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Elder Ting Feng remembered Ting Chan's instructions to leave immediately, even if Ting Chan died.

But he had not expected Ting Chan's words to come true and for his death to arrive so swiftly.

The Vajra Fist!

Ting Chan had been killed by Buddha Sect's Vajra Fist!

The thought of that filled Elder Ting Feng with anguish.

"Jiang Ning?"

That was the first person that popped into his head. Jiang Ning was the only person who was powerful enough, who knew the Vajra Fist and who could kill Ting Chan with that particular technique.

But Ting Chan had reminded him constantly to be wary of Mr Lang and watch out for that man.

Who could the murderer be?

"Let's go!"

He didn't spend too much time thinking about it. They shouldn't linger. He took Ting Chan's body back to Buddha Sect with him.

It didn't take long for news of Ting Chan's death to spread.

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He had been killed not long after leaving the base and he had been killed by someone who had attacked him with the Vajra Fist.

“It must be him.”

“It must be Jiang Ning. Who else can it be?”

“I knew it. That punk had ulterior motives all along. He wanted to undermine the alliance amongst the six sects, isolate us, then take us out one by one!”

“I saw Jiang Ning unleash the Vajra Fist and drive Elder Ting Feng back. He’s a powerful fighter. He must be the one who killed Ting Chan!”

The sect leaders of the other sects had not expected something like this to happen.

Ting Chan had given Jiang Ning his support and had been willing to give the latter a chance. But Jiang Ning had killed him mercilessly!

The crowd was enraged!

Luo Qi and some others simply looked on with a sneer on their faces. They had expected this. Qingshan Sect weren’t decent men at all.

It had been a ploy all along. That bastard, Jiang Ning, had planned this from the very beginning.

Only five of the six sects remained. Buddha Sect had left. No one had expected Ting Chan to die despite leaving first.

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“Qingshan Sect is trying to take us out one by one. We can’t fall for their trap!”

“We must attack Qingshan Sect immediately and lay waste to the place. We must kill Jiang Ning and avenge Ting Chan!”

“I can’t believe that Ting Chan is dead. Someone must answer for his death.”

The sect leaders were filled with fury. They couldn’t accept that Ting Chan had been killed.

They were anguished by his death and humiliated for believing Jiang Ning’s words in the first place.

It had been merely moments ago when Jiang Ning had approached them to negotiate a ceasefire.

His reasons had been righteous and good.

He had spoken of a ceasefire for the sake of the disciples, for the lives of many who might die in the fight, and for the future of everyone in the mountain. But what had come out of it all?

He had actually murdered Ting Chan instead!

Since he could kill Ting Chan, he would definitely kill again. One of them might be next.

“Let’s go up the mountain!”

“Demand an answer from Qingshan Sect!”

“Demand that they hand Jiang Ning over to us!”

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The five sect leaders thundered.

Their disciples' eyes had gone red with fury. It was as if they were the ones who had lost their chief.

Luo Qi nodded. Someone started edging the crowd on and soon, everyone from the five sects had been mobilized and were headed for Qingshan Sect in a fury!

The masses arrived at the gates of Qingshan Sect within half an hour. The Third Elder, who had been standing guard at the gates, paled in alarm.

Hadn't everyone agreed to a ceasefire? Why were they here again?

"Why are you here?" the Third Elder thundered.

"Bring Jiang Ning here. Has he hidden himself after killing Ting Chan?" Luo Qi stared at the Third Elder. "We shouldn't have trusted you. There's no one decent in Qingshan Sect. Hand Jiang Ning over. We only want him. We won't touch anyone else."

Alarm flashed across the Third Elder's face.

Ting Chan was dead?

That was impossible.

"Inform the chief," he turned and whispered to his men.

Five of the six major sects had turned up at their

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door, but Buddha Sect was nowhere in sight. They could say anything they wanted without restraint, but they might have gone overboard with this baseless accusation.



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“Where the people from Buddha Sect?”

The Third Elder scoffed. “I don’t see a single person from Buddha Sect in your midst. Am I supposed to just take your word for it?”

“You think I’m talking nonsense, do you?” Luo Qi sneered, then turned towards the sect leaders of the other sects.

“Ting Chan is dead. He was killed last night,” Li Xuan said coldly as he narrowed his eyes.

“Someone killed him with the Vajra Fist. Jiang Ning is the only person who could have mastered the Vajra Fist within such a short period of time and kill Ting Chan!”

The elders had seen it with their own eyes.

It had been here where Jiang Ning had battled more than one elder and defeated Elder Ting Feng with the Vajra Fist!

Their eyes wouldn’t deceive them.

A severe look settled on the Third Elder’s face. Had Jiang Ning killed Ting Chan?

He dared not consider the possibility of that being true.

“Stop wasting time and cease all that yammering. Let’s just charge inside!”

“Jiang Ning’s going to escape if we wait any longer!”

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Upon the sudden shouts, the massive crowd got ready to make a charge.

“How dare you!” thundered the Third Elder as he glared furiously at the crowd. “Do you plan to go against your word?”

“You broke your word first!” Luo Qi bellowed angrily. “I know your devious ploy. You’re trying to undermine our alliance and attack us when we are isolated and without allies. How despicable of you!”

As he raised his hand, the disciples standing behind him got ready.

As soon as Luo Qi gave the order, they would charge into Qingshan Sect.

“I didn’t expect the six major sects to be so unsure of themselves,” Jiang Ning’s voice rang out like thunder, nearly deafening everyone.

Luo Qi had asserted confidently that Tianlian Sect alone was enough to lay waste to Qingshan Sect.

But that wasn’t what he had just said.

Jiang Ning walked out, with Liu Chuandao and an army of disciples behind him.

They had been prepared for this. They had known all along that the other sects wouldn’t let them off that easily.

They had been right. Look who was here right now?

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“Jiang Ning, I didn’t think you’d dare to appear before us,” Luo Qi said with a sneer. “I thought you would have escaped.”

“Why should I escape?” asked Jiang Ning mildly. “You’re the one who’s afraid of me. Why should I run?”

Luo Qi’s face darkened with fury.

He was no match for Jiang Ning when it came to verbal sparring, but he dared not attack him physically too.

“You accuse me of killing Master Ting. Where’s your evidence?”

Jiang Ning had expected that these people wouldn’t let Qingshan Sect go that easily, but he had not expected this particular excuse from them. And Ting Chan of all people.

He had a favorable impression of the man. Those from Buddha Sect had been open to reason. Jiang Ning couldn’t believe that he was dead.

“Someone killed Ting Chan with the Vajra Fist. You must have done it. Who else could it be?” Li Xuan scoffed. “You’re a prodigy who can master other fighters’ techniques within a short period of time. You think we don’t know that?”

“Are you suggesting that I beat Ting Chan with a technique that I learned within a short period of time and that he’d practiced and labored at for decades?” asked Jiang Ning. “I’m not sure if you’re trying to compliment me or insult Ting

Chan.”

“Besides, where’s Buddha Sect? Their chief is dead. If they suspect that I was the one who killed him, why isn’t Elder Ting Feng here? He should know best how well I wield the Vajra Fist.”

“No one from Buddha Sect is here. They’ve all left. The other five sects seem more worked up over their chief’s death than they are. What is the meaning of this? Why are you poking your nose into another sect’s business?”

“Stop your quibbling,” retorted Luo Qi. “You’re the one who killed Ting Chan.”

Everyone got ready to attack.

Jiang Ning took a step forward. The look on his face darkened as he stared at Luo Qi with eyes that seemed so cold, they could freeze Luo Qi in his tracks.

A solemn look settled on Luo Qi’s face. He felt the eyes of a predator on him and primal fear surface inside him uncontrollably.

“If I wanted to kill someone,” Jiang Ning said frostily, “you would be the first person I’d kill.”



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The murderous aura exuding from Jiang Ning sent tremors coursing through Luo Qi's body.

Everyone could similarly feel Jiang Ning's rage.

The hair on their bodies stood on ends. It was as if they had come face to face with a fearsome beast that could easily open its jaws wide and swallow them whole.

Jiang Ning leveled a frosty look at Luo Qi. "I didn't have to go to all that trouble to kill someone. In fact, why would I use the Vajra Fist to kill someone and leave clues that will expose me as the murderer?"

Li Xuan's heart skipped a beat.

He turned and exchanged a brief look with Li Guang. It was then that the same realization struck Li Guang as well.

If Jiang Ning had truly wanted to kill Ting Chan, he could have used any other technique from the other sects instead of the Vajra Fist. In fact, he wouldn't have revealed that he had mastered the Vajra Fist.

That would remove him of all suspicions, stir conflict amongst the sects, and incite a fight amongst the major sects.

That would have been the most ideal plan.

With Jiang Ning's intelligence, there was no way that he wouldn't have thought of that.

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“Are you really not the one?”

Li Xuan frowned. If Jiang Ning had used the technique of another sect to murder Ting Chan, wouldn't that still make him a suspect?

The thought of that sent shivers down his back.

The clues that the murderer had left behind hinted that Jiang Ning was a strong suspect and yet also proved that he wasn't one.

“Perhaps you were too careless!” Luo Qi scoffed without relenting a single bit. “You're just finding excuses for yourself now and trying to pull wool over our eyes.”

He was adamant that Jiang Ning was the murderer. It didn't matter what Jiang Ning had to say for himself and whether the others would come to be persuaded by Jiang Ning's arguments, he was convinced that Jiang Ning had killed Ting Chan.

Jiang Ning replied coolly. “If someone wants to frame me, they'll say anything to prove their case. In my opinion, Chief Luo is the greatest suspect.”

“That's utter rubbish!” Fury flashed across Luo Qi's eyes. “I don't know the Vajra Fist at all. How could it be me?”

“That's not true,” said Jiang Ning. “You've just not used it in public.”

The other sect leaders turned towards Luo Qi. He caught the look in their eyes and his face

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darkened as he growled, “Why would I, the chief of Tianlian Sect, know the Vajra Fist? What a joke! Besides, do you really think that I can beat Ting Chan?”

He had no idea if Jiang Ning was simply spewing nonsense and trying to implicate him in Ting Chan’s death.

He didn’t know the Vajra Fist at all.

“You wanted to kill him. That’s why you hide the fact that you knew the Vajra Fist. Am I not right?”

“That’s utter rubbish!” Luo Qi thundered. “You’re spewing lies!”

Jiang Ning smiled.

He didn’t say anything more. The other sect leaders understood what he had been trying to say.

It didn’t mean that someone who knew the Vajra Fist was indeed the murderer, but someone who seemingly didn’t know the Vajra Fist could very well be the murderer. The best way to avoid suspicion was to pretend that you didn’t know the Vajra Fist at all. There were no idiots amongst them.

Certainly not anyone from Buddha Sect, who left without approaching Jiang Ning.

If Jiang Ning were truly the murderer, Elder Ting Feng and the other elders wouldn’t let him off that easily. They would have made a charge for

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Qingshan Sect and demanded that Jiang Ning pay for his crime at all cost.

“If you want to find an excuse to go against your word and attack Qingshan Sect, be my guest. But don’t even think about trying to frame me for something that I’ve not done. I won’t give you the chance to do that,” declared Jiang Ning. “I have nothing to hide. All I want to do is to help everyone solve the problem of the gray fog. But if you insist on being stubborn and not accept my help, well, you can burn for all I care.”

His voice exploded like thunder in everyone’s ears.

The expressions on a few sect leaders’ faces shifted minutely. They had not expected such forcefulness from Jiang Ning.

They were wary of Jiang Ning’s talent and abilities but at the same time, they were also secretly hopeful that the young man who had suddenly appeared before them could bring about some changes in the mountain.

But the situation seemed to be a mess right now.

Someone had killed Ting Chan with his own sect’s Vajra Fist and they had no idea why or how it even happened.



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Jiang Ning, the man who had been their greatest suspect had been cleared of all suspicion suddenly. What was going on?

Unease churned inside everyone's guts.

Someone as powerful as Ting Chan had been killed. They knew that they were hardly as strong as he had been.

They might be the next one to be killed!

Jiang Ning stood next to the Senior Elder and Liu Chuandao, in front of an army of disciples that were united in will and spirit. If anyone died to step forward and challenge them, they would answer the challenge and fight back fearlessly.

Qingshan Sect was no longer the Qingshan Sect of old. They knew what Jiang Ning meant for them.

As long as Jiang Ning was around, Qingshan Sect had hope. If Jiang Ning was killed, Qingshan Sect would not survive either. No one would be able to.

"Chief, I don't think it's Jiang Ning," said Li Guang. "He had no reason to kill Master Ting."

He eyed Jiang Ning and arrived at that conclusion. He knew that Jiang Ning wasn't one prone to killing and only fought back when his wrath was incurred. He wouldn't have let Li Guang off that easily otherwise.

"Are you sure?" Li Xuan frowned and asked.

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Li Guang didn't say anything more and simply nodded slightly.

He trusted his instincts. Someone else was behind Ting Chan's death. No one knew whom it was, but to put the blame squarely on Jiang Ning now would be to fall for that person's trap.

They would be making a terrible mistake.

"I'll get to the bottom of this," said Li Xuan. "Jiang Ning, if I find out for certain that you're the murderer, I'll come back again and demand justice for Ting Chan! Qingshan Sect can't save you then!"

Having said that, he gestured at his disciples and led them away.

It wasn't going to do them any good to get involved in this entanglement recklessly. The other sect leaders kept their silence as they observed the situation.

Besides knowing that Ting Chan had been killed by the Vajra Fist, they had no evidence to prove that Jiang Ning was the one who killed Ting Chan. In addition, Buddha Sect's absence was a blow to their confidence.

"Let's go." The chief of the Longkongshan Sect threw Jiang Ning a glance before leading his sect away.

The other sects followed and left, leaving only Tianlian Sect standing there.

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The stormy look and twisted features on Luo Qi's face made him look like a demon.

He glared at Jiang Ning with unconcealed hostility in his eyes.

"I'm not going to be taken in by your lies," said Luo Qi.

Jiang Ning didn't bother mincing his words. With a raise of his hand, more than a hundred archers standing behind him got ready to attack.

"Anyone from Tianlian Sect who dares take a step forward will be killed on the spot."

Luo Qi's pupils contracted. He had not expected such aggression from Jiang Ning.

He pulled back the foot that was ready to step forward and nodded. "Fine. I'm going to wait for the day when you're down on your luck and when Qingshan Sect is on the verge of destruction. You'll be on your knees and begging me for mercy then!"

The other sects were long gone. Tianlian Sect couldn't handle Qingshan Sect on its own.

He might not view Liu Chuandao or the rest of Qingshan Sect as a threat, but he knew that Jiang Ning wasn't a character to be trifled with.

He was extremely gifted, powerful and intelligent as well. The average person wasn't a match for him at all. Luo Qi himself had been duped by Jiang Ning in the past and when he had realized

what had been going on, it had been too late.

Liu Chuandao released a sigh of relief after watching the five sects leave.

“I can’t believe that Ting Chan is dead.” The look on his face was grave. “Did that man do it?”

Jiang Ning had warned him to be wary of Mr Lang. The only person whom he could think of that might have done such a thing was that mysterious man.

The Senior Elder had looked into the man. No one in the mountain had heard of Mr Lang. He wasn’t someone from the six major sects. Similarly, other sects had not heard of him before too.

It was as if he had arrived from a place beyond the mountain, like Jiang Ning!



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Why hadn't anyone from the six major sects suspected a thing when this man appeared out of nowhere?

Liu Chuandao found that incredulous.

He had realized almost immediately that Jiang Ning had come from the world beyond the mountain when Jiang Ning had first arrived at Qingshan Sect and that he wasn't one of them. If Qingshan Sect had not recognized Jiang Ning as an ally, the other sects would have had suspicions about Jiang Ning.

Why hadn't anyone suspected Mr Lang at all?

Jiang Ning frowned.

"Don't let your guard down. His origins are mysterious. If he came from the same place that I did, I would know him." After some thought, Jiang Ning added. "Since he didn't, we should find out exactly who he is."

Liu Chuandao and the Senior Elder exchanged a look. They knew that the situation had become more complicated.

This wasn't a problem that only concerned the survival of Qingshan Sect anymore but a problem that concerned the major sects and everyone in the mountain.

Could one man cause such havoc and chaos in their world?

"What do you plan to do next? They must still

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suspect you. You did show them that you knew how to wield the Vajra Fist. You're the only one who has the opportunity to kill Ting Chan." The Senior Elder looked slightly concerned. "At the moment, you're still a suspect."

He didn't believe that Jiang Ning was the murderer. He had no reason to kill Ting Chan, nor would he do so.

They suspected that it was Mr Lang, but they had no evidence to prove that. In addition, no one from the six major sects suspected Mr Lang.

"Let's pay a visit to Buddha Sect," said Jiang Ning. "I believe that they know something."

They had not approached Qingshan Sect and caused a scene. It was clear that Buddha Sect knew that Jiang Ning wasn't the murderer or they would have come looking for him.

"It'll be dangerous." Liu Chuandao shook his head. "The other sects are extremely hostile to you right now. There might be someone hiding out there, waiting to strike you down. I have a feeling that this is a setup meant for you all along."

"A setup meant for me?" Jiang Ning smiled. "That's even better. I'd be worried if it wasn't."

A streak of blinding light flashed across his eyes.

Liu Chuandao was momentarily dazed by the sight. He couldn't believe the well of confidence that Jiang Ning had in himself.

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“I’ll instruct a few elders to accompany you,” said the Senior Elder. “They can watch your back.”

“There’s no need for that.” Jiang Ning shook his head. “The elders should be guarding Qingshan Sect. Defending the sect is our top priority. Liu Zong and Liu Heng can join me. Don’t worry, we’ll be fine.”

He had arrived at his decision instantly.

Qingshan Sect was their top priority. Nothing could happen to the sect. It was the final barrier to the world beyond the mountain, where everyone whom Jiang Ning cared about resided.

“Liu Zong, Liu Heng!” shouted Liu Chuandao.

The two brothers stepped forward immediately. “Father!”

“The both of you are to follow Jiang Ning to Buddha Sect and find out what’s going on.”

“We understand!”

The brothers glanced at Jiang Ning. They had some idea of what they might be about to face. Regardless, they had stared death in the eye once and they were ready to do it again.

“Jiang Ning, your men...”

“They will remain at Qingshan Sect.” Jiang Ning had spoken to Brother Gou earlier. “Protecting the sect is of the utmost importance. If anything crops up, don’t worry about my men when you’re

discussing how to handle it. They'll do their job."

"Alright." Liu Chuandao and the Senior Elder nodded solemnly. "Be careful."

Jiang Ning didn't say anything. He simply led Liu Zong and Liu Heng away and headed for Buddha Sect.

As Liu Qing watched the three men walk away and disappear into the distance, she stopped hiding the worry that she was feeling and allowed it to show on her face.



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“Don’t worry. He’s no ordinary man. He’ll be alright,” Liu Chuandao comforted Liu Qing. “He took your brothers because he wanted to train them. He’ll definitely watch out for them.”

“Jiang Ning’s the one that I’m worried about,” said Liu Qing.

Liu Chuandao froze momentarily before smiling in exasperation. His daughter was all grown up now and beyond his control.

He didn’t waste any time at all. He discussed briefly with the Senior Elder and the other elders before shoring up the sect’s defenses, even going to the extent of using the mountain ants and whichever wild beasts that they could seize control over to boost the sect’s defenses.

Anyone who wanted to cause trouble at Qingshan Sect wouldn’t find an easy time doing it.

Meanwhile.

The five sects had returned to the base and were in the midst of gathering their things before returning to their own sects.

Ting Chan’s death had put everyone on their guard and orders had been issued secretly. Everyone was to stay together instead of acting on their own. The sect leaders and the elders were especially careful to do so.

They weren’t going to give anyone the chance to ambush them.

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The murderer had killed Ting Chan right before the eyes of his disciples. He could kill them just as easily.

“Let’s leave together,” suggested Luo Qi.

He did not voice his concerns but his worry was clearly displayed on his face and plain to see.

“The journey back will be safer if we watch one another’s back.”

The other sect leaders did not disagree with him.

With so many powerful fighters gathered in one place, the murderer wouldn’t dare to try anything no matter how powerful he was.

Even the most powerful fighter wouldn’t be able to escape that easily when surrounded by the five sects.

The five sects gathered together and prepared to leave the base at the same time. They headed down the mountain with the intention of going their separate ways and heading back to their respective sects when they reached the main road.

The path was long and winding. They might be at the foot of the mountain, but it was still going to take some time to reach the main road.

Throughout their journey, everyone was on high alert, keeping their eyes wide open and not daring to let their guard down.

Luo Qi sat in his sedan chair, his eyes half-lidded

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and seemingly resting.

Without any warning, he opened his eyes. A strange light flickered in their depths.

He beckoned Luo Long towards him. The latter hurried over and leaned towards the chief.

“Now.”

At the utterance of that single word, Luo Long nodded immediately.

Within moments, a deafening explosion erupted in the crowd's midst.

BOOM!

Dirt and dust flew.

“An ambush! This is an ambush!” Li Xuan roared. He unsheathed his sword and surveyed his surrounding cautiously. “Who is it? Show yourself!”

No one answered him. The storm of dust and dirt surrounded everyone within a blink of any eye. Everyone tried desperately to escape to no avail.

They started to cough fiercely. Luo Qi fell out of his sedan chair, then shrieked in alarm. “Poison! There's poison in the air!”

He passed out the next moment.

Li Xuan, Yun Zhongxian and some of the others were instantly alarmed. They wanted to seal their

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acupoints but it was too late by then. The thick, gaseous poison had entered their bodies and left them powerless to fight it.

Their heads began to swim and their visions began to blur.

Everyone—sect leaders, elders and disciples—collapsed to the ground.

The dust gradually settled. The ground was littered with the prone, unconscious bodies of everyone from all six sects. No one was left standing after being poisoned.

After a long moment, Luo Qi opened his eyes. A twisted smile tugged at his lips.

He sat up and surveyed his surroundings. Luo Long woke up next, and was followed by the other elders and disciples of Tianlian Sect. They looked around them in bewilderment before arriving at a startling discovery.

Out of the six sects, only those from Tianlian Sect had escaped being poisoned.

“Take them back with us.”

Luo Qi rose to his feet, brushed the dust off his clothes and eyed the fallen men on the ground with an icy look in his eyes.

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He had finally taken all of them down.

Luo Qi scoffed. They had sealed their fate the day that they had agreed to negotiate with Jiang Ning and on the eventual ceasefire.

“Chief, what should we do with them?” asked Luo Long.

Capturing the sect leaders of the sects were akin to having seized their respective sects by their throats. In order to successfully blackmail the sects, he still had some work to do though. It wasn't going to be easy.

“Bring them back and lock them up. There are still many other elders left at their respective sects. All of them have to be captured before we can truly seize control over the sects,” said Luo Qi. “It's a pity that Buddha Sect slipped through our fingers.”

Ting Chan's death didn't make up for that particular loss.

He had planned on seizing control over the other five major sects which would give him control over all six major sects.

The power that he would hold then would be unimaginable.

Everything would become a piece of cake. He could take over Qingshan Sect and any other sect with ease.

“I wonder if they will yield.” Luo Long frowned.

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“These are difficult men.”

“Not when they have to deal with me. Everyone will bend to my will,” scoffed Luo Qi. “Alright, get moving. Everything within this mountain will soon be ours.”

“Yes, Chief!” Luo Long nodded.

Luo Qi narrowed his eyes as he surveyed the unconscious men around me. It had taken him a lot of effort to arrive at where he was now. He had been left with no other choice. These scoundrels wouldn't listen to him otherwise.

Nothing was going to get done if everyone had their own interests at heart.

He took a deep breath. His eyes looked dark and unfathomable. A wave of spasms rippled across his face suddenly and the next moment, he seemed to have forgotten what he was meant to do. It took him a long while before he became his normal self again.

Meanwhile, Jiang Ning, Liu Zong and Liu Heng were on the way to Buddha Sect.

“Brother Jiang, will Buddha Sect attack us?” Liu Zong was a little worried.

Ting Chan, the chief of Buddha Sect, had died.

He had been highly respected within the sect and had also been a figure of great influence and authority within the mountain.

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Jiang Ning was currently suspected of murdering him. If he were to turn up at their gates, Buddha Sect might attack and kill him and both brothers.

“That’s right. Buddha Sect must be enraged. I’m worried about turning up at their doors without any invitation.”

They weren’t worried about dying.

They didn’t mind dying if their deaths served a greater purpose than their being alive.

But there was no point in flagrantly seeking death.

“It’ll be fine,” said Jiang Ning. “We’re paying our respects to Ting Chan. They won’t attack us.”

Jiang Ning was well aware that he had not killed Ting Chan.

But he had not expected the culprit to kill Ting Chan with the Vajra Fist. It was a move that framed him for the murder while clearing him of any suspicions of murdering Ting Chan at the same time.

He looked at the brothers. “Anyway, they only want me dead. They won’t kill the two of you.”

“We’re not afraid to die.” Liu Zong shook his head. “We just find this whole matter bizarre. Don’t you feel the same way? Ting Chan had been on our side during the negotiation. He had supported us. But he had been killed the next day. Doesn’t that show that someone doesn’t want him on our side?”

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“That’s right. Ting Chan is a well-respected figure. We still respected him even when Buddha Sect became our enemy. It’s such a pity that he was killed by someone with evil intentions.”

Jiang Ning eyed the brothers, then burst out into laughter. “You’re finally putting that brain of yours into good use.”

He didn’t say much. There was no point in explaining too much now. They would find out what was going on when they arrived at Buddha Sect.

Jiang Ning urged the brothers to hurry up. There wasn’t much time left to be wasted.



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The sacred grounds of Buddha Sect were steeped in sorrow and anguish.

Ting Chan had died.

No one had expected such a tragedy.

Elder Ting Feng conducted the funeral while the other elders observed the ceremony with sorrow in their eyes.

The disciples were weeping openly as they kneeled before Ting Chan's altar, their heads low as they chanted scriptures for their former chief.

His death was a great loss to Buddha Sect.

"Who is it?"

There was an unexpected commotion at the gates. Elder Ting Feng looked up and frowned slightly. After instructing the other elders to take charge of the ceremony, he marched briskly towards the gates.

A dozen disciples had gathered at the gates with staffs and had surrounded Jiang Ning, Liu Heng and Liu Zong.

"They're from Qingshan Sect. Are you Jiang Ning? You murderer!"

"I can't believe the nerve you have, turning up at our doorsteps after you've killed our chief. Let's kill him!"

"Don't let him escape!"

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The disciples were overcome with rage. The fires of fury that were alit within them could burn Jiang Ning alive.

Jiang Ning simply stood there with no expression on his face. He didn't seem to be fazed by their threats.

"I'm here to pay my respects to Master Ting," he said mildly. "Shouldn't you at least let me do that before you kill me?"

"You're not worthy!"

"Murderer! All this talking is just a waste of time!"

The disciples charged at Jiang Ning.

Murderer!

In their eyes, Jiang Ning was the murderer who had killed Ting Chan. Who else could it be?

They knew that Jiang Ning had secretly learned Buddha Sect's Vajra Fist and he had used the Vajra Fist to kill Ting Chan.

They had to kill him to avenge Ting Chan.

With a thunderous roar, more disciples joined the charge. The faces of Liu Zong and Liu Heng paled. It had been as they had predicted. Coming to Buddha Sect had been akin to seeking death.

"Stop!" someone thundered suddenly. Elder Ting Feng had appeared at the gates and was staring at Jiang Ning. "Everyone, stop right now."

NH

They were no match for Jiang Ning. Trying to fight him was akin to suicide.

The elder had come to the conclusion that Jiang Ning wasn't the murderer some time ago. He had inspected Ting Chan's wounds and had been certain that the murderer wasn't Jiang Ning.

"He's not the one who killed Ting Chan," said Elder Ting Feng.

The disciples froze in stupor.

"Elder Ting Feng, did you just say that he's not the murderer?"

"That's right. It's someone else. He's here to pay his respects to Master Ting. Let him in." The elder nodded.

The disciples parted and let Jiang Ning through. The eyes that followed Jiang Ning fixedly as he walked past them were still red with fury.

Jiang Ning walked right up to Elder Ting Feng.

"This way, please," said the elder.

Jiang Ning walked next to Elder Ting Feng as the latter led the way into the courtyard, down the corridor and for the great hall, where the altar had been placed.

Two rows of disciples flanked Jiang Ning as he walked down the hall. They were all staring at him with looks filled with intense and unfathomable emotion.

NH

He did not pay them any heed as he walked through the crowd and arrived before the altar. He got himself three incense sticks, lit them with the burning candle, then walked right up to the altar and bowed three times.

“Master Ting, I pray that you rest in peace.” He turned and extended a slight bow towards the elders. “My condolences.”

Elder Ting Feng and his fellow elders returned the bow.

Jiang Ning placed the incense stick in the incense burner, then walked to the side of the hall so that he would not disrupt the ceremony.

His intentions had been to pay his respects to Ting Chan all along. He had felt truly sorry when he had heard about the latter’s death.

During the negotiation, Ting Chan had been the only one out of the six sect leaders who had genuinely strived for peace and stability inside the mountain. Unfortunately, he had messed up someone else’s plan.

Jiang Ning had come to pay his respects and that made him a guest. Elder Ting Feng wasn’t a man who didn’t know his etiquette.

He instructed someone to receive Jiang Ning and invited him to take a seat. After he had attended to other matters at hand, the elder approached Jiang Ning.

“Buddha Sect thanks you for traveling all the way


NH


here to pay your respects,” said Elder Ting Feng. “We’ll be chanting scriptures for our chief for the next few days before we bury him. Unless there are any other matters you wish to discuss with us, I’m afraid that we cannot let you remain here.”


The look on his face was somber.

“Ting Chan died an unjust death,” said Jiang Ning. “Are we going to let the murderer escape scot free?”

Something flashed across Elder Ting Feng’s face when he heard what Jiang Ning had said.

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 Wait! I Have Something to Say!

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NH

“The murderer has not been identified and is still on the loose. How will Master Ting rest in peace?” Jiang Ning said mildly. “Elder Ting Feng, I believe this isn't what you want for Master Ting.”

The elder's face was slightly pale. He didn't say a word and simply stared at Jiang Ning silently.

“Both of us know that the murderer is someone else. Do you not wish for Master Ting's death to be avenged and his murderer brought to justice?”

“There's no murderer.” Elder Ting Feng shook his head, his voice clearly trembling when he spoke.

He was filled with obvious aggrievement and resentment.

Jiang Ning could tell.

“Our chief's death was a result of an accident during his training. He got out of control and suffered grievous injury to his meridians. No one killed him. There must have been a misunderstanding,” droned Elder Ting Feng as he spewed words that he found unbelievable.

But he had to say them.

The elder didn't speak again. With a Buddhist gesture and a slight bow, he indicated that it was time for them to leave.

Jiang Ning smiled wordlessly, got up and left.

Liu Zong and Liu Heng followed him with mild confusion.

NH

They didn't voice their bewilderment as they followed Jiang Ning out of Buddha Sect.

When the three of them reached the foot of the mountain, Liu Zong finally blurted out. "Master Ting was clearly murdered. Why is Elder Ting Feng trying to conceal the truth?"

The truth was plain for all to see. His attempts at concealment weren't going to change what had happened.

"He's trying to protect Buddha Sect," said Jiang Ning.

That was equally plain to see.

The elder must know whom the murderer was, but he dared not incur the latter's wrath. The deaths might stop at Ting Chan if he kept his distance from the murderer. Otherwise, it could mean the destruction of the entire Buddha Sect.

Jiang Ning would have done the same. When you were not powerful enough, this was what you had to do sometimes. You had to swallow your pride even when someone was pushing you around.

But this was their chief's death that they were talking about. Ting Chan had been the pillar of Buddha Sect.

"We won't be able to find any clues if Elder Ting Feng refuses to tell us anything," said Liu Heng. "But his statement does clear Brother Jiang of all suspicions. No one can be the murderer if there's no murderer in the first place."

NH

He had been cleared of all suspicions but the real murderer was still out on the loose. Who could guarantee that he wouldn't kill again?

Jiang Ning gave the brothers a look and without a word, found a flat slab of rock and sat down.

He wasn't in a hurry to leave.

Liu Zong and Liu Heng were still in a heated discussion about making further preparations in case anything unexpected happened.

After some time, they realized that Jiang Ning didn't seem to have any intentions of leaving. Realization struck them after a moment of surprise.

"Are we going back to Buddha Sect?"

Jiang Ning nodded.

"Let's wait a while."

"Alright."

The brothers had spent quite some time with Jiang Ning. They had realized what was going on within moments. They didn't say a single word and instead, sat there quietly and waited for the skies to turn dark.

The moon rose into the night sky. Jiang Ning opened his eyes.

"Wait here for me."

NH

“Alright. Please be careful, Brother Jiang,” said the brothers as they nodded.

Jiang Ning disappeared into the night. Vanishing along with him were all traces of his presence. Liu Zong and Liu Heng were blown away by what they had just witnessed.

They couldn't sense Jiang Ning's presence at all.

“He's amazing,” said Liu Zong. “I doubt even the Senior Elder can do that. Where did we find the nerve to offend him?”

Shivers of terror coursed through Liu Heng.

They would have been dead if Jiang Ning had decided to take their provocation seriously.

Fortunately, Jiang Ning hadn't taken their childish antics seriously. This was the first time they felt thankful for being a kid.

The brothers listened to Jiang Ning, sat there obediently and waited.

Under the cloak of darkness, Jiang Ning made his way swiftly to Buddha Sect.

He arrived at the altar and was greeted by the sight of Elder Ting Feng, who was keeping vigil alone.

NH

He had instructed the rest accordingly and delegated other tasks to them while he alone would stand vigil. He had done so because he was waiting for Jiang Ning.

He knew that the man would come again.

Keeping his eyes fixed on the altar, Elder Ting Feng did not turn around when he heard the sound of faint footsteps behind him.

“I had no choice. I hope you understand that. Not everyone can risk everything for justice. I know that you’re not the murderer and that it’s someone else. I even know who it is, but it’s not someone that I or Buddha Sect can offend.” He turned around and looked at Jiang Ning. “You should know this better than I do.”

Jiang Ning nodded.

“I know. I’m here not to persuade or make demands of you. Buddha Sect will decide for itself how to deal with its own affairs. I simply wish to tell you something.” He looked the elder in the eye. “You have a spy in your midst.”

Something flickered across Elder Ting Feng’s eyes. He seemed to have thought of something. His pupils contracted as he stared at Jiang Ning.

“Watch out for yourself.”

Having said that, Jiang Ning turned and left without saying another word.

The sound of his footsteps faded as he

NH

disappeared into the distance. The look in Elder Ting Feng's eyes grew sharper as he knelt before the altar.

There was a spy in their midst!

He had suspected that there was a spy in Buddha Sect quite some time ago. The route which they had travelled from the base back to Buddha Sect had been decided by Ting Chan the moment before they had left. They had not taken the main roads. No one should have realized where they had been.

There must have been a spy amongst them who had revealed their location, thus allowing the murderer the chance to make the necessary preparations.

That day, someone had attacked his disciples and lured him into coming to their rescue. He had fallen for the enemy's trap and that had led to Ting Chan's death.

He had been ridden with guilt ever since.

"The person who ambushed our disciples..." Elder Ting Feng clenched his jaw as his features contorted with murderous rage. "It's someone from Buddha Sect."

That was the only possible explanation.

He took a deep breath, then stared at Ting Chan's tablet.

"Chief, tell me what I should do. You entrusted

NH

Buddha Sect to me. I can't risk everything to avenge your death."

His greatest duty now was to protect Buddha Sect. Revenge? Of course he wanted revenge. He wished desperately that he could fight the murderer to the death. But what was going to happen to the sect then?

Elder Ting Feng continued kneeling there, sighing heavily as he struggled to decide what he should do.

The sky gradually brightened.

It had been a sleepless night for him.

The sect's disciples arrived early that morning to continue their prayers for Ting Chan.

"Elder Ting Feng, something terrible has happened!" A disciple dashed into the hall with a look of utter panic on his face. "Something bad has happened!"

The elder looked up to find anguish, panic and terror on the face of Ting Chan's principal disciple.

"What happened?"

"It's the other five major sects, Elder...they're in trouble!" The disciple fell onto his knees. His voice shook as he spoke. "The sect leaders and elders from the Qiankun Sect, Longkongshan Sect, Bajian Sect, Tianlian Sect and Heifeng Sect have been captured!"

NH

“What did you just say?” Elder Ting Feng blurted out in shock. What was going on? “Tell me exactly what happened!”

“The five sects were ambushed when they left Qingshan Sect. They were poisoned and couldn't fight back...”

Elder Ting Feng was stunned. Why would anyone do anything like that?

Was it that man? Perhaps Buddha Sect hadn't been his only target. He had intended to take down all six sects.

Something wasn't right though.

“Something's not right!” Elder Ting Feng's face darkened. “Why would you know this when I know nothing about it...”

Before he was done speaking, a look of vicious savagery appeared on the face of the disciple kneeling before him. As the disciple raised his arm suddenly, a dagger slipped out from his sleeve and into his hand. He tightened his grip around the dagger and thrust it at Elder Ting Feng's gut.

Elder Ting Feng tried to dodge the attack to no avail and ended up with a cut on his stomach.

“You must be tired of living!” He thundered before smashing the Vajra Fist into the disciple's crown. “I can't believe you're the spy!”

PAK!

The disciple widened his eyes as his skull split wide open with a loud crack. Blood gushed from the wound and streamed down his forehead.

THUD.

His corpse fell heavily onto the ground and stained the floor red with blood.

Elder Ting Feng stumbled a few steps back as he held his hand protectively over his stomach. He was livid.

He had not expected this disciple to be the spy.

The former chief had trusted him so much.

“Elder Ting Feng!”

“Elder Ting Feng, are you alright?”

The disciples were filled with worry. One of them immediately called for someone to treat Elder Ting Feng’s injury.

“I’m fine.” The elder inhaled sharply and tried to pretend that he wasn’t as badly injured as he appeared. Fortunately, he had reacted in time. Otherwise, that attack would have killed him.

There was a severe look on his face. There was no time to get furious over the disciple’s betrayal. The worry that occupied his mind now was whether the traitor had spoken the truth before his attempted assassination.

NH

Had members of the five major sects truly been captured? If so, by who?

Was it that man again?

Elder Ting Feng simply sat there. His mind felt sharp because of the pain he was feeling. The traitor had truly wanted him dead!

“What’s going on?”

The other elders had arrived. They were filled with fury and worry when they realized what had happened.

“I’m afraid he was speaking the truth.” Elder Ting Feng recalled what Jiang Ning had told him last night. “We might have made a terrible mistake. We were willing to swallow our pride in order to protect the sect, but our enemy might not be willing to let us off.”

He clenched his jaw as a murderous rage churned inside him.

Jiang Ning had been right. Their enemy wasn’t going to let Buddha Sect go that easily. He had something ambitious planned. The six sects had stepped into his trap and allowed him to manipulate them for his purposes when they had formed their alliance.

Perhaps they had lost their usefulness and he wanted to get rid of them. Perhaps he had other uses for them.

Regardless, they had been tools that had been

NH

exploited by someone from the very beginning.

“Send someone to find out what’s going on,” said Elder Ting Feng. “We should prepare ourselves and get ready to move upon a moment’s notice.”

After some thought, he decided that that wasn’t going to be enough.

“We’ll move now!”

He rose to his feet immediately. The elders knew that he was still injured and tried to stop him, but Elder Ting Feng merely shook his head.

“I’m worried that we might be too late.”

They had been wrong once. They couldn’t afford to make a second mistake. They might live to regret it.

Elder Ting Feng issued orders for two elders and some of their disciples to remain at Buddha Sect and defend the sect while the rest followed him and hurried to Tianlian Sect.

If his guess was right, they must be imprisoned there.

Meanwhile, Jiang Ning had brought Liu Zong and Liu Heng back to Qingshan Sect.

Upon their arrival, they saw Liu Chuandao leading a group of disciples out of the sect.

“What’s going on?” asked Liu Zong.

NH

“It’s a disaster.” Liu Chuandao said with a grave look on his face. “The men from the five major sects have been captured and are imprisoned at Tianlian Sect. Wait a minute, it’s men from four of the five sects. They’ve been captured by Tianlian Sect.”

He had not expected something like this to happen.

Luo Qi must be out of his mind to attempt something as wild as this.

Liu Chuandao turned towards Jiang Ning. “You are right. That Mr Lang is no ordinary character.”

Jiang Ning frowned slightly.

Mr Lang had engineered the alliance amongst the six major sects in the first place. But the alliance had fallen apart upon their withdrawal from the fight with Qingshan Sect and foiled his plans. That was why he had to carry out the next step in his plans.

But Jiang Ning had not expected Tianlian Sect to be so merciless.

They had attacked their allies without mercy.

“What are they planning to do?” Jiang Ning asked.

“They want to use the sect leaders and elders of the respective sects as bargaining chips to blackmail the other sects into submitting to Tianlian Sect’s rule,” scoffed Liu Chuandao. “Luo Qi wants to seize control of all five major sects!”

NH

Ting Chan was dead. He had nothing to make a bargain with Buddha Sect. But the sect leaders and elders of the remaining four sects were now in his hands. Luo Qi could destroy the sect that refused to submit to his rule.

“I’ve discussed with the Senior Elder. Even though this has nothing to do with Qingshan Sect, we can’t just stand by and do nothing.”

Their fates were bound with each other’s. If one perished, so would the other. They knew how this worked.

Luo Qi wanted control over the five major sects and he wanted to unite them in power and strength. Who was he planning to attack with their forces?

It was probably Qingshan Sect.

Jiang Ning nodded.

“You’re right. We can’t stand by and do nothing.” He gave everyone a look. “Let’s go. I’ll join you as well. Our top priority is to rescue the sect leaders and elders of the other sects.”

They had to do it not simply for Qingshan Sect but for the peace and safety within the mountain.

The peace and stability of the worlds within and beyond the mountain were equally important. Anything that affected one would affect the other too. Jiang Ning knew that very well.

He did not hesitate as he joined Liu Chuandao

NH

and Qingshan Sect in their charge to Tianlian Sect to rescue the rest.

Tianlian Sect was situated on a tall mountain that was obscured by thick clouds.

Towering majestically above a winding mountain range, the sect was an impenetrable fortress with strong defenses that could not be easily breached.

The path up the mountain was winding, long and ill-suited for mass armies who thought of attacking the sect. Elder Ting Feng frowned slightly at the sight of the endless mountain path. He was certain that they would be faced with numerous ambushes on their way up.

“What do we do now?” someone asked.

“Have the other sects taken action?”

“Not yet. They’re probably trying to think of a plan.”

No one dared to abandon their chief and elders. These were the pillars of the sect. If they died, the sect wasn’t going to survive for long either.

Was submitting to Tianlian Sect’s demands their only option?

Their chief and elders would be forced to become Tianlian Sect’s puppets and for as long as they lived, remain under the control of the sect.

“We can’t wait any longer,” said Elder Ting Feng.

NH

“As soon as they surrender and pledge their loyalty to Tianlian Sect, Luo Qi, that scoundrel, will strike immediately. Everything’s going to be too late then.”

He gritted his teeth and looked at the men that he had brought along with him. There were too few of them. But time was running out fast.

“We’ll split up and ascend the mountain in groups. Every elder will lead a small team. Be careful and watch out for ambushes. Find a way to get into Tianlian Sect first before finding a way to save the prisoners.”

“Yes, sir!”

After issuing his orders, Elder Ting Feng led his own team away and attempted to ascend the mountain.

The other elders had their own teams as well. They made their way slowly up the mountain, exercising extreme caution and watching out for traps and ambushes on the way up. They dared not move too quickly or recklessly.

Nevertheless, they encountered numerous ambushes that resulted in the deaths of a dozen or more disciples.

“Kill them! Kill them all!” Elder Ting Feng thundered as he stared at the incoming arrows that had been fired from afar. Paying no heed to his injuries, he darted forward with the agility of a monkey and charged at his enemies.

NH

The Vajra Fist was unleashed in a series of fierce and swift attacks.

BAM!

BAM!

BAM!

He killed five archers in a series of blows, breached the defense and waved his hand. "Charge up the mountain!"

SWOOSH!

A sudden shrill sound pierced the air.

Before Elder Ting Feng could do anything, an arrow had come flying towards him and pierced right through his palm, sending blood splattering.

Horrified, he dodged behind a tree.

"Hide! Everyone, hide yourselves!"

The next moment, the disciple who had been leading the party was shot dead by an arrow that pierced his skull.

A mist of blood exploded in the air.

"Hide yourselves!" Elder Ting Feng thundered.

He stared at the gaping wound in his hand as tremors of pain coursed through his body. His lips twitched from the agony that he was feeling. What a terrifying archer!

NH

He couldn't discern where the archer was hidden.

He was the final line of defense. Every attack he unleashed was meant to kill!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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NH

Everyone retreated immediately. They dared not reveal their presence at all.

The terrifying archer hidden in the dark could kill with a single shot!

“Elder, your hand!”

Upon seeing Elder Ting Feng’s wound, a few disciples’ eyes turned red instantly.

They knew that this wasn’t the only injury that the elder had sustained.

“I’m fine.” Elder Ting Feng clenched his jaw and instructed someone to bring some medicine over. He scattered the medicinal dust over the wound, igniting intense agony that sent spasms rippling through his body. Throughout it all, he did not utter a single sound.

He bore the pain stubbornly.

After his wounds had been attended to, Elder Ting Feng stared hard into the distance for a long time, but he could not discern where the archer was hidden.

The archer was extremely skilled. He had a feeling that even he would get killed with a single shot if he stepped out of his hiding spot right now.

“Don’t step out of your hiding spot,” said Elder Ting Feng. “The archer is very skilled. Hide yourself.”

NH

Everyone who revealed their location would be killed. He was no exception.

He had not expected Tianlian Sect to set up this trap for them. The archer was going to be their greatest hurdle.

Who could get past him?

Not the average disciple. Not even powerful fighters who were elders. They would be killed with a single shot.

“Elder, nobody’s going to be able to get up the mountain if we don’t do anything.”

“That’s right. What should we do? We can’t keep waiting.”

“I’ll draw him out!” someone yelled. He was one of the quicker ones. He might be able to draw the archer into making another attack and seize the chance to find out where he was hidden.

Upon saying that, the disciple dashed out before Elder Ting Feng could stop him.

“Don’t go!”

It was too late. He had left his hiding place. Within a few steps, a shrill whistle pierced the air.

The disciple was as swift as lightning and he had been prepared for the shot. With a twist of his body, he dodged the first arrow.

“Humph! Let’s see you try and get me!” He

NH

thundered before attempting to zigzag across the forest. Before he could take his third step, a sharp whistle rang in the air again.

SWOOSH!

The arrow struck him in his heart.

“Ah!”

Another arrow pierced right through his skull.

The screaming stopped.

Elder Ting Feng’s eyes were red with anguish.

“No! Stop revealing your presence!”

He had lost a few disciples within a blink of an eye. His eyes were bloodshot as he thundered. “Hide yourselves and don’t come out of your hiding. This is an order!”

He wanted to save the five sects, but he didn’t want to see his own disciples die needlessly.

Staring into the distance, he couldn’t discern the archer’s location at all. Stepping out into the open recklessly was suicide.

Elder Ting Feng’s breathing was uneven as he stared at his disciples. “Don’t go out there and get yourself killed.”

His disciples kneeled behind him, their eyes equally bloodshot. No one could have expected that they would be forced to stop their advance

NH

here. Who could the mysterious archer be?

They were not aware that Tianlian Sect had someone so skilled.

The rest of the party had slowly caught up with them. They were all stuck there, afraid to take one step forward.

Their repeated attempts had ended up in death by a single shot.

They had not expected the archer to be so terrifying.

“What should we do now? We can’t get past the archer.”

“Who could that be? How could he be so powerful?”

“Where is he hiding? Did anyone of you see him?”

The elders discussed in hushed tones amongst themselves. No one could tell where the archer was hidden. The arrows had come from different directions. The archer couldn’t possibly change his location every time he attacked. Perhaps there were more than one archer.

A grave look settled on Elder Ting Feng’s face.

“We can’t get in.”

He was filled with exasperation and anxiety.

If they didn’t find a way around this, they wouldn’t

be able to get into Tianlian Sect in time. When the other sects gave in and submitted to Tianlian Sect, there would be no point in them trying to reach Tianlian Sect then.

What was he to do?

He had no idea at all!



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NH

The elders tightened their fists as they suffered intense fury and helplessness that they had never experienced before.

They had thought of sending a group of men to serve as distraction while the rest of them attempted a charge into Tianlian Sect, but none of them could stomach the idea of sending their disciples to their deaths.

“Qingshan Sect is here!” Someone’s voice thundered suddenly. Elder Ting Feng whipped his head up instantly.

Had Qingshan Sect arrived?

Why were they here?

“Chief Liu is here with his men!”

“Jiang Ning is here too!”

Jiang Ning?

Elder Ting Feng’s heart fell from his throat back down into his chest when he heard the mention of Jiang Ning’s name. He felt a strange and sudden lightness come over him, as if Jiang Ning’s arrival was going to solve all their problems.

He had no idea why he felt that way.

Jiang Ning arrived within moments. Next to him was Liu Chuandao, Liu Zong and Liu Heng.

“Chief Liu, we weren’t expecting you,” said Elder Ting Feng. “The six sects had tried to attack

NH

Qingshan Sect in the past. Yet now, you're trying to save us."

"Our fates are bound with one another's." Liu Chuandao nodded. "Qingshan Sect is going to suffer too if Luo Qi gets what he wants. We're not doing this for you."

He spoken honestly, without attempting to conceal anything.

Elder Ting Feng nodded. He was still grateful.

"We're stuck here." He pointed at the forest ahead of them. "The forest is elevated. We don't know how many archers are hidden in there. They're really skilled. Quite a few of my disciples have died."

He gestured at his own hand. The bandages wrapped around it were soaked in blood.

Liu Chuandao took a look and frowned. They were faced with archers whose shots even Elder Ting Feng couldn't dodge.

Where had Tianlian Sect found such incredible archers?

"That's going to cause us some trouble. Is this the only way up the mountain?" he asked.

"It is. There used to be another path at the back of the mountain but Tianlian Sect sealed it. This is the only way up now."

"Luo Qi must be waiting for the other four sects to

NH

surrender and submit to his rule. That would give him complete power over five sects. If that happens, he'll be able to do whatever he wants," said Elder Ting Feng. "What worries me is the possibility that Luo Qi might not be the mastermind behind everything and that Mr Lang is the one pulling the strings all along."

That was his chief worry right now.

"Archers?"

Jiang Ning gave them a look before looking up and inspecting the forest ahead of them. His eyes scanned the forest like beams of x-ray and located a few possible locations the archers might be at within moments.

Jiang Ning was the master when it came to assassination and infiltration.

He didn't waste any time on words and prepared to make his way forward immediately. Elder Ting Feng's face paled with terror.

"Jiang Ning! What do you think you're doing?"

Jiang Ning ignored him. As soon as he took his first step forward, a sharp whistle pierced the air.

Elder Ting Feng felt a chill on his back. Was Jiang Ning trying to court death?

SWOOSH!

An arrow flew right at Jiang Ning. Without sparing the arrow a single glance, Jiang Ning shifted his

NH

body minutely with a single light step and dodged the shot.

The arrow sunk into the ground barely ten centimeters away from Jiang Ning's feet. Everyone's eyes widened with incredulity at the sight.

Jiang Ning did not pause in his tracks and continued advancing. But his movements appeared incomprehensible and bewildering, and seemed extremely bizarre.

Shrill whistles pierced the air as multiple arrows flew towards Jiang Ning at lightning speed.

SWOOSH!

SWOOSH!

SWOOSH!

Jiang Ning walked as if he were taking a leisurely stroll in his own backyard. The arrows appeared to be frightened of him, steering away from him without even touching his clothes.

"This..."

Elder Ting Feng and the rest were stunned at the sight. His disciples' eyes had widened as they witnessed the scene before them with disbelief.

What a terrifying man!

How did Jiang Ning manage to do that? The archers seemed to be powerless against Jiang

Ning.

Before they could recover from their shock, Jiang Ning had reached the forest and darted into its midst like a streak of lightning.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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NH

“How...how did he do that?”

“That’s incredible. The archers couldn’t predict where Jiang Ning will be at all!”

“That’s amazing! What a strange technique!”

The elders’ eyes widened with incredulity.

They couldn’t believe how easily Jiang Ning had made his way into the forest.

They had been stuck here for a very long time but Jiang Ning had broken through Tianlian Sect’s defenses as soon as he had arrived. How powerful was this man?

Even if he were an incredibly powerful fighter, that didn’t explain how he had come to possess such an extraordinary technique. Jiang Ning was simply unbelievable!

They had no idea that Brother Gou and his gang of men would have evaded those arrows just as easily.

They had been trained and their reflexes were honed to dodge not only arrows but bullets.

“What do we do now?” asked Elder Ting Feng as he looked at Liu Chuandao.

Jiang Ning had gotten past the archers. But what about them?

“Let’s wait.”

NH

Liu Chuandao had been similarly stunned.

He had done his best to raise his expectations of what Jiang Ning was capable of but the latter still managed to surprise him every time. Liu Chuandao was constantly being forced to face the fact that he had repeatedly underestimated Jiang Ning's abilities.

He lacked the experience and wisdom to truly fathom the limits of Jiang Ning's capabilities.

Jiang Ning had breached their defenses, so the archer was going to be in trouble soon.

All they had to do and could do now was wait.

In the forest in front of them was the hidden archer. There was a dark look on his face. He had only a few arrows left in the quiver on his back.

He had released a few shots consecutively and none of his arrows had even managed to touch Jiang Ning's clothes. This was an insult to his skill.

Having witnessed Jiang Ning enter the forest, the archer got to his feet and prepared to move to another spot.

As someone skilled in assassination and ambushes, his first instinct upon realizing that the enemy had found out where he was hidden was to move to another location.

But he had barely taken more than two steps away from his hidden place when a sudden loud

NH

rush of air erupted next to him.

SWOOSH!

He twisted to his side instantly. With a twitch of his wrist, a dagger appeared in his hands. He tightened his fingers around the dagger and slashed the air before him, snapping the arrow that shot past his ear into two.

PAK!

The arrow fell onto the ground. It was the arrow that he had released earlier.

“Who are you?” He yelled, but no one replied him.

SWOOSH!

SWOOSH!

SWOOSH!

Three more arrows came flying. With a smirk, the man swung the dagger in his hand deftly and sliced all three arrows into two.

These were his arrows, arrows that he had used to kill someone else, and now, he was the one destroying them.

SWOOSH!

Yet another loud rush of wind erupted as something shot through the air at a speed that surpassed that of the previous few arrows.

NH

The archer leaped lightly on his feet and retreated a few steps back. His eyes were fixed on the incoming arrow, which was headed straight for his skull.

“HA!” He yelled and, with a burst of strength released from his wrist, cut the incoming arrow into halves.

The timing of his counterattack had been extremely precise.

“That’s quite impressive.” A man’s voice erupted in his ears like sudden thunder, sending alarm bells blaring in his head.

Someone was standing next to him.

When had he arrived?

There was no time to think. He raised his dagger instinctively and swung it towards his side. He missed.

“I’m here.”

A gush of wind hit him. The archer widened his eyes. The source of that voice had shifted. It seemed to be coming from somewhere behind him.

With a thunderous roar, he whirled around with startling speed.

He was indeed a strong fighter. In fact, one would consider him one of the more powerful fighters in the mountain. Unfortunately, his opponent was

Jiang Ning.

The dagger in his hand hit air once again.

The man was going crazy.

Where?


Where?


Where was he?


He had never encountered someone who was quicker than he was. He couldn't believe this was possible.

Whoosh!

A fierce wind howled around him. The man retreated a few steps to make sure that he could make an escape if he had to. It was then that a rush of wind sounded in his ear once more, appearing so quickly that he couldn't react to it in time!

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NH

As the fist came smashing towards him, he lifted his arm instinctively to block it. But before he could raise his arm, the fist had landed squarely on his face.

BAM!

The heavy blow sent him flying.

His nose was instantly crushed, spewing blood all over the place.

He howled in pain and tried to get to his feet for a counterattack. However, as soon as he opened his eyes, he was greeted with the sight of another incoming punch.

BAM!

BAM!

BAM!

His head swam from the force of three consecutive punches and he nearly passed out. The metallic taste of blood flooded his senses even though his nose had been completely crushed.

His windpipe was choked with blood and he was on the verge of suffocation. Blood had stained his whole face red.

“You...” He struggled to open his eyes and tried to discern what Jiang Ning looked like to no avail.
“Who are you?”

NH

Jiang Ning did not answer him. He simply grabbed the man by his hair and dragged him out like a dead dog.

The archer struggled fiercely but it was all for nothing. He couldn't even catch his breath, how could he free himself?

Trails of blood stained the earth as Jiang Ning dragged the man out of the forest.

Elder Ting Feng and the others were flabbergasted by the sight that greeted them.

They watched Jiang Ning drag a man with a face stained with blood out of the forest. The latter looked terrible and didn't seem to stand a fighting chance against Jiang Ning at all...

Jiang Ning had spent barely ten minutes in that forest.

He was simply incredible!

"There's only one archer," said Jiang Ning coolly as he threw the man before them. "He's not bad. Quite an accomplished archer."

He didn't add that this man would become one of the best assassins if he were to be brought out of the mountain and given proper training.

"You're..."

The archer looked up and mumbled unintelligibly. Blood continued to fill his mouth and nose.

NH

He was one of the best fighters in Tianlian Sect but to Jiang Ning, he seemed barely passable.

Fury filled his insides, but he had no grounds for refutation. He had been soundly beaten by Jiang Ning without barely a chance to fight back.

“Tie him up!” said Elder Ting Feng as he clenched his jaw in fury. “He killed a number of my disciples. I’m not going to let him off that easily!”

Jiang Ning didn’t say a word. He simply turned and gave Liu Chuandao and the rest a look.

“Alright, let’s stop wasting time. You should head up the mountain and try to hold Luo Qi back for as long as you can.”

“What about you?” Luo Chuandao knew what Jiang Ning was not saying.

“I’m going in alone.” Jiang Ning narrowed his eyes. “Either we get those prisoners out or we declare war on Tianlian Sect. You should prepare yourselves.”

An outright war would be the worst possible outcome. But Jiang Ning wasn’t bothered. If it came to that, he would fight. He didn’t fear war. He was the God of War after all!

The god of all battles!

Having said that, Jiang Ning slipped into the forest again and vanished within moments.

“Let’s move.” Liu Chuandao nodded without any

NH

hesitation. “We’ll head up the mountain right now.”

“Let’s go.” Elder Ting Feng issued a similar order.

The two sects made haste and hurried up the mountain. No one stopped them. Within half an hour, they arrived outside the gates of Tianlian Sect.

There were guards defending the gates. With their bows ready at hand and their arrows drawn, they seemed to know that the two sects were coming.

Elder Ting Feng eyed the sharp arrowheads aimed at their people with a somber look on his face.

“Luo Qi!” bellowed the man with a voice like thunder. “Are you trying to make a mess out of our world? Turn back while it’s not too late!”

His thunderous voice rang out and traveled into the sect. It took some time before he received a reply from Luo Qi himself.

“Hahahaha! You want me to turn back now?” Luo Qi laughed. His laughter grew louder as he approached the gates. “I’ve turned around and taken a look. All I see is an abyss that has no end in sight!”

Luo Qi arrived like the wind. He barked out a curt laugh at the sight of Liu Chuandao and Qingshan Sect.

“Ting Feng, if you kill Liu Chuandao and everyone from Qingshan Sect, I’ll consider turning back one more time.”

NH

From the sarcastic tone in Luo Qi's voice, it was plain to everyone that he wasn't going to give up.

It had taken him a lot of effort to capture the sect leaders and elders of the other sects. They were his trump card. He simply needed to hold his ground for a little longer before the other sects caved and submitted to his rule.

"Luo Qi, cease your erroneous ways!" thundered Liu Chuandao. "You've been deceived. You're being used. Can't you see that?"

Liu Chuandao surveyed his surroundings but couldn't see Mr Lang anywhere.

He might not be able to find this mysterious man even if he had been standing in the crowd. No one could sense his presence at all. Jiang Ning had told him that and had warned him to be careful.

His ability to eliminate his presence completely despite being physically present was a terrifying one.

Luo Qi's current situation was a result of being manipulated by Mr Lang. But the man was not aware that he was being used at all.

Luo Qi burst out into laughter.

"Hahahahaha! You think I'm making a mistake? I've seen the light! How I wish that I'd seen it sooner."

"Liu Chuandao!" he thundered. "Your death and the fall of Qingshan Sect is the best possible

NH

outcome. You should know that. Don't you know that this world is on the verge of collapse? We are left with no other choice but to venture outside the mountain and seek more resources. Join me and submit to my rule. I promise that your sect will survive for many generations to come. But if you try to stop me..."

An icy glint flashed in his eyes.

"...I will kill all of you!"

Luo Qi didn't want to waste any more time talking. With a wave of his hand, the archers behind him readied themselves for attack at a moment's notice.

As soon as Luo Qi issued the order, they would kill Liu Chuandao and everyone else mercilessly.

Liu Chuandao, Elder Ting Feng and the others frowned. They knew that Luo Qi had gone out of his mind. Mr Lang had brainwashed him and was in control of his mind. Perhaps Luo Qi had no idea what he was doing now.

"We've got to keep him here for as long as we can," Liu Chuandao said in a hushed tone. "Jiang Ning will find a way to save the prisoners. What we have to do now is to slow Luo Qi down."

Elder Ting Feng nodded. He took a deep breath, exchanged a look with Liu Chuandao, then twisted to the side sharply. His blade appeared at Liu Chuandao's neck.

"Luo Qi! Are you speaking the truth when you said

NH

that you will allow Buddha Sect to continue standing if I kill him?”

SWOOSH!

SWOOSH!

SWOOSH!

Qingshan Sect began to panic.

“Elder Ting Feng! What are you doing?”

“Stop! Don’t do anything rash, Elder Ting Feng!”

Tension filled the air as the two sects eyed each other with hostility.

“Hahahaha! Everyone’s watching out for their own interests. Let’s not judge one another.” Luo Qi couldn’t control his laughter as he observed the scene before him. “That’s right. Kill Liu Chuandao and everyone from Qingshan Sect and I will give you the chance to pledge allegiance to Tianlian Sect. Buddha Sect won’t be destroyed and will survive for more generations to come. Wouldn’t that be wonderful?”

This was what he wanted to see. He found immense pleasure in watching Elder Ting Feng and Liu Chuandao tear each other apart. He wanted these seemingly righteous men to fight and kill each other to protect their own selfish interests.

BOOM!

NH

Liu Chuandao unleashed an attack, shoving Elder Ting's blade away with a smack of his palm. A fight broke out between the two men instantly.

"Elder Ting Feng, are you honestly going to kill me?" thundered Liu Chuandao.

"I'm sorry! I have no other choice!" roared Elder Ting Feng as he unleashed the Vajra Fist and engaged in a fierce battle with Liu Chuandao.

The two men fought ferociously as everyone around them looked on anxiously and kept their distance.

Luo Qi burst out into laughter as he looked on with glee. This was what he had been dying to see.

Meanwhile.

Jiang Ning had already made his way inside Tianlian Sect.

He had taken on the identity of an unassuming disciple of the sect. No one spared him a second glance as he walked down the courtyard.



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NH

Jiang Ning kept his head down as he made his way carefully through the courtyard, walking past numerous people who didn't spare him a look at all.

He could sense an aura of solemnity hanging in the air. Every disciple appeared to be taut with tension. They were clearly struggling to maintain their composure in the current situation.

"I have to find out where the prisoners are kept as soon as possible." Jiang Ning frowned slightly.

The compound of Tianlian Sect was vast. It wasn't going to be easy to locate where the prisoners were being held without taking some time.

Jiang Ning knew that his enemy wasn't Luo Qi, but the mysterious Mr Lang.

His instincts told him that Mr Lang wanted to get his hands on the Extreme Fist Technique Manual. In fact, the man probably knew that Jiang Ning had the manual. To be more precise, he knew that the manual was located beyond the mountain.

With his abilities, he could have approached Qingshan Sect, seized control of the sect, its elders and Liu Chuandao, and forced the gates to the world beyond the mountain open. Wouldn't that be more straightforward?

Why would he spend all that effort in seizing control over Luo Qi, manipulating the sects into forming an alliance and sending the world within the mountain into utter chaos?

NH

Jiang Ning couldn't figure that out.

But this wasn't the time for that anyway.

"Come on, hurry up! We've got to deliver these now."

"It's for those fellows. Why are we in such a rush?"

"What do you know? Are you willing to shoulder the responsibility if anyone died from starvation?"

In the distance, a dozen or so men were cursing as they walked down the corridor with wicker baskets in their arms. Jiang Ning lifted his head instantly.

He smelled something fragrant. Was that food in those baskets?

Judging by the size and number of wicker baskets he could see, they must be feeding quite a large group of people. The sect should have a canteen where everyone could have their meals. There shouldn't be a need to transport so much food somewhere, unless...

Something flickered in Jiang Ning's eyes. He followed the group quietly, surveying the surrounding cautiously as he trailed them.

His caution had not been in vain. It took time to travel these dirt paths on the remote areas of Tianlian Sect and guards could be found guarding every stretch of every path.

NH

Jiang Ning deftly evaded these guards the entire journey and was finally greeted by the sight of a cave.

Jiang Ning waited outside as the men carried the wicker baskets into the cave.

It didn't take long for them to emerge from the cave again with empty wicker baskets. This must be the place where they were keeping the prisoners.

He had to find a way inside, then find another way to bring them out.

Jiang Ning frowned slightly. After some thought, he decided not to break into the cave without a plan. Instead, he turned and left.

Things were going to be easier now that he knew where the prisoners were being kept.

He came back outside, where Liu Chuandao and Elder Ting Feng were still engaged in battle. They were equally matched. Neither could defeat the other.

Their disciples were barely restraining themselves as their elders held them back from attacking the other sect.

It was then that Ting Feng and Liu Chuandao turned their eyes towards the crowd and caught Jiang Ning nodding at them. Their palms shot out and smashed into each other, driving both of them back and ending the fight. Both men panted heavily.

NH

“Why did you stop?” Luo Qi was still enjoying the show. “Elder Ting Feng, it appears that you’re not that capable after all. You can’t even kill Liu Chuandao.”

He had realized from the beginning that the two men had no intention of killing each other. They had been putting up a show for him.

He was happy to enjoy the performance that they put up. He had all the time in the world. Liu Chuandao’s delay tactic didn’t worry him.

“Luo Qi...” Ting Feng gritted his teeth. “Don’t force my hand!”

“That’s exactly what I’m doing. What can you do about it?” Luo Qi barked out a mirthless laugh. “Let me say this again. You have no other choice. You can help me finish what I’ve started or watch as I seize power over the five sects and do it myself.”

His lips were twisted into a terrible smile as he eyed Elder Ting Feng with a faint look of provocation.

“Master Ting’s dead. There’s no point in keeping Buddha Sect around.” With a wave of his hand, the archers began to gather more closely together. He had lost his patience. These games tired him. “Kill anyone who tries to get near.”

NH

Luo Qi wasn't interested in dealing with Buddha Sect right now.

All he had to do was wait for the other four sects to submit to him. He could do whatever he wanted then.

Who gave a damn about Qingshan Sect or Buddha Sect?

He could destroy them all if he wanted.

The other sects in the mountain wouldn't be able to do anything about it even if they wanted to.

"Humph!"

A terrible smile tugged at Luo Qi's lips as he eyed the two sects before turning away and leaving.

Rows of archers readied themselves. If anyone dared to take a step forward, they would release their arrows without mercy and kill him instantly.

Elder Ting Feng and Liu Chuandao exchanged a look with each other. They knew that a reckless charge wasn't going to help. Tianlian Sect was filled with madmen who would stop at nothing to keep their enemies out.

"Retreat," ordered Liu Chuandao.

"Let's fall back first." Elder Ting Feng nodded.

The two sects retreated a mile immediately and attempted to think of another strategy.

NH

After issuing instructions to their men to do the necessary, the few men gathered in the tent. Jiang Ning looked at everyone.

“I found where they’re being locked up, but it’s not going to be easy to free them,” he said mildly. “They’ve been poisoned and probably can’t fight at all. Our priority is to find out what they’ve been poisoned with and where the antidote is hidden.”

He had to neutralize the poison so that they could fight their way out.

There was no other way. Jiang Ning might be able to slip into and out of Tianlian Sect alone, but he wouldn’t be able to do the same if he had so many hapless prisoners with him.

“How do we find out what poison they’ve been given?” Elder Ting Feng shook his head. “Luo Qi is a sly one. He must know that someone would try to save the prisoners and have made the necessary preparations.”

There must be a reason that Luo Qi was acting so brazenly. They were convinced that he had something hidden up his sleeve.

“Think of something,” said Jiang Ning. “This is the only way to save the prisoners. The other option is to level Tianlian Sect.”

Shock rippled across everyone’s thoughts. They had not expected such aggression from Jiang Ning.

He was right. Destroying Tianlian Sect would

NH

solve their current dilemma. The problem was that Tianlian Sect wasn't going to go down that easily.

Besides, they had the sect leaders and elders as their hostages. No one could promise that Luo Qi wouldn't go out of his mind and kill his prisoners.

Silence descended upon the group. Liu Chuandao and the others couldn't think of a way out of their predicament.

"I have an idea," the Senior Elder said suddenly.

All eyes turned towards him.

"If Luo Qi manages to capture one of us, he'll poison that person too. We'll know what poison he's using then."

Jiang Ning frowned slightly. He had thought of that idea as well. Luo Qi wasn't the kind of person who would use a different poison on new captives. It was too much trouble and didn't reflect well on him. What he wanted was the control over the sects. He wouldn't really dare to kill anyone.

"Who's volunteering?" Jiang Ning asked immediately.

Rescuing the prisoners were their top priority now. They shouldn't waste any time if they planned on going ahead with this idea.

"I'll go," said Elder Ting Feng without any hesitation. "I'm the only one who can. Luo Qi

NH

wants control over all six sects. Buddha Sect is the only sect that remains beyond his grasp now.”

He took a deep breath. “He’ll have Buddha Sect by the throat if he has me.”

Despite what he had just said, Elder Ting Feng had instructed the other elders of Buddha Sect previously to protect the sect at all cost, even if he were to be killed.

“Jiang Ning, as soon as I get captured, find a way to slip back into Tianlian Sect again,” said Elder Ting Feng. “You have to locate the antidote once we find out what the poison is.”

Everything would be for nothing if they couldn’t get their hands on the antidote.

“I understand.” Jiang Ning nodded without hesitation.

“Elder Ting Feng...” Liu Chuandao frowned.

“Master Ting won’t die for nothing. The person who killed him must pay a price,” said Elder Ting Feng. “I don’t care who he is, he’s going to pay the price for killing Master Ting. Buddha Sect won’t let his death go unpunished!”



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NH

Having said that, Elder Ting Feng left immediately to make the necessary arrangements.

Liu Chuandao sighed. He had not expected things to turn out this way. Utter chaos was going to descend upon their world.

“We should all be prepared for anything unexpected. No one knows what’s going to happen.” He looked at everyone before his eyes finally landed on Jiang Ning. “Do you have any idea how you’re going to deal with...Mr Lang?”

The thought of that mysterious and terrifying figure made Liu Chuandao’s head throb. He had no idea how one could deal with such an enemy.

Jiang Ning shook his head.

“I’ve only seen him once.” He paused for a moment. “I’ve forgotten what he looks like. I wouldn’t know whom to fight.”

Jiang Ning couldn’t help but laugh at the absurdity of the situation. Mr Lang was indeed a tough opponent. He was no ordinary man.

“Don’t worry. As long as he’s human, we’ll find a way to get rid of him,” said Jiang Ning. “We just have to watch and wait.”

Everyone else nodded in agreement.

The world within the mountain was wrecked with chaos and revolution. This wasn’t something that could be easily resolved. They needed patience and they needed to be prepared to face anything.

NH

They had to be prepared to sacrifice themselves.

Buddha Sect made their move.

As Tianlian Sect slid into careless complacency, Elder Ting Feng led a few of his men and slipped into Tianlian Sect. Naturally, he was discovered when he tried to break into the prison.

A fight broke out instantly.

“Kill them all! We must avenge Master Ting’s death!” roared Elder Ting Feng furiously.

It was an intense battle that resulted in the predictable outcome of Elder Ting Feng and his men’s capture.

Everything was going according to plan.

Jiang Ning dared not make a single mistake. He knew how terrifying Mr Lang was. The man might realize what they were planning and make changes in his own plans. They would have a different fight on their hands then.

Jiang Ning didn’t waste any time at all. He took action as soon as Elder Ting Feng made his move.

Jiang Ning had taken on the identity of an assuming disciple in Tianlian Sect.

“Hurry up! We have more prisoners. Those bastards from Buddha Sect, how dare they attempt a sneak attack on us. What a joke!”

NH

“We should just kill them. What’s the point of keeping them alive?”

“Our chief is too kind. Wouldn’t things be simpler if we just killed them all. Think of all the trouble we’ll be saved!”

“Stop your yammering. These elders can’t die yet. Who’s going to make Buddha Sect surrender if they’re dead?”

A group of disciples were in the midst of packing the dishes that the kitchen had prepared before they delivered them to their prisoners from Buddha Sect.

The pillars of the other five sects had become Tianlian Sect’s prisoners. It was a matter of time before the sects submitted to Tianlian Sect’s rule.

Jiang Ning was hidden amongst this group of disciples. His ability to disguise his appearance allowed him to blend in easily. He was the exact mirror of the person he was impersonating. No one would suspect that he was someone else.

Meanwhile, Elder Ting Feng had been locked up in a cell in the cave. He surveyed the surrounding and noted that the sect leaders of the other sects were all imprisoned in this cave.

“How did you get caught?” Li Xuan sat on the ground, feeling weak and feeble as he leaned against the wall. He shook his head helplessly. “We’re done for. The elders and sect leaders of the five sects have been captured by Luo Qi. What is he up to?”

NH

“He wants control over the six sects. He wants us to obey his rule,” said Elder Ting Feng. “This is great. We are all his captive now.”

His words were lined with hostility.

Things wouldn't have reached such a terrible state if Li Xuan and the others hadn't taken Luo Qi's side.

“Master Ting...” asked Yun Zhongke.

Everyone knew that Master Ting was dead, but who had killed him? If it were not Jiang Ning, who else could it be?

“Luo Qi and his gang were the ones who killed him.” Elder Ting Feng gritted his teeth. His voice trembled with rage as he spoke. “Do you believe me now?”



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