"Old Master Lu, you've misunderstood my words. That's not what I meant at all," said Han Dong-Min anxiously when he heard what Lu Cang-Qiong had just said. Fear had his heart racing a mile a second.

He did not really know the extent of Lu Cang-Qiong's influence. But this was a man whom He Lan-Shan had personally welcomed when he had arrived at Yunzhou. It was clear that he wasn't someone whom Han Dong-Min could trifle with.

"Is that so? What do you mean then?"

Lu Cang-Qiong had reached the limits of his patience.

He could tell that Han Dong-Min seemed intent on speaking up for Ye Fan and helping the young man. He had no intentions of helping the Lu family with their revenge.

A dark look appeared on his face. He turned towards He Lan-Shan and thundered furiously. "Lan-Shan, is this the way the Jiangdong provincial government works? Is this the way you train your men? You seem to have lost your way. Instead of exacting justice for the people of Yunzhou, your men

are now speaking up for ruffians and gangsters."

"How do you expect the folks of Yunzhou to sleep at night? Can the Jiangdong provincial government rest easy at night? Can our great country rest easy at night? If we don't get rid of these bad apples, the entire barrel will soon be filled with rotten apples. There will be chaos in Yunzhou!"

His harsh words were filled with judgment and disapproval.

He Lan-Shan was humiliated by the reprimand.

He flushed and began to apologize profusely.

"Please don't be upset, Old Master Lu. I'll make sure this matter is dealt with. You'll have a satisfactory answer." Having said that, he turned and glared at Han Dong-Min furiously. "Han Dong-Min, I'm going to ask you one last time. Are you going to make the arrest or not?"

"Secretary He, you're putting me in a terrible spot. This is above my paygrade," lamented

Han Dong-Min. He was stuck between He Lan-Shan and Ye Fan, a rock and a hard place.

"I see what's going on here. You're going to disobey my direct orders," said He Lan-Shan furiously.

"You've failed in your duty as a government official and in your obligation as a member of our law-abiding society. Your disobedience of my direct orders is an explicit show of insubordination. You have no regard for the law, for your leaders and for your organization. You have neither principles nor morals that you uphold. You defied your superiors and aligned yourself with criminals and ruffians. As the head of the Jiangdong provincial government, I strip you of your authority and office in Yunzhou. You shall never be promoted or given another office."

He Lan-Shan was truly livid.

He had felt embarrassed by the farce that was happening in Jiangdong and causing him so much grief. Lu's presence had made things worse.

Han Dong-Min's open and public insubordination had added insult to injury. There was no way He Lan-Shan could have kept his temper under control in such a circumstance.

In a fit of anger, he had stripped Han Dong-Min of his title and office.

He was to be sent away to the impoverished and remote countryside to live amongst the poor villagers.

With a few words, he had destroyed Han Dong-Min's future.

All blood drained from Han Dong-Min's face. He shook violently and nearly collapsed onto the ground.

Devastation and despair filled his eyes.

Like Ye Fan, he had been born in a rural village and had come from a family of farmers.

His parents had scrimped and saved so that he could get a college education and get a job in the government.





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He had toiled and labored over the years and risen from the position of a lowly clerk to where he was today.

His achievements had been hard earned.

Han Dong-Min had never taken them for granted.

He was a relentless and disciplined worker who put himself at the frontline every day, working hard for the benefit of his people and the country.

Throughout the years, he had initiated many projects that had helped the community. Bringing joy and happiness to the hardworking peasants of their country had been his lifelong ambition.

His achievements had been plentiful and his efforts repeatedly recognized.

He had a brighter and better future than Wu Wei-Tao.

He had never let his people down and he had never failed in his duties as a government official.

Han Dong-Min could not have foreseen that the career that he had fought so hard for his whole life would be ruined in a single day.

It didn't matter what he had done and how much love and respect he had earned from the people. None of that mattered in the face of a few words of rebuke from Lu Cang-Qiong and Wu Wei-Tao's malicious sabotage.

This was the greatest irony of his life.

His ambitions and his career had come to an end.

Han Dong-Min stood like an idiot, with his utter despair clear on his face. All life seemed to have drained from his body.

"Han Dong-Min, you're not my match with it comes to politics," thought Wu Wei-Tao gleefully as a smug smile tugged at his lips. He was the one who had the most to gain from Han Dong-Min's downfall.

Han Dong-Min had been his greatest rival and competitor in Yunzhou.

The vice mayor had the love of the people in

Yunzhou and enjoyed greater respect than Wu Wei-Tao did.

Han Dong-Min was also more competent than Wu Wei-Tao.

The mayor had been worried that he might be replaced by Han Dong-Min one of these days.

His fears had been realized when Han Dong-Min had taken over all his duties after he had been temporarily stripped of his office.

He Lan-Shan's expulsion of Han Dong-Min from the latter's office had rid Wu Wei-Tao of his greatest worry.

Having announced Han Dong-Min's punishment, He Lan-Shan ignored the man and turned towards Wu Wei-Tao. "Wu Wei-Tao, I'm returning you the powers that you've been stripped of. You know what to do next."

Wu Wei-Tao was overjoyed. He slammed his palm against his chest proudly and promised He Lan-Shan and the others. "Don't worry, Secretary He. Leave the rest to me. Ye Fan's been wreaking havoc in Jiangdong, abusing his power and

mistreating our people. He is a menace to Yunzhou."

"We've suffered his misdeeds for too long. I would have done something about him even if he hadn't killed Mr Lu's grandson. We're going to make him pay for everything that he's done. Secretary He, Mr Lu, don't worry. I'll summon the full force of Yunzhou's police and arrest every single one of these ruffians! I'm make sure justice is served and that Yunzhou, Jiangdong and Old Master Lu are appeased."

The mayor issued an order immediately and summoned every unit in the police force.
Almost a thousand men gathered at Haiyuan Restaurant and surrounded Ye Fan.

Chaos descended upon Yunzhou once again.

The sirens of hundreds of police vehicles blared loudly as these cars sped down the streets and flooded the roads around Haiyuan Restaurant.

"Mr Chu, what should we do next? The government is coming after us now!" Li Er and the rest paled in terror at the sight

# before them.



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"What should we do?"

"What do you mean, 'what should we do'?
They're trying to push us around on our own turf. Are you going to turn tail and run?" Li Zi-Yang shot back when he heard that question.

"We're the Green Dragon Force. We fear no one. We're not going to run. Mr Chu, let's fight!" said Tai Shan as he waved his fists fiercely in the air.

Ma Ming-Bo, Ye Yu-Yan and the remaining members of the Green Dragon Force stepped forward and told Ye Fan that they were ready for a fight.

Ye Fan had built this team from nothing.

Ye Fan was the reason why they possessed such strength and power.

Their instructor was in trouble now. Of course, they were going to fight for him.

"Are you out of your mind? You really think you're a god because you've got a bit of muscle on you, don't you? Do you know what you're saying? That's the mayor of Yunzhou

and the head of the Jiangdong province standing before you. They are the representatives of our country and state. Confronting them head on is only going to get Mr Chu killed. You'll be making Mr Chu an enemy of the state."

"You might be able to fight your way out of this today, but what next? All of you will be made criminals of the state and hunted down by the government. There will be no place for you in our country!"

Li Er nearly wet his pants when he heard what the members of the Green Dragon Force just said.

In a fit of terror and anger, he yelled at Li Zi-Yang for his foolish words.

Chen Ao and the others nodded. They agreed with Li Er.

They didn't think that having a direct confrontation with Wu Wei-Tao and the police was a good idea.

This wasn't the same as fighting the army of three thousand soldiers earlier.

Xur Jun-Lin had deployed those men without the army's approval so that he could settle a score with Ye Fan. Ye Fan had then revealed that he was a general and forced the army to kneel to him. He hadn't done anything wrong.

This wasn't the same as He Lan-San issuing a warrant to arrest Ye Fan.

If Ye Fan tried to resist the arrest, he would be challenging the authority of the country's institutions.

The consequences would be unimaginable!

Li Zi-Yang and the others appeared unfazed though.

"We don't care if we incur the wrath of the state or that we are made the enemy of the state! They're the ones who tried to harm Instructor Chu first. They're the ones who came barging into his home and causing him trouble. They should have known that they would incur Instructor Chu's wrath."

"Instructor Chu has been nothing but loyal to our country. He spent so much time building a special force for China, creating a new







martial arts technique and concocting a medical bathwater in order to build a powerful military unit that will do immense good for our country. His contributions to the country make him a national hero! Look at what they are trying to do to a national hero!" hollered Li Zi-Yang fiercely as his eyes grew red with anger and aggrievement.

"That's right! Instructor Chu didn't do anything that would harm our country. It's our country that has wronged Instructor Chu. He wouldn't be in the wrong even if he were to massacre these people today. They're the ones who wronged him first. Mr Chu can't be blamed for returning the favor."

"I'm not afraid of being hunted down by the state. We'll follow Instructor Chu anywhere he goes, even if he has to leave this country. He's a great man. Every country would welcome him with open arms. The world is a big place. We'll find a place where we belong," retorted Ma Ming-Bo fiercely.

These were young, hotblooded soldiers who had just witnessed the man whom they had respected suffer the abuse of the government. They weren't going to take that lying down.











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They knew how much effort Mr Chu had poured into training them.

Yet, the army and the government were reciprocating his labors by cornering him and trying to kill him.

Ma Ming-Bo and his teammates were infuriated by the sheer injustice of it all!

They urged Ye Fan to duke it out with his enemies and release the anger and frustration that he must feel from being wronged.

"Do you know what you're saying? This is treason!" Li Er and the others nearly died of sheer fright when they heard that these youths had said.

They couldn't convince the Green Dragon Force to listen to them at all. Li Er finally turned and looked pleadingly at Long Bai-Chuan.

"General Long, please say something. Stop Mr Chu from doing anything stupid. You can't make the state your enemy," pleaded Li Er and the rest.







They weren't only worried about Ye Fan's safety, they were similarly worried for their own.

They were going to be made accomplices of Ye Fan should he be made an enemy of the state.

Of course, they had no wish for such a terrible and irreversible crime to be placed on Ye Fan too.

After listening to Li Er's and the others' tireless pleas, Long Bai-Chuan, who had been silent all this while, finally lifted his head and stared Ye Fan in the eye. There was nothing but deference in his voice.

"Mr Chu, you should fight if you want to."

What?

"How could you say that too, General Long?"

Li Er and the others were stunned into speechlessness.

They could understand why Li Zi-Yang and the rest of the Green Dragon Force had spoken so brazenly. They were young and







knew nothing after all.

But Li Er had not expected Long Bai-Chuan to echo their sentiments.

If Ye Fan killed any one of those police officers, he would be declaring himself as an enemy of China. Did Long Bai-Chuan not know that?

The man appeared not to care.

He cupped his fists and stared Ye Fan straight in the eye as he spoke slowly and with the utmost respect. "No matter what Mr Chu chooses to do today, I pledge to follow his lead even if it leads me to into the depths of hell!"

Li Zi-Yang and his teammates followed suit.

They cupped their fists and bowed.

"Mr Chu, let's fight! We don't care what happens after this fight. The Green Dragon Force will follow Mr Chu wherever he goes!"

Their thunderous voices rose into the heavens, filled the air and moved everyone around them.







The crowd around Haiyuan Restaurant trembled as the voices threatened to deafen them.

"We're finished. This is madness. Complete chaos is going to break out."

Terror colored Li Er's face while Lei San, Chen Ao and the others lamented and moaned in despair.

Ye Fan simply stood there calmly.

His back was straight and his hands folded behind his back. He was like a mountain that towered over the lands.

The sun spilled its golden rays across his form and formed a large, golden speckled pool at his feet.

There was no hint of emotion on his face as he faced the thousands of men cornering him steadily and the Green Dragon Force's forceful pleas. Neither a hint of joy nor sorrow colored his handsome face.

No one knew what he was thinking.

No one knew what he was going to do as He







# Lan-Shan's and Wu Wei-Tao's men surrounded him.



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