

In the end, due to Yang Qian's dissuasion, Xue Lin chose not to go down. He remained on the second floor with her and continued to observe the situation.

Yang Qian was not wrong. It was not necessarily a bad thing for a useless country bumpkin like Ye Fan to suffer a little. After all, one can only learn from one's mistakes.

"Hopefully, after tonight, he can recognize his own limits."

"Hopefully, he will learn to act humbly in future and stop causing trouble for Mu-Cheng."

Xue Lin sighed feelingly. His words were filled with sympathy for Qiu Mu-Cheng's plight.

Earlier, Xue Lin had only wanted to help Ye Fan out of consideration for Qiu Mu-Cheng's honor. In his eyes, Ye Fan was just a low-born bumpkin and a useless live-in son-in-law. If the latter were not related to Qiu Mu-Cheng, Xue Lin would

not have given a single damn about him.

These self-styled upper-class people had always felt a sense of superiority toward poor people like Ye Fan.

In the restaurant's lobby.

Just then, things had already quieted down.

One after another, the guests, who had been gossiping with each other, took several steps back to observe the situation from a safe distance. Many among them were looking at Ye Fan with gazes full of pity, even as they made sarcastic and mocking comments about him.

"Young people nowadays are too reckless!"

"He is just a server. How dare he hit his supervisor?"

"That supervisor is Mr. Bao's subordinate."

“I think that young man is in trouble~”

As everyone was looking at the scene unfolding before them, the person called “Mr. Bao” had already arrived downstairs.

“Please take your seat, Mr. Bao!”

“Please take your seat, Mr. Bao!”

Swoosh~

Several underlings carried an armchair and placed it in the center of the lobby. Afterward, they stood in two rows and respectfully invited their boss to take his seat.

“Mm.” The tattooed man nodded his head and grunted affirmatively. Finally, he casually sat down in the armchair and crossed his leg. An unlighted cigar was dangling from his hand as he hugged a vampish woman in a black silk short skirt.

“Mr. Bao, here’s a light!”

When one of the underlings saw that his cigar was still unlighted, he dashed forward and took out his lighter. And as he bowed to his boss, he lit up the cigar.

When they saw how the tattooed man was being treated like a chieftain, the surrounding guests could not help being overwhelmed with envy.

What is life?

This is it!

Mr. Bao sat in his armchair as if he was a king sitting on his throne. A beauty was reclining against his arm as an underling lit his cigar.

“As expected of Mr. Bao!”

His arrival at the lobby alone had been so awe-inspiring and packed full of posturing.

The tattooed man took a drag on his cigar and puffed out the smoke, which swirled about in front of his face. And then his indifferent voice rang out softly

in the restaurant.

“Young man, did you just hit my man?”

As he said this, the tattooed man did not even look at Ye Fan. Instead, he lowered his head to admire the cleavage of his female companion.

“Mr. Bao, you are so naughty~”

At this moment, Mr. Bao’s female companion moaned sensually as she made a show of rejecting his advances.

Contempt!

That was stark naked contempt for Ye Fan!

Well, in Xu Bao’s opinion, there was no need for him to pay any attention to a lowly server like Ye Fan.

From the beginning to the end, Xu Bao did not even once look at the young man standing before him.

But even as Xu Bao flaunted his power,

Ye Fan merely looked at him and laughed a mocking laugh.

“No wonder they say a pet resembles its master.”

“Let me give you a word of advice. Discipline your men and teach them how to behave like proper people.”

Even as he faced Xu Bao, Ye Fan was not the least bit afraid. And his sinisterly cold words showed a complete lack of respect for the gangster chief.

“You bastard! Do you have a death wish?”

Xu Bao’s underlings immediately erupted in anger, and they stepped forward with the intention to teach the young man a lesson. But Xu Bao stretched out his hand and stopped them.

“Well, you are a courageous and righteous man. I admire these qualities in a man.”

“Never mind. Because you are young and ignorant, I will not make things difficult for you.”

“If you kneel down and apologize, I will let this matter slide. Also, regarding the damages to my restaurant and the hospitalization bill for my man, I will not be asking for much. Just tell your parents to come down here with three hundred thousand. And then they can take you home at the same time.”

“Let me tell you something here. If you turn down my suggestion, you will find the consequences unbearable,” Xu Bao said sinisterly.

And he suddenly exuded an authoritative aura, which caused many onlookers to turn pale.

At the same time, Xu Bao’s burly underlings made themselves look more intimidating. They even lifted their baseball bats. As if they were prepared to attack Ye Fan right away, the moment he turned down their boss’ suggestion.

“Oh, really?” Ye Fan laughed coldly and said, “In that case, let me tell you something too. If you piss me off, you will find the consequences unbearable.”

Damn!

“This fellow is a tough guy~”

“He is still trying to show off even now?”

“Isn't he being a fool?”

When they heard what Ye Fan had said, all the diners in the restaurant laughed mockingly and they looked at him as if they were looking at an idiot.

“Is Mu-Cheng's good-for-nothing husband a mental patient?”

“How dare Ye Fan talk back to him? Does he not know that Mr. Bao is Master Li Er's subordinate?” Yang Qian smiled mockingly. She was pleased to see things develop this way. Meanwhile, Xue Lin could only shake his head.

This Ye Fan is as good as dead!



And just as expected, after Xu Bao heard what Ye Fan had said, his expression turned completely cold. And he also stopped fondling his female companion.

“You bastard. Since you have a death wish, I will lend you a helping hand.”

“Long. Mu. Get over there and break one of his legs!” Xu Bao commanded.

“No, don’t. Please come at me all at once. I am in a hurry,” Ye Fan said nonchalantly.

“Screw you! You have a death wish!” Xu Bao and his men blew their tops and, spurred on by their anger, the underlings readied themselves to hit Ye Fan with their weapons.

But at this moment, Ye Fan suddenly raised his hand.

When Xu Bao saw this, he thought that Ye Fan had become afraid.

“What’s wrong? Are you scared now?”

he laughed.

“Don’t do the crime if you can’t do the time!”

“Get down on your knees and apologize now?!!”

Xu Bao roared angrily. And the onlookers looked at Ye Fan as if he was an oddball. They had thought that there was some courage in him. But looking at him now, he just looked like a coward who had lost his courage after getting scared a little.

Yang Qian sneered disdainfully. And then she took out her phone to record the scene. She wanted to get the video footage of Ye Fan going down on his knees. Afterward, she would upload it to the internet and turn Qiu Mu-Cheng’s good-for-nothing husband into a “celebrity.”

However, just as everybody was expecting to see Ye Fan get down on his knees, he placed his raised hand by his ear and said, “Hello, may I know who’s

speaking?”

Shit!

Just then, the whole place went quiet.

The corner of Xu Bao's eye was twitching so hard that his eyeball almost popped out.

And the onlookers froze in surprise for a moment.

What the hell had just happened!

They had not imagined that Ye Fan was only raising his hand because he wanted to answer a phone call?!!!

Humiliation.

Xu Bao felt that he had been utterly humiliated!

Even though his underlings were about to attack him with their weapons, this fellow was still leisurely chatting away on his phone.

At this moment, one could hear a pin drop in the restaurant. Everybody was looking dumbfoundedly at Ye Fan, who was still in the middle of his phone call.

“Oh? You are already here?”

“I just ran into a little problem here.”

“Okay, you come over. I am at the nearby Sheng Tian Restaurant.”

Soon, Ye Fan ended the call. At this moment, he discovered that everyone was looking strangely at him.

Ye Fan put his phone back and said indifferently, “Alright, let us continue.”

“You want to continue? Go screw yourself!”

“Do you think we are playing house here? You think you can just ask for a time out?” Xu Bao screamed angrily.

“But, based on what I heard earlier, it sounded like you were calling for backup?”

“Okay. I will play your game. All the way to the end. Until it’s game over for you.”

“Besides Master Li Er, I fear nobody in Yunzhou,” Xu Bao said with a sinister smile.

Ye Fan laughed when he heard this. “What a coincidence! The call earlier was from Master Li Er. He said he wanted to invite me to his house for dinner.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“You bastard! Are you playing me for a fool?”

When he heard what Ye Fan said, Xu Bao’s expression froze right away. A cold light glinted in his eyes, while his face turned as sombre as a graveyard.

When the onlookers saw the look on Xu Bao’s face, they knew that he was thoroughly enraged.

“This fellow has a death wish.”

“He is still trying to show off even though he is backed into a corner?”

“Is he trying to get himself killed?”

One after another, many among the onlookers shook their heads and looked at Ye Fan with pity.

As for Li Xiao-Hong, she had already turned pale from fright. Right now, she was so worried that she nearly burst into tears.

Xu Bao stared coldly ahead as he

continued to sit haughtily in his armchair. He waved a hand and one of his underlings threw a metal bat at Ye Fan's feet.

"I will give you another chance to stay alive."

"Pick it up and break your leg with it. You do that and I will let this matter slide."

"Otherwise, I will kill you where you stand!!!"

Boom~

Xu Bao's shout was filled with killing intent and it swept through the lobby like a hurricane.

The surrounding onlookers started to look panicky.

Only Xu Bao continued to sit haughtily in the armchair with his legs crossed. He had a cigar in one hand, while his other hand was busy fondling his female companion's butt. Just then, he

looked like a king among men. And when his authoritative voice swept through the lobby, it overwhelmed the crowd with awe!!!

Everyone had turned pale. Some onlookers in the crowd even advised Ye Fan to quit while the going was good. After all, losing a leg was a much better deal than losing his life.

But Ye Fan smiled lightly. He shook his head as he looked at Xu Bao, who was still seated haughtily and hugging his female companion.

“Once, there was a man like you. He too was sitting in a chair in the middle of the lobby. At that time, he was also smoking a cigar and hugging a woman. And just like what you are doing now, he also tried to show off in front of me. In the end, I kicked him like a ball. When I was finished with him, he had several broken ribs. His name was Sheng Tian. Maybe you two know each other.”

What?



When Xu Bao heard this, he swept his female companion aside and jumped out of his chair like a jack-in-the-box.

“You bastard! I dare you to say that again!”

“Mr. Tian is a bigwig in Jianghai! A brat like you has no right to insult someone like him!”

Xu Bao flew into a rage at once. And he glared so hard at Ye Fan that his eyes almost popped out of their sockets.

However, just as Xu Bao was about to order his underlings to beat the boastful young man to death, the door to the restaurant was pushed open with a loud bang.

Whoosh~

The cold night wind found the opening and swept frantically into the restaurant.

Immediately afterward, a dozen or so burly men streamed in as well.

The new arrivals were all wearing suits and sunglasses. As they marched into the restaurant, their black leather shoes clacked heavily on the marble floor.

Upright like pine trees. Swift as the wind. And brimming with an awe-inspiring presence, they entered the restaurant.

“Where did these reckless fools come from?”

“How dare you barge into Mr. Bao’s turf?”

When she saw the group of sudden intruders, Xu Bao’s female companion started to lash out at the new arrivals like an angry chicken.

But Xu Bao’s face turned pale when he caught side of the group’s leader. And without further ado, he slapped his mouthy companion to the floor with a backhand.

“You stupid bitch! Shut your mouth right now!”

“How dare you insult these gentlemen?”

Xu Bao was so frightened that he nearly wet himself. After delivering his scolding, he hurried forward to welcome the new arrivals.

“Mr. Shen, what an honor to have you here. Forgive me for not coming out to meet you.”

Xu Bao bowed his head and bent his body forward; his demeanor was so respectful that it made him look as insignificant as dirt.

At this moment, he could feel his heart quaking within him, as he pondered the reason for Shen Jiu-Yi’s visit.

Most people might not know, but Xu Bao knew that Shen Jiu-Yi was Master Li Er’s most favored subordinate.

Whether it was status or authority, Shen Jiu-Yi had much more of these than Xu Bao.

The latter was at most Master Li Er’s

errand boy.

That was why, upon meeting Shen Jiu-Yi, Xu Bao had greeted him in such a respectful manner.

But Shen Jiu-Yi simply ignored Xu Bao's respectful greeting. After pushing the latter aside, he led his men forward to where Ye Fan was standing.

And then, Shen Jiu-Yi bowed at the waist and greeted Ye Fan respectfully: "Mr. Chu, Master Er respectfully invites you to dinner!"

At this moment, it felt as though a giant rock had fallen into the sea and stirred up a tsunami.

After Shen Jiu-Yi had spoken, the dozen or so underlings behind him bowed in unison.

"Mr. Chu, Master Er respectfully invites you to dinner!"

"Master Er respectfully invites you to dinner!!"

Swoosh~

All of the dozen or so burly underlings bowed at the waist and greeted Ye Fan respectfully.

Their greetings coalesced into a stream and surged forth like a thunderbolt, shocking everyone in the restaurant.

Deathly silence~

The deathly silence of a graveyard.

After Shen Jiu-Yi and his men had paid their respect to Ye Fan, the whole restaurant went quiet. One could almost hear a pin drop in there.

Within the enormous lobby, one could only hear the sound of the cold wind sweeping through the place and the reverberation of the men's greetings.

Li Xiao-Hong had already fallen into a daze.

Xue Lin and Yang Qian were staring at the scene with bulging eyes.

As for Xu Bao, he remained standing on the spot as if he had just been struck by lightning.

At this moment, all the onlookers were frozen to the spot.

Nobody spoke. They did not dare to. Just then, they could only feel the immense shock swirling in their hearts.

In the restaurant, only Ye Fan's slim figure remained standing at ease.

His hands were clasped behind his back and he laughed haughtily. As a passing breeze stirred the fringe of hair in front of his forehead, Ye Fan looked at Shen Jiu-Yi and gave an approving nod.

"Mm, this is thoughtful of Li Er."

After he had said this, Ye Fan lifted his head and looked at Xu Bao. The latter had already been frightened out of his wits.

"Mr. Bao, what do you think?" Ye Fan asked with a light smile dancing on his

lips.

“Just now, when I told you that Li Er has invited me to dinner, you didn’t believe me. Do you believe me now?”

“When I said you could not afford to offend me, you didn’t believe me either. Now, do you believe me?”

Ye Fan’s words were like knives stabbing into Xu Bao’s heart.

At this moment, Xu Bao’s body was trembling and he was so scared that he could hardly stand. Ye Fan’s shout had been so awe-inspiring that it forced Xu Bao to retreat several steps in a row. In the end, he backed into the armchair and fell down together with it.

When Shen Jiu-Yi saw this, he immediately understood what had just happened.

A shadow came over his face and then he blew his top when he looked at Xu Bao.

“Xu Bao, you sure are gutsy. How dare you insult Master Er’s VIP guest?”

“It looks like you have a death wish.”

“Since this is the case, please remember to have a decent last meal tonight. Tomorrow, Master Er will send you on your way!”

“Please don’t. Mr... Mr. Shen. I... I was wrong. It’s all my fault. Please intercede for me in front of Master Er. I really did not know that he is Master Er’s VIP guest.”

“Mr. Shen, I... I don’t want to die. Please don’t tell Master Er~”

Xu Bao was so terrified that he had already lost all strength in his body. He was almost in tears as he begged for mercy. To think the brat he had looked down on earlier would turn out to be the one to dig his grave!



## Chapter 126 Now, Do You Believe Me?



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

“This Xu Bao used to be one of Master Er’s capable subordinates. He has served under Master Er for many years. But due to his bad conduct, Master Er has never given him any important responsibility. And so Xu Bao was banished to this neighborhood and put in charge of this restaurant.”

“In the past, Xu Bao has stepped out of line on numerous occasions. Due to sentimental reasons, Master Er has never punished him too harshly.”

“But today, Xu Bao has offended Mr. Chu. So this time, I think Master Er will be ruthless and remove him from his position.”

At this moment, Ye Fan had already gotten into the car with Shen Jiu-Yi and they were moving toward Li Er’s villa in Yunzhou.

Shen Jiu-Yi had already left some men to restrain Xu Bao. Right now, the latter was awaiting sentencing from Li Er. As for Li Xiao-Hong, she had already received just compensation for her loss.

“A person’s foundation lies in his conduct.”

“No matter how capable a person is, you can’t entrust important responsibilities to him if his conduct is bad,” Ye Fan said nonchalantly as he sat in the car.

“Yes, Mr. Chu. You are right. I will relay your words to Master Er,” Shen Jiu-Yi said respectfully.

“Mm.” Ye Fan nodded his head once and said nothing more. He shut his eyes and sat in silence.

Whoosh~

The wheels spun swiftly as the convoy of luxury cars sped along the streets of Yunzhou.

And while the low roars of the car engines rang through the air like the cries of wild beasts, the orange headlights of the vehicles tore through the canopy of the night sky like so many swords.

Very soon, Ye Fan and the others arrived at the villa.

And Li Er, who had already been waiting at the entrance, went forward to welcome Ye Fan right away.

“Welcome, Mr. Chu~”

“I have already prepared the feast. We are just waiting for you to arrive.”

Li Er smiled fawningly and quick-stepped toward Ye Fan.

“What the... And I thought we were waiting for some VIP?”

“He is just a youngster. Only a few years older than myself.”

“And he’s supposed to be ‘Mr. Chu?’”

“I have no idea what is going through my brother’s head. How could he entrust the survival of Jiangdong to a youngster like him?”

At this moment, Li Er had already led his

family members forward to welcome Ye Fan.

Meanwhile, a young and beautiful girl was standing in front of the villa with her arms crossed. She was wearing a form-fitting chiffon dress and a high ponytail. The former accentuated her figure while the latter helped to show off her youthful energy. Under the dress, her porcelain legs looked especially alluring, and one would find it difficult to look away from them.

The girl's name was Li Xue-Qi and she was Li Er's sister.

However, just then, she did not look happy. Her earlier anticipation and curiosity had turned to disappointment the moment she saw Ye Fan.

"My lady, Mr. Chu has already arrived. You should go over and greet him. Master Er specially told her to establish a good relationship with Mr. Chu." When Jin Bao noticed that Li Xue-Qi had no intention to move from her spot, he stepped in to counsel her.

But Li Xue-Qi snorted coldly and said, “He is just a brat. Is he worthy of receiving my welcome?”

After she had finished speaking, Li Xue-Qi turned around and walked away.

Before seeing him, Li Xue-Qi had imagined “Mr. Chu” to be a talented and suave gentleman; someone who was learned and refined. But alas, the beautiful illusion she had of him was shattered when she saw how shabbily dressed he was.

“How dare he come and meet my brother while wearing no-name-brand running shoes?”

“How could a bumpkin like him be a VIP?”

Li Xue-Qi stomped away angrily. And Jin Bao was left behind with an awkward smile on his face.

The prideful young lady of the Li family, sister of Li Er, was probably the only person who would dare to speak of Mr.

Chu like this.

“This is Mr. Chu’s first visit to our villa. Indeed, you have honored our family.”

“Come, Xue-Qi, come over here and greet Mr. Chu.” With a smile on his face, Li Er called for his sister to come and greet Ye Fan. But when he turned around, he found that she had already gone away.

Li Er frowned and asked, “Mm? Where is Xue-Qi?”

“Master Er, the young lady has already returned to the house,” Jin Bao answered in a panic.

“This silly girl. She doesn’t know her manners.” A dark expression came over Li Er’s face, and he started to tremble with rage.

“Mr. Chu, please forgive her. Xue-Qi is young and ignorant. She is also my father’s only daughter so we have been spoiling her,” Li Er hurriedly explained to Ye Fan.

But, of course, Ye Fan did not take this matter to heart. After all, he did not know any Li Xue-Qi, Li Yu-Qi or whoever. An inconsequential person like her did not merit his attention.

Afterward, Li Er went in front of Ye Fan and guided the latter through the villa.

But rather than calling Li Er's residence a villa, it would be more appropriate to call it a manor.

The grounds of the manor took up a lot of space. The size was almost comparable to the entire Liuyuan Residential District. Along the way, Ye Fan could see pavilions and rare plants littering the landscape. The whole place exuded opulence.

Just by looking at their huge manor that was located on prime real estate in the middle of the city, one could tell just what sort of status the Li family enjoyed in Yunzhou.

Any visitor to the manor would be stunned by the opulence of the place.



But Ye Fan was a Chu by birth, so he was unimpressed by the sights before him.

“Mr. Chu, this way please.”

After a brief moment, Li Er turned to Ye Fan and gestured for him to follow. And then he led the latter to a long pavilion.

The banquet had already been set up there.

Several servers in cheongsams were waiting respectfully by the side. When they saw Ye Fan and Li Er, all of them bowed slightly and greeted the two men respectfully.

“You are Mr. Chu?”

“You are young, but you sure put on a lot of airs.”

“And you even made Master Er go out there personally to welcome you?”

“Do you think you are worthy of this honor?”

Two persons had already seated themselves at the banquet table.

The one who was speaking right now was an old man in a Tang jacket. He had white hair, but he looked energetic despite his age. His breathing, unlike that of most elderly people, was deep and strong. A discerning person would be able to tell from a single glance that the old man was a martial artist.

When he saw Ye Fan, the old man spoke heavily, and his words carried a tinge of haughtiness.

Sitting beside the old man was the elegant and beautiful Li Xue-Qi.

Just then, Ye Fan was walking toward the table while surrounded by a group of people. Li Xue-Qi glanced at him, the unhappiness and disdain evident in her eyes.

How dare a person like him sit at the same table as my teacher! This is an insult to my teacher!

“You are?”

Ye Fan walked forward and lifted his head. He was slightly taken aback by what he saw and exclaimed involuntarily.

The old man in the Tang jacket looked even prouder of himself when he saw the look of recognition on the young man’s face. He lifted his head and talked down to Ye Fan in a disdainful manner.

“Young man, it seems you are not completely ignorant. You actually managed to recognize me,” he said haughtily.

“That’s right, I am the one who is renowned throughout the pugilistic community of Yunzhou...”

The old man continued to show off but, before he could finish speaking, Ye Fan had already stepped forward with a smile. And the latter turned to face Yin Bao, who was standing just beside the old man.

“You and your brother were the ones who ran into me last time. Am I right?”

“I... I...” Yin Bao was so touched that he almost burst into tears.

He had not imagined that a VIP like Mr. Chu would actually remember a small fry like himself.

At that moment, Jin Bao felt extremely flattered. It was as if the gods had bestowed a huge favor upon him. His eyes reddened as he trembled with excitement.

“Yes...yes. Mr. Chu, it’s me. I am Yin Bao. My brother and I still remember what you patiently and sincerely taught us the last time we met. What you said about being a calm person and a kind person...”

Yin Bao was in a state of great agitation.

But the old man in the Tang jacket was looking terrible, as if he had just swallowed a fly. As he reeled in anger,

Chapter 127 You Are??

the old man choked back the words he had been about to say.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

After he had gotten the cold shoulder from Ye Fan, it was only natural for the old man in the Tang jacket to get angry. He snorted coldly and his displeasure with Ye Fan grew even stronger.

Li Xue-Qi also frowned and looked unhappily at Ye Fan.

“My teacher was talking to you. Did you not hear him?”

“Xue-Qi, how could you talk to Mr. Chu like this? Quick, apologize to him right now.” Li Er scolded his sister right away, when he heard her talking so rudely to Ye Fan. And he demanded that she apologize to Ye Fan at once.

But Li Xue-Qi remained recalcitrant. She turned to her brother and asked angrily: “Why are you telling me to apologize to him? Did I say anything wrong?”

“Did you not see what happened just now? My teacher has honored this fellow by deigning to speak to him. But look at what he just did. He actually ignored my teacher even though he is

just a junior. He should be the one to apologize,” Li Xue-Qi said bluntly.

Li Er flew into a panic when he heard this and he admonished his sister angrily: “Xue-Qi, shut your mouth!”

“Mr. Chu is our guest. How dare you cause him offence?”

“He is a guest. But what about my teacher? Is he not our guest too? Brother, if you show favoritism like this, you will disappoint my teacher.” However, Li Xue-Qi continued to argue with her brother and speak up for her teacher.

“You~” For a while, Li Er found himself at a loss for words. He was so angry that he did not know what to say to his sister.

He could afford to offend neither Ye Fan nor the old man.

After all, the survival of Jiangdong depended on the both of them.

“Xue-Qi, there is no need to blame your brother. This is not Master Er’s fault. He has always been a benevolent and righteous man. He treats everyone with kindness. If you want to blame someone, blame that arrogant person who does not know how to behave like a human being.” Although the old man did not name anyone, even an idiot could tell that he was talking about Ye Fan.

The “arrogant person” said nothing in response. After chatting with Jin Bao and Yin Bao, Ye Fan sat down to drink his tea. He paid no attention to either Li Xue-Qi or the old man in the Tang jacket.

For a moment, the atmosphere at the table felt a bit awkward.

And so Li Er hurriedly laughed to break the ice. “Well, since you all do not know each other yet, please allow me to make the introductions.”

“Headmaster Xing, this is the person I told you about before. He is the person



who defeated Wu He-Rong's fellow disciple with a single punch." Li Er pointed at Ye Fan and introduced him to Xing He, the old man in the Tang jacket.

Before Xing He could say anything, Li Xue-Qi snorted disdainfully and said under her breath: "He defeated Wu He-Rong's fellow disciple with a single punch? I think he simply got lucky. He is only a few years older than me. How strong can he be?"

Li Er glared at his sister and she promptly shut up. But her disdain for Ye Fan was still clearly obvious.

And then it was the old man's turn to be introduced. Li Er turned to Ye Fan and said: "Mr. Chu, this is Mr. Xing He, the headmaster of the Taiji school in Yunzhou. I don't know if Mr. Chu understands Chinese wushu, but headmaster Xing He is a venerable elder in Yunzhou's wushu community. His Taiji Fist has already reached the acme of perfection."

"Last month, he took part in an

international wushu forum as Great China's representative. He has only just returned a few days ago."

"Also, headmaster Xing He is my sister's teacher. Although Xue-Qi is a girl, she is very enthusiastic about the combative arts. And she has been learning Taiji from headmaster Xing He ever since she was a little girl."

As Li Er said all this, the old man was filled with pride. He sat up a bit straighter, while the look of authority and aloof pride in his eyes grew even more evident.

Xing He felt very confident that his fame would be able to overwhelm the inexperienced young man before him.

And just as expected, the moment Li Er had finished speaking, a change came over Ye Fan's expression and he exclaimed, "That's good!"

When Li Xue-Qi heard this, she immediately lifted her chin and snorted. "Hmph, it is good that you know what a

great man my teacher is.”

Meanwhile, a proud smile appeared on Xing He's lips. The old man lifted his tea cup and took a sip, as he waited for the respectful compliments to pour forth from Ye Fan.

However~

“This fish tastes really good. This is no ordinary carp, is it?” Ye Fan was looking at the plate of fish in front of him, as though he had not noticed the expressions on Xing He's and Li Xue-Qi's faces.

“You~” Xing He's face twisted with rage and he nearly had a stroke right there and then. His body trembled and the tea he was drinking spurted out of his nostrils. If it were not out of consideration for Master Li Er, he would have already taught the insolent young man a harsh lesson by slapping him in the face.

Li Xue-Qi was also enraged by Ye Fan's rudeness, and her face was flushed red

with anger.

Her teacher had been humiliated by Ye Fan several times in a row, so it was only natural for her to get angry. As she glared at Ye Fan, her eyes looked as though they were about to spit fire.

However, from the beginning to the end, Ye Fan had never paid her or her teacher the slightest bit of attention. All along, it had been their own idea to show off in front of him. Therefore, no blame of any kind should be attached to Ye Fan.

Li Er's mouth twitched a little, and then he answered Ye Fan's question with a smile. "That's right. This is a red-tailed carp from the Yellow River, one of the best kinds of carp. Both the taste and nutrition value are top class."

Li Er chuckled.

At this moment, Xing He interrupted Li Er with an unhappy expression on his face.

"Master Er, we had better get down to

business.”

Li Er nodded and said, “Since headmaster Xing He has spoken, I will be forthright.”

“The main reason I have hosted today’s banquet is to give the both of you a send-off.”

“Tomorrow, the both of you will represent Jiangdong and set off for Mount Tai to answer Wu He-Rong’s challenge!”

“When the time comes, headmaster Xing He will fight Wu He-Rong first to sap his strength.”

“Mr. Chu will appear in the finale to kill Wu He-Rong and cement the victory for Jiangdong!”

Yes. This was the final stratagem thought up by Li Er, Chen Ao and the other Jiangdong leaders after many days of discussion.

After all, if they wanted to diffuse the

risk, they could not afford to keep all their eggs in one basket.

Therefore, after getting Ye Fan on their side, they had also invited the headmaster of the Taiji school to help them deal with Wu He-Rong.

With twice the insurance, their chances of victory at tomorrow's duel would be even greater.

"If you emerge victorious, the both of you will be the benefactors of all the leaders in Jiangdong."

"Come, Mr. Chu and headmaster Xing. Let us drink a toast to the duel!"

Li Er laughed heartily, stood up from his seat and raised his cup toward Ye Fan and Xing He.

But, to Li Er's surprise, Xing He did not touch his cup, even after a long wait.

"Headmaster Xing He, what are you...?"  
Li Er asked.

Xing He snorted coldly and said,  
“Master Er, what do you mean by what  
you just said?”

“Why am I the warm-up act? Why is a  
youngster like him in the finale?”

“Perhaps you think that I am weaker  
than a youngster?!” Xing He asked  
heavily.

And with a sombre look on his face, he  
slammed his hand on the table.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The victor becomes king; the  
vanquished the bandit!

And only the victors live on in people's  
memories.

But right now, Li Er actually wanted him  
to be the one to face Wu He-Rong first.  
Just so he could sap Wu He-Rong's  
strength and prepare the stage for Ye  
Fan's entrance.

He was the inheritor of the Taiji Fist and  
the headmaster of a school. And yet,  
they had relegated him to the role of foil  
for some youngster.

He would have to exert all of his  
strength in the fight and then give away  
the prize to someone else. To a person  
like Xing He, such a humiliation was too  
much to bear.

"That's right, brother. Have you gotten  
the order mixed up?"

"My teacher is a revered figure in the  
wushu community. Everyone out there  
knows who he is. What worth does this



brat have? How could you ask my teacher to act as his foil?"

Finally, Li Xue-Qi lost her patience and lashed out at her brother in a fit of righteous fury.

"Shut your mouth!"

"You silly girl! Your behaviour is getting more and more outrageous! How dare you call Mr. Chu a brat?"

"Do you know? If Mr. Chu wants to, he can kill you as easily as he kills a chicken!"

Li Er blew his top as well and rebuked his sister angrily.

"Don't open your mouth again unless you want me to kick you out."

"I allowed you to attend this banquet because I wanted you to gain some experience. You are not here to cause trouble!"

Li Er's anger overwhelmed Li Xue-Qi

completely.

Her face turned pale and she dared not speak another word. But, inwardly, she was still disdainful of Ye Fan.

She could not understand why her brother was treating a youngster her age with such respect. What merits did he have?

No matter how powerful he was, there was no way he could be stronger than her teacher.

After all, wushu was not something that could be mastered overnight. To unleash its full power, one would need to keep training over a long period of time.

Even if this Mr. Chu had started learning martial arts in his mother's womb, it was still impossible for him to accumulate more training time than her teacher.

After rebuking his sister, Li Er turned to Xing He again and said placatingly:

“Headmaster Xing He, I know you are a revered person in the pugilistic community. But this decision was made by Chen Ao of Jiangdong, Lei San of Jingzhou and the other leaders of our province. So I hope you will act magnanimously and place the interests of Jiangdong above yourself. Please do not make things difficult for me.”

Li Er spoke heavily as he tried to persuade Xing He.

But the elderly Taiji master was not one to give up easily. He stood up and said coldly, “Alright. Master Er, I will not make things difficult for you.”

“Since the leaders of Jiangdong do not believe in me, then let me have a duel with this young man today.”

“How about it, young man? Do you dare to accept my challenge?”

“If I lose, I am willing to become your foil!”

“But if you lose, you will give up your

place in the finale to someone more worthy.”

Xing He’s voice was vigorous and, as he stared at Ye Fan, his aura turned intimidating. At this moment, the zeal to do battle was evident on the old man’s face.

“Well~” Li Er found himself hesitating.

Undoubtedly, Xing He’s challenge fit in exactly with Li Er’s wishes.

The Jiangdong leaders had suddenly added Xing He’s name to the lineup because they were worried that Wu He-Rong might be too strong an opponent for Ye Fan.

After all, from the very beginning, they had only seen Ye Fan in action once. Therefore they were still unsure if his victory then had been due to luck or ability.

Now that Xing He had issued his challenge, would it not be a good opportunity to gauge Ye Fan’s ability?

And so, Li Er turned to Ye Fan and whispered: “Mr. Chu, headmaster Xing He is determined to fight you. What do you want to do?”

Ye Fan did not reply right away. He took a sip of tea and chuckled. “Headmaster Xing He, you are a successor of the Taiji Fist, a wushu grandmaster and the headmaster of a martial art school. To an ordinary person, these titles are certainly impressive.”

“But these things that you take pride in are just fool’s gold to me. Your martial art style only looks strong on the outside but is feeble on the inside. You may be able to use it to scare people, but it is completely useless in a real fight.”

“I bet you can’t even take a single punch from the Boxing King, Huo Dun. As for your proposed duel with me, do you think you are worthy enough?”

“What insolence!”

“You arrogant brat!”

After Ye Fan had spoken, Xing He flew into a rage right away and a look of great anger came over his face.

He stood up from his seat and started to scream furiously at Ye Fan.

“What an arrogant brat!”

“I am fool’s gold, am I?”

“I am feeble on the inside, am I?”

“Can you even block a single punch from me?”

“Can you even take a single blow from me?”

“How dare you insult me when you don’t even have the guts to face me in a duel?”

Xing He slapped the table hard and rose to his full height. When he faced Ye Fan, his eyes were filled with calm anger and his sharp words of rebuke stabbed at the young man like swords.

“I, Xing He, was born in a family of Taiji masters.”

“I started practicing my stance at the age of three. And when I was six, I learned how to punch!”

“When I was ten, I could already perform the quintessence of wushu, Taiji swordplay!”

“When I was thirteen, I inherited my father’s legacy and became the successor of Taiji!”

“Both Master Er and the mayor treat me as an honored guest.”

“How dare an unknown brat like you look down on me?”

Xing He’s angry words poured forth in a torrent and rang out eloquently at the table.

With every word he spoke, he took a step forward.

Finally, he stomped down with his right

leg.

Boom~

The bluestone tile beneath his feet cracked open amidst the heavy sound of an explosion.

And a deep foot print appeared among the debris.

“I can stamp on the ground and leave my print behind. Can you?”

Bang~

As Xing He clawed at a nearby pillar, another explosion rang out. And, amidst the cloud of sawdust, a deep claw print could be seen on the pillar.

“I can grab a pillar and leave my print behind. Can you?”

“You are just a little brat! I have honored you by eating at the same table as you.”

“But instead of feeling awed and grateful, you actually dared to speak



boastfully in front of me?”

“How dare you?!!!”

Within the manor, under the long pavilion, the Taiji master glared at Ye Fan with frosty-cold eyes and rebuked the young man angrily.

As Xing He’s words thundered through the surroundings, one could easily hear the pride in his voice.

The nearby female servers were all thoroughly overwhelmed by Xing He’s majestic presence. Their faces turned as white as sheet and all of them held their breath, for fear of making a sound.

But Ye Fan kept his composure in the face of Xing He’s torrential fury.

Xing He’s boastful words had failed to disturb the young man, and the latter remained as calm as a millpond.

Ye Fan picked up his cup, took a sip of tea and smiled nonchalantly.

“You have said a lot, but so what?”

“You are still not worthy enough to be my opponent.”

“Master Er, let’s call it a night. I still have other matters to attend to, so I will not be keeping you company. I will take my leave now.”

After he had finished speaking, Ye Fan stood up from his seat. And without waiting for Li Er’s answer, he turned around to leave.

“Young man, you must have a death wish!” After getting so disrespectfully ignored by Ye Fan, Xing He was now thoroughly enraged. So he made a move to chase after Ye Fan to teach him a lesson.

When Li Er saw this, he stood in Xing He’s way and said: “Headmaster Xing He, since Mr. Chu is afraid to face you in battle, then please let it go. There is no need to ruin our harmonious relationship. How about this? I will listen to your suggestion and put you in

the finale act.”

Clearly, Li Er had started to have doubts about Ye Fan’s ability, after seeing the latter’s earlier reaction.

After all, if Ye Fan was truly confident about his own ability, he would not have shied away from Xing He’s challenge.

And now, he was in a hurry to get away. Obviously, Ye Fan had gotten cold feet.

Li Er shook his head and sighed.

“It looks like Mr. Chu simply got lucky at Sheng Tian Restaurant,” he muttered under his breath.

But at this moment, Li Xue-Qi, who had been quietly fuming by herself after her brother’s scolding, suddenly stood up from her seat.

“Teacher, this brat has been very rude to you. How can we let him get away so easily? I have to teach him a painful lesson!”

“Xue-Qi, don’t be rude!”

Li Er was taken aback by his sister’s action, and he hurriedly stood up to stop her. But he was too late.

At this moment, Li Xue-Qi had already picked up the wooden sword she normally used for practice. A cold light glinted in her eyes as she stepped gracefully toward Ye Fan. And then she thrust her sword at his back.

When the wooden sword left its scabbard, it exuded an awe-inspiring presence as it went straight for Ye Fan!



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