

Luo Long had seen Mr Lang man numerous times and had even engaged in conversation with him. Yet, this was the first time that Luo Long had remembered that the man existed in the first place.

What a terrifying thought.

Someone who had not experienced the same thing wouldn't be able to believe that this was possible.

Luo Long frowned. After calming down, he carefully went through everything that had happened recently in his head.

Everything had seemed perfectly normal. Sending someone to infiltrate Qingshan Sect, attempting to form an alliance with Qingshan Sect through a marriage between both families so that they could place their own in the sect, even falling out in the latter stage and forming an alliance with the other five great sects to launch an attack on Qingshan Sect—these had seemed like events that had occurred naturally.

They wanted to survive. For the sake of survival, they would do anything—even risk their own lives.

But things had changed.

Luo Qi seemed to have been brainwashed and had become a madman.

He had wanted to kill the other sect leaders like how Ting Chan had been killed!

Something horrifying struck Luo Long then. The thought of Ting Chan led him to a terrible realization.

“Could it be?”

They had been convinced that Jiang Ning had been the one who had killed Ting Chan. But if that were truly the case, why hadn't Buddha Sect confronted Qingshan Sect and demanded to have Jiang Ning? Why had they allied themselves with Qingshan Sect and approached Tianlian Sect to demand answers?

Without any hesitation, he rose to his feet and headed for the back of the mountain.

Meanwhile, Jiang Ning was following the other disciples to the cave at the back of the mountain. It was mealtime once again.

His attempt at finding the antidote by poisoning Luo Qi had not worked.

The man was excessively and almost compulsively cautious. Even his butler, who had served him for so many years, had not escaped his suspicions. There seemed to be nobody whom he trusted at all.

If an antidote truly existed, he would keep it on him.

“Hurry up and eat!”

“You're just a bunch of dogs. Aren't you supposed to be all powerful? If you've got guts, you'll starve

yourselves instead.”

“Hahaha! Look at you, eating the food that’s fallen on the ground. What a good dog.”

“Our dear esteemed sect leaders and seniors, where’s your pride?”

The disciples jeered loudly as they watched the sect leaders and seniors swallow their pride and suffer humiliation and insults in order to preserve their strength. It felt amazing.

“Do you know what to do now?” The man in charge of the disciples said as he eyed Jiang Ning. “That’s how you do it. You don’t have to play nice. They’re going to be stuck here for the rest of their lives, like dogs trapped in a cage.”

“Isn’t this a pity? The days of your glory have passed. Are you upset?”

The prisoners remained silent. They would’ve killed these disciples if they weren’t poisoned and rendered weak and powerless.

“I’ll think of something,” whispered Jiang Ning as he gave Elder Ting Feng a look.

He was about to leave the cave when he heard a voice ringing outside the gate.

“Greetings, Elder Luo Long.”

Luo Long?

Jiang Ning frowned slightly. Why was he here?

The gates to the prison swung open. Jiang Ning and the rest fell into two rows on each side of the gate immediately. Luo Long strode in.

Elder Ting Feng and the other prisoners remained seated on the ground. They cranked their necks and glared at Luo Long with a stormy look on their faces.

“Greetings, Elder Luo Long!” the man who was in charge of the other disciples said deferentially before approaching Luo Long with the intention of currying favor with the elder. “You don’t have to worry. We’ve been taking good care of these prisoners.”

Luo Long paid him no heed as he stared at the prisoners sitting on the ground. The ground was littered with food, some of which had been trampled on. There was food dirtying some of the elders’ faces and hair.

“Elder Luo Long, these old men haven’t figured out their place yet. They had the nerve to oppose Tianlian Sect. I’ve punished them for their audacity!” the man in charge said with a hint of smugness, then waited for Luo Long to praise him for his good work.

“Is this how you’ve been treating our prisoners?” Luo Long turned and leveled an icy glare at him.

Before the man could say anything, Luo Long sent his palm flying across the former’s cheek and sent him flying. The man crashed loudly into the wall and landed heavily on the ground. The collisions made him howl in pain.

“These are the sect leaders and elders of the other great sects. Their imprisonment doesn't change that fact. How can you not accord them basic respect?” thundered Luo Long furiously. “How dare you humiliate them in this manner!”

His furious roar sent the disciples falling to their knees. They had not expected Luo Long to fly into such a rage for these prisoners.

These prisoners who were currently sitting on the ground, with their faces dirtied and their hair in disarray, were elders like Luo Long too.

They might have been captured and imprisoned, but they should not be abused in such a manner.

“Hm?” Luo Long turned around and narrowed his eyes when he saw Jiang Ning still standing. “You don't think you've done anything wrong, do you?”

“What I think doesn't matter. What matters is what Elder Luo Long thinks is right,” said Jiang Ning mildly as he looked Luo Long in the eye.

He had not expected Luo Long's reaction.

He remembered that Luo Long had been the crazy extremist amongst them all. Yet, now, he was showing compassion to the other sects' sect leaders and elders. He seemed a changed man.

When he heard Jiang Ning's words, Luo Long fell into a long silence before finally speaking. “It's you. You managed to infiltrate Tianlian Sect within such a short period of time.”

An icy glint flashed in Luo Long's eyes. He stared at Jiang Ning quietly instead of launching an attack or calling for reinforcements to arrest Jiang Ning.

Luo Long walked up to the disciples who had delivered the meals. Then, with a sudden raise of his hand, he hit them right in their crowns, shattering their skulls and killing them on the spot.

The prisoners were stunned by the sight.

They had no idea what Luo Long was up to. They couldn't believe that he had killed his own men without even batting an eyelid.

"Are you trying to keep my presence a secret?" said Jiang Ning. "You might actually stand a chance if you try and seize me now."

"You underestimate me," said Luo Long. He approached the prisoners and said in a deep voice. "My fellow comrades, Tianlian Sect has no intention of causing offense to you. You're here because someone has set us up. I only have one question right now."

Luo Long turned towards Elder Ting Feng. "Who killed Master Ting?"

His eyes flashed sharply as he waited for the answer to the only question that he cared about right now.

"Is it him?" He pointed at Jiang Ning. Li Xuan and the others had no idea what was going on. They

didn't know that was Jiang Ning. Luo Long had been the first one to realize whom he was.

This had nothing to do with Jiang Ning's skill at disguising himself and had everything to do with how he had spoken to Luo Long. Jiang Ning was the only person who spoke to Luo Long this way.

"It's not him," said Elder Ting Feng. "I think you already know who it is."

Luo Long's pupils contracted when he heard that.

He had guessed correctly.

The murderer was Mr Lang.

The man was a terrifying opponent. He had killed someone as powerful as Ting Chan.

"I understand." Without saying another word to the prisoners, Luo Long turned towards Jiang Ning. "Come with me."

Elder Ting Feng was struck by a faint sense of unease and worry.

Jiang Ning nodded at him as an expression of comfort. The elder didn't need to worry for him. He might be alone in hostile territory, but Tianlian Sect hardly stood any chances at capturing him. They could forget about trying to kill him.

He followed Luo Long out of the prison, then eyed the latter when they were outside.

"You knew right from the start that there was

something wrong with Mr Lang, didn't you?" Luo Long asked plainly.

"That's right," said Jiang Ning. "I realized it during the negotiation. You seem to have realized that there's something wrong with him now."

Mild surprise flickered across Luo Long's eyes. If he had not done the necessary preparations and taken a pill to preserve his reason, he might still be kept in the dark.

"Why didn't you tell us anything?"

Jiang Ning smiled wordlessly. Luo Long knew that they had been on opposing camps then and that they might not have believed Jiang Ning even if the latter had told them the truth. In fact, that might have alarmed the enemy unnecessarily.

He had not been aware of Mr Lang's secret then. Why would he believe Jiang Ning?

"So," said Jiang Ning. "What do you plan to do? Are you going to let this go on and let yourself be used by someone else or are you going to think carefully about what you're supposed to do?"



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