doing this?"

"There's no need to go in, just keep watch from the outside. They won't dare to come out for the time being," said Jiang Ning. "Just watch for anyone who actually comes down the mountain. As for what sort of internal conflict the clans would go through, that's their own business."

He knew that after what happened in Donghai, all eight reclusive clans would be on high alert and become wary of Donghai.

Jiang Ning knew that he still needed the reclusive clans to exist if he wanted to find out the secret of the map behind the manual. The key to decoding all of this was in the hands of these eight clans!

“What we have to do is to get that key to decoding the map from them. The rest is unimportant,” Jiang Ning turned to look at Butler Zhao. “I’m sure the secret behind the manual is not simple at all. Otherwise, my Master wouldn’t have sacrificed himself. I must get to the bottom of this.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

He Daoren's death was definitely not simple.

He had been hunting the manual down for so many years and it wasn't solely for the sake of rescuing Fang Ran.

Jiang Ning knew his Master too well.

"Mr Jiang, don't worry, I'll keep an eye on Mount Zhongnan. I will also continue to search for the remaining pages of the manual," nodded Butler Zhao. "We've searched the nation inside out and couldn't find anything, so my guess is that the other pages are somewhere overseas."

Back then, the Bao family hid one page in the US. The remaining three pages were probably somewhere out there.

Jiang Ning not only had to hunt down the manual pages, but he also had to get the key to decoding the secret behind the manual from the eight reclusive clans.

These things had to happen at the same time.

"Let me know if you have any news," said Jiang Ning.

After leaving Butler Zhao a few instructions, Jiang Ning left.

As long as someone was watching Mount Zhongnan, that was enough.

After these series of setbacks, Jiang Ning was sure that the reclusive clans would realize by now

that the world outside was nothing like what it was like when they first decided to hide themselves in the mountains.

Many years had gone by, and the martial arts circle was also no longer the same.

Even if it was the same, Jiang Ning would make it change in the shortest time possible.

Jiang Ning had thought through all these things very carefully already, and he was going through it step by step. He had given all the warnings that he had to, and the rest was up to the reclusive clans to make the decision.

Right now, he was still going to spend more time and energy on Lin Yuzhen and on Lin Group.

No matter what happened, nobody else could replace the position and importance that Lin Yuzhen had in Jiang Ning's heart.

At the same time.

At the Extreme Martial Arts Academy.

Brother Gou called the elders together and told them what Jiang Ning told him.

"Is he serious? We just need to write those words and we can leave?" The Huangfu clan elder found it a little hard to believe.

He was sure that it would be a piece of cake for Jiang Ning wanted to kill them if he wanted to.

NH

As long as Jiang Ning wanted anyone to remain within Donghai, he just needed to say the word and he didn't even need to do anything.

Keeping them here was a terrible blow to the eight reclusive clans. It was a blow to their pride as well as a sign that they weren't as strong. But Jiang Ning didn't care about that part anymore.

"That's right," said Brother Gou. "You just need to write these words in the same way your clan writes, and we'll let you go."

He nodded and looked at all of them. His gaze fell on the silent Sima Quan standing in a corner.

"Besides Elder Sima, that is."

Sima Quan's expression changed and he laughed bitterly as he shook his head. "Jiang Ning does exactly what he says. He's a very principled man."

"Since the Sima clan has forsaken me, then there's nothing for me to say."

He then returned to his room and closed the door behind him with a tinge of frustration and anger.

The other elders exchanged glances and didn't know what had happened.

Sima Quan had been forsaken by the Sima clan?

What was going on?

Fang Wei should have returned to Mount Zhongnan and brought the message to the rest by

now. So that was their response to Sima Quan?

As long as they wrote that phrase, Jiang Ning would let them leave.

All seven of them looked at one another and didn't waste anymore time. They got pen and paper from Brother Gou and wrote the words 'the beginning of the universe' for him.

They used the special way of writing that each clan had.

They had never seen the special way of writing that the other reclusive clans used, and even though they had written the same thing, they didn't know what the difference was.

They weren't in the mood to think about so much.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The most important thing to do now was to leave Donghai, because it was dangerous for them to stay, and to go far away from this terrifying Jiang Ning.

Once they returned to Mount Zhongnan and returned to their clans, they could make plans again.

Brother Gou gathered the papers from all the elders and left the room.

“You guys should leave, nobody will stop you. Don’t stay in Donghai, otherwise you’ll never be able to leave again.” Brother Gou’s voice slowly disappeared as he walked away. The seven elders looked at one another, frowned slightly, then turned at the same time to look at Sima Quan’s shut door.

DOONG DOONG DOONG!

The Huangfu clan elder went up to knock on his door and whispered, “Let’s leave together!”

Nobody was watching them now, so even if they brought Sima Quan away with them, nobody would find out.

“All of you can leave without me.” To their surprise, Sima Quan turned down their offer.

“Sima Quan, Donghai is a dangerous place and that Jiang Ning is very unpredictable. If you stay here, you might not live for very long!” the Huangfu clan elder continued to persuade him.

“Let’s all return to Mount Zhongnan and think of something else. As long as all the clans combine forces, there will definitely be a way...”

“All of you can leave without me!” Sima Quan’s voice was a little louder now. “The Sima clan has already given up on me and there’s no place for me in the clan anymore. I can’t go back.”

There was no sound after that.

The other elders sighed.

They knew that the person whose words carried the most weight in a reclusive clan was actually the Senior Elder. Even the head of the clan would not dare to defy him openly.

Even though they were elders too, they were just people who were at the beck and call of the Senior Elder.

Nobody else tried to persuade him further. They all quickly left the academy and left Donghai.

Sima Quan remained in the room and sat very straight, but he looked like he had aged by ten years.

He looked out into the distance, in the direction of Mount Zhongnan...

He looked in the direction of the Sima clan’s residence.

At the Sima clan’s residence in Mount Zhongnan, Sima Gang was seated in the house and his

expression was still grim.

“Senior Elder, I really can’t take this lying down!” Sima Heng sat on a chair as he was practically shouting away. Both his legs had been crippled after all.

He saw that Sima Gang didn’t respond, so his voice went up in volume. “Uncle Gang! I’m the only descendant of your bloodline! And now I’ve been incapacitated...how upset would my late parents be if they found out about this?”

BAM!

Sima Gang immediately slammed the table after Sima Heng said this.

“I will not let Jiang Ning off!” he roared with a livid face. It wasn’t only because Sima Heng had been crippled, but more because he had been thoroughly embarrassed by Jiang Ning.

He didn’t even have the courage to attack Jiang Ning when he went to Donghai!

The more Sima Gang thought about it, the angrier he became. His entire body was shaking in fury.

fortress and that Jiang Ning is more powerful than an ordinary man. Why did all of you just barge in like that?”

He had been embarrassed, but so had all the reclusive clans!

“It’s the Fang clan!” said Sima Heng. “Fang

Hongshan from the Fang clan gave us this information. He's very close to the Sima clan, so I didn't expect him to actually lay a trap for us!"

"Fang Hongshan?" Sima Gang's expression became even grimmer.

He had heard of this name and had killed Fang Hongshan's subordinate the other day. So it was this idiot after all.

"That Fang clan must have joined hands with Jiang Ning! Otherwise, why would everyone from the other families be imprisoned within Donghai but only Fang Wei got to return?" said Sima Heng furiously. "Senior Elder, we must never, never, ever let the Fang clan off!"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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NH

“If not for the Fang clan, I wouldn’t have been tricked! The Sima clan and the other clans would never have fallen for it!”

“We wouldn’t have ended up being so humiliated by Jiang Ning in Donghai either!”

“The Fang clan was definitely trying to stir trouble for the reclusive clans. They probably already discussed beforehand to gang up against the other reclusive clans so that they would get the most say in the future!”

Sima Heng seemed to have gone mad. He wished Jiang Ning would die, and he wanted the Fang clan dead too!

“That Jiang Ning has several pages of the manual on hand!” Sima Heng saw that Sima Gang’s expression was getting nastier and nastier, so Sima Heng started to fan the flames and began to speak more loudly. “If this goes on, then what confidence does the Sima clan have to take all the manual pages?”

“How could the Sima clan still walk with our heads up high?”

BAM!

There was a loud blast as Sima Gang slammed the table next to him so hard that it splintered into pieces.

“Enough!” he roared loudly and glared angrily at Sima Heng. Sima Heng was so scared that he dared not speak anymore and didn’t even dare to

breathe too loudly.

Sima Gang looked even worse than if he had eaten a dead rat.

Reputation!

The most important thing to the reclusive clans was their repute!

As the Senior Elder, he was a representative of the Sima clan.

And now?

They had been taken for a ride by the Fang clan, and was terribly humiliated by Jiang Ning and Donghai!

“I’m going to demand an explanation from the Fang clan!” Sima Gang scoffed and left.

Sima Heng only dared to breathe after Sima Gang walked out. He was covered in perspiration because Sima Gang was simply too terrifying earlier.

“Revenge! I must get revenge!” said Sima Heng through gritted teeth. “We must get more pages and have more say in the future...”

He could already imagine how Sima Gang would barge into the Fang residence and kick up a big fuss.

Even the two old fellows in the Fang clan would have to at least hear Sima Gang out.

NH

Otherwise, they might end up falling out with the Sima clan.

“The Fang clan...Jiang Ning...I’m going to make sure all of you die horribly!”

Meanwhile.

At the Fang’s residence!

Nobody ever dared to enter the back courtyard.

A few old camphor trees stood tall.

The dense leaves blocked out the sunlight and it was dim under the trees.

A wooden house stood by itself beyond the camphor trees, and it had been here for many years now. There were many fallen leaves in front of the house, so every time the wind blew, the leaves would fly momentarily before fluttering back down again.

Fang Wei was inside the wooden house with his head slightly bowed and his expression was nasty.

“This is indeed my responsibility since I have embarrassed the Fang clan,” said Fang Wei. “This matter now involves the other seven reclusive clans, and so I have come to ask for your advice on what to do.”

Two men with white hair sat before him, one on the left and one on the right. They looked almost identical, and even their mannerisms were almost

identical.

“You are the head of the clan, so you decide on what to do,” said the one on the left. His voice was slightly hoarse.

“This page of the manual is a genuine one.” The one on the right looked at the page in his hands and gently touched the page. The feeling he got from touching the page told him that this was definitely the real deal.

He glanced at Fang Wei and nodded. “Senior Elder is right. You are the head of the clan, so you can decide on this yourself.”

“We let you be the head of the clan back then because we’re leaving the clan in your hands, do you understand?”

“But...Second Elder,” Fang Wei hesitated for a moment. “This concerns the other seven reclusive clans. If they think that I’m in cahoots with Donghai to trap them, then they would definitely try to attack the Fang clan!”

He was most worried about this.

“Now that the manual has appeared, then truce that we’ve been keeping is no longer valid. None of the reclusive clans will sit still and they would definitely do something.”

“I’m worried that they will join hands!”

Fang Wei was most worried that the Fang clan would be isolated by the rest of the clans. Even if they didn't really go through with that, Jiang Ning was a really scheming one and had already planted the seed of suspicion in the other clans' minds.

If he didn't settle this issue well, the Fang clan might really end up being isolated and attacked.

He knew well that Jiang Ning was going to let Fang Qiu take revenge and destroy the Fang clan!

"Join hands to attack the Fang clan?" The two elders exchanged glances and laughed quietly. Their tone of voice was calm, but there was a domineering aura to it. "Would they dare to?"

"They might!" said Fang Wei. "They can find a reason to say that the Fang clan went against the agreement and sent someone out of the mountain secretly to search for the manual. That idiot Heishan..."

Fang Wei became furious at this.

This point alone became a weakness for the Fang clan, and it was impossible to explain to others.

"Heishan," Second Elder suddenly laughed coldly. "I arranged that."

The house fell silent.

Fang Wei looked surprised and he was filled with disbelief.



Second Elder was the one who arranged for Heishan?

Going against the agreement between the eight reclusive clans and secretly getting someone to hunt down the pages of the Extreme Fist Technique Manual was Second Elder's arrangement?

"This..." Fang Wei opened his mouth but didn't know what to say.

"I arranged for all of this, including that He Daoren." Second Elder's expression remained aloof and didn't seem to have any change in emotion. "That He Daoren is quite impressive. He seemed to have noticed something amiss. But since he's already dead, it doesn't matter. Otherwise I'd have killed him myself."

Fang Wei didn't dare to speak anymore.

Since Second Elder was the one who arranged for Heishan, then Senior Elder definitely knew about this. These two elders were actual brothers and went everywhere together. Senior Elder definitely knew everything that Second Elder did.

But...what were they trying to do?

"Fang Wei, remember this well!" Second Elder glared at Fang Wei and his voice was icy. "The Fang clan is the only clan who is eligible to hold onto the pages of the Extreme Fist Technique Manual! Also, the place where the map at the back points to belongs to the Fang clan in the first place!"

Fang Wei's heart pounded wildly.

He felt like there were some things that he had no idea about at all.

Even though he was the head of the clan and thought that he already knew a lot.

But when he thought about it carefully, he realized that that was why despite being the head for so many years, he hadn't noticed that Heishan was lying to him. With the two elders backing him, he didn't need to worry about Fang Wei at all.

"Senior Elder and Second Elder, please tell me what I should do next!" Fang Wei bowed respectfully.

DANG!!

Before the elders could speak, a melodious bell sounded outside the house.

In just a short period of time, the large bell outside the Fang house had rung three times.

The first time, it was Jiang Ning. The second time, it was the combined team from the other seven reclusive clans. Who was it this time?

The two elders exchanged glances and narrowed their eyes slightly. The tiny slit of their eyes released a malicious glint, and Fang Wei could feel that the air around him had become at least ten degrees colder even without looking up.

It was cold and oppressive.

“What must come will come,” said Senior Elder calmly. “Since it’s come early, then we shall have to settle it early.”

Second Elder nodded. “It’s time for both of us to get some exercise.”

These were simple words, but Fang Wei felt his scalp go numb just hearing them.

These words were filled with a malicious and murderous intent, and he could feel a chill in his bones.

He had no idea what secrets the Fang clan had, or what secrets these two highest ranking elders of his had!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“You old geezers of the Fang clan!” a thunderous voice rang out from outside the house before Fang Wei could leave the wooden house.

He could tell that this voice was angry, and their visitor was not a friendly one.

“Go out,” said Second Elder calmly.

“Yes, Elders.” Fang Wei immediately walked out to see Sima Gang walking in his direction.

He was walking with large and powerful strides, and his aura was aggressive.

“Greetings to the Senior Elder of the Sima clan!” greeted Fang Wei politely.

“Tsk.” Sima Gang didn’t even look at him. He treated Fang Wei as air and just walked straight to the wooden house.

Fang Wei’s expression didn’t change and he didn’t say anything. He walked out of the courtyard but didn’t actually leave. He leaned against the wall and took a few deep breaths.

Since Second Elder was the one who arranged for Heishan to do that, that meant that he was also the one who gave the instructions to go against the agreement of the eight reclusive clans and look for the pages secretly?

Otherwise, there was no way Heishan could have kept this a secret from him.

But why didn’t the two elders tell him about it? Did

they not trust him?

Fang Wei frowned and felt that matters were not that simple.

Especially that bit where Second Elder said that only the Fang clan was eligible to own the pages of the Extreme Fist Technique Manual.

Fang Wei felt his heart beat faster and faster and it was about to leap out from his mouth.

He placed an ear against the wall to listen to what was going on inside the wooden house.

Back inside the wooden house.

The two elders of the Fang clan continued to sit cross-legged and looked like they were a mirror image of each other. They looked identical, and only their voices were slightly different.

“The Fang clan was really bold!” Sima Gang looked at both of them and narrowed his eyes slightly. “Why, you want to greedily gobble up everything?”

“Humph! That’s impossible!”

Sima Gang was furious and wanted to vent his frustrations.

“Sima Gang, you’ve barged into the Fang house and said such strange words all of a sudden. I don’t know what you’re talking about,” said the Senior Elder of the Fang clan, Fang Jin.

“This is the Fang clan’s residence, so even though you are the Senior Elder of the Sima clan, you should still watch your temper!”

“Hoho, Fang Jin, don’t you dare pull this stunt on me!” Sima Gang didn’t bother being polite. “Don’t think I don’t know what you two brothers are up to!”

He looked at the two brothers, Fang Jin and Fang Yin, and narrowed his eyes. “After so many years, did you think you can still keep this a secret?”

“If the other Senior Elders of the reclusive clans find out and we team up to isolate your clan, I’m going to see what your clan can do all by yourselves!”

Fang Jin and Fang Yin remained calm and didn’t seem affected at all.

It was as if they couldn’t understand a word that Sima Gang said.

“I don’t want much!” Sima Gang went straight to the point. He didn’t like to beat around the bush, and speaking directly was the best way to talk to the Fang clan.

“I want three pages of the manual!”

The two elders of the Fang clan immediately started laughing coldly.

“Three pages? We only have one page and you want three? You really dare to be greedy! Sima Gang, don’t go too far!” Fang Yin became angry

and he glared at Sima Gang. "You want to extort the two of us? That's not a wise decision."

"Don't push me!" shouted Sima Gang.

The atmosphere within the wooden house immediately became very serious.

"If the Sima clan wants the manual, get it yourself! What has this got to do with the Fang clan? Your clan embarrassed yourselves because you were incapable, so what has it got to do with the both of us?"

Fang Yin's voice sounded like he was mocking Sima Gang as he looked Sima Gang up and down with a disdainful smile. Sima Gang became even angrier.

Sima Gang had always guessed that the two Senior Elders of the Fang clan had locked themselves away because they had greater ambitions. He didn't know what it was previously, but now the Fang clan had gone against the agreement between eight reclusive clans and went out to look for the manual secretly for the past twenty years!

What were they trying to do?

Sima Gang knew what they were trying to do!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“I’m not going to talk too much to you two. Either I tell the other clans that the Fang clan went against our agreement in order to have more say in the future, or you give me what I want! Choose for yourselves!” Sima Gang didn’t want to say anymore.

Saying too much was meaningless, and he wasn’t one who liked negotiating.

Since they were all aware of the situation, the best case scenario was to get more benefits for the Sima clan!

But the two elders of the Fang clan weren’t going to give this to him.

The atmosphere was extremely solemn and even though Fang Wei was a distance away from the wooden house, he could feel a violent and murderous air seep out from that wooden house.

BAM!

Suddenly, there was a loud blast. Fang Wei immediately turned to look and saw that the door of the wooden house was broken.

A figure flew right out.

“How dare you kill me!” roared Sima Gang. His gaze was furious and his voice resounded like thunder.

SWOOSH!

SWOOSH!

Two figures dashed out from the wooden house and were on the left and right of Sima Gang as they attacked him.

Every move they made was fatal!

Fang Jin and Fang Yin didn't want to waste time talking.

Even if Sima Gang hadn't demanded for anything, since he was here, he could forget about leaving!

BAM!

BAM!

BAM!

A battle quickly ensued.

The three of them were engaged in a tough fight.

They just punched and kicked furiously without speaking, and their actions were wild and domineering. Three extremely highly skilled fighters were fighting each other now, and even Fang Wei could feel his heart palpitating.

"The two elders..." he took a deep breath. "They're so powerful!"

Fang Wei never imagined that Fang Jin and Fang Yin were this powerful now. They had locked themselves away for so many years and had already increased their prowess to such a terrifying level.

Sima Gang couldn't hold up for long against both of them. He revealed a weakness and Fang Yin punched him in the chest, sending him flying out.

"Impossible!" Sima Gang immediately vomited a mouthful of blood and his face was covered with fear. "You two..."

He couldn't speak any further as more blood came spewing out from his mouth. The shock and surprise on his face was also accompanied by terror.

"On the road of martial arts, there is only advance or decline." Fang Ying walked over. "As a reclusive clan, if you are unable to advance and improve yourself, then you are no different from those dead sects of the martial arts circle."

He stood in front of Sima Gang and looked down at Sima Gang. "Someone like you has no right to find out where that place is."

"The Sima clan has no right to know either!"

"You..." But before Sima Gang could say anything, Fang Yin kicked him hard and wasn't going to let him escape.

BAM!

There was a loud blast as Sima Gang went flying out once more. He crashed heavily on the ground and stopped breathing immediately.

Fang Wei felt like his heart was going to explode.

Was he dead?

Sima Gang was...dead?

The Sima clan's Senior Elder was dead...and he had been killed by the Fang clan's Senior Elders!

Sima Gang was a Senior Elder!

Fang Wei's face paled and his breathing quickened. He simply couldn't understand what just happened. Both sides were Senior Elders, but it was clear that Sima Gang was much weaker than his own Senior Elders.

"Fang Wei." Fang Yin looked up. He knew Fang Wei was just outside the door.

"Second Elder!" Fang Wei took a deep breath and walked back in. He looked at the dead Sima Gang on the ground and felt his heart continue to pound wildly.

"Settle this body," said Fang Ying nonchalantly. "Also, there's no point in keeping the Sima clan around anymore. I'm going to make the Sima clan disappear!"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Fang Wei's heart palpitated.

He didn't expect Fang Yin to say something so vicious. He wanted to exterminate the Sima clan?

Was this some kind of joke?

"Second Elder..." Fang Wei gulped. Even though he was a steady person as the head of the Fang clan, he still felt his heart nearly leap out of his mouth when he heard these words.

Exterminate an entire reclusive clan!

That was really not something you joked about.

Even though the most powerful person in the Sima clan had already been killed, the Sima clan was still filled with many other highly skilled fighters.

"Fang Wei!" Fang Yin's expression fell and he pointed to Sima Gang's body on the floor. "From the time he died, the Sima clan was destined to be destroyed. Don't you get it?"

Fang Wei's face started to pale.

This was too serious a matter.

Exterminate an entire reclusive clan?

The eight reclusive clans had to exist together because their reason for existence was to decode the secret behind the Extreme Fist Technique Manual. The decoding needed all eight clans to work together.

If one clan was exterminated...

“And this is only the beginning!” Fang Yin laughed coldly. “We will also exterminate the other six clans so that the Fang clan will be the only reclusive clan left!”

Fang Wei felt completely numb all over.

What was Fang Yin trying to do?

He wanted to exterminate all the other reclusive clans? That was insane!

“Second Elder!” Fang Wei took a deep breath. “But there’s one thing I don’t understand. If we get rid of all of them, then how are we going to decode the secret of the manual?”

“That is not something you have to worry about,” replied Fang Yin calmly.

He took a step forward and stood in front of Fang Wei. His icy eyes looked like a pair of dead stars.

Fang Wei was part of the clan and was the head chosen by these two elders, but he could sense that if he asked one more question, Fang Yin would break his neck on the spot!

“You only have to listen to our instructions and exterminate the other six clans in the shortest possible time!” said Fang Yin calmly. “Fang Jin and I will kill the most highly skilled members of their clans. Understand?”

“Yes, Elders!” replied Fang Wei loudly.

NH

He didn't dare to ask anymore and quickly dragged Sima Gang's body away.

Fang Jin didn't say much. He was the Senior Elder and didn't speak much. In fact, he didn't decide on much. Fang Yin decided on more things than he did.

"It's about to start," Fang Yin narrowed his eyes and looked into the distance.

"It is." Fang Jin nodded and only uttered these two words.

.....

Meanwhile, Jiang Ning felt like he was getting lazier and lazier.

There were many things he didn't need to attend to personally. Someone else would do a good job of it and he didn't need to worry at all.

Grooming talents was definitely the right way to go.

Especially when it came to Lin Group.

Lin Group was now developing at an extremely high speed, and it was so fast that even Jiang Ning thought it was exciting.

But as the company expanded, Lin Yuzhen became busier as well.

He couldn't help her with work, so he just quietly accompanied her in the office.

NH

When Lin Yuzhen felt tired and she looked up to massage her neck, she would be able to see Jiang Ning and meet his gaze. That was enough for her.

Jiang Ning was now leaning against the sofa as he carefully peeled the grapes in the plate. Once he was done peeling a grape, he would put it into another plate, so he didn't even look up at all.

Lin Yuzhen was at her desk signing documents, and there were a few dozen for her to go through.

“Phewwww!” Lin Yuzhen let out a long sigh and stretched herself out like a cat. “I’m finally done!”

She turned to see that Jiang Ning was still working hard at peeling the grapes, so she quickly ran over happily and sat down on Jiang Ning’s lap.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Wow! You’ve peeled all the grapes!”

“Yup,” Jiang Ning smile. He stuffed the last one in his hands into Lin Yuzhen’s mouth. “Is it sweet?”

“Uh huh!”

Lin Yuzhen felt that it didn’t just taste sweet. Even her heart could feel the sweetness.

Jiang Ning had carefully peeled all of the grape skin off.

“Is there anything giving you a headache lately?” asked Jiang Ning as he wiped his fingers.

“Nope. Everything is going smoothly.”

Lin Yuzhen popped grape after grape into her mouth. Every single one was sweet.

Jiang Ning made them taste sweet.

“The progress in Las Vegas is not bad, Xiang Gao’s watching over that branch so there shouldn’t be any problems. But that Ceyranka family...”

Lin Yuzhen pursed her lips and looked up at Jiang Ning. Their faces were less than ten centimeters away from each other. “The princess of the Ceyranka family seems unable to forget you.”

“She’s given up,” said Jiang Ning calmly. “I’m a man that she will never have.”

Lin Yuzhen scoffed.

Her man was too popular, and that was a pretty troublesome thing at times.

She didn't dare to say that she was outstanding enough to be able to ignore any threats from other women, but Jiang Ning made her feel secure enough in the relationship, so she didn't have to care or be bothered by such things.

"I just feel that she's quite pitiful," said Lin Yuzhen quietly. "She used to be such a proud woman, and now she's become so humble."

Jiang Ning was stunned.

He looked at Lin Yuzhen seriously and looked her up and down.

He looked at her from head to toe, as if he didn't know who she was. Lin Yuzhen started to feel embarrassed from all his staring.

"What's wrong?"

"You're suddenly feeling charitable?" said Jiang Ning. "You suddenly want to be kind to others? Is the empress allowing the emperor to take in some concubines now?"

"Dream on!" Lin Yuzhen scoffed and stuffed one of the grapes into Jiang Ning's mouth. "Eat your grapes! I'm going back to work!"

Jiang Ning burst out laughing.

Just when he was about to speak, his phone started ringing.

“Hmm? They’re back again?” Jiang Ning’s expression remained calm. It seemed like besides Lin Yuzhen, nobody else and nothing else could cause any change in his emotions.

“Got it.”

He stood up and brought the remaining grapes to Lin Yuzhen’s table. He pinched her cheeks gently and said sweetly, “Something’s happened at the academy, I’ve got to go over now.”

“Finish the grapes, and get Fei to send you home after work.”

“Sure, you go ahead, no need to worry about me,” replied Lin Yuzhen obediently.

She knew that Jiang Ning had to consider way more things than she did.

He had to take care of Lin Group, Extreme Martial Arts Academy, Donghai, and even...it was just way too many things.

She had to make herself even stronger even faster!

That way, she would be able to stand next to Jiang Ning and share his burden.

Jiang Ning left Lin Group and went straight to Extreme Martial Arts Academy.

The atmosphere inside the academy was a little strange.

“Master.” Fang Qiu saw that Jiang Ning was here and walked over to him with a frown. “Out of the seven elders who left, three of them are here again. It looks like something’s gone wrong.”

“I asked them what happened but they refuse to say anything. They insisted on waiting for you so that they can tell you.”

Fang Qiu had no idea what happened to these people. But Jiang Ning had allowed them to leave and they had just returned to Mount Zhongnan not too long ago. Why were they back in Donghai again?

Could they really have fallen in love with this city?

“Mr Jiang is here!” someone shouted. The three reclusive clan elders who had been sitting inside with expressionless faces and soulless eyes suddenly lit up and dashed out.

THUD!

All three of them knelt before Jiang Ning at the same time!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The floor shook violently and everyone inside the academy was shocked.

Tan Xing and the other instructors, including Fang Qiu, didn't expect these high and mighty reclusive clan elders to just kneel without saying anything.

Jiang Ning hadn't said anything either.

"Gentlemen," Jiang Ning frowned slightly and looked back at them. "What do you mean by this?"

He was equally surprised. These men were elders of their respective clans who were in a high position and were very careful to protect their pride and dignity.

But they had knelt without hesitation.

He hadn't done anything to force them to kneel.

"Jiang Ning, please, save us!" shouted the Huangfu clan elder loudly in a trembling voice. Even his face was pale.

"Jiang Ning, please, save us!"

The others cried out as well and their voices cracked.

Fang Qiu and the rest were even more surprised now.

They wanted Jiang Ning to save them?

They had left Donghai not too long ago, and Jiang Ning had already let them off. If he hadn't done

that, there was no way these elders would have made it out of Donghai and back to Mount Zhongnan alive, even though they were all very highly skilled.

But now they had returned to Donghai to ask Jiang Ning for help?

“Get up,” said Jiang Ning. “What’s happened?”

“Mount Zhongnan...” The Huangfu clan elder took a deep breath. “Mount Zhongnan is in peril!”

“The Huangfu clan has been exterminated!”

KABOOM...

Tan Xing and the rest paled slightly, and Fang Qiu was equally stunned. He thought he had heard the elder wrongly.

“The An clan was also attacked!”

“And the Xin clan too...every single clan has been attacked! We smelled a rat and managed to escape, but the rest...” The Xin clan elder had much sadness and fury on his face.

When they got back to Mount Zhongnan and arrived at their own residences, they saw that everything was in ruins, the signboard above their houses were smashed and there were dead and wounded people all over the place.

Those who managed to survive had fled elsewhere.

They had been a reclusive clan for so long and didn't expect anyone to secretly ambush them. They never thought they would suffer something so terrifying.

"What on earth happened?" asked Fang Qiu.

"I don't know! I don't know!" shouted the Huangfu clan elder as he clutched at his own hair. "By the time I got back, there wasn't a single person left in the Huangfu residence. Too many people were dead, and my children...they're all dead!"

Any survivors were no longer in the house, and nobody knew if they had escaped or if they had been captured.

The other elders had also seen how their own houses were in ruins and covered with dead bodies. There was blood everywhere!

"What's going on?!" Sima Quan had heard the commotion and came running out of his room immediately.

He looked at the terrified elders and his heart trembled violently. He grabbed their shoulders and shouted loudly, "What's happened?! What about the Sima clan?! What about the Sima clan?!"

The Huangfu clan elder looked up at Sima Quan and shook his head. "I have no idea."

He didn't even know what happened to his own clan, so of course he couldn't care less about the Sima clan now.

Sima Quan felt like his soul had left him in that instant. Something bad must have happened to the Sima clan too!

Sima Quan got up and started walking out.

“Where are you going?” Fang Qiu yelled after him.

“I’m going back to Mount Zhongnan!” shouted Sima Quan. His eyes reddened immediately. “Something must have happened back home, something...”

His lips trembled and didn’t know what his home looked like, and didn’t even know if he could still call that place home.

“If you go back now, you’re definitely going to die!” The Huangfu clan elder shook his head. “Mount Zhongnan is a mess! It’s completely chaotic now!”

He turned and looked at Jiang Ning. “Jiang Ning! Jiang Ning! Help us! Won’t you help us?”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“You’re very powerful, so please, help us! Help me...help me to find the rest of the Huangfu clan, please!”

Jiang Ning didn’t say anything.

He had no idea what happened inside Mount Zhongnan.

He had arranged for people to watch the mountain and he would know if anyone left the mountain. But if anything happened on the mountain itself, Jiang Ning would have no idea.

Besides, all eight reclusive clans hid themselves at a different part of the mountain.

He only knew where the Fang clan lived, and had no idea about the rest. How was he going to find anybody?

“All of you are more familiar with Mount Zhongnan than I am,” said Jiang Ning. “If you guys can’t find your folks, then how am I supposed to find anyone?”

He wasn’t dumb and wasn’t going to be the good guy for fun.

The reclusive clans were being exterminated, and they were being exterminated all at once. This was no small matter, since each clan had many highly skilled fighters, and the Senior Elders of every clan were extremely highly skilled!

Who was capable of breaking through all their defenses and exterminating them?

“Please help us...”

The elders had never felt so worried before.

But they knew that Jiang Ning wasn't friends with them and he had no obligation to help them.

“If you are willing to help us, I can tell you where the secret texts of the Xin clan are!” The Xin clan elder took a deep breath and looked pleadingly at Jiang Ning. “I know where the Senior Elder keeps it, and these are all related to the Extreme Fist Technique Manual. These are things left behind by the Xin clan's ancestors over the years!”

“If you're willing to save the Xin clan and find our Senior Elder, I'll tell you!”

“I'll give you the Huangfu clan's too!” The Huangfu clan elder clenched his teeth. His clan had been destroyed, so he had no use for the manual nor the secret texts.

They had wanted the manual because they wanted to bring their clans to greater heights by getting more resources from the place in the map behind the manual, but now they didn't even have a clan to speak of.

What hope did they still have?

“Jiang Ning!” The Huangfu clan's elder had bloodshot eyes now. “I know you want to crack the code behind the manual, but it's very hard to do that without the secret texts that the reclusive clans have.”

“I know you’re very formidable, so even without us, you might still have a way, but it would consume a lot of your time and effort, so this is a deal! We’re offering you a deal!”

Jiang Ning frowned and didn’t say anything.

He had made some guesses himself, and that was why he had made the elders write the words ‘the beginning of the universe’ in the special way of writing each clan had.

Each person had written differently. The eight clans wrote in eight different ways. What did that mean?

That meant that the code to deciphering the manual was a combination pattern of sorts. It needed the combination of eight types of words to unlock the mystery...

From the looks of it, the secret texts they were talking about were the special writing and words that each clan had.

The first step in deciphering the manual was to be able to read the words on the manual!

Jiang Ning remained silent and just looked at the elders.

Since this was a deal, that meant that they were now at the negotiation stage. Whoever spoke up first would lose their advantage in the negotiation.

“Jiang Ning!”

After barely ten seconds of silence, the Huangfu clan elder couldn't stand it anymore. He saw that Jiang Ning wasn't talking and wasn't making any decision, so he stood up and said through gritted teeth, "I'll swear on the name of the Huangfu clan! As long as you can save the Huangfu clan and ensure that I can pass on this family name, then even if I have to die, I will definitely hand the secret texts to you!"

Jiang Ning's frown relaxed slightly. He turned to look at the other two elders.

"And what about you two?" he asked calmly.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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NH

They didn't have a choice at all.

Their clans were in ruins and they couldn't find a single person, and they didn't even know what happened.

And even if they found anybody, what else could they do?

If even the Senior Elders of their clans were nowhere to be found, it meant that their attackers were very powerful, so powerful that the other reclusive clans couldn't hold up against their attacks at all.

"We will do the same!" the other elders said through gritted teeth. "This is a promise from the elders of reclusive clans, so we will keep our promises!"

If their clans were gone, then there was no point in having the manual.

The manual was an opportunity to help their own clans advance and soar to greater heights, but if they couldn't even keep their clans going, then there was nothing to advance

"As long as we can continue to keep our clans, then we will give you the secret texts of our clans."

This was a deal.

Otherwise, there was no reason why Jiang Ning should risk his life for them.

NH

They didn't even know who their opponent was and where to find them. And even if they tracked their opponents down, the few of them couldn't possibly fight them since all the highly skilled fighters of their own clans had perished as well.

The only one who could save them was Jiang Ning and Donghai!

Jiang Ning looked at all of them and nodded.

"Remember that carefully, this is a business transaction."

He didn't say anymore. He wasn't going to be some good guy for nothing. These were the fellows who made trouble for him not too long ago too.

He wasn't doing anything if there wasn't anything for him in it.

Jiang Ning wanted those secret texts, since things would definitely move faster once Lu Jing's side started studying them.

"We shouldn't delay any further. Let's set off now!" said Jiang Ning.

"Yes, Big Boss!" replied Brother Gou immediately as he ran off to get the rest.

In no time, everyone had arrived.

Jiang Ning never dilly dallied about things. Since he said he was going to take action, he would take action immediately.

NH

This was also a special situation, since all the reclusive clans had been attacked. This was no small matter, since the person who launched this attack was definitely pretty powerful.

“I want to go too!” said Sima Quan through clenched teeth and ran after them.

Even though the Sima clan had forsaken him, he hadn’t forsaken his own home.

All of them rushed to Mount Zhongnan as quickly as they could.

Mount Zhongnan was a lot colder than the city right now. Once they went past the foot of the mountain, they could feel the temperature continue to drop.

“The various reclusive sects are all hidden deep in the mountainous forest. We chose to hide ourselves in the mountain back then because the eight families had received a secret text each at the same time,” Sima Quan began to explain.

“We’ve known about the manual for a long time, and the pioneers of our clans have been searching for it for a long time. They realized that trying to search for it randomly would cause a lot of social unrest, so the clans agreed that they would remain within Mount Zhongnan until the manual pages appeared, and nobody was to search for the pages privately.”

Given the martial arts prowess of the eight reclusive clans, if they wanted to hunt these pages down by force, they would definitely upset

the social order of the world.

That was something that their pioneers did not want to see.

So the eight reclusive clans made an agreement that had continued for several generations, and nobody was to break this agreement.

“But the Fang clan has been searching for the pages for the last twenty years. Didn’t any of you know that?” Jiang Ning glanced at Sima Quan.

“We only found out recently,” said Sima Quan.

His expression looked a little nasty. The other seven reclusive clans had been played out by the Fang clan.

His heart suddenly trembled and he looked up at Jiang Ning as his lips moved. He couldn’t help but wonder if the Fang clan was the one who went around to attack the other reclusive clans!

“Let’s go to the Sima house first.” Jiang Ning just gently shook his head and didn’t say more.

Jiang Ning had already guessed as much. Or rather, there was no need to guess.

The other clans had been attacked, so once they looked into the Sima house, they would know for sure.

Sima Quan started walking more and more quickly. Nothing in this forest could slow him down, and he couldn't wait to get back to the Sima residence.

Jiang Ning and the rest followed behind him and kept up the same speed.

Even Brother Gou and the wolves were able to walk quickly through this terrain after much training, despite being less highly skilled than elders like Sima Quan. They could walk even faster if they wanted to!

In less than half an hour, Sima Quan could already see the Sima clan's estate from afar.

It was already very tough to build such a massive house in the middle of the mountain forest.

Their signboard and gate was still in one good piece!

Sima Quan's heart pounded wildly, but he relaxed a little after seeing that the signboard was still up. He was about to go over when Jiang Ning reached out to pull him back.

"What's wrong?" Sima Quan turned to look at Jiang Ning. "The Sima clan should be alright."

Jiang Ning shook his head.

"Don't you smell it?"

"Hmm?" Sima Quan stopped walking and wrinkled his nose as he took a deep whiff. His expression

changed dramatically.

That was the smell of blood!

Even though the wind blowing through the forest would have scattered most of the smell by now, he could still smell blood wafting out from the Sima house, and it irritated his nose.

Sima Quan became even more anxious. He disregarded everything else and rushed into the house.

“Wait!” Jiang Ning yelled after him but Sima Quan couldn’t be bothered to stop.

He ran all the way to the door and went right into the estate.

All he saw was a mess of dead bodies.

Blood had dyed the entire floor red, and some of it had already dried up.

Sima Quan’s heart pounded loudly and his eyes were bloodshot. He started trembling and clenching his fists from fury as he looked at the fresh blood on the ground. He could almost see that a terrible massacre had happened here not too long ago...

“AHHHHHH!!!” roared Sima Quan furiously. “WHO IS IT? WHO DID THIS?!”

His voice was angry and murderous.

Sima Quan looked around and didn’t hear any

sound at all. It was as if the entire house was void of living people. Was everyone already dead?

There was so much blood on the ground...

He was going crazy soon!

Where was the Senior Elder, Sima Gang?

Where was the head of the clan, Sima Ru?

And what about all the men, women, elderly and children of the clan?

Sima Quan looked around and his eyes continued to redden as his tears fell. He didn't care about how Sima Gang had abandoned him in Donghai anymore. He just wanted to know where his family members were.

Had they all been killed? Were they...were they all gone?

SWOOSH!

SWOOSH!

Two sharp arrows suddenly shot out from nowhere!

Sima Quan's ears twitched and he reacted extremely quickly. He spun to dodge the arrows, but his arm was still cut by the arrow flying past him and blood spurted out. He clenched his teeth and turned to look. Two shadows were at the end of the corridor and had made a run for it after shooting the arrows.

NH

“Stop right there!” he yelled with a ferocious glint in his eyes. “Stop right there!”

He ran after them but couldn't catch up. The two shadows hopped over the wall and disappeared.

Sima Quan was so furious for letting them get away.

Those fellows!

Those had to be the killers that reduced the Sima clan to this state.

“Damn it!”

Sima Quan was so angry that he trembled. How could he have let those idiots get away?

THUD!

Two figures suddenly came flying in from outside and landed at Sima Quan's feet. Their limbs had been broken and they were wailing loudly.

Jiang Ning slowly walked in from behind them and glanced at Sima Quan.

“I'm surprised they actually left people behind to attack you secretly. It looks like someone is trying to make sure the entire Sima clan is completely annihilated!”

Jiang Ning looked at the two men on the floor and scoffed.

He turned to look at Sima Quan. "Hurry up and ask them whatever you need to know."

PAK!

Sima Quan went forward and slapped one of the men hard enough to cause his mouth to bleed. "Who are you people?"

"Kill us if you dare! We won't tell you anything!"

BAM!

BAM!

BAM!

Sima Quan looked like he had gone mad as he crushed their bones one by one. Their bloodcurdling screams filled the air.

The two men on the floor didn't even get the chance to commit suicide, and Sima Quan was making them go through a pain worse than death.

"Speak!" roared Sima Quan angrily. He looked like he was about to eat them up.

"The Fang...Fang clan..." He finally heard these two words after a long while.

The Fang clan!

It really was the Fang clan after all!

"We are...we are Mr Hongshan's men...he told us to..."

CRAACK!

Before they could finish speaking, Sima Quan broke their necks. A murderous aura engulfed him.

"The Fang clan! It's really those people! They've been plotting this all along!" Sima Quan clenched his teeth. "They actually dared..."

The other elders were equally angry. Nobody thought it would turn out to be the Fang clan.

The Fang clan had actually dared to attack the other reclusive clans.

But where did they find the ability to attack the other clans one after another?

"Does the Fang clan have that sort of ability?" Brother Gou was also puzzled. The eight reclusive clans should have been on par in terms of ability. So how could the Fang clan be able to actually kill off all the other clans at one shot?

"If..." Fang Qiu swallowed and looked at Brother Gou. "If the two forefathers did it, it's possible."

Forefathers?"

"Are you referring to the two Senior Elders of the Fang clan?" Sima Quan spun around to look at Fang Qiu as his eyelids twitched.

“That’s right. The Senior Elder of the Fang clan is Fang Jin, and he’s extremely highly skilled. The Second Elder, Fang Yin, is excellent at...using poison,” said Fang Qiu with a nod.

If they had used poison to poison the Senior Elders of the other clans before launching an attack, then wiping out the other clans was entirely possible.

But Fang Qiu couldn’t understand why the Fang clan would do such a thing. That was as good as becoming enemies with the other clans, and they would get killed for it.

“Despicable!” spat the Huangfu clan elder with clenched fists. “All these despicable people from the Fang clan!”

He glared at Fang Qiu and there was a murderous look in his eyes. But before he could say anything, Brother Gou stood in front of Fang Qiu.

“He’s no longer part of the Fang clan, so take that glare back.” Brother Gou didn’t bother being nice. “If you stare at my bro again like that, don’t blame me for getting nasty!”

Fang Qiu felt a warmth in his heart.

Back in the Fang house, nobody would ever protect him like this. But after he went to Donghai and became Jiang Ning’s disciple, Jiang Ning and everyone in Donghai became protective of him.

The Huangfu clan elder shut up after that.

He was still furious, but he didn't dare to vent his anger on Fang Qiu anymore.

"The Fang clan!" Sima Quan ignored his arm injury because right now, he wanted to find any remaining family members and save them, then take revenge!

He turned to leave and the other elders followed after him.

"Big Boss," Brother Gou glanced at them, then turned to look at Jiang Ning. "Do we follow them?"

This was an issue between the eight reclusive clans and there was no need for Donghai to be involved.

Since the Fang clan was able to massacre the other clans like this, they definitely had someone very powerful among them, including that Second Elder who was an expert in poisons. These people were not going to be easy to deal with.

The Senior Elders of the various clans were all very powerful but they perished as well, so everyone had to be very careful.

"Go." But Jiang Ning remained calm.

He glanced at Fang Qiu. "You have to think of a way to get back what you've lost, understand?"

Jiang Ning followed behind the elders. Fang Qiu didn't hesitate and followed suit.

Brother Gou and the wolves didn't hesitate, of course. No matter what decision Jiang Ning made, they would listen to him. Even if they knew they might die in the next moment, they wouldn't even frown.

The Fang house!

It was now heavily guarded.

It was so well guarded that even before they reached the house, the road leading to the house had already been sealed off.

Once all of them reached here, the elders immediately understood that this massacre was done by the Fang clan for sure!

"Fang Wei!" Sima Quan took a step forward and yelled angrily. "How dare you do such a thing! Are you declaring war on all the other reclusive clans?"

SWOOSH!

SWOOSH!

SWOOSH!

Rows and rows of people dashed out to block the elders from moving forward and looked at their intruders very warily.

Some of them were even holding weapons and

they gleamed in the light.

“How dare you block my way!” roared Sima Quan.

The other elders were equally furious.

They were reclusive clan elders, but it seemed like the Fang clan wasn't showing them any basic respect.

“Why bother talking to them? Fight our way in!” said Jiang Ning as he moved towards the Fang house.

Everyone immediately started moving!

Jiang Ning was the first one out and his speed was incredible. He was like a wild beast, and his explosive nature was shocking.

KEBOOM!

He threw one punch and the air around his fist crackled loudly, and he sent people flying in all directions.

His punches were really explosive.

Fang Qiu was just behind Jiang Ning and he was equally fast.

He had given up everything he had learned from the Fang clan, and went on a mix of taijiquan and bajiquan. He was equally ferocious and was like a wolf among the sheep.

The wolves went into their formation to become

one body, so that they could easily break through the defenses of more than ten people at one shot.

The surviving elders were brimming with murder and couldn't wait to kill off everyone in the Fang clan!

BAM!

BAM!

BAM!

The battle didn't last long, since the men blocking their way were just some small fry of the clan. It didn't take long for all of them to collapse onto the ground.

Jiang Ning walked to the door of the Fang clan and looked up at the cloud shaped 'Fang' word on top.

BAM!

Jiang Ning didn't need to say anything. Fang Qiu pulled the sign down and trampled it underfoot.

"Master Fang!" yelled Jiang Ning loudly as he walked in. "I've come to the Fang house again, so why aren't you coming out to welcome me?"

His voice resounded as loudly as thunder as it filled the entire estate.

A huge group of people started rushing out from inside the house.

“Jiang Ning!” Fang Wei walked over confidently and aggressively. “How dare you step into my house again?!”

“And why not?” Jiang Ning looked at Fang Wei and the men who had come out with him, but his expression didn’t change. “Or is Master Fang guilty of something and afraid of me coming here?”

“Fang Wei! Where are our clansmen!”

“Release them now!”

“Fang Wei! You little son of a bitch! Release the Sima family members!”

The elders started cursing away and was ready to fight any time.

But Fang Wei continued to look completely confused.

He looked at the elders and replied in puzzlement, “What are all of you talking about? I don’t understand at all.”

“Your people are missing, why are you trying to look for them in my house?” Fang Wei shook his head. “How ridiculous, so very ridiculous!”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The smile on Fang Wei's face made him look like he had just heard the funniest joke in the world.

They had lost their family members and they came looking for them at the Fang's residence?

That was definitely a joke.

"Fang Wei! Stop pretending! Where are our family members? Hurry up and hand them over!" Sima Quan couldn't stand it and really wished he could just charge at Fang Wei.

The other elders felt the same way.

All the reclusive clans had been attacked secretly and there were nothing but dead bodies in their houses. Everyone else who survived was nowhere to be found.

Of course they were anxious.

"Don't simply accuse me like that!" roared Fang Wei in return. "How do I know what's happened to your clan? What has it got to do with me?"

He continued to deny everything and didn't look guilty at all.

"You..." Sima Quan yelled angrily. "You're shameless!"

He made his way forward as he said these, so Fang Wei raised his hand and more than ten men stood in front of him.

"Anyone who barges into the Fang house is as

good as trying to attack the Fang clan, so kill all of them without mercy!” Fang Wei gave orders coldly.

The men next to him were the new top twelve bodyguards of the Fang clan. They had put back the numbers after Jiang Ning had killed off some of them.

All of their attention was on Jiang Ning, and they didn't seem to be bothered by the rest.

Everyone knew that Jiang Ning was the most terrifying of them all.

Some of them also knew that they had to thank Jiang Ning for creating vacancies in this team.

“I'm now suspecting that all of you are scheming against the Fang clan!” yelled Fang Wei. “The Fang clan has one page of the manual, so all of you are here to snatch the page back by force! That's going against the agreement between the eight reclusive clans!”

“I'm warning you, I will not allow anyone to undermine the Fang clan's authority! Even if I have to die, I will protect the dignity of the Fang clan! Whoever comes at me shall be killed!”

He didn't try to be polite and went as aggressive as he could.

He even looked a bit upset as if the elders had wrongly accused him.

Sima Quan was so angry that his entire body was

trembling.

Those two men who tried to kill him earlier were from the Fang clan, and Fang Wei was still trying to deny it?

“I can’t be bothered to talk to you anymore!” roared Sima Quan as he lunged across. “Fang Wei, if you don’t release our people, I’m going to fight you to the very end!”

He pushed his palm forward and dashed towards Fang Wei. All the Fang clan bodyguards immediately blocked his way.

“Attack!”

“Attack now!!”

The other elders knew that they couldn’t hesitate now. If they didn’t attack now, there was no way Sima Quan could hold up by himself.

In the blink of an eye, all the elders had dashed across. They didn’t have a choice.

The battle became intense instantly.

More and more people emerged from inside the house and surrounded the elders.

The elders were soon on the losing end.

Fang Wei’s expression was filled with disdain. How could just these few men expect to cause him any trouble?

He didn't care about these old men at all since they weren't that capable. His focus had always been on Jiang Ning.

He knew how powerful Jiang Ning really was.

"This is a matter between the eight reclusive clans, so why are you interfering?" Fang Wei didn't beat around the bush and stared straight at Jiang Ning as he calmly said, "You might not be able to bear the consequences of doing this!"

"This is Mount Zhongnan, and it is the way Mount Zhongnan is right now! This is not Donghai!"

The warning in his voice was clear.

This was Mount Zhongnan, and it was the Mount Zhongnan that the Fang clan was now in charge of. The other clans couldn't do anything now.

The Fang clan called all the shots now.

Fang Wei even felt like applauding Jiang Ning's courage in coming up here.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“I didn’t come to the Fang house to help them.” Jiang Ning was equally calm as he glanced at Fang Wei, then pointed to Fang Qiu beside him. “I’m back to help him take back a few things that belong to him.”

“How audacious!” Fang Wei flew into a rage. “Jiang Ning, how dare you be so arrogant!”

“The Fang clan has nothing to do with that fellow! Nothing here belongs to him!”

“There’s something that belongs to him,” said Jiang Ning.

He looked at Fang Wei and his voice sounded like rolling thunder. “I think that the position of being the head of the Fang clan belongs to him.”

Fang Wei was even more furious when he heard this.

“You’re asking to get killed!”

This was a challenge!

Jiang Ning was clearly challenging his authority and clearly didn’t have any regard for him.

He actually said that the position of being the head of the clan belonged to Fang Qiu?

“Fang Qiu, remember, once you become the head of the Fang clan, you must carry out your duties well and lead the Fang clan properly.” Jiang Ning ignored Fang Wei’s threatening expression and continued to slowly give Fang Qiu instructions.

NH

“You have to be more willing to improve, more optimistic and you must be a responsible person, understand?”

“Yes, Master.”

“Also, the most important thing about being the head of a clan is that you must give the youngsters a chance to prove themselves. Make sure you don’t become like some people...no wait,” Jiang Ning purposely turned to look at Fang Wei. “...like some animals who are inhuman and commit all sorts of heinous crimes against others.”

“Yes, Master!”

Fang Wei was going to explode from his anger.

Wasn’t Jiang Ning trying to refer to him?

He had even said such things in front of so many people, as if he wasn’t around.

“Kill them all!” Fang Wei couldn’t stand it anymore and gave a loud command. Everyone from the Fang clan immediately charged towards Jiang Ning and his men.

Jiang Ning stood there without moving. He just waved his hands lightly and the wolves immediately became agitated again.

Their formation technique was now at a higher level than before and really needed to practice with some of these experienced martial artists. This was their best chance to improve

themselves!

Fang Qiu didn't hesitate at all and immediately swung his fists. One fist used taijiquan techniques and the other used bajiquan techniques – a combination of aggression and gentleness!

The gentle part would help to cushion the impact, while the aggressive part would help with the attack. He swung his arms violently as if his punches could break a mountain apart or split the ground into half!

BAM!

He sent a long punch out and it was filled with great power.

Fang Wei's gaze changed. He didn't expect Fang Qiu to be so formidable now.

He was even more powerful than when he was back in the Fang clan. And he could also sense that Fang Qiu's understanding of martial arts had become deeper now.

How...how was this possible?

He seemed to be a completely different person now!

But Jiang Ning's expression remained calm while Fang Wei's expression was filled with disbelief.

"Are you surprised?" said Jiang Ning. "He does have the genes of the Fang clan, but

NH

unfortunately, you didn't consider him as a member of the Fang clan."

"Humph! What are you trying to say?"

"You had a better choice in front of you, but you chose the worst option," said Jiang Ning calmly. "In fact, you've actually put yourself en route to death.

Fang Wei's expression changed and his expression wavered.

He looked at Jiang Ning and suddenly burst out hysterically, "What do you know? You don't know anything! Did you think I was willing? You don't understand at all!"

"I'm not the one who calls the shots in the Fang clan! Do you understand!" roared Fang Wei. "I've already allowed him to live! I've already given him the chance to survive! You are the one who's caused his downfall! Jiang Ning, you are the one!"

He raised his arm and clenched his fist as his murderous aura filled the sky.

"Bringing him to Mount Zhongnan is killing him!"

Once he finished saying that, Fang Wei rushed out as his murderous aura locked on Jiang Ning and there was a crazed look in his eyes.

BAM!

The two of them slammed into each other almost immediately.

Fang Wei's punch was aggressive and domineering, and his punch was a fatal one. He had put in all his strength into this punch and didn't hold anything back.

He was well aware of how formidable Jiang Ning was. He didn't dare to hold back at all.

"HA!" Jiang Ning gave a loud shout and delivered a punch that smashed right into Fang Wei's fist and caused Fang Wei to stagger five or six steps backwards.

"I brought him here to take back what belongs to him!"

"He is my disciple, so I won't let him die!"

"Who can kill him?"

Jiang Ning's voice rumbled like rolling thunder and resounded loudly in Fang Wei's ears.

His feet moved faster and faster while his punches became more and more aggressive. He was like a wild beast bulldozing through and forced Fang Wei to keep retreating.

BAM!

BAM!

BAM!

Fang Wei felt that Jiang Ning was like a mad man. Each punch he delivered was going to smash him to pieces alive.

He couldn't hold up against this terrifying sort of boxing.

Even if he used his arms to block the attacks, the impact of the force went through his body and made his bones feel numb.

BOOM!

Suddenly, there was a loud blast and Fang Wei's expression changed completely. He moved back to find that both his arms were limp and couldn't stop trembling!

They were broken!

His arm bones were broken!

He didn't even see any wounds on his arms at all, but the bones inside were shattered by the sheer force created by Jiang Ning's punches.

"You..." Fang Wei clenched his teeth and took a deep breath. "Mount Zhongnan is a dangerous place to you..."

"I call the shots wherever I go!"

Jiang Ning didn't care about what Fang Wei was going to say.

NH

He knew what Fang Wei wanted to say and what he meant, but what was the use of saying all that now?

From the moment the Fang clan forced He Daoren to his death, they were destined to never exist anymore.

Jiang Ning was going to raze it to the ground!

BAM!

The men from the Fang clan collapsed one after another. They couldn't stop Jiang Ning at all.

Jiang Ning just used one hand to grab one neck and flung the man casually onto the floor like he was flinging a dead chicken.

"Bring me to see the two forefathers of the Fang clan," said Jiang Ning as he narrowed his eyes at Fang Wei.

Fang Wei's arms were already incapacitated and he knew that Jiang Ning had done that on purpose. Jiang Ning could have killed him easily but he didn't.

"Are you sure?" he looked at Jiang Ning. "Once you see the forefathers...you're dead meat!"

Jiang Ning turned to the other elders and said, "Fang Qiu, bring them in to look for their family members."

Fang Qiu waved his hand and the elders all followed him into the house to look for their

family members. Fang Wei watched them go in and he couldn't stop them at all.

Jiang Ning was here, so nobody else could stop him besides the two elders of the Fang clan.

On top of that, Jiang Ning's men were all as crazy as a bunch of tigers and leopards!

"Big Boss." Brother Gou walked over to Jiang Ning and looked warily at Fang Wei. He was afraid that there might be a trap waiting for Jiang Ning.

The Fang clan had been able to attack the other reclusive clans quietly clearly because the Second Elder was an expert in poisons.

"Clean out the Fang clan," said Jiang Ning in a sinister voice as he looked back at Brother Gou. "I'll go in to have a chat with them and come out."

"Yes, Big Boss!" replied Brother Gou immediately. He gave a wave and all his fellow wolves moved like they were one body. They didn't look like a group of more than ten men and just looked like one man moving.

Fang Wei's heart was trembling.

Jiang Ning was being too audacious now!

He actually wanted to wipe out the entire Fang clan.

Once Fang Jin and Fang Yin killed Jiang Ning off, the rest of his men could forget about leaving this house!

NH

And Jiang Ning even wanted to take the position of being the head of the clan away from him?

“Jiang Ning, there’s a price to pay for your audaciousness!” Fang Wei scoffed and didn’t say anymore as his arms lay limply by his side. He let the wolves enter the house while he brought Jiang Ning towards the back courtyard.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

NH

The fallen leaves in the dim courtyard continued to fly and flutter in the wind.

Jiang Ning could smell a faint smell of blood in the air once he walked into the courtyard.

His nose twitched very slightly and there was a quick and unnoticeable glint in his eyes.

“Senior Elder, Second Elder, Fang Wei was useless and couldn't hold these people off,” shouted Fang Wei as he stood with his head bowed in front of the wooden house.

CREEAAAK...

The door of the wooden house opened after a short while.

Two figures stood at the door and looked at Jiang Ning standing under the tree. Their gaze was calm and expressionless.

“Senior Elder, all the twelve bodyguards have been killed...” Fang Wei's voice was a little hoarse as he looked at his own limp arms. “He has shattered the bones in my arms as well.”

“Jiang Ning.” Fang Jin looked up at Jiang Ning. “You are really capable.”

He waved an arm and Fang Wei quickly stood to one side. He kept his head bowed but a sly smile appeared on his lips.

Jiang Ning had entered the back courtyard...so he could forget about leaving this place alive!

“Thank you, Senior Elder, for the compliment.” Jiang Ning didn’t look nervous at all. “It’s been a long time since someone complimented me like this.”

He took a step forward and he was now only ten steps away from the two elders!

Two pairs of eyes stared at Jiang Ning and watched his feet. It was as if they were calculating if they could make an attack at this distance that could kill Jiang Ning immediately.

But they didn’t move.

Fang Yin didn’t say anything and just stood at the door with his hands behind his back as he looked at Jiang Ning.

“What a promising young man you are,” sighed Fang Jin. “You’re already so capable at such a young age. It looks like that He Daoren was really good too. He could actually groom such a highly skilled fighter. How admirable.”

“Is your Master, He Daoren, still well? I met him once a long time ago after all,” said Fang Jin slowly with a smile.

He behaved like he didn’t know that He Daoren was already dead, and he even looked a little concerned as he spoke to Jiang Ning. He was obviously hoping to see a change in Jiang Ning’s expression.

“The old man is doing well.”

NH

But Fang Jin never saw any change. Jiang Ning's expression had no rage and was completely expressionless. He was as calm as a pool of stagnant water!

"He told me that the Fang clan was going to hand everything over to his son, and he said that the two forefathers of the Fang clan were going to look for him to have a nice drink with him and play some chess with him too." Jiang Ning suddenly burst out laughing. "And that's exactly why I'm here."

Fang Jin's expression immediately darkened.

What did Jiang Ning mean by that?!

"I'm going to take away the position of the head of the Fang clan from Fang Wei, and both of you might not know where my Master is, so I've come all the way here to send you on your way."

The air around them instantly froze over.

It was as if everything was sealed in ice and couldn't move anymore. Jiang Ning's words were so rude!

Fang Wei's heart started beating even more quickly. Jiang Ning actually dared to speak so audaciously to the two elders.

"He can't move anymore." Fang Yin suddenly spoke very calmly and sounded like he was lofty enough to control other people's lives.

He looked at Jiang Ning and flicked his fingers. A

faint fragrance immediately filled the air.

BAM!

Fang Jin's expression turned grim and the murderous air boiling within his eyes immediately exploded.

"Jiang Ning!" he roared angrily. "How dare you say such audacious things in this place! Since you would rather die, I'll grant you your wish!"

SWOOSH!

Fang Jin lunged forward and he covered the ten step distance between them in an instant. One of his hands stretched out towards Jiang Ning's throat!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

NH

Fang Jin's hand was like a sharp sword as it landed right in front of Jiang Ning's throat and could pierce his throat easily!

"Huh?" Just when Fang Jin was very close to Jiang Ning, he suddenly felt a chill run down his spine.

A frightening sense of danger suddenly overwhelmed his heart and made him tense up immediately.

He looked up at Jiang Ning who was still standing in the same spot. But somehow he could feel that sense of danger intensifying!

That was impossible. Jiang Ning couldn't move anymore.

Nobody had ever been able to dodge Fang Yin's poison before. All the Senior Elders of the other reclusive clans were all finished off because of this same poison.

Jiang Ning was going to meet the same end!

Fang Jin's fingers were about to reach Jiang Ning's throat!

Fang Wei stood to one side with an excited look on his face. He felt like he could already see Jiang Ning's throat shattered by Fang Jin and stop breathing on the spot.

However...

BOOM!

NH

In that last moment, Jiang Ning suddenly moved!

His fist came from the bottom and made a very casual looking upward punch right into Fang Jin's lower jaw.

BAM!

There was a loud blast as Fang Jin flew right out. His lower jaw was dislocated and blood flew everywhere!

Two teeth also flew out and fell onto the ground with blood on them.

WOONG.

Fang Wei felt his mind go blank.

How was this possible?

How could Jiang Ning still move? That was impossible!

Fang Yin's poison...he had already discovered it when he walked into the courtyard. If he wasn't already prepared for it, he would be immobilized by now as well.

Jiang Ning...how could Jiang Ning have discovered it?!

Fang Yin was also surprised and his expression was filled with disbelief.

He stared at Jiang Ning and Jiang Ning stared back at him.

NH

"A mixed poison huh. I grew tired of these things ten years ago," said Jiang Ning calmly.

He had fought wars and was involved in thousands of battles before. He had also exchanged blows with the best fighters in the world, so what had he not seen before?

This method of poisoning was even lousier than some of those women he met overseas.

Jiang Ning looked at Fang Jin, who had collapsed on the ground and had a mouth covered in blood. He laughed and asked, "Senior Elder, how's the taste of my fist?"

"I'm going to kill you!" Fang Jin roared furiously.

He wasn't thinking so much anymore.

He thought that Jiang Ning would be poisoned and it would be a piece of cake to kill him. But he ended up embarrassing himself instead.

This punch...

He had never been so humiliated in his entire life!

SWOOSH!

Without any hesitation, both elders made their move. Neither was a saint at heart after all. If they couldn't kill Jiang Ning at one shot, they'd just continue to try.

They both dashed towards Jiang Ning to fight him on both sides and used their best abilities to

attack him!

They had heard from Fang Wei that Jiang Ning was very powerful, especially after Jiang Ning had possession of a few pages of the manual. He had become even more powerful than an advanced grandmaster.

KABOOM!

Their fists were resounding loudly!

Fang Jin sent a mighty punch out and it felt like the air had been compressed violently. A series of blasts in the air could almost make one deaf.

But Jiang Ning didn't retreat and delivered a punch too.

His fists looked ordinary and nothing special at all. In fact, it looked a little clumsy even.

But the moment he sent that punch out to meet with Fang Jin's, Fang Jin immediately felt a tremendous surge of energy rush towards him!

BAM!

That incredible surge pushed Fang Jin right out and he was only able to steady himself after taking a few steps backwards.

Fang Jin's face was filled with shock.

The most difficult things were sometimes actually really simple.

Jiang Ning's punch weren't fancy at all and it didn't even look elegant. But the strength it contained was enough to shock everyone.

"That's the Extreme Fist Technique?" Fang Jin's expression turned grim, then he shook his head. "Impossible! Those are just basic boxing techniques, so how could it be this powerful? Impossible!"

After he said that, Fang Yin stood in front of Jiang Ning and slapped his palm hard to reveal a few extremely thin silver needles between his fingers.

It was almost impossible to spot them at that speed.

"Prepare to die!" roared Fang Yin as he raised his palm to slap it towards Jiang Ning's face and his actions were as quick as lightning.

PAK!

Jiang Ning swung a punch out and a sly glint flashed in Fang Yin's eyes.

He had exchanged his fist for a palm. If these needles stabbed Jiang Ning's fist, Jiang Ning was definitely going to die!

SWOOSH!

Jiang Ning's fist was going to reach him soon, so Fang Yin moved even more quickly and slammed

his palm down hard!

But just when his palm was about to reach Jiang Ning, Jiang Ning clenched his fists even more tightly and increased his speed!

The insane speed of this fists compressed the air so hard that it kept exploding. It was terrifying!

BAM!

The terrifying pressurized air hit Fang Yin's hand so hard that his fingers trembled and the needles between his fingers flew towards Fang Yin and stabbed him in the shoulder.

One of them went right through his ear.

"AHH!" Fang Yin yelled as he flew back. Jiang Ning followed after him.

Another powerful punch was delivered!

BAM!

This punch landed heavily on Fang Yin and made him spew blood again.

"I told you earlier that your tactics are too lousy!" shouted Jiang Ning.

His punches made Fang Yin's breathing quicken and the blood in his body surged, so the poison immediately went into his bloodstream.

Fang Yin was at a loss.

He knew his own poisons the best.

He would survive by just suppressing the poison, but this punch from Jiang Ning was clearly purposely done so that his blood circulation would become faster and make it impossible to suppress the poison.

PFFT!

Fang Yin quickly took out the antidote and stuffed it into his mouth while he tried his best to calm his blood flow down.

His eyes finally looked a little more wary now.

Jiang Ning was seriously too frightening!

“Alright, it’s time to send you two on your way!”

Jiang Ning made a move!

He was now attacking them!

He said he was going to send them on their way and he meant it.

His two fists looked like the sickle of the grim reaper, and both Fang Jin and Fang Yin felt their hearts beat wildly.

They couldn’t believe that someone in this day and age could possibly be this powerful. He was powerful beyond their imagination.

Even an advanced grandmaster couldn’t hold up against one punch from Jiang Ning.

NH

Jiang Ning was more powerful than an advanced grandmaster...how powerful was he exactly?

“Run!” Fang Jin suddenly gave a loud shout as he took a step forward to block Jiang Ning like he had become an uncontrollable lion.

They had miscalculated.

They thought that it would be easy to kill Jiang Ning, but Jiang Ning had turned out to be way more powerful than they expected.

How could the boxing techniques on the Extreme Fist Technique Manual be this formidable? Wasn't it just trash passed on from that place?

How could it be this formidable?

BAM!

Jiang Ning's fist slammed fiercely onto Fang Jin's fist and there was a cracking sound...

The crisp sound made Fang Jin's face pale as he felt his bones break inch by inch. This was the first time he had ever felt pain like this.

“AHH!” Fang Jin cried out in pain as he looked back at Fang Yin. “Hurry up and run!”

Once he finished saying that, he crashed heavily onto the ground. Jiang Ning's fist had already smashed into his chest and the impact entered his body to cause his heart to explode on the spot!

SWOOSH!

Fang Yin shuddered in fear. He was too powerful!

Jiang Ning was too powerful!

Fang Yin didn't say anything and dashed back into the wooden house.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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NH

Jiang Ning immediately gave chase and rushed into the wooden house, but Fang Yin was gone.

He pulled away the bedsheets and found an underground passage.

He had escaped.

He didn't expect that the two elders of the Fang clan were two scheming fellows who had actually left an escape route for themselves. They were wily old foxes alright.

If he didn't kill off this sort of person, he would definitely be back to make more trouble.

Jiang Ning walked out of the wooden house again to find Fang Wei in a daze from his fright.

He stood there without moving at all, as if he had been immobilized by Fang Yin's poison. He stared down at Fang Jin's straight dead body lying on the ground and took several deep breaths, but he still couldn't calm himself down.

His entire mind went blank.

Fang Jin was dead?

WOONG.

Fang Wei felt a ringing in his ears. His face was ashen and he looked like his soul had been sucked out of this body.

Fang Jin's body was less than ten meters away from him, and he could see that Fang Jin's eyes

were still wide open.

He could see the indignation and disbelief on Fang Jin's face.

He was dead!

He had actually been killed by just one punch from Jiang Ning!

He was the Senior Elder of the Fang clan!

Jiang Ning walked over to Fang Wei and Fang Wei snapped out of his daze violently. He felt like he was no longer in control of his own life.

Jiang Ning was so much more powerful than he had imagined. He felt like Jiang Ning wasn't even from this planet.

Where were his limits?

How powerful was he really?

Was there anyone who could push him to his limit?

"Just kill me," Fang Wei's voice trembled.

The Fang clan could have risen to greater heights, but now, everything was over. Fang Jin was dead and even Fang Yin had run for his life. The Fang clan had never been in such a pickle before.

And he had lost to Jiang Ning already. How could he possibly stop Jiang Ning?

PFFT!

Jiang Ning's hand came down on Fang Wei's throat and he died instantly.

"You should have died long ago."

Jiang Ning turned and left without even looking back at Fang Wei as Fang Wei's dead body slowly slumped lifelessly to crash heavily onto the ground.

At the same time.

Back at the main hall of the Fang residence!

A battle was about to start!

Fang Dong brought his men to go up against Fang Qiu's side.

He stood before the seat that was reserved for the head of the clan as if he was the head himself and narrowed his cold eyes at Fang Qiu. "Fang Qiu, you're really bold! How dare you bring men in to make trouble for the Fang clan!"

Fang Hongshan and some other elders were all on Fang Dong's side.

They had heard that Fang Wei was severely injured by Jiang Ning and was probably going to die.

And Jiang Ning had actually dared to look for the two Senior Elders, so he was also definitely going to die.

NH

“Fang Qiu! If you withdraw now, then I could let you live since we were brothers before!” shouted Fang Dong.

He looked at Fang Qiu like he was looking down at him.

Fang Dong had never regarded Fang Qiu as his older brother and saw him as merely an outsider.

He even dared to kill his own biological brother, Fang Xia, so of course Fang Qiu wasn't a problem to him.

If Fang Qiu hadn't brought so many people with him, he would have fought him right away.

“Enough of this nonsense! Where did you lock up our family members?!” Sima Quan started roaring away because he was more concerned with finding his family.

“Sima Quan!” shouted Fang Hongshan. “This is the Fang's residence! This is no place for you to make trouble!”

“I'd advise all of you to surrender now. Don't think that one Jiang Ning would be able to save you – he's gone to see the two forefathers, so he's definitely going to die.”

He smiled coldly and looked at Fang Qiu and his men like they were nothing but clowns.

Victory was on his side. Everything had turned out perfect.

NH

The two Senior Elders of the Fang clan had launched a secret attack and completely took over the other seven reclusive clans. So now, the Fang clan called the shots in Mount Zhongnan.

Once they collected all the pages of the manual, then the Fang clan would have all the say!

The best part was that Fang Wei was severely injured and would definitely no longer be the head of the clan anymore.

Everything seemed to be going their way!

“Bullshit!” Fang Qiu cursed. “My Master will not die! You guys are the ones who will die!”

“I’m warning you, release those people, otherwise, even the gods won’t be able to save you! I say so!”

“Hahaha! What a joke!” Fang Dong laughed loudly. “Look around you. These are all men from the Fang clan. You think the few of you can really escape from here?”

“You’d better surrender, otherwise...”

“Otherwise what?” a voice suddenly rumbled like thunder and the entire place fell silent immediately.

Fang Dong looked up to see Jiang Ning walk in confidently as he stared straight at Fang Dong. Fang Dong felt like he was being targeted by the grim reaper.

He felt a chill down his spine.

“You...you’re not dead?”

Fang Dong was terribly surprised.

Fang Hongshan couldn’t believe it at all. How could Jiang Ning have survived a meeting with the two Senior Elders?

Also...where was Fang Wei?

Was he already dead?

That was great!

“The one who’s dead is your Senior Elder,” said Jiang Ning calmly. That was enough to make Fang Dong feel like he had fallen into an icy abyss and he simply couldn’t believe it. “But I’m surprised that your Second Elder can really run. Otherwise, both of them would be dead by now!”

BOOM!

Fang Dong felt as though he had been struck by lightning.

“Impossible!” he shouted loudly. “How could you have killed our Senior Elder? That’s impossible!”

Jiang Ning ignored his hysteria.

Did he have to bring the dead man’s head over to prove that he had really killed him?

He walked over to Fang Dong and was aggressive beyond words.

“You, move aside,” said Jiang Ning.

Fang Dong’s body trembled and he opened his mouth because he wanted to retort and shout, but nothing came out of his mouth. Being stared at by Jiang Ning in this manner was the most terrifying thing in the world to him.

Even Fang Hongshan dared not say a word!

Jiang Ning was right here, so he didn’t dare to say anything.

He knew how frightening Jiang Ning was. And now that Jiang Ning said that Fang Jin was dead and Fang Yin had run for his life, things began to seem real to him now.

The impact of those words made his breathing quicken and he was nearly unable to breathe soon.

“You, get lost!” Jiang Ning’s voice increased in volume suddenly. When he saw that Fang Dong wasn’t moving, he raised his hand and slapped Fang Dong hard enough to send him flying. He rolled a few times on the floor and howled in pain.

A few of the Fang clan elders wanted to fight back but Jiang Ning glanced at them and all of them froze in their steps.

“Fang Qiu!” Jiang Ning ignored those elders and looked at Fang Qiu. “Come here!”

Fang Qiu walked over immediately.

"From today onwards, you are the head of the Fang clan!"

WOONG.

Everyone's minds went blank.

"Who says so?" said Fang Hongshan through clenched teeth.

"I say so." Jiang Ning glanced at him, then pointed to the seat reserved for the head as he quietly asked, "Who agrees and who disagrees?"

His gaze swept across the Fang clan elders like a sharp blade. It felt as though his gaze was cutting all of them to pieces.

Who would dare to disagree?

They didn't even dare to fart now!

"Take a seat," said Jiang Ning.

Fang Qiu took a deep breath, turned and sat down on the seat for the head of the clan. His gaze slowly became sharp and in just a few moments, he seemed to have become a different person and his presence was terrifying!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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NH

"From today onwards," declared Jiang Ning in a loud voice. "Fang Qiu shall be the new head of the Fang clan!"

His gaze were like lasers and seemed to be able to burn people alive.

"If anyone has objections, you may raise them now."

Who would dare to have any objections?

Fang Dong on the floor?

Fang Hongshan gnashing his teeth with an indignant expression on his face?

Or the tense Fang clan elders who didn't even dare to breathe too loudly as they stood by the side?

Even if Jiang Ning gave them ten times the courage, they wouldn't dare to raise any objections.

"Since there are no objections, then that's final." Jiang Ning seemed to be talking to himself and didn't intend to care about the opinions of the Fang clan.

They were allowed to raise objections, but Jiang Ning would definitely ignore all those objections.

He glanced at Fang Qiu and Fang Qiu got the message.

He was the head of the Fang clan from now on!

NH

Fang Qiu was now the head of a reclusive clan, so he now wielded power and had to fulfil his responsibilities as one.

“Fang Dong!” he shouted fiercely. “Kneel down!”

Fang Dong’s face instantly reddened.

This new head wanted to prove himself, and the first person he was going to deal with was him?

“Fang Qiu, you...”

“I am the head of the clan!” shouted Fang Qiu. “How dare you call me by name! Fang Dong, you’re being outrageous!”

“You!” Fang Dong’s face and ears were red and he was about to hit the roof. Fang Qiu was throwing his weight about even though Fang Dong had not acknowledged him as the head of the clan?

“Are you going to kneel or not?” Fang Qiu stared disdainfully at Fang Dong and his voice was icy.

“I won’t acknowledge you as the head of the clan!” Fang Dong glared at Fang Qiu, then stared at Jiang Ning. He clenched his teeth and yelled, “Even if you kill me, I won’t acknowledge you!”

He was indignant.

He was so indignant.

He had gone through so much effort and he was about to become the head of the clan, but Jiang Ning had taken it from him with just one word.

NH

How could he take this lying down?

“Fine!” Fang Qiu laughed coldly. “I won’t kill you, but since you refuse to acknowledge me as the head of the clan, then from today onwards, you shall be exiled from the Fang clan and you will no longer be a member of the Fang clan!”

“You...”

Fang Dong was shocked.

Fang Qiu dared to throw him out?

“Is there anyone else who doesn’t want to acknowledge me as the head of the clan? You can say it now and remove yourself from the clan, I won’t make you stay.” He glanced at all of them and his gaze was icy.

Who would dare to do that?

They had offended the other seven clans, so if they remained in the Fang clan, they would stay alive. If they were chased out, then they would definitely die!

Even if Jiang Ning didn’t hunt them down, the elders from the other clans would definitely make sure they perished!

Nobody said anything, including Fang Hongshan. Their expressions were nasty but nobody dared to say anything.

Leaving the Fang clan was as good as suicide.



Nobody wanted to do that.

“So nobody else has any opinions?” Fang Qiu nodded. “That means that all of you are willing to acknowledge me as the head of the clan. From now on, we have to change the clan rules of the Fang clan. Anyone who goes against the head of the clan shall die!”

“Anyone who ruins the reputation and morals of the clan shall die!”

“And one who challenges the authority of the head of the clan shall die!”

His string of declarations made all the elders shiver.

He was coming down on them hard!

Fang Qiu had just become the head of the clan and he could be so harsh only because the one backing him was Jiang Ning.

They all turned and looked at Jiang Ning standing by the side and watching. They didn't dare to protest at all.

If even their Senior Elder had died at his hands and their Second Elder was on the run, then none of them was a match for Jiang Ning.

“Fang Dong,” said Fang Qiu calmly. “It looks like you're the only one who refuses to acknowledge me.”

NH

Fang Dong's expression was nasty as he looked back at all the elders and cursed them inwardly. But he was also getting more and more anxious. He was the only one who had raised objections and now Fang Qiu was going to chase him out of the house.

Once he left the Fang clan, he was definitely going to die.

"Fang Qiu..."

"Hmm?"

"Master Fang!" Fang Dong took a deep breath and his voice was a little shaky. "I was wrong! I was wrong! Please be magnanimous and forgive me! Please, spare me!"

He fell to his knees with a thud and walked on his knees all the way to where Fang Qiu was. He held onto Fang Qiu's leg and looked pleadingly at him.

"Master Fang! Spare me!" shouted Fang Dong. "We...we are brothers!"

BAM!

Fang Qiu sent him flying with a kick.

"Brothers?"

"We've never been brothers!"

Fang Qiu scoffed and didn't bother being polite. "Get out! Get out of the Fang house and don't let me see you again!"

He wasn't going to show any mercy.

He knew better than anyone else what sort of person Fang Dong was. If he let him off today, Fang Dong would definitely come back to take revenge.

Fang Dong was a person who was willing to kill his own direct family in order to become the head of the family.

He was never going to keep this ungrateful animal around.

"Master Fang!" yelled Fang Dong, but Fang Qiu didn't bother looking at him anymore. Some of the Fang clan bodyguards immediately came forward and dragged Fang Dong out.

They had to prove themselves in front of the new head of the clan.

"Master Fang! Master Fang! FANG QIU! You little bastard! I'll never let you off!"

Fang Dong's voice slowly faded into the distance...

The main hall was completely silent.

Jiang Ning stood by the side without saying anything, but his presence alone was Fang Qiu's greatest source of confidence.

"Elder Hongshan."

Fang Qiu looked at Fang Hongshan and he took a

step forward immediately. “Master Fang!”

“I’m not sure if you’re still willing to be an elder of the Fang clan?”

“Since Master Fang trusts me, then I will not disappoint you,” said Fang Hongshan respectfully with his head bowed.

“I know that you wanted to become the head of the clan when you were younger, but right now, perhaps being an elder is more suitable for you, so I hope that Elder Hongshan can recognize this,” said Fang Qiu. “Being my able assistant and helping the Fang clan become a true reclusive clan is something that all the elders should do. Any questions?”

“Master Fang, you are right,” Fang Hongshan nodded. “I was immature in the past, I hope that you can forgive me.”

“I won’t hold the past against you. Where the Fang clan can reach in the future will depend a lot on you, Elder Hongshan.”

Fang Hongshan trembled and couldn’t help but look up at Fang Qiu. He saw that Fang Qiu’s eyes were filled with sincerity and his heart couldn’t help but start palpitating.

He could see the genuine trust that Fang Qiu had in him, and he wasn’t pretending.

Jiang Ning was here, so Fang Qiu didn’t have to be so nice to him. He could even go through a cleansing of the Fang clan and kill off anybody he

wanted. After all, there was possibly no one in the hall right now who had been nice to Fang Qiu before.

But Fang Qiu didn't take this chance to seek revenge on everybody.

"The Fang clan is one of the eight reclusive clans, and everything we did wrongly in the past must change! If we want to reach greater heights in the future, we must change! As for how far we can go and what we will become, that will take the combined effort of everyone in the clan!" declared Fang Qiu loudly.

"I hope that all of you are staying today because you really want to contribute to the Fang clan and not for selfish reasons. I will promise to give everyone the respect your deserve, but if someone out there is still thinking about upsetting the order of the Fang clan..."

He didn't finish his sentence, but everyone knew that the Fang clan now was different from the Fang clan of the past.

The Fang clan was now backed by an incredibly terrifying man.

Jiang Ning!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“All of us will learn from what Master Fang has taught us and we are willing to do everything for the sake of the Fang clan, even if we have to sacrifice our lives!” All of them bowed low and declared this in unison.

The major changes in the Fang clan was a reality that couldn't be changed anymore. Fang Qiu had become the head of the Fang clan, and that was certainly something that nobody could change.

As long as Fang Qiu's Master, Jiang Ning, was still alive, nobody could move Fang Qiu from this position!

Fang Qiu glanced at Jiang Ning and Jiang Ning nodded.

He slowly raised his hand.

Fang Hongshan and the rest finally dared to raise their heads.

“Elder Hongshan,” said Fang Qiu. “Where are the members of the seven other clans held?”

The era of Fang Jin and Fang Yin was over.

Fang Qiu now called the shots, and so did Jiang Ning. Fang Hongshan was aware of this, and so was everybody else.

“They're in the underground jail,” replied Fang Hongshan.

“Release them!” Fang Qiu didn't bother with saying too much.

“Yes, Master Fang!” Fang Hongshan nodded and brought his men to release the people imprisoned in the underground jail.

Sima Quan and the rest quickly ran after them.

After a short while, more than a hundred people belonging to the seven other clans had gathered within the main hall of the Fang house. These people were all important members of each clan.

They were all weak and listless, and it was clear that the poison in their bodies had not been neutralized yet.

Fang Yin had kept them alive because he needed them to get the key to decoding the secret of the manual and was going to force them to tell him where the secret texts of each family was. But this plan was unexpectedly foiled by Jiang Ning.

The head of the Sima clan, Sima Ru, was supported by Sima Quan as he walked over to Jiang Ning.

“Jiang Ning, I’ve found out about what happened. Thank you so much for saving Sima Quan, I owe you a favor,” said Sima Ru very seriously. “As for what Sima Quan promised you about giving you the secret text that we own, don’t worry, the Sima clan will uphold our end of the agreement. It’s just that our Senior Elder has died and it will take us some time to figure out where he put the secret text.”

Jiang Ning nodded. “Sure.”

Sima Ru just nodded, then left with all the important members of the Sima clan.

He had to search for the other scattered members of the clan. The Sima clan had lost too much and they needed time to recover.

The other reclusive clans came forward to thank Jiang Ning as well.

All the other Senior Elders were pale faced and hadn't recovered yet. They knew what just happened and they were shocked that Jiang Ning was this powerful.

Killing off Fang Jin and severely injuring Fang Yin enough to make him run for his life wasn't something most people were capable of.

"We will uphold our end of the agreement and will send the secret texts to you, please do not worry."

Everyone knew that they couldn't afford to offend Jiang Ning.

Even the head of the Fang clan was Jiang Ning's disciple, so even though the Fang clan called the shots in Mount Zhongnan, it was really Jiang Ning who called the shots.

Furthermore, after the attack by the Fang clan Senior Elders, the other reclusive clans had suffered tremendous losses. Even if they could get their hands on the manual, they didn't have enough power to fight for anything else.

All the Senior Elders congratulated Fang Qiu and

said a few words before leaving the house.

This was definitely a huge favor that they owed Jiang Ning!

If Jiang Ning and his men hadn't come in time, then these Senior Elders would have been forced to reveal where their secret texts were and then killed off for sure!

They had faced the extermination of their clan!

So they had to return the favor that they owed Jiang Ning.

It wasn't just because Jiang Ning was too powerful. He was much more powerful than Fang Jin and Fang Yin, so he could have taken the secret texts away by force.

But they knew that Jiang Ning wasn't going to do that, so it was better to return the favor without questions.



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