

In a fit of rage, Li Er slapped Li Zi-Yang across the face.

There was a loud slapping sound as Li Zi-Yang spun three rounds on the spot before sprawling on the floor like a dog. The wine glass in his hand shattered and there was red wine all over the floor.

This slap from Li Er was really hard.

Li Zi-Yang was completely stunned.

Even his head was ringing.

He looked at his father with a miserable face full of tears and asked, "Dad, what are you doing?"

"What am I doing?! What the hell are YOU doing? You little bastard, how dare you simply insult just anyone like that! It's taken me so much to gain this tiny bit of favor from Mr Chu and you've wasted all of it! I've been known as an intelligent man all my life and I end up with a stupid son like you?!" Li Er was both terrified and furious at the same time.

He sounded like he had gone crazy when he shouted at Li Zi-Yang.

He had tried all means and ways to make sure Li Zi-Yang got to be the first one to

make a toast to Mr Chu. Why did he do that?

He did that to help his son leave a good first impression on Mr Chu.

But Li Er never imagined that his son was so stupid. He didn't just leave a bad impression, he even shouted and insulted Mr Chu in front of everybody.

Li Er was so angry that he wished he could kick this son of his to death on the spot.

But while Li Er was busy being furious, Lei San and the rest were more than happy to see this.

After all, Li Er had been enjoying too much success recently.

Now that his son had offended Mr Chu and got into big trouble, that would help to keep Li Er's arrogance in check.

People like Lei San and Chen Ao who were fighting for power with Li Er were happy that this happened.

The head of the Ma family even walked out and sarcastically remarked, "Doesn't the apple normally not fall far from the apple tree? Looks like Mr Li's family is an exception."

"He even dared to insult Mr Chu. This boy doesn't know how to behave and is so badly brought up. If my son were like that, I'd break his legs!" said Ma Fei coldly.

Li Er's expression darkened and he was so angry that he kicked Li Zi-Yang.

Ma Fei quickly took this chance to yell out, "Ming-Bo, don't wait at the back, hurry up and come out to toast Mr Chu!"

"Coming, Dad!" Ma Ming-Bo quickly came out when he heard his father calling out and walked over with a glass of red wine.

He walked past everyone with a face filled with pride and a bright smile.

He even boastfully smiled at Su Qian when he walked past her table.

Then he puffed his chest out, looked up and walked towards the stage.

Ma Ming-Bo had never seen Mr Chu before, but he was sure that the person standing at the highest position among all the important people in front had to be Mr Chu.

So he immediately looked towards the group of important people near the stage.

But when he spotted who it was on the

stage, he immediately let out a 'what the fuck'.

"It's you?! You countryside louse, how dare you?! It's one thing to sneak your way into the Feast of the Sea and Sky, but now you even dare to take the highest seat in the house? Aren't you bloody getting lost?!"

After Ma Ming-Bo yelled at Ye Fan, he turned to look at his own father. "Dad, quickly call security and throw this asshole out. This little bastard is just a country bumpkin, so how could a grand banquet for the rich and powerful like this one allow a louse to come in?" said Ma Ming-Bo with utter disgust in his voice.

The air in the room was silent again.

Lei Ao-Ting's eyelids twitched again as he also put a thumbs up for Ma Ming-Bo.

This guy had some balls too!

Just after Ma Ming-Bo said these words, Ma Fei's gleeful face after laughing at Li Er immediately turned livid and his heart was filled with fear.

"You little son of a bitch! I'll bloody kill you!"

But before Ma Fei could do anything, Li Er beat him to it and slapped Ma Ming-Bo

across the face.

The sound of the slap shook the restaurant a few times.

Ma Ming-Bo went flying and his nose started bleeding as he landed on the floor.

"What poor upbringing you have! How dare you insult Mr Chu! If I were your father, I'd break your legs!" yelled Li Er angrily. Then he turned to Ma Fei and smiled faintly. "Mr Ma, your son didn't know how to behave and offended Mr Chu, so I'll help you to teach him a lesson, I hope you don't mind."

Ma Fei's eyes twitched and he started cursing all of Li Er's family.

But while he was cursing inside, Ma Fei smiled back and said, "I don't mind at all. This rebellious son of mine deserves to be hit, so you've done the right thing."

With that, Ma Fei slapped a palm across Li Zi-Yang's face.

Li Zi-Yang had just managed to stand up when he got slapped onto the floor again.

"Ma Fei, you...!" Li Er glared at him and cursed him inside.

But Ma Fei just replied calmly, "Mr Li, I was

afraid you might not bear to discipline your boy, so I thought I'd help you teach him a lesson, I hope you don't mind."

Li Er's eyes twitched. There was nothing he could do except smile, agree, then turn and kicked Ma Ming-Bo.

"What?! Again?!" Ma Fei's entire face twitched and slapped Li Zi-Yang again.

"Ao-Ting, what are you waiting for? Give a toast to Mr Chu!" Lei San quickly hurried his own son since Li Er and Ma Fei were busy trying to hit each other's sons silly.

Lei Ao-Ting snapped out of his daze and quickly walked over to Ye Fan with a smile in his eyes, "Mr Chu, I would like to toast you with this glass of wine. May Mr Chu continue to shake the nation with your name and be a hero among heroes in this new year!"

With Lei Ao-Ting right in front, all the other children from rich and powerful families came up to give a toast as well.

"I represent my father, Wang Jie-Xi of Haozhou, to toast Mr Chu! Happy new year, Mr Chu!"

"Happy new year, Mr Chu!"

Youngster after youngster came out from behind the hall to present a toast to Ye Fan.

Finally, it came to the Xia sisters. When they saw how Ye Fan stood right at the peak and accepted the toasts from the people in front of them...

PIANG! The wine glass in Xia Yue's hands fell to the floor.

"Why...why is it him?!" Xia Yue's face was pale as she remained rooted to the floor.

"Oh wow, sis, it's him! I told you this Ye Fan was no ordinary person. I can't believe I got it right!" Xia Xue was also shocked, but her shock soon turned into joy as she skipped along and ran towards Ye Fan.

"Hello! I'm Xia Xue, we met before this. Are you really Mr Chu? I just knew you weren't an ordinary person when I first saw you! I'll represent my family in giving you this toast!"

Xia Xue was lively and adorable like a little bunny as she smiled and chatted with Ye Fan.

But Xia Yue felt like there were lead weights in her legs.

She didn't dare to go anywhere near Ye Fan now.

Suddenly, the sound of a car stopping outside the restaurant was heard.

A civil servant came in through the door.

He shouted loudly towards the hall full of people.

“I come bearing a gift from the Provincial Committee Secretary of Jiangdong Province, He Lan-Shan!”

What?



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"Oh my god!"

"Even the committee secretary has come bearing a gift?"

"My goodness."

"Mr Chu is really going places!"

Everyone went into a frenzy when this man arrived.

Before this, no matter how amazing Mr Chu was, he was only reputable in the corporate world.

But now someone from the government was here. What did that mean?

It meant that the government acknowledged that Ye Fan was truly the king of Jiangdong.

But while everyone else was in shock, Fan Zhong-Xian didn't agree with them.

"Tsk, what's he so gleeful about? Maybe he's sent a nice white cloth here so that you can hang yourself with it! As the saying goes, it's impossible for the same mountain to have two tigers. I wouldn't think the Provincial Committee Secretary of Jiangdong would allow you to become powerful as the leader of Jiangdong," scoffed Fan Zhong-Xian.

He wasn't the only one who thought that way.

Many others were also doubting He Lan-Shan's sincerity.

After all, since he had come uninvited, was he really here to wish Mr Chu well?

But the present would prove whether he was for Mr Chu or not.

Everyone was still undecided when one of the waitresses from outside came in with a bottle of hard liquor.

"Mr Chu, the Provincial Committee Secretary of Jiangdong, He Lan-Shan would like to specially present this bottle of Jiangdong Supreme to you! He wishes Mr Chu a happy new year and hopes that the Feast of the Sea and Sky will go smoothly!"

This waitress' message from the secretary was like a huge rock falling into the ocean, causing another uproar among the guests.

"Jiangdong...Jiangdong Supreme? So the secretary is recognizing him as the leader?" Fan Zhong-Xian was stunned.

Everyone else was equally shaken.

All the suspicions they had earlier

disappeared.

He Lan-Shan had sent a bottle of Jiangdong Supreme. What did that mean?

It meant that he was officially recognizing Ye Fan as the king of Jiangdong's corporate world, the supreme one!

"Sure, I'll accept this bottle of wine. Please help me to thank Secretary He," replied Ye Fan calmly as he stood on the high stage proudly.

He waved his hand and some staff quickly brought the wine over.

"Nannan, come over and pour a glass for me," said Ye Fan as he turned to look at Chen Nan who was standing away from the crowd.

Since she was specifically called out by Mr Chu, Chen Nan instantly attracted everyone's attention.

"Sure, I'll do that, Fan."

Chen Nan was full of smiles and looked absolutely surprised by this display of affection.

She hopped over like a little sparrow as she elegantly made her way up the stage, smiled

as she took the bottle of wine and filled a glass for Ye Fan.

Li Er, Lei San and the rest were green-eyed when they saw this.

They started cursing at how cunning Chen Ao was. Now they knew why he wasn't bothered about sending his daughter to give Mr Chu a toast. So he had already sent his daughter over to him earlier.

When he saw how close Chen Nan was to Ye Fan and then back at his stupid son, Li Er was so angry he nearly puked blood.

If he had known this would happen, he should have had a daughter back then.

"Alright now, everyone, I will not say anymore. Everything I want to express will be represented by this glass of wine. I would like to thank everyone for coming all the way here to show your support. This glass is a toast to everyone!" his low voice resonated through the entire hall.

Ye Fan took the glass of wine with Chen Nan holding the bottle and accompanied him to give a toast to every table.

All the rich and powerful were filled with great terror as Ye Fan approached their tables.

They all trembled in awe as they quickly got up to return the toast.

Even though they were normally powerful and unafraid, none of them dared to throw their weight about in front of Ye Fan.

All of them humbled themselves and bowed low like they were lowly followers.

“Mr Chu, here’s a toast to you!”

“The Liu family of Yunzhou is willing to follow Mr Chu’s lead!”

All the rich and powerful heads of various families stood up to return the toast to Ye Fan.

There was only one older lady who looked down and tried to hide herself in a corner as if she was afraid that Ye Fan would discover her.

“Old Mrs Su, don’t just sit there. Mr Chu has arrived at our table, so aren’t you giving him a toast?” someone at the same table smiled and informed her.

Gosh!

This was as good as killing her.

Old Mrs Su turned livid on the spot.

She nearly strangled this big-mouthed person.

The person she was most embarrassed to see now was Ye Fan.

She was hoping to just keep her head down and pretend that she didn't see her, but now someone had actually asked her specifically to give a toast.

That was like putting her on a rotisserie rack for roasting.

Would she dare to refuse?

She had already offended Ye Fan once, so if she didn't toast him now, that would be a sign of disrespect to Mr Chu.

She had no choice but to pull herself along as she held up her wine glass and gave a toast to Ye Fan.

"Mr...Mr Chu, th-this glass of wine...I would like to give you a toast," said Old Mrs Su with a forced smile as her voice trembled along with her hands.

"No need. The Su family is a very high and mighty family, so I really couldn't possibly be worthy of your toast. Jiangdong isn't worthy either," said Ye Fan coldly. His words clanged loudly like gold and rocks falling to

the floor.

Old Mrs Su was instantly in shock as she froze on the spot and felt terror overwhelm her heart.

She wasn't stupid. She could tell the anger in Ye Fan's words.

Especially that last sentence.

The Su family was too high and mighty for Jiangdong to be worthy of their existence?

That was telling her that the Su family couldn't stay in Jiangdong anymore.

That was essentially sentencing the Su family to death.

"Mr...Mr Chu..." Old Mrs Su tried to speak but Ye Fan had already moved on.

All she saw was his cold and resolute back view.

In despair, Old Mrs Su collapsed onto her chair and then fell with a loud thud onto the floor along with the chair.

"Old Mrs Su, Old Mrs Su!!"

It was a mess behind him.

But Ye Fan kept walking on as if he hadn't heard any of the commotion.

He walked on expressionlessly with the glass of wine in his hand as he finally came to Qiu Mu-Cheng and Su Qian's table.

Su Qian's face was pale, Qiu Mu-Cheng's eyes were red and Fan Zhong-Xian was terrified.

After finding out who Ye Fan really was, Su Qian and Qiu Mu-Cheng hadn't said a single word.

They didn't know what to say.

They remained where they were as they just watched that skinny figure slowly walk towards them.

Chen Nan refilled Ye Fan's glass.

Ye Fan held the glass in his hand and stood proudly.

His clean and cold face looked down at Su Qian, Qiu Mu-Cheng, Fan Zhong-Xian and everyone else at the table.

"Mu-Cheng, I told you before that I am Mr Chu but you didn't believe me. Do you believe me now?"



Ye Fan stood proudly before her with a cold smile in his eyes.



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Before Qiu Mu-Cheng could respond, Ye Fan had already knocked back the entire glass of wine in one mouthful.

All the differences and arguments from before as well the last three years of their marriage was all contained within this glass of wine.

After the wine went down, 30% of it turned into loneliness and 70% of it turned into his motivation. His angry words earlier sent echoes down the hall.

It had been such a long time. Ever since Ye Fan married into the Qiu family, nobody knew how much humiliation Ye Fan had suffered as a result.

In the past, Ye Fan didn't care about who bullied him, humiliated him or laughed at him.

In all of Yunzhou, the only person he cared about was Qiu Mu-Cheng.

But no matter what Ye Fan managed to achieve, Qiu Mu-Cheng just thought that he had gotten all these things as favors from others.

Today, he had invited Qiu Mu-Cheng to the Feast of the Sea and Sky.

His aim was to make her see for herself that her man had risen on the clouds to reach the peak of Jiangdong.

Ye Fan wanted to use reality to tell her that her man was no useless piece of trash.

He wanted her to see that he was able to give her all the glory and honor if she wanted!

After downing that glass, Ye Fan turned and left. All that Qiu Mu-Cheng was left with was Ye Fan's skinny and determined back view.

Qiu Mu-Cheng remained silent as she watched him walk away.

His words continued to replay in her mind.

Her heart was filled with nothing but regret and self-blame.

Qiu Mu-Cheng realized that she had been wrong right from the start.

She was the one who had made a grave mistake to begin with.

He was her husband, so she should have believed him unconditionally.

She shouldn't have suspected or questioned him.

Her tears started to flow uncontrollably.

As she watched Ye Fan walk away, Qiu Mu-Cheng's face was already covered in tears without her realizing it.

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The Feast of the Sea and Sky soon came to an end.

After the banquet officially came to a close, all the smaller and unimportant rich families as well as the younger ones like Su Qian and Fan Zhong-Xian also left the restaurant.

The remaining leaders of the various cities were invited to Mount Yunding Villa instead.

"Everyone, please take a seat, I've prepared high grade Maojian for all of you. Please have a taste, no need to stand on ceremony." Ye Fan sat on the highest seat reserved for the head of the house while the rest sat on a lower level sofa as they drank the tea.

"Mr Chu, I'm sure you didn't call all of us here just to drink tea, right? Please just speak your mind. The financial year just closed and I'm sure everyone has many things to attend to in the office, so if there's anything you would like to say, just go straight to the point, that would be better for everyone. Time is money after all," said a man in his

thirties in a low voice as he looked up at Ye Fan.

“Chun-Hua, watch your attitude,” said the man next to him with a pale face as he quietly nudged him.

Ye Fan looked over and smiled faintly. “Aren’t you going to introduce yourself?”

“Sure,” the man nodded and smiled. “Mr Chu is in a much higher position and it’s only normal for you not to know me. My name is Meng Chun-Hua, my father is the head of the Meng family in Liaocheng, Meng Hao.”

“Liaocheng?” Ye Fan frowned. He wasn’t very familiar with this city.

Li Er quickly whispered, “Mr Chu, Liaocheng is a city on the western border of Jiangdong. It used to be under Zhao Wu-Ji’s jurisdiction, and this Meng family is the most powerful family in Liaocheng. Their background is pretty powerful, and apparently they’re related to a powerful family in Yanjing by marriage. Even when Zhao Wu-Ji was in charge, he was also pretty polite to this Meng family.”

After Li Er’s brief introduction, Ye Fan nodded and had some understanding of this Meng family.

Ye Fan didn't get angry at Meng Chun-Hua's rather impolite words. Instead, he laughed and said, "So it's the Young Master of the Meng family. Since Young Master Meng has many things to do, then I won't waste everyone's precious time."

"I've called everyone to gather in Yunzhou today not just to treat everyone to a meal, but there is indeed another matter that I would like to seek cooperation from everyone."

"What is it? Mr Chu, please go ahead and say it."

"If you hadn't turned the tides back then and saved Jiangdong, we wouldn't be here today."

"Your problems are our problems too, Mr Chu."

"Just say the word and we won't hesitate even if we have to climb the highest mountains or brave the fiercest seas!"

Many of them immediately beat their chest and expressed their loyalty as they looked at Ye Fan and waited for him to go on.

Ye Fan smiled and shook his head. "I don't think this will involve anything dangerous. I still need to rely on everyone here to

maintain stability in Jiangdong, so I won't bear to let anybody do anything risky. This matter is both troublesome and simple at the same time. I would like everyone to help me gather a few tons of jade. The more the better, the higher the quality the better. Please help me to gather everything before Lunar New Year."

What?

"Jade? By the ton?!" Everyone was shocked by this request and stared at Ye Fan.

"Mr Chu, why do you need so much jade? Jade is a precious material, so if you want to purchase a lot of it, it will cost a lot. Some high grade jade go for a few hundred million per ton," asked several people in the room puzzledly.

Ye Fan quietly replied, "I have my own reasons for needing so much jade. I just want to know if you can help me to get this amount."

Ye Fan looked around and the entire house fell silent.

Everyone looked down and nobody wanted to say yes but nobody wanted to say no either.

"If you want jade, of course it's possible. As

long as you have enough money, the Meng family can provide you with as much as you can afford. How much are you giving us to prepare all this jade?" Meng Chun-Hua's laughter rang out after a period of silence.

The atmosphere in the room became even more awkward now.

Meng Chun-Hua's words was what everyone was wondering about as well.

Ye Fan had asked them to get jade for him, but he didn't mention anything about money.

That was a lot of jade to buy.

Ye Fan calmly responded to Meng Chun-Hua's question, "I don't have money, but if you're asking about remuneration, then would a favor from me be enough?"

"Tsk, a favor?"

Meng Chun-Hua immediately burst out laughing.

"Mr Chu, you make it sound really nice, but are you trying to say that you're not going to give us a single cent and you want us to just give you the jade for free? Mr Chu, it's not that I don't want to do you this favor, but we're all businessmen here. All of us have our fair share of loans to pay and other



financial burdens.”

“But now you’re just going to give the command and you expect to get everything for nothing? You want us to buy jade for you out of our own pocket? Don’t you think this request is going a little overboard?”



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"That's right, Mr Chu, the economy is poor and many companies have closed down."

"We all look like we're doing well, but we're really barely getting by ourselves."

"Our company has to repay all our bank loans by this time next year."

"We're not sure where we're going to get money for our operations, so even though we would really love to get the jade for you, we're a little tight on cash."

After Meng Chun-Hua spoke up, many others in the bungalow started to chime in with similar concerns.

They started complaining to Ye Fan about how difficult their situation was and some even asked Ye Fan for help.

All that talk about going up mountains and diving into oceans was all gone.

"So...does that mean that everyone here isn't agreeable to this?" Ye Fan frowned and his words sounded cold now.

The bungalow fell into silence.

Everyone just kept exchanging glances and didn't say a word.

They didn't agree but they didn't disagree either.

"Mr Chu, the Xia family of Yunzhou will help!" Xia Xue suddenly spoke up from behind her grandfather.

"Xue'er, what are you doing? Grandpa didn't say anything, so how could you cut in like that?" snapped Xia Yue fiercely when she saw how her sister was just deciding on her own like that.

She knew who Ye Fan was now, but even then, Xia Yue wasn't going to let her family suffer losses just to butter up to this Mr Chu.

So it was only natural for Xia Yue to feel both shocked and angry when she heard Xia Xue agree to this ridiculous request.

"I believe Grandpa is also willing to cooperate with Mr Chu and support him."

Xia Xue's eyes looked confidently and hopefully at the old man in front of her.

Old Master Xia nodded and smiled comfortingly, "That's right. Xue'er has spoken my mind. Mr Chu, if you need anything, the Xia family will do our best to support you! Don't worry, the Xia family is willing to put in \$800 million to buy high grade jade and send it to you before the

Lunar New Year!"

"Grandpa, why are you also..." Xia Yue's eyes widened.

She didn't expect her grandfather to be muddleheaded as well.

He was going to put in \$800 million in exchange for a favor?

That was as good as just giving the money away!

Of course Xia Yue didn't think it was worth it.

"The Li family of Yunzhou is willing to contribute too!"

"The Lei family of Jingzhou is willing to contribute!"

"The Chen family of Jianghai is willing to contribute!"

Once the Xia family expressed their support, it was like a rock had fallen into the ocean and many waves arose as a result.

Li Er, Chen Ao and Lei San all quickly chimed in to say that they were willing to help Ye Fan to purchase jade.

After all, they were extremely grateful to Ye

Fan.

After Zhao Wu-Ji fell from grace, almost everything had landed in Chen Ao, Li Er and Lei San's hands.

In other words, the power they enjoyed today was mostly a result of what Ye Fan had given to them.

If Ye Fan needed anything, the three of them would definitely be the first to show their support.

But the rest were still obviously unsure.

After all, even if Ye Fan was powerful, asking them to basically throw a few hundred million away made them feel the pinch.

Just when everyone else was still weighing the pros and cons and were conflicted on what to do, a cold laugh was heard again.

Meng Chun-Hua stood up again among the crowd.

"Mr Li, Mr Chen and Mr Lei have huge businesses, so offering a few billion is nothing to them. But my business is too small and cannot compare to theirs. So Mr Chu, I'm really sorry but the Meng family will not participate in this. Farewell!" said Meng Chun-Hua slowly. His words carried some

mockery and he was clearly determined not to be part of this.

After that, he just turned to leave without even waiting for Ye Fan to answer. He didn't even try being polite to Ye Fan.

"Meng Chun-Hua, you're outrageous! Even though the Meng family is powerful, Mr Chu's prestige is not something that a youngster like you can afford to offend!" shouted Li Er angrily. Meng Chun-Hua's attitude had clearly infuriated him.

A large number of bodyguards in suits outside the bungalow immediately swarmed over and blocked Meng Chun-Hua's way.

Meng Chun-Hua stopped walking and turned around to look back at Ye Fan with a calm smile. "Mr Chu, even if the deal falls through, we should observe some basic courtesy. We all have the freedom to decide if we want to work with you or not. But are you now trying to use your status to force us into doing this for you? All the big bosses of Jiangdong are watching your actions, so aren't you afraid that all these people who fear and respect you today turn coldhearted after seeing the way you treat them?" said Meng Chun-Hua in a neutral voice and a faint smile. He didn't look afraid at all.

Meng Chun-Hua didn't have much reverence

for this Mr Chu in the first place.

This man was just some gangster from Jiangdong after all. He was clearly too far off from the powerful families of Yanjing.

The Meng family was very closely tied to a powerful family in Yanjing, so he wasn't as afraid of Ye Fan as the other folks in this room.

On top of that, he was in the right.

Meng Chun-Hua became even bolder because of that.

"You!" Li Er was about to erupt again when Ye Fan raised a hand to stop him.

"Let him go. Young Master Meng is right, everyone has the freedom to decide whether they want to work with me or not. Since you aren't willing to, then you may leave. I don't have to resort to forcing a few ants into a corner. But let me just say that after you've turned this down today, don't regret it in the future."

"You don't have to worry about that," scoffed Meng Chun-Hua. Everyone watched on as he walked right out of the house and drove out from Mount Yunding.

"Mr Chu, are we just letting him go like that?"

Once he sets an example, it's going to be hard to deal with the rest," said Li Er worriedly.

After all, the best way to make everyone in Jiangdong cooperate was to punish one of them to serve as an example to the rest.

Since the Meng family was the first one to disagree, they became an excellent example.

But Ye Fan just let him go like that, so Li Er became anxious.

Was Mr Chu also afraid of the Meng family's background?

But Ye Fan just smiled calmly, "Don't worry, he'll come back to beg me."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Ye Fan didn't speak too softly, so everyone heard him.

But very few of them thought too much about it and thought that Ye Fan was just talking big.

Was Ye Fan powerful?

Of course he was.

He had shocked Jiangdong and every rich and powerful person had come to pay their respects to him today. Even the Provincial Committee Secretary had given him a bottle of Jiangdong Supreme!

Very few people in Jiangdong would dare to offend someone of such a status.

But the Meng family of Liaocheng was one of those exceptions.

After all, many people felt that the Meng family's background was more powerful than Ye Fan.

Back when Zhao Wu-Ji was consolidating his power, he didn't dare to touch the Meng family either.

As a result, when Ye Fan let Meng Chun-Hua walk out unscathed, they all thought that Ye Fan was afraid of the Meng family too.

But while that was what they were thinking, nobody dared to actually say it.

Otherwise, they would really be in trouble!

After Meng Chun-Hua left, the rest of them continued to just exchange glances without making a decision.

Ye Fan didn't have so much time to sit around and wait for them, so he quietly asked, "What about the rest? Do you want to leave like Young Master Meng did, or are you willing to help me?"

Nobody answered.

The remaining people looked at each other but were unwilling to make a decision.

Ye Fan continued, "You don't have to be so nervous. Go ahead and speak your mind."

"No matter what decision you make, I will respect it. I will definitely not force anybody, and I will not use my status to bully anybody," said Ye Fan slowly.

His speech was calm and he even took a sip of tea in between.

Finally, someone spoke up and said apologetically, "Mr Chu, I'm really sorry, but just a few days ago, my family business..."

Before he could finish his words, Ye Fan waved his hand. "Sure, I got it."

"I will bid you farewell with this cup of tea. Once you finish drinking it, I'll get someone to send you down."

Ye Fan got one of the servants to send a cup of tea over.

The man hesitated for a while, then drank the entire cup in one mouthful.

Then just like Meng Chun-Hua, he turned and left in his car.

After this second person left, it was as if a chain reaction had started. One after another got up to take their leave.

All of them drank down one cup of tea and left Mount Yunding.

Li Er shook his head and sighed at the sight of this.

He just knew that letting Meng Chun-Hua leave like that would make the others follow in his footsteps.

Very few were willing to agree to deal that made losses after all.

In just a few moments, Mount Yunding Villa

had lost half its guests.

Out of those who remained, some of them grit their teeth and finally decided to support Ye Fan.

The rest said they wanted to go back and think about it before giving Ye Fan an answer.

Ye Fan agreed to that. "If you need time to think about it, I'll give you time. I want an answer before I leave Yunzhou tomorrow night."

In no time, these people also left the villa.

The bungalow was left only with those who had agreed there and then to support Ye Fan.

Of course, everyone was supporting Ye Fan for a variety of reasons.

Some of them were grateful to Ye Fan, some were afraid of Ye Fan and some of them felt that Ye Fan would do well in the future.

But Ye Fan didn't care about their reasons. He just wanted the result.

"Alright now, the Feast of the Sea and Sky has officially come to an end. It's been a long day, so everyone should go back and

get some rest. As for the jade, don't worry, I won't let you guys suffer a loss on it."

Ye Fan's words made his supporters feel a little more at ease now.

This final batch of people also left the house.

But Ye Fan got Li Er, Lei San and Chen Ao to stay.

"Mr Chu, that's why I said that you shouldn't have let that Meng Chun-Hua leave so easily. More than half of them ended up following him and less than one third of the group remained. I don't think it's going to be easy to get so much jade together with this group," sighed Li Er as he shook his head.

Ye Fan needed a huge amount of jade, so if few people were willing to contribute, that meant that everyone who did would have a greater amount of responsibility to bear, so Li Er was naturally worried about this.

Chen Ao and Lei San nodded along. They agreed with Li Er as well.

But Ye Fan remained as calm as ever.

He was like the calm surface of a lake, and there was no change in his emotions at all.

He even calmly took a sip of tea.

He laughed quietly. "One third? That's enough to consolidate and lead all of Jiangdong. Li Er, Chen Ao, Lei San, put together a report on everything those people who followed Meng Chun-Hua's lead own. I want it by tomorrow."

"Also, put together a list of those who chose to support me like the Xia family."

Hmm?

"Mr Chu, you're doing this because...?" The three men were stunned.

A moment later, all three of them shuddered as if they had just been struck by a bolt of lightning.

"Mr Chu, so you purposely let Meng Chun-Hua go? You also deliberately made such an unreasonable request? You wanted to see who's on your side and who isn't? You wanted to know who is truly on your side and who's faking it?"

The three of them immediately widened their eyes.

They were shocked!

Before this, they also thought that Ye Fan

had gone too far in making all of them contribute jade without giving anything in return. That was as good as robbery.

They felt that Ye Fan was really being heartless.

But now they realized that Ye Fan had done this with other intentions in mind.

Mr Chu was truly someone with great foresight and a good sense of the bigger picture.

They couldn't help but feel great admiration for Ye fan.

Ye Fan nodded and smiled. "If I don't do that, how would I be able to differentiate those who have other intentions?"

The three of them had guessed it right.

Ye Fan had organized the Feast of the Sea and Sky not just to ask everyone to help him gather jade but also to test their hearts.

He had a mission of his own to complete and couldn't keep watch over Jiangdong all the time.

So he needed a group of families and factions to help him take care of the various parts of Jiangdong.

Of course, more importantly, he wanted to use this chance to get rid of anybody who might potentially rock the boat.

Ye Fan took a sip of tea and said, "Besides those things, give me a report on the Meng family of Liaocheng too. I want to know all their connections, friends and family as well as all their business partners by tomorrow. It's high time we cleaned up the scum that Zhao Wu-Ji left behind back then."

He spoke very calmly and quietly, but it sounded like thunder crashing on the other three men.

"Mr Chu, this...you mean...you mean you intend to attack the Meng family?!"



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“Mr Chu, that’s really not advisable. The matriarch of the Meng family is the younger sister of the head of a powerful family in Yanjing. Back when Zhao Wu-Ji was practically invincible, he didn’t dare to touch them either. This Meng family is like a beehive, so if you stab it, it’s going to cause an endless string of troubles.”

The three men in the room were all horrified at Ye Fan’s words.

They were worried, so they all tried to advise Ye Fan against this.

“That’s right, Mr Chu. This Meng family didn’t make a good decision, but I think we could just give them a small warning first. That would be better than fighting them to the bitter end. After all, if the Meng family becomes desperate, I think we might suffer quite badly,” said Chen Ao with a grim expression on his face.

Even though it was true that the Meng family’s powerful backer in Yanjing might not win them in Jiangdong, the three of them still felt that going up against the Meng family might result in them killing off 1,000 enemy soldiers while losing 800 of their own.

Ye Fan had just become the king of Jiangdong and his followers were not stable

yet, so his foundations in Jiangdong were strong. It didn't seem like a good move to do something so drastic at this juncture.

So the three of them tried their best to persuade Ye Fan against doing this.

But Ye Fan just shook his head. "A small warning? I don't have that sort of time. I will leave Yunzhou tomorrow. So within these two days, I must resolve this time bomb! After the battle at Mount Tai, all of Jiangdong acknowledged me as their leader. Since he refuses to follow me, then the Meng family can forget about staying here!"

BOOM...

Ye Fan's words were firm and loud, like the falling of rocks and gold onto the floor.

Ye Fan's authoritative aura filled the entire place.

The three of them felt their hearts trembled and didn't dare to speak anymore.

They looked even more reverently and fearfully at Ye Fan.

There were days when the three of them wondered if this young man in front of them was seriously only in his twenties.

They probably only had a fraction of the boldness and motivation that Ye Fan had.

After Ye Fan had made this decision, he dismissed the three of them to carry out his instructions.

"Is there something else?" asked Ye Fan when he realized that none of them had budged.

Chen Ao and Lei San just smiled without saying anything while Li Er looked mournfully towards Ye Fan.

"Mr Chu, it's nothing really – it's about my son."

Li Er turned and looked outside the room as he bellowed, "You little bastard! Get in here now! How dare you offend Mr Chu! I'm going to break your bloody legs!"

Li Zi-Yang had been kneeling outside all this while. When his father yelled for him, he quickly started crawling into the room with great fear in his heart.

The other person who crawled in with him was the son of Ma Fei, Ma Ming-Bo.

The two of them finally realized who on earth they had actually offended.

Ma Ming-Bo in particular, was so scared after finding out that Ye Fan was Mr Chu that he felt like his soul nearly left his body.

Now he knew why Xu Chang-Qing had been so respectful towards Ye Fan on Mount Yunyang.

And he also realized that he had been attempting to snatch Mr Chu's woman too.

Ma Ming-Bo was filled with horror and his heart nearly despaired.

He knelt before Ye Fan and couldn't stop apologizing and begging for mercy.

"Mr Chu, I...I was wrong. I was blind and offended you! Mr Chu, I hope you can be magnanimous and let me off this once. I really didn't mean to do this. I promise I will never covet Su Qian after this," said Ma Ming-Bo in a pitiful sounding voice. His voice was even trembling.

Ye Fan just shook his head and laughed. "You were in the wrong, but you still don't know where you went wrong? Did you think someone like the daughter of the Su family can catch my attention?"

"Huh?" Ma Ming-Bo was stunned for a moment and became confused. "Isn't she... isn't she your girlfriend?"

"Of course not!" Ye Fan immediately refuted this and his tone of voice was even firmer.

"I went for dinner with the Su family because I wanted to return Su Yuan-Shan a favor. Su Qian and I are just acquaintances and we're not related in any way. I'm already married and Qiu Mu-Cheng is my wife."

What?

"Your...your wife...is...Qiu Mu-Cheng?"

Ma Ming-Bo was even more shocked by this and his eyes were huge. He could hardly believe it.

He never thought that Mr Chu would already be married.

And on top of that, Su Qian's best friend turned out to be Mr Chu's wife.

Ma Ming-Bo was suddenly feeling really glad.

He was so glad that he hadn't done anything out of line with Qiu Mu-Cheng.

Otherwise, he might still die even if he had nine lives to spare.

But at the same time, it wasn't as if Ma Ming-Bo didn't have any designs on Qiu Mu-

Cheng at all.

His original plan was to get together officially with Su Qian, then get together with Qiu Mu-Cheng behind her back to become his lover.

After all, Qiu Mu-Cheng didn't lose to Su Qian in terms of figure and looks.

The only thing she lost to Su Qian in was her family background.

Anybody would like such a woman.

But after finding out who Qiu Mu-Cheng really was, Ma Ming-Bo broke into a cold sweat.

After Ma Ming-Bo was done apologizing, Li Zi-Yang pleaded profusely with Ye Fan as well.

On account of their fathers, Ye Fan didn't make things too difficult for them.

He just gave them a cold reminder, "Next time, look carefully before you do anything. Especially you, Li Zi-Yang. I remember you saying that your dad was the most powerful person in Yunzhou. Who do you think is the most powerful now?"

Li Er almost went into a frenzy when he

heard Ye Fan's teasing words.

In his horror, Li Er slapped Li Zi-Yang across the face again. "You little bastard! Are you trying to get your own father killed?! If you spout such nonsense again, I'll slap your mouth to death! How dare you simply say such things! How did I get a stupid son like you? I'm going to die someday because of your stupidity!"

Li Er was both horrified and infuriated.

Saying that he was the most powerful in front of Mr Chu was definitely disrespecting Mr Chu.

In the worst case scenario, they might all die.

Of course Li Er was scared.

But Ye Fan just continued shaking his head as he laughed, "It's alright, I won't punish you guys this time round. But I'll just leave you with one word of advice. In the future, be calm, be kind and be someone who always smiles. Don't always try to show off or try to look cool."

Ye Fan's words echoed through the room.

Li Zi-Yang and Ma Ming-Bo nodded and didn't dare to say anything at all.

Chen Ao's eyelids twitched as he thought to himself, "But Mr Chu sure knows how to act cool."



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"Also, Nannan is like my younger sister, so I'm fine if you want to go after her. But if you do anything that crosses the line or force Nannan to do anything she doesn't want to, I'll be the first one to come after you!"

Everyone looked enviously at the beautiful girl who remained by Ye Fan's side the whole time.

Since she could get Mr Chu's promise to protect her, Chen Nan's position in Mr Chu's heart was certainly high.

With Chen Ao as her father and Ye Fan as her older brother, Chen Nan was practically a princess within Jiangdong.

Nobody would dare to offend her from now on.

"She's so lucky that she caught Mr Chu's attention."

Lei San and Li Er were both so envious.

Thanks to his daughter's relationship with Mr Chu, Chen Ao's position in Jiangdong was definitely more stable now.

Li Er looked at Chen Nan, then looked at his own son. He was so angry that he gnashed his teeth.

He had planned to get his son to become close to Mr Chu as well. That way, Li Er's position in Jiangdong would become more stable.

But clearly, his stupid son was hopeless.

"Perhaps Xue-Qi could give it a shot," thought Li Er to himself as he looked at Chen Nan.

His younger sister was about as pretty as Chen Nan was, and compared to Chen Nan, Li Xue-Qi was a little more mature and charming.

Li Er felt that if his sister took a little more initiative, she would win Mr Chu's heart.

Li Er had no idea that after Ye Fan had Qiu Mu-Cheng as his wife, he wasn't interested in other women.

After seeing the great ocean, no other water looked impressive. After seeing the beautiful clouds of the mountain, no other clouds looked pretty.

After experiencing the vastness of the sea, why would Ye Fan stop at a tiny spring?

Back in Yanjing, Xu Lei had expressed her feelings for Ye Fan but he had already politely refused her. Li Xue-Qi didn't stand a

chance.

As for Chen Nan, Ye Fan was attached to her because he had a younger cousin who was around her age and had a similar personality. Ye Fan was always reminded of that cousin in the Chu family who truly treated him like an older brother when he saw Chen Nan, so he took extra care of Chen Nan as a result.

He never thought about anything else.

“Hoho, congratulations, Mr Chen. Your daughter now has Mr Chu as her older brother, so even after you grow old, you don’t have to be afraid that nobody’s looking out for your daughter.”

Lei San and Li Er started congratulating Chen Ao.

Chen Ao smiled back proudly.

But while everyone else was laughing merrily, nobody noticed that Chen Nan’s pretty eyes were filled with disappointment at Ye Fan’s words.

After all this was done, everyone left the house.

Chen Nan followed Chen Ao back to Jianghai.

Before leaving, Chen Nan still smiled brightly to bid Ye Fan goodbye. At the same time, she advised him, "Fan, women need to be coaxed. It's normal for husband and wife to quarrel from time to time. Besides, Mu-Cheng was doing all this for your good. So after I'm gone, remember to visit Mu-Cheng, ok?"

Ye Fan nodded and smiled at Chen Nan's cheeky expression. "Alright, alright, I got it. Hurry along now, your dad's calling you. Have a safe journey home!"

Ye Fan waved and saw his guests out.

Once they had all left, the Feast of the Sea and Sky had truly come to an end.

But the effects of this feast was far from done.

That very night, Li Er gathered all the information he got from Chen Ao and Lei San and sent everything over to Ye Fan.

There was a lot of information to sort out, but the most important part was information about the Meng family.

"The grandmother of Meng Chun-Hua is Zhang Yi-Zhu, she's from Yanjing. As far as I know, the Zhang family in Yanjing is quite powerful. They aren't one of the super-rich,

but they're definitely among the first tier families of Yanjing."

"Over the years, the Meng family and Zhang family have been very closely connected, and I heard that one of the daughters in the Meng Chun-Hua's extended family is engaged to someone in the Zhang family. They're supposed to get married after Lunar New Year."

"With that in mind, I still think it's best not to clash head on with the Meng family. Giving them a warning is still much better than clashing with them."

After reading through all the information, Li Er now had a better picture of the Meng family, but at the same time, he became even more worried now.

At first, Li Er thought that the backing that the Meng family had was probably just a second tier family in Yanjing.

But he realized that he had underestimated the support that the Meng family had.

But even after hearing what Li Er said, Ye Fan's expression remained calm.

His expression was as still as the surface of a lake and as calm as the water in a well.

"First tier family?" Ye Fan laughed and shook his head. "Even if they were an up and coming family, I wouldn't be worried about them. Why be afraid of a first tier family?"

Li Er became even more worried when he heard Ye Fan's response. "Mr Chu, we really shouldn't insist on this if we really can't do it. If this attack fails, have you thought about what the consequences are?"

"Only the victor of a battle gets to be the king! If this attack fails, then the current stable situation of Jiangdong will be in danger! In the worst case scenario, Jiangdong might even end up with a new king. I am of low status, so no matter how much I lose in this fight, it is insignificant."

"But Mr Chu, if we lose this battle, then your bright future and path ahead would be ruined because of this!"

Li Er described Ye Fan's attack on the Meng family like going to war.

It was true that Li Er and the other two men viewed it as a war.

This was a battle between the powers of Jiangdong. A battle between Ye Fan's camp and the Meng family.

No matter what the results were, it would

definitely change the power balance in Jiangdong.

Li Er even felt that this battle was no less than the one back at Mount Tai.

But no matter how hard Li Er tried to persuade him, Ye Fan still didn't look like he was going to change his mind.

"I've already decided on this matter, stop trying to persuade me otherwise. What you need to do now is to make use of every resource and connection we have to cut off all investment, raw material supplies, partnerships, sales and other aspects of the Meng family's family business, Chunhua Industries!"

"Not only must we cut off all revenue for Meng Group, but we must cut off their import chains and sales channels as well! We must make sure that Meng Group becomes completely isolated within Jiangdong."

"In two days, I will let the Meng family understand what despair feels like!" said Ye Fan calmly. But even his calm voice carried great malice and iciness.

Even though Ye Fan sounded confident, Li Er honestly wasn't confident that they could trip the Meng family up so quickly.

It was one thing to be able to truly cut Meng Group off from every business in Jiangdong. But even if they managed to achieve that, so what?

Meng Group was backed by a powerful supporter in Yanjing.

As long as the Zhang family in Yanjing was still doing well, the Meng family wouldn't collapse either.

Even if Ye Fan used all of Jiangdong's resources, there would be nothing they could do about them.

So Li Er didn't hold very high hopes about this operation.

But Li Er didn't have any choice. Ye Fan refused to listen to his advice and insisted on carrying on, so Li Er had to just carry out Ye Fan's instructions.

After he got back home, he had a video conference with Chen Ao and Lei San.

"How did it go? Did you manage to persuade Mr Chu? Mr Chu just became the king of Jiangdong and his position isn't stable yet. It's definitely a bad time to fall out with the Meng family," said Lei San anxiously.

The three of them were now in the same



boat as Ye Fan.

If anything happened to Ye Fan, the three of them would be in trouble too, so it was only natural for them to be exceptionally concerned with Ye Fan's decision.

Li Er gave a long sigh. "I've said everything I could, but Mr Chu has no intention of changing his mind. Besides, he just passed the death sentence on the Meng family earlier. He wants us to take action tonight. We have to cut off all revenue, imports and sales channels that the Meng family has. Also, we have to try to get all their business partners to terminate all contracts with them. He wants to completely isolate the Meng family from the rest of Jiangdong!"

What?

"Mr Chu is serious about this? Li Er, why didn't you tell Mr Chu about the possible consequences of doing this? Does he think doing this will work? As long as the ones backing up the Meng family are still standing strong, the Meng family will never be isolated and left helpless!" said Chen Ao anxiously.

Li Er continued to shake his head. "There's no point telling me about this. I've already said everything I could. But you two know Mr Chu's personality. Once he's decided on

something, even if all three of us kneel before him and plead with him, he's not going to change his mind."

"What are we going to do now?" asked Lei San in a grim voice.

It was silent for a while.

After a moment, Chen Ao finally shook his head and sighed. "What else can we do? We have to carry out Mr Chu's instructions."

Lei San sighed bitterly as well. "Mr Chu is still too young after all. Young and rash. He'll probably get it after he gets his fingers burnt."

The three of them hung up with a heavy heart.

They started their plan to attack the Meng family from all sides that very night.

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Back at Mount Yunding Villa.

The pile of documents was still on the table, but Ye Fan didn't look at them

He just scoffed quietly. "The Zhang family in Yanjing?"

His light chuckles echoed softly in the room and it was filled with disdain.

Ye Fan picked up his phone and was about to give Xu Lei a call when his phone started ringing first.

It was Xu Lei.

"Hello Lei, I was just about to call you, but you came calling first," said Ye Fan with a faint chuckle after he picked up the call.

"Is that so? So you still remember I exist? You've returned to Jiangdong for so long but you haven't called me at all," grumbled Xu Lei.

Ye Fan laughed bitterly, "But I'm on the phone with you now. It's 1st January, so happy new year, Lei."

"Humph, that's more like it." Xu Lei nodded satisfactorily and she wasn't so angry with him anymore.

She too, wished Ye Fan a happy new year.

"By the way, there's something that I'll need to trouble you about."

"Ha, I just knew it. You wouldn't remember me if you didn't need me to do something for you," Xu Lei started grumbling again.

Ye Fan barely managed to humor her with an apology.

"What is it?" asked Xu Lei.

Ye Fan explained to Xu Lei about the Meng family.

Xu Lei immediately frowned upon hearing this.

"Fan, don't worry about the Zhang family, I'll settle it. I'll make sure the Zhang family doesn't provide the Meng family with any help until they surrender to you. They wouldn't dare to try!" Xu Lei's voice was rather icy now.

Anybody who threatened her Fan's family or influence was her enemy!

She would never let them off.

"Lei, I'll have to trouble you to do this then. I'll get the Xue family to help you as well."

After that brief conversation, Ye Fan hung up as well.

Ye Fan remained exceptionally calm and there was no worry nor anxiety on his face at all.

Li Er felt that the Zhang family from Yanjing

was a powerful enemy.

But they were nothing to Ye Fan.

Ye Fan didn't even care for the most influential families of Yanjing. So what was one tiny Zhang family to him?

Then again, Li Er, Chen Ao and Lei San were just pawns in Ye Fan's hands, so they only knew a fraction of what Ye Fan was capable of. It was only natural for them to be worried.

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The night passed very quickly.

Chen Ao, Li Er and Lei San had spent the night making arrangements.

The next day, every business and family who partnered Chunhua Group within Jiangdong announced that they were terminating their partnerships.

At the same time, as the chairman of the Jiangdong Business Association, Chen Ao declared that they were going to discipline the Meng family for disrupting market operations, so he called on all major corporations in Jiangdong to boycott Chunhua Group.

After Chen Ao made this announcement, Li Er and Lei San immediately supported him.

Mr Chu didn't appear in any of this, but it was obvious that he was the one trying to attack the Meng family.

At the Wang family's bungalow in Haozhou.

"Dad, what do we do now? Should we support Chen Ao and the rest in this move?" asked Wang Yu-Chen as he sat next to his father, Wang Jie-Xi. Wang Jie-Xi was deep in thought after he had received the news from Chen Ao.

After a short period of silence, Wang Jie-Xi shook his head. "We'll sit and observe for a while. The Meng family is not as powerful as Mr Chu within Jiangdong, but they have a strong backer. If Mr Chu pushes them into a corner, it's hard to say who will eventually win. It's better to just wait and see for the moment," said Wang Jie-Xi quietly.

Over at the Xia family in Yunzhou.

The Xia family wasn't one of the top families in Yunzhou, but they were quite influential.

More importantly, the Xia family had always worked very closely to with the Meng family.

But now that Mr Chu suddenly wanted to

make things difficult for the Meng family, the Xia family was now in a dilemma.

Should they continue their partnership or terminate it?

The Xia family was now faced with an extremely tough question.



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"Mr Chu moved in on the Meng family in the end. He sure was swift about exacting revenge," said Old Master Xia worriedly.

Everyone in the Xia family was filled with solemn expressions. They clearly didn't know whose side to pick.

After all, the Xia family could neither afford to offend the Meng family nor Mr Chu.

"Grandpa, I think we can't stop working with the Meng family. The Meng family has the support of an important family from Yanjing. Also, they will be related by marriage to the Zhang family from Yanjing after New Year. Now that they are fighting each other, if we stop working with the Meng family, we will offend them deeply. Moreover, even if Ye Fan is the King of Jiangdong, he only assumed his title for a few months and is still unstable. If he is going to pit a fight with the colossal Meng family, it's hard to tell who will win in the end, right? After all, won't the influential families from the capital be far stronger than Mr Chu?" persuaded Xia Yue instead.

Xia Yue was keenly aware that she had deeply provoked Ye Fan, so if the Xia family took Ye Fan's side, she would fall into a precarious situation.



After all, Old Master Xia would never give a person with a vendetta against Ye Fan any important roles.

She would rather convince Old Master Xia to take the Meng family's side rather than risk getting left out in the cold in the future.

If the Xia family helped the Meng family take down Ye Fan, Xia Yue could remain the family's eldest princess.

"No! Grandpa, I think we should answer to Master Li Er's rally and stop working with the Meng family. Mr Chu is an incredible man, so we should believe him."

But the typically meek Xia Xue surprisingly found the courage to stand and speak up and opposed Xia Yue's suggestion during the family meeting.

"Xue, shut up! You stupid girl! What would you know? This is no place for you to speak! What incredible man? Ye Fan became the King of Jiangdong only because of the karma he accumulated in his previous life. He might be an incredible man in Jiangdong, but he's nothing to Yanjing's influential families. An incredible man? At best, he's a louse from the countryside!" shouted Xia Yue instantly. She didn't think her meek sister would dare go

against her wishes.

Xia Xue was so terrified that she hung her head without daring to utter a word again.

“Enough! Stop arguing!”

After a long silence, Old Master Xia finally spoke up.

In an instant, Xia Yue, Xia Xue, and the Xia family all looked at Old Master Xia.

Old Master Xia raised his head to look at everyone and ordered, “From now on, all the Xia family’s businesses will cut business ties with the Meng family! Mr Chu is the dragon of Yunzhou. Since our family has resided in Yunzhou for generations, we’ll support Yunzhou’s dragon!”

What?

“But Grandpa....” persuaded Xia Yue the moment she heard her grandfather. She had nearly lost all hope.

“Enough! Xia Yue, I might have over-indulged you in the past and made you willful and immature and caused you to speak rudely to Mr Chu. Do you know if Mr Chu were present, those words you said would be enough to send

the entire family to death? I'm warning you this one last time, if you disrespect Mr Chu again, then you can hand over your title as the family princess to Xue!" said Old Master Xia as his thunderous voice exploded.

Old Master Xia's sternness left Xia Yue pale and afraid to speak.

Similar scenes occurred throughout Jiangdong after Chen Ao and the others started to take out the Meng family.

Some of them silently watched things unfold like the Wang family from Haozhou.

Some of them supported their cause all out like the Xia family.

But similarly, there were those who chose to support the Meng family.

-----

At the Meng family in Liaocheng.

"Humph. That outrageous Mr Chu. How dare he touch the Meng family?" said Meng Chun-Hua angrily as he slammed the table with a darkened look on his face.

Given the Meng family's background, he

thought Mr Chu wouldn't dare to move in on them.

But it seemed like Meng Chun-Hua had underestimated Ye Fan's ferocity after all.

"Chun-Hua, what should we do now? Although we have forces in Jiangdong, they aren't strong enough to go against Mr Chu. Over 30 businesses have announced that they would cut ties with us!" said Meng Hao gravely.

All these years, his mother's family's protection allowed the Meng family to develop smoothly in Jiangdong.

Neither the likes of Zhao Wu-Ji nor Chen Ao ever dared to touch the Meng family.

Now Mr Chu wanted to make an example of the Meng family shortly after he gained power.

Meng Chun-Hua waved his hands. "Dad, calm down. We merely lost a few deals. If no one in the province wants to work with us, we can look beyond its borders. So long as we don't lose funding or the supply chain, the Meng family has nothing to fear!" said Meng Chun-Hua nonchalantly in a particularly confident tone.

Just after he said this, some Meng family members hurried in from outside.

"Chun-Hua, Uncle! Bad...bad news!"

"What's with the panic? It's just a few tiny businesses refusing to work with us, isn't it? It's such a tiny matter, but look at how petrified you are. I told you to collect goods from the city suburbs earlier. How did it turn out?" scolded Meng Chun-Hua sternly when he caught sight of his frantic family members.

"Chun-Hua, that's what I'm here for. The Xia family agreed to do business with us, but their fleet of trucks suddenly left, so 180 tons of material got taken back. I called the head of the Xia family, and he said they won't provide us with goods from now on."

What?

"How could they do that? They are just a second rate family from Yunzhou. How dare they challenge us? But we have many channels of supply, so that won't even cause a dent. Contact the other suppliers and get them to send us more goods!" said Meng Chun-Hua sternly.

"Chun-Hua, I already have. Out of the eight vendors who have been regularly supplying us stock, seven of them have terminated their contracts. Only one tiny business is left, but it isn't enough!" his cousin replied sadly.

## Chapter 661 The Meng Family's Situation

Meng Chun-Hua clenched his fists tightly in an instant and said, "Well done, Mr Chu. He wants to cut off our supply chain, but can he do it? The world is hungry for profit and only turns for profit. Call the other seven vendors to tell them Chunhua Group will pay them a billion in advance. Let's see if they will turn away free money now?"



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Money makes the world go round.

So how could no one be tempted by the money Meng Chun-Hua offered?

After all, businessmen cared about money the most.

As long as Meng Chun-Hua gave them enough profit, he was certain that even the strongest walls would fall.

"But Chun-Hua, the company has less than \$100 million in cash reserves, so it's impossible to pay our vendors in advance like that," replied his cousin sadly.

"It's okay. Get in touch with the bank. The \$5 billion loan ought to be released soon," replied Meng Chun-Hua calmly.

Another person stood up and told Meng Chun-Hua, "Chun-Hua, I was about to tell you. The bank just called to tell us the loan has been delayed. They want to reassess our assets and risk level, so the loan they promised is on indefinite hold."

What?

"On hold?" Meng Chun-Hua's expression fell immediately. "The bank is such a fence-sitter!

They are completely unreliable just when you need them. But it's no big deal. Since we have plenty of stock, we can easily make that \$1 billion if we sell a portion of them. Contact our distributors and tell them Chunhua Group wants to sell those goods asap."

Meng Chun-Hua kept coming up with plans each time something failed.

If the bank refused to approve the loan, they could sell their goods for cashflow.

But more people came running in after Meng Chun-Hua gave his orders.

"Mr Meng, Young Master, bad news."

"We just received the notification for goods returns from over 100 distributors."

"It means no one is going to distribute Chunhua Group's products."

"Our supply chain has been destroyed!"

BOOM!

The news landed on Meng Chun-Hua like a bolt from the blue as he stared in shock.

All their eyes constricted as they shivered.



It didn't cross their minds that things would turn out like this.

Their cashflow was cut off, and even their supply chain was severed.

Ye Fan genuinely wanted to send the Meng family to their death!

"Chun-Hua, why...why don't we forget about it and bow to Mr Chu? If this goes on, the Meng family will perish," suggested Meng Hao. The thought of giving up already rose in his heart.

Meng Hao never had the resolve to oppose Mr Chu at the get-go.

But he had no choice since Meng Chun-Hua was determined.

After all, even though he was head of the Meng family, true power lay in the hands of Meng Chun-Hua.

Old Madam Meng trusted Meng Chun-Hua a lot, and he was both brave and driven.

So she had already handed over the reins to her eldest grandson a long time ago.

"Forget it? Absolutely not! If it's a fight he wants, it's a fight he gets. What does the Meng

family have to fear?" said Meng Chun-Hua resoundingly. His domineering words were like gold bars falling to the ground and clanged loudly within the room.

"Well said! That's what a man from the Meng family should be like! That is what a brave man who can take on great responsibilities sounds like!" A laughter suddenly came from behind.

Everyone turned to see an elderly woman with a rosewood walking stick coming over slowly.

"Hmmm? Granny, what brings you here?"

Everyone was shocked to see her.

Meng Chun-Hua swiftly went over to help her.

This elderly woman was the Meng family's old matriarch, Zhang Yi-Zhu, and she hailed from the Zhang family from Yanjing.

"The family is in crisis, so I came over to help boost morale. Chun-Hua, you're right! The Meng family never bowed to anyone in all the time it dominated Jiangdong. It will be no different this time! Chun-Hua, just do whatever it takes, and I will support you. Mr Chu came out of nowhere and thinks he can make an example of the Meng family? He can dream on!" said Zhang Yi-Zhu coldly.

Zhang Yi-Zhu looked at the head of the Meng family, who suggested bowing to Ye Fan and said, "Meng Hao, you lack your son's drive. You need drive to succeed! Chun-Hua will definitely outshine you in the future with a drive like his!"

Old Madam Meng's angry words echoed loudly, so Meng Hao didn't dare retort and merely nodded and agreed, "Mom, you're right."

Zhang Yi-Zhu looked at her grandson and asked, "Chun-Hua, tell me what you plan on doing about the situation?"

Meng Chun-Hua nodded and replied, "Granny, I've got everything planned out. Although Jiangdong companies have stopped working with us, a few forces have persisted in standing beside us. I just called to convene a meeting with them and plan on setting up an alliance to attack Chu Tian-Fan together! Since business isn't working out for us in Jiangdong, we will expand beyond its borders. Chunhua Group will continue to be as strong as it ever was."

"But we need a lot of funds to expand. We are short on funds and need Granduncle's help. If Granduncle can come by to Jiangdong, it would be even better. With Granduncle around, a lot of forces will support us, and we will be even more formidable!"

Meng Chun-Hua spoke eloquently in an organized manner.

Meng Chun-Hua was able to keep his cool because of this formidable granduncle of his.

Meng Chun-Hua had nothing to fear as long as his granduncle supported the Meng family.

Zhang Yi-Zhu nodded and said, "Mhm. That's a good plan. I'll call your granduncle now and get him to help."

Zhang Yi-Zhu had already gotten someone to bring her phone so that she could call her older brother.

Coincidentally, someone called her instead.

It was none other than Zhang Yi-Zhu's second older brother on the phone.

Zhang Yi-Zhu had three older brothers all together.

Her older brother had passed away, so the head of the Zhang family was currently her second older brother.

The old lady hurriedly answered the call, "Brother, I was just about to call you..."

Before Zhang Yi-Zhu could finish her sentence, an old man said angrily over the phone in a deep voice, "Shut your gap! Let me ask you, did you provoke a young man called Mr Chu?"

"Hmmm?" said Zhang Yi-Zhu in surprise. "How did you know? I was about to talk to you about this. Chun-Hua is planning to start a war with Mr Chu, but the Meng family lacks funds, and we were hoping you could help."

"Help you, my ass!" scolded the elderly man right away, probably out of anxiety and fear. "Zhang Yi-Zhu, the Zhang family has gotten completely dragged under by your grandson! Do you have any idea who Mr Chu is? Mr Chu is not only the King of Jiangdong but also the King of Yanjing! He slaughtered the head of the Lin family, one of the three up and coming families, and threw his body in the wild. All the rich and powerful of Yanjing have bowed to him! He singlehandedly trampled over Yanjing! How can you dumbasses provoke a man like him? If you want to die, don't drag the Zhang family down with you!"

Zhang Yi-Zhu's brother scolded her furiously over the phone.

It was an unexpected catastrophe!

It was the first day of the new year, so the Zhang family happily commenced their annual gathering to celebrate New Year's Day.

No one expected this bad news to fall into their lap!

The head of the Xu family, Xu Lei, came together with many powerful forces to completely seal off all paths for the Zhang family overnight.

All the powerful families who were close to the Zhang family started to avoid them like the plague.

The Zhang family's businesses also suffered major losses too.

Their partners cut off funding for over 100 of their projects.

Their share prices went into a free fall, and billions of dollars evaporated into thin air.

The Zhang family didn't know what hit them at first and only knew that Xu Lei was behind it.

The Zhang family called on Xu Lei when things got hopeless.

Then the Zhang family finally realized they were implicated by the Meng family in Jiangdong.

He was calling precisely to ask his younger sister about this.

But he didn't expect this idiotic little sister of his to be clueless about the trouble she had caused and even kept talking about declaring war on Mr Chu.

"Declare war? What bloody war? And you even want me to help? You fools have already gotten the Zhang family into major trouble. Do you know that all the important families in Yanjing have banded together to punish the Zhang family? Our stocks have hit rock bottom, and billions have evaporated into thin air within 30 minutes! The bank refuses to loan us money, and all our partners have withdrawn their funds. My old classmate even called to warn me to run. You've completely devastated the Zhang family's 80 year old foundation, you unfilial daughter!"

What?

"How...how can that be?"

Zhang Yi-Zhu's brother's words hit her like bolts of lightning and exploded in her mind nonstop.

She was completely stunned while a tsunami surged in her heart.

She didn't expect that the Meng family's actions could implicate the Zhang family miles away in Yanjing.

But how could it be?

No matter how powerful Ye Fan was, he merely controlled Jiangdong.

How could he have the power to threaten the Zhang family?

How could he be the King of Yanjing?

Zhang Yi-Zhu was overwhelmed by the information and felt as though her brain just short circuited.

But her older brother's fury remained unappeased as he scolded her sternly, "Zhang Yi-Zhu, if the Zhang family gets destroyed by you, how are you going to face our parents after you die? How are you going to face the Zhang family's ancestors? You dumbass! After committing such a huge mistake, you can't make up for it even if you die! Just stay home



and behave! Our brother will be there soon. Gather those fools from the Meng family and go with him to apologize to Mr Chu. Or else, all that awaits you is death!"

He slammed the phone down.

Old Madam Meng stood petrified and went into a daze.

After a long time, her body swayed as she staggered before she fell onto the ground.

Mom!"

"Granny!"

"Are you okay?"

"What happened?"

Everyone was shocked to see their matriarch scared out of her wits.

Meng Chun-Hua stepped forward to quickly hold onto his grandmother.

Zhang Yi-Zhu slumped onto the ground as though her soul had left her body.

Zhang Yi-Zhu remained silent with her face as white as a sheet of paper even though her

family members kept asking what happened.

"Granny, don't scare me here. What happened? What did Uncle say?" asked Meng Chun-Hua anxiously.

Zhang Yi-Zhu turned to grab Meng Chun-Hua's arm with her hands trembling as she said, "Chun...Chun-Hua, I'm.... I'm afraid you're in big trouble this time."

BOOM!

Zhang Yi-Zhu's words struck like lightning.

Meng Chun-Hua was stunned.

He stared wide-eyed as terror surfaced in his heart too.

In big trouble?

Was it...

Just as the Meng family members were trying to wrap their minds around this, the sound of a car could be heard outside.

An old man who looked around 60 strode briskly and walked right in.

"Uncle Yi-Fu? What brings you here? I was

going to visit you in Yanjing, but you're already here in Liaocheng?" said Meng Chun-Hua respectfully when he saw the man.

He stepped forward to greet the man as he beamed.

PAK!

The man slapped Meng Chun-Hua without uttering a word.

"Get lost, you fools!" shouted the stern old man. After slapping Meng Chun-Hua away, he walked straight up to Zhang Yi-Zhu.

"Zheng...Yi-Fu," shouted Zhang Yi-Zhu in shock.

"Do you have the cheek to call me your brother?" scolded the old man. He raised his hand to slap Zhang Yi-Zhu.

In the end, he suppressed himself.

"If you weren't already at this age, I would have beaten you to death today! What the hell are you waiting for? Gather the Meng family together and follow me! We are apologizing to Mr Chu!" roared the old man.

The Meng family's domineering matriarch was so terrified she didn't dare to utter a word to her

third older brother, and there was no sign of her usual sternness.

It was unfathomable to the Meng family why they had to apologize.

Meng Chun-Hua covered his cheek as he looked at his third uncle quizzically and asked, "Mr Chu? Is it Mr Chu from Yunzhou? Uncle Yi-Fu, I don't get it. We didn't do anything wrong. Why do we have to apologize to him? You come from a powerful family from Yanjing. Why would you fear Mr Chu?"

"Shut up!" shouted the old man even more furiously when he heard Meng Chun-Hua's words.

This time, he kicked Meng Chun-Hua right away.

THUD!

Meng Chun-Hua fell prone onto the ground.

"You reckless fool! Why are you still being stubborn now that your lives are at stake? Old Master Meng had a heroic reputation all his life, but why is his grandson so dumb? Of course, I won't force the Meng family. You can decide whether you want to go. If you go, the Zhang family will do its best to save you. Or else, don't

blame us for being heartless. We will publicly disown Zhang Yi-Zhu and sever ties with the Meng family completely!”

BOOM!

The man’s words were a wake-up call.

The Meng family was instantly stunned.

Everyone stared hard in disbelief at the scene.

Meng Chun-Hua would never have dreamt that the Zhang family, who had given him support all these years, would sever ties with the Meng family to save themselves all because of Ye Fan.

It was unfathomable to Meng Chun-Hua how a little King of Jiangdong could terrify the Zhang family.

Who on earth was this Ye Fan?!



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