

“What do I understand?” Luo Qi snorted. “I just want to kill him!”

This Jiang Ning had completely ruined his plans. Luo Qi had originally meant to infiltrate Qingshan Sect with a marriage between the two sects and use some other method to control Qingshan Sect, but now he had no choice but to actually go to war.

And in the end?

They failed to defeat Qingshan Sect at one shot and suffered severe losses instead. Of course he was furious.

If Li Gao from Heifeng Sect hadn't chosen to give up first, they would be sitting inside Qingshan Sect's main hall by now!

Luo Qi glared at Li Xuan and snapped, “He's just a youngster. What's there to be wary about?”

“If some elders hadn't chosen to give up, all of us should be sitting inside Qingshan Sect's main hall right now and discussing how to split up their assets!”

Li Xuan frowned slightly and tried to hold his anger in.

Heifeng Sect had lost even more than Tianlian Sect!

At least none of the other sects had lost an elder. Heifeng Sect had lost Li Guang, so he wasn't going to take this lying down.

How dare Luo Qi actually blame him now?

“Chief Luo, that’s not the way to talk. Don’t forget, you were the one who said that Tianlian Sect was able to defeat Qingshan Sect all by yourselves,” Li Xuan snapped right back. “If you’ve forgotten what you said, let me remind you about it now.

Luo Qi narrowed his eyes and glared back at Li Xuan.

“Enough.” The sect leader of Buddha Sect, Ting Chan, broke his silence. “Every sect has suffered their fair share of losses, not just Tianlian Sect and Heifeng Sect. What’s the point of arguing about this?”

He had heard from the Buddha Sect elder that this Jiang Ning was no ordinary man. The part about how he had learnt the Vajra Fist in minutes was definitely shocking.

Ting Chan half closed his eyes and put his palms together. “Our aim is to take down Qingshan Sect and open the mountain gate in order to find a better way out. Will arguing here solve the problem?”

“Master Ting, what’s your opinion then?” Luo Qi turned to look at Ting Chan. “Do you think we should continue fighting Qingshan Sect to the end? Or?”

Ting Chan laughed.

“Whether we fight or not, I think the most important thing to do now is to have a better

understanding of our opponent, right?”

“Chief Luo, don’t mind me, but I think Tianlian Sect has hidden several pieces of information from us.”

His voice carried some displeasure. The other sect leaders also nodded in agreement.

Jiang Ning was definitely one very formidable foe, but there was also a group of men who slipped through the forest like a bunch of ghosts and killed their disciples so brutally. Tianlian Sect had told them nothing about these things.

If they had known about these things earlier, they wouldn’t have suffered such severe losses.

When Luo Qi saw all the sect leaders turning around to blame him, he scoffed, stood up and slammed the table.

“Tianlian Sect has not hidden anything from any of you!”

“You want to talk about losses? You think Tianlian Sect has suffered fewer losses than any of you?”

“All of you know the situation at Qingshan Sect. Tianlian Sect does not know anymore than any of you either. I don’t know where that Jiang Ning comes from, and I don’t know where those mysterious men come from either,” scoffed Luo Qi. “But no matter how formidable they are, I’m sure they can’t possibly fight the combined forces of all six of our sects, right?”


“I just want an answer from all of you now. Do you want to continue fighting or not?”


“If you want to fight, then gather all your men right now and go up the mountain. We should not let Qingshan Sect have time to rest! If you don’t want to fight, then back out right now!”

“Either way, Tianlian Sect will not back down! We must destroy Qingshan Sect no matter what!”

He had gone completely insane and spoke very domineeringly. He didn’t leave any room for negotiation at all.

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The other sect leaders looked at one another and saw anger on each other's faces.

They had joined hands because Tianlian Sect had invited them to do so, and splitting up Qingshan Sect's resources between the six of them started off as a good idea. But they didn't expect to suffer such losses in the process.

If they continued fighting, they would only suffer more casualties. They didn't want to suffer such losses anymore.

Just when the atmosphere was getting tense, a voice called out from outside. "Jiang Ning from Qingshan Sect is here! He says he would like to negotiate with all the sect leaders!"

All the expressions on the sect leaders changed.

Negotiate?

That Jiang Ning from Qingshan Sect had come to negotiate with them?

"Why is he here?" asked Ting Chan.

"Jiang Ning said that there are no winners in war. If the fight continues, the only casualties are the ordinary disciples of each sect, and this is probably not something that the sect leaders want to see."

Ting Chan felt his heart tremble.

This was exactly what he was thinking about.

NH

He was suddenly curious about this youngster.

He wasn't just curious about how Jiang Ning had managed to learn Buddha Sect's most secretive and difficult move, or how he had managed to perfect the moves in minutes. He just felt that Jiang Ning was simply too mysterious.

"They don't want to fight anymore?" Li Xuan frowned.

Heifeng Sect had lost an elder and now Qingshan Sect was saying that they didn't want to fight anymore?

How dare they?

"I'm surprised that this Jiang Ning is bold enough to actually come here to negotiate with us," said the sect leader of Qiankun Sect, Wu Liang, quietly. "Isn't he afraid that we might surround and attack him?"

This was the campsite of the combined army of the six sects. So besides the six sect leaders, there were many elders and highly skilled fighters here. If they all surrounded Jiang Ning to kill him, it would be hard for Jiang Ning to get away!

"Master Wu is right," Luo Qi laughed coldly. "We shouldn't pass on such a wonderful opportunity!"

"Since he's come knocking on our doorstep, let's kill him!"

"We should not do such a thing." Ting Chan shook his head. "Even two nations at war do not kill an

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envoy from the enemy camp. Killing him is not ethical.”

“Master Ting, who cares about ethics?” shouted Luo Qi angrily. “It’s now a matter of life and death! Who cares about ethics in times like this?”

He looked at the rest of them. “I want to kill him. Who’s going to stop me?”

Li Xuan didn’t say anything. The sect leader of Longkongshan Sect, Yun Zhongxian, didn’t speak up either. The sect leader of Bajian Sect, Geng Jianba, turned to glance at Ting Chan, then shook his head. “No, we shouldn’t do that.”

In an instant, the six leaders were divided among themselves.

Ting Chan sighed and laughed bitterly. “If we just keep fighting, it will never end. We are all trying to find a way to survive, and not find a way to kill ourselves. I hope everyone can understand this.”

“Master Ting, say no more. If Buddha Sect wishes to back out, you can take your men and leave right now. The rest of us will still be able to destroy Qingshan Sect!” Luo Qi didn’t bother being polite.

Ting Chan looked at everyone else. “Do all of you want to take this chance to kill Jiang Ning?”

“Master Ting, Chief Luo is right. This is now a matter of life and death,” said Li Xuan with a darkened face. “Also, that Jiang Ning killed one of my elders. If I don’t avenge him, how am I going to account to my sect?”

“A life for a life! That’s how it works in the first place!”

“But what if you’re the one who ends up dying?” Ting Chan shook his head. “Li Xuan, please reconsider.”

With that, he got up and prepared to leave. He really didn’t want to kill Jiang Ning because he agreed with Jiang Ning’s opinion.

“Master Ting, please wait,” a voice came from behind a screen. Ting Chan turned and saw the man who had come round to invite all of them to join forces in the first place walk out and smile at him.

“Chief Luo, I don’t think we ought to kill Jiang Ning now.” The man looked at Luo Qi and bowed slightly. “Master Ting is right. This is an unethical move, and it’s not something that respectable sects like ours ought to do.”

Everyone turned to look at the man’s face.

Luo Qi looked at him too and raised his head slightly. “Mr Lang, then what do you think we ought to do?”



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“All our disciples’ lives are precious. The more casualties we suffer, the more detrimental it is to a sect’s development.”

Mr Lang had a kindly face and looked like a nice and friendly middle aged man. He wasn’t very tall and he was slightly plump.

His face was so ordinary that nobody would notice him in a crowd. But anybody who met his gaze would feel strangely close to him.

One would feel an urge to trust him and listen to what he said.

“Since the other party is here to negotiate, then it would be great if he has a better way to solve the problem,” said Mr Lang with a smile. “I think we could give it a shot. What do the rest of you think?”

There was something hypnotizing about his voice. It was low in pitch and seemed to resonate with each person’s heart.

After hearing what Mr Lang said, Luo Qi took a few breaths as he closed his eyes, then opened them again.

“Mr Lang, you’re right.”

The other sect leaders were rather surprised at Luo Qi’s change of heart. Luo Qi had been so adamant earlier and absolutely refused to listen to Ting Chan at all.

But after Mr Lang said a few things, he changed

his mind.

All of them looked towards Mr Lang and Mr Lang looked back at them and nodded, causing all of them to go into a slight daze.

“I think what Mr Lang said is reasonable. Let’s do a negotiation then.”

“Since it might prevent our disciples from dying in a battle, that’s a good thing. I support this decision too.”

“Let’s just give it a shot. If it doesn’t work out, we’ll go ahead and fight Qingshan Sect!”

The other sect leaders all started nodding in agreement.

Ting Chan felt his heart shudder when he saw that the other sect leaders had all suddenly agreed. He looked at Mr Lang too.

When he saw those eyes that looked as deep as the galaxy, his mind suddenly went blank and he felt like he was falling into a deep abyss and he felt a little lightheaded.

“I am truly in awe of how Master Ting has such great foresight and concern for everyone’s wellbeing.”

Mr Lang bowed slightly. “Since nobody has any objections, then we’ll go with what Master Ting said earlier and negotiate with the representative from Qingshan Sect, alright?”

Ting Chan nodded. “Thank you, Mr Lang.”

Mr Lang smiled and nodded without saying anything else.

“Let him in,” said Ting Chan as he turned to the subordinate at the door.

“Yes, Master Ting,” replied the subordinate at the door respectfully.

There were a hundred guards on standby at the entrance to the campsite.

All of them had their bow and arrows drawn and aimed at Jiang Ning, Liu Zong and Liu Heng. The moment they got the order, they would shoot all three of them to death immediately.

Jiang Ning stood there with no change in expression. The two brothers behind him were a little nervous.

They were now surrounded by a hundred men with arrows. If the enemy wanted to kill them, the three of them had no way of escaping.

They had to admit that this idea was really risky.

“Brother Jiang, if we have to fight, then you must run first, we’ll cover you!” whispered Liu Heng as he took a step to stand on Jiang Ning’s left while Liu Zong took his position on Jiang Ning’s right. The two of them were prepared to help Jiang Ning take as many arrows as possible.

Jiang Ning replied, “Don’t worry, they won’t do

anything.”

Just as he said that, someone ran out from the campsite and stood next to the guards. He announced in a loud voice, “All the sect leaders have agreed to negotiate with Qingshan Sect! Withdraw!”

“Withdraw!”

The guards were rather surprised but they didn’t say anything. They immediately put their weapons down and moved aside.

“All of you can go in!” He stared hard at Jiang Ning. “But if you try anything funny, don’t blame us for getting nasty!”

Jiang Ning smiled but didn’t say anything and walked right in.

Liu Zong and Liu Heng were both nervous and fearful. They were walking right into the enemy’s camp!

This was as good as walking into the lion’s den. Once they walked in, they might never walk out again.

But they had faith in Jiang Ning.



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Three men strode in to two rows of men that belonged to the six major sects. The men's eyes were filled with resentment and grudge—if looks could kill, the three men would be dead by now. Liu Zong and Liu Heng couldn't help but inhale sharply.

“Don't be nervous,” said Jiang Ning in a low voice. “You'll be facing more terrifying things in the future.”

The two brothers paused momentarily when they heard Jiang Ning's words, then pulled themselves together.

They knew that Jiang Ning had been seizing every opportunity that he had to train and better them. The realization had dawned upon them only now. The gratitude that they felt could not be put down in words but they were adamant that they were going to remember what he had done for them.

The sect leaders of the six major sects were in the tent when Jiang Ning strode in. He swept his eyes past the men and immediately recognized a few elders whom he was familiar with.

There was Li Gao, who was seated at one side, the elders from Buddha Sect and Qiankun Sect, as well as Elder Luo Long, who had been glaring at Jiang Ning murderously since he had entered the tent and probably wished he could kill Jiang Ning with a look.

They were looking at Jiang Ning with disbelief, as if incredulous that Jiang Ning had brought two unimportant persons into their base.

The elders respected his boldness but they were also aware that his actions were a sign of his arrogance and brazenness.

He thought too highly of himself.

“You must be Jiang Ning.” Luo Qi sat there without any intention of rising to his feet. Even though he had to raise his head slightly to meet Jiang Ning’s eyes, the aura that he was exuding was clearly that of superiority.

“That’s me.” Jiang Ning didn’t beat around the bush. He pulled a chair over and sat down with a casualness that made it seem like he had just walked into his own garden and not the base of the six major sects.

Liu Zong and Liu Heng were not as composed as Jiang Ning as they stood behind him, alert and on their guard.

Besides the sect leaders of the various sects, there were also powerful elders present. They were but juniors in their presence and the weakest in their midst.

“You wish to negotiate,” Ting Chan said. “I would like to know why you would like to negotiate with us and why you believe that we would negotiate with you. What are your bargaining chips? The six major sects have gathered at Qingshan Sect and I believe you know what we want. Is there any point in having a negotiation at all?”

Ting Chan let loose a flurry of questions, then stared at Jiang Ning and waited for his answers.

The other sect leaders did not utter a word.

“Because I don’t want to see so many people die for nothing,” Jiang Ning simply said. “That should be enough.”

He looked straight into Ting Chan’s eyes. “I believe that the aim of everyone present is to survive and not perish with their sect. I have a way to deal with the gray fog.”

Something flickered in Ting Chan’s eyes when he heard Jiang Ning’s words. He eyed Jiang Ning curiously.

“You? That’s rubbish!” Li Xuan shook his head and snorted. “This young punk doesn’t know what he’s dealing with. Have you seen the gray fog? You said that you can deal with it? You? How?”

Did he truly think that the six major sects were filled with fools?

They would have dealt with the problem a long time ago if it were something that had a solution. In fact, the other sects, including those sects that had been devoured by the fog, had probably tried to come up with a solution.


But they had all failed. It was something that could not be eradicated, only avoided.


“That’s great. Everyone knows how terrifying the gray fog is. How are you going to deal with it?” Wu Liang shook his head and sighed. “Two sect leaders investigated the fog personally, only to never return from their trip. You’re saying that you


have a solution to this problem? You must be joking.”

The other sect leaders were of the firm belief that Jiang Ning was simply boasting. What he was promising them was impossible.

“Humph, I can’t believe that you’re using this as a bargaining chip, Jiang Ning. Do you take us as fools?” Luo Qi slammed his fist on the table. “There’s a price to pay for playing us like idiots.”

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