



## Chapter 2014

The President of India summoned his son and nephews to toast to Ye Fan. “Come on! Young guys, you should toast Mr. Chu. He has already shot to fame at a young age and is undoubtedly the unrivaled warrior of the century. You should set him as a role model for your advancement in the future. I bet today is your only chance to toast Mr. Chu in your lifetime. Don't let it slip away.”

He thought of introducing them to Ye Fan and wished to inspire the young ones with the latter's outstanding achievements.

Deep down, he could not resist anticipating that at least one of them would be as outstanding as Ye Fan.

No words could describe the sheer grimness on Savanth, Duo Li, and the other prince's faces.

“Okay...” They had no choice but to mumble and dared not have any eye contact with Ye Fan.

After that, they could only bite the bullet by stepping forward and toasting Ye Fan.

Seated high up, Ye Fan brushed his wine glass lightly with his fingers. At the same time, he cast an ambiguous look in the direction of the three dignified princes.



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“When you demanded me to apologize just now, I emphasized that even the three of you were not qualified to do so. However, you didn't believe me at that time. So, do you believe me now?” He flashed them a faint smile before lifting his wine glass and gesturing to them.

Right after that, he gulped down his glass of wine.

Seeing that, Duo Li and his elder brother slumped to the floor.

Knowing they had committed a grievous mistake, they knelt to Ye Fan and pled with him for mercy, despising themselves for stepping on the latter's toes.

All the guests were utterly stunned.

The President of India, who introduced his son and nephews to Ye Fan wittingly, was thunderstruck. “W-What's the matter? Spit it out! What happened? You imbeciles! Could it be that you'd gotten on Mr. Chu's nerves before this?” the President of India reprimanded; he was a bundle of nerves.

Now that Ye Fan was finally leaving, he was worried stiff that someone had stirred up trouble by irking him.

If anyone had the gut to provoke the latter like



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the King of India, he foresaw the petrifying man would unleash his wrath by annihilating ruthlessly in India for at least one month.

“B\*stards, what'd you done? Spit it out!” Duo Li's father stepped forward to trample on his two sons.

Others could hardly believe they were the two princes having their noses in the air a while ago. In a blink of an eye, the duo prostrated on the floor, trembling in fear.

Duo Li eventually elucidated what had transpired before that.

After getting a grasp of the situation, the President of India was shocked.

King Folo, Haibu, and another Supreme's face fell.

On pins and needles, King Folo nudged the President of India's back, hinting him to resolve the matter.

*If this is not resolved, this ruthless being might even wipe out the whole royal family of India. He had almost annihilated us at that time, and Folo Palace was ruined by him. Even Supremes like us ended up in such a pathetic state, let alone the members of your royal families without any combat prowess. Everyone knows that he can*



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*destroy anyone by lifting just one finger.*

Panic-stricken, the President of India wailed, "B\*stards! You're nothing but worthless a\*sholes putting us in deep water. Sooner or later, India will be doomed because of you! What are you still standing there for? Apologize to Mr. Chu now!"

He kicked and trampled on his son and nephews in exasperation, bashing them up.

Knowing their place, Duo Li and his brother knelt and apologized to Ye Fan, pleading for forgiveness.

On the other hand, a hard-headed Prince Savanth was reluctant to kneel before Ye Fan.

"Who does he think he is? How could I kneel to a peasant!" he bellowed in resentment.

*Slap!*

At that moment, someone struck at him even faster than the President of India.

It was none other than King Folo. He slapped Savanth, distorting his face with massive force. Seconds later, blood started flowing with shattered pieces of teeth from Savanth's mouth before he passed out.

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“Mr. Chu is the Unrivalled Supreme and ranked first in the Sky Ranking. How could you have the audacity to humiliate him?” King Folo lashed out at them.

Everyone was taken aback by the scene.

Realization suddenly dawned on many of them. Now that even their honorable prince was beaten up, they had a hunch Ye Fan's status was beyond imagination.

King Folo and the others stepped forward to ask warily, “Mr. Chu, are you not feeling better? If you're still mad at them, I'll finish the three of them off now!”

His words scared the daylights out of Duo Li.

“No! Please don't kill me! I was instigated by someone. It's her, that b\*tch! She mentioned that Mr. Chu was a country bumpkin, and she's the one instigating me to fight against him...” To speak up for himself, Duo Li put the blame directly on Zhang Xiaoyu, who was hiding behind him.

Zhang Xiaoyu was utterly speechless. It never came to her mind that Duo Li would make her the scapegoat.

With that, a few guards advanced toward Zhang Xiaoyu and dragged her over. One of them

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kicked her knee and snapped, "On your knees!"

Soon, blood started trickling down her knee as her flawless skin brushed against the rough concrete ground.

Zhang Xiaoyu cried her eyes out as she stared at Ye Fan. Terror-stricken, she was at a loss for words.

"Finish her off right away to make up to Mr. Chu!" someone shrieked at the top of his lungs.

The next second, two guards lunged toward Zhang Xiaoyu with daggers.

Nobody had the gut to strike at the princes, but Zhang Xiaoyu was not from any prominent family. Thus, they did not need to think twice before coming at her.

Even so, Ye Fan only waved his hands. "It's just something trivial. Don't take it too seriously."

Everyone heaved a sigh of relief instantaneously.

They tensed up moments ago, fearing that Ye Fan would blow a fuse and turn their country into a living hell. Since he did not flip out, they started to see a ray of hope again.

Shortly after, the princes were rushed to the



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hospital. Meanwhile, Zhang Xiaoyu was thrown down the stairs at the entrance.

Needless to say, nobody gave any hoots to the insolent woman who had the cheek to get on Ye Fan's nerves.

After the banquet ended, the President of India, King Folo, and the others stood up to send him off.

“Mr. Chu and Mrs. Chu, how are you going to leave? I've arranged a private jet for you if you plan to leave by plane. If you prefer to leave by train, I've gotten ready a private train for you too,” King Folo asked earnestly, grinning. He sounded as if he could barely wait another second for Ye Fan to leave.

Noa's face flushed. “Excuse me, I'm not—”

It was not the first time she was addressed as Mrs. Chu that day. Even though her heart fluttered with joy at it, she had to remind herself not to daydream about it. Therefore, she was thinking of clarifying it.

However, Ye Fan cut her off, “Noa is not leaving with me. She'll continue to stay in India. President, please help to take care of her after I leave.”

“Isn't Mrs. Chu leaving together with you?” The



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President of India and the others were startled. *She's such a gorgeous young lady. Why isn't he bringing her along to keep him company along the way? Whatever, it's up to him. We'll be at ease right after he sets off.*

"Mr. Chu, no problem. It's our honor to be able to do anything for you." The President of India laughed jubilantly.

"Indeed! Mr. Chu, we'd better don't take up your time so you can set off at any time." King Folo, Haibu, and Bapei giggled gleefully, reassuring Ye Fan that there would not be any issues after he left.

Catching sight of their desperation, Ye Fan smiled at them. "Okay! If that's the case, let's set off now."

"Okay!" King Folo and the other two Supremes were on cloud nine. *Hurray! He's finally setting off.*

Nonetheless, they turned pale the next second.

"H-Huh? We? No, we're not going anywhere. We don't have anything on elsewhere." King Folo and the other two Supremes waved their hands hastily. They could hardly wait to stay as far as they could away from Ye Fan.

However, Ye Fan chuckled again. "But I have





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something on. I bet you haven't forgotten about our promise in Folo Palace that day, have you? Come on! Let's set off together.”

A friendly smile broke out on Ye Fan's face as he gazed at King Folo and the other two Supremes.

In an instant, the trio's hearts lunged at their throats. *My goodness!*

Seconds later, they burst into tears and could not help but resent their failure to shrug Ye Fan off.



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“Ye Fan, why didn't you allow me to clarify the situation earlier on? You will get into trouble with your wife if other people get the wrong idea.”

After the banquet, Ye Fan was not in a hurry to leave.

He still had to bid Junie farewell.

On the way back, Noa was walking beside Ye Fan and eyed him in puzzlement.

Deep down, she was feeling hopeful.

Unfortunately, Ye Fan smiled and said, “It doesn't matter if I explain myself or not. At most, I will be known as a rake. But, it's sort of protection for you. Naturally, there are pros and cons. The title of Mrs. Chu will grant you protection, but it will also affect your marriage prospects. In the future, if you meet someone you like, you can always explain it to him. There's no need to worry about me. Noa, as acquaintances, I genuinely hope that you can find your happiness one day. All right. I will let Junie know that I will be leaving today. If it's fated, I'm sure we will meet again.”

Ye Fan bade Noa farewell with a faint smile on his face.

With that, he flew off to Elysian Hall.



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Noa was left standing there all by herself. She glanced at Ye Fan's figure as he left.

"Ms. Vias, how are you?"

"You look very pretty today, Ms. Vias!"

"Ms. Vias, is everything all right?"

"If you need any help, please don't hesitate to let us know."

Not long after, the members of the royal family greeted Noa respectfully as they passed her.

In the past, those big shots did not give a d\*mn about her.

In their eyes, she was a young and inexperienced woman who became the head of the Vias family by chance. Those older nobles did not think too highly of her.

They felt Noa was not fit for that position and would not be capable of safeguarding her father's vast wealth.

At the present moment, the members of the royal family looked at her in a completely different light.

*Before this, all of them were very arrogant when they saw me. Despite me greeting them*



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*respectfully every time, they ignored me. Now, I stand here and don't even bother to look at them. Yet, they come up to me on their own accord and greet me with such respect. Their arrogance is gone.*

Noa noticed the vast change in everyone's attitude toward her.

However, she was well aware that the change in the way they treated her had nothing to do with her.

Instead, it was because of Ye Fan. Those people thought she was Ye Fan's woman!

It was apparent that the title of Mrs. Chu had brought her prominence and protection.

Noa would not deny that she enjoyed the perks, but she knew it was all an illusion. None of it was true.

The moment Ye Fan's real wife appeared, she would be exposed as the fake Mrs. Chu.

Deep in her heart, Noa wished that the title could be hers and hers alone forever.

“No man can ever be compared to you. Ye Fan, you told me to look for the man I love. But, how do I do that after having met you? How can I find another man who makes me happier?”



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Looking in the direction that Ye Fan had flown off, Noa was filled with sorrow. She shook her head and let out a long sigh.

She knew she would not fall in love with another man other than Ye Fan in her current lifetime.

Ye Fan appeared again at Elysian Hall.

At that moment, Junie was giving a speech to a group of disciples in the main hall.

Those disciples had joined very recently. As the head of the faction, it was only appropriate for her to speak to them.

Ye Fan hid among the crowd and looked up at the commanding woman.

Somehow, Ye Fan felt a sense of distance.

She was usually very gentle in front of him. He could not imagine her to be so authoritative.

Ye Fan had no idea which was Junie's true identity.

"Ye Fan, you're here. Why didn't you tell me?" chided Junie when she spotted him after her speech.

Ye Fan chuckled before replying, "It's fine. I just



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want to listen to your speech and see how domineering you can be.”

Junie blushed immediately and pouted her lips. “Hmph! You’re making fun of me!”

Ye Fan laughed.

“Junie, I am leaving soon. I have come to bid you farewell. Oh, by the way, do you know when Eigetsu left?”

Ye Fan recalled that Eigetsu was the one who kept watch while he was in seclusion.

However, when he was done, Eigetsu was nowhere in sight.

She only left a message stating that she had returned to Japan.

“I’m unsure about the exact date. But, when I visited you one month ago, she was still guarding you. I suppose she left only recently. Why? Are you worried about her again?”

Junie stared at Ye Fan angrily and sounded a little jealous.

Ye Fan laughed awkwardly. “She has watched over me for so long and left so suddenly. It’s only right that I should ask about her.”



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Junie snorted, "Don't worry. This confidant of yours is so powerful. You will most likely die before her. Instead of worrying about her, why don't you worry about yourself?"

Ye Fan nodded. "That's true. Eightsu has already attained the god realm. Even Chu Yuan himself won't be able to hurt her. I must have thought too much."

With that thought in mind, Ye Fan relaxed.

After a simple goodbye, Ye Fan was prepared to leave.

"Are you going back to China, or will you be going to Chu Sect straightaway?"

Junie was worried and reluctant to see him leave.

All of a sudden, she grabbed onto his clothes and asked him in all seriousness.

Ye Fan raised his head and glanced at the faraway land.

He was silent for a moment before shaking his head. "I won't be going back to China. I will go directly to Chu Sect."

"I think you should make a trip to Jiangdong and see the people that you want to see. After



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that, you can drop by War God Castle and try to get their support. You are, after all, someone who comes from China. Furthermore, Chu Sect is your common enemy. I think War God Castle will support you based on the fact that all of you come from the same country.”

Since Junie could not change Ye Fan's mind, all she could do was helped him to gain more support. At the same time, she hoped he could reconcile with his past.

It would be best for Ye Fan to face what could be his last battle with a calm and relaxed state of mind.

“China? Jiangdong? People I want to see?” mumbled Ye Fan to himself.

Those places and people sounded both familiar and strange at the same time.

*There are some places in your life that you dare not mention again.*

After a long silence, Ye Fan still managed to subdue that impulsiveness in him.

“I have already met the people I want to see.”

Junie persuaded him, “But they haven't seen you yet!”





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“To them, I am already a dead man. Why bother to see them again only to upset them?”

Ye Fan had never been a person who loved to attract attention.

Back then, he had charged up Mount Chumen by himself.

This time around, it would still be the same.

He would still meet his own death alone!

“Then, what about War God Castle? Aren't you going to try to obtain their support? All of you are countrymen after all,” asked Junie again.

Ye Fan laughed bitterly to himself and said, “Countrymen? I have never hoped for their help. In their eyes, I'm a sinner. I should be glad that they haven't worked with Chu Sect and ganged up against me. Well, it's about time. Junie, I should get going. Gaius and the others have been waiting for me for too long. I will bring all of them back regardless if they are dead or alive.”

Ye Fan smiled faintly.

He was so calm that it looked as if he was only going away to visit his relatives.

Only Junie was aware that Ye Fan was about to



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do something that would shock the world!



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“Mr. Chu, your private jet is ready and can head for China anytime.”

Meanwhile, King Folo and his two companions were already outside the airport.

Once Ye Fan asked them to fly to China together, they took a one-hour leave to return to Folo Palace and make some necessary arrangements.

Then, they went home to pack some clean clothes, books, and other belongings.

They believed going to China with Ye Fan would be a long trip.

King Folo knew that Ye Fan alone would be more than enough to destroy entire China.

Even if Ye Fan intended to seek revenge against the Sword Saint from War God Castle, he didn't have to bring all of them along.

As such, King Folo thought Ye Fan only brought them along to deter others.

After all, defeating War God Castle with three subordinates was an awe-inspiring sight compared to accomplishing it alone.

Therefore, King Folo and his two companions grumbled for a while but didn't resist when Ye



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Fan asked them to go to China with him.

Folo Palace and War God Castle had been rivals for decades. Because of the War God Ye Qingtian, Folo Palace was seen as slightly inferior to War God Castle in Aploth.

As such, everyone in Folo Palace felt aggrieved for almost a hundred years. Now that the young Ye Fan was about to defeat the Sword Saint, King of Fighters, and other old rivals, King Folo and others looked forward to it.

Also, Haibu mumbled to himself silently.

*Awesome! I bet the old men in War God Castle never saw this coming!*

King Folo and the others couldn't wait to watch the show.

Recently, Ye Fan caused havoc in India and its martial arts world.

Hence, King Folo and the rest were excited upon knowing that Ye Fan intended to shift his target to China.

However, after they immersed themselves in excitement for a while, Ye Fan's remark extinguished their hopes.

“Who said we're going to China?”



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“Ah? Where are you heading to other than China? Mr. Chu, isn't your home located in the country?” King Folo and his companions were startled.

Ye Fan put on a smile and replied calmly, “What? As a martial artist, any corner of the world can be my home. Change the course and head toward Anglandur.”

As King Folo and Haibu were stunned, they couldn't help but feel a bad omen.

After a while, King Folo asked in bewilderment, “Anglandur? Mr. Chu, why do you want to head to the country? Are you going there for vacation?”

Shaking his head, Ye Fan responded smilingly, “We'll head toward Mount Chumen to kill someone.”

King Folo and the rest couldn't believe their ears after Ye Fan said that.

While King Folo's face turned pale, Bapei shuddered. Moreover, Haibu went weak at the knees and almost collapsed.

“Are we... going to Mount Chumen?”

“Mr. Chu, you must be kidding, right?”



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“Haha...”

“Hahaha...”

As they laughed awkwardly, they prayed deep down that Ye Fan was merely kidding.

With his hands clasped behind his back, Ye Fan said smilingly, “Kidding? If killing someone is funny to you guys, feel free to consider it a joke.”

Once Ye Fan's words fell, all of them were stunned.

“Please don't...”

“Mr. Chu, we have to calm down.”

“We don't have to get all of us killed.”

“You've survived after suffering a lot. Why do you have to surrender yourself?”

“Dragon God Hall was believed to be powerful back then but eventually lost.”

“Going alone is no different from digging your own grave.”

“Moreover, the Chu Sect is a lot stronger than it was.”



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“Apart from Chu Yuan, who has the power of the god realm, his grandson Chu Tianqi has made significant improvements in recent years. I mean, he even defeated the man in the dragon mask.”

“Do you know the man in the dragon mask? He is a mysterious fighter who appeared a few years ago. He was powerful enough to kill a few Grandmasters and did not falter during his fight with Demonic Duo. However, even a fighter as strong as him suffered severe injuries because of Chu Tianqi. Now, no one knows if he's alive or dead!”

“Besides, we must be wary of Tang Yun, the head of the Chu Sect. I've heard that she has achieved significant breakthroughs. Although Tang Yun used to be ranked first in Sky Ranking, she has now exceeded everyone else in Sky Ranking combined.”

“Over the years, Chu Sect's strength has increased exponentially. Now, even a whole country can't stand up against it, not to mention a person.”

“In addition, the Chu Sect surely has other trump cards.”

“Mr. Chu, you'll only repeat the mistake and probably die if you head to the Chu Sect now.”



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“You'll have no chance of surviving by challenging Chu Sect alone!”

King Folo and the rest, whose faces had paled, tried very hard to persuade Ye Fan to change his mind.

However, Ye Fan remained composed after listening to them.

Unperturbed, he smilingly replied, “Who said I'm alone? I do have you guys, don't I?”

“I...”

“You...”

They were rooted to the floor upon hearing Ye Fan's response.

Then, all of them jumped backward in shock.

“Mr. Chu, we... can't do it.” King Folo quickly waved his hands.

“Yes. All of us are old and feeble. We can't help much and will only be your liability,” Haibu quickly chimed in.

Ye Fan responded, “Old? Well, You guys were strong when fighting me in the past. All right, cut the crap and go with me. You have a chance to survive if you choose to go with me. If you





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refuse, I can send you to meet your maker right now.”

Although Ye Fan flashed them a friendly smile, King Folo and the rest were on the verge of bursting into tears.

*What have we done to deserve this? Why did we tangle with Ye Fan? Once we're on board, it's not easy for us to quit.*

Given that their protest failed, they had no choice but to cross the Pacific Ocean and head toward Mount Chumen with Ye Fan.

“Mr. Chu, why do you want to do this to yourself? Isn't it good enough to stay alive?”

“Exactly. You might have lived enough, yet we still have a long way to go.”

“Why do you want us to accompany you to death?”

“Besides, no one will visit your grave if all of us die.”

“He's right. Please let us go. We'll wish you good luck in India. Also, we promise to visit your grave during your death anniversary.”

On the way to Mount Chumen, King Folo and the others kept persuading Ye Fan with tears all



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over their faces.

Nevertheless, Ye Fan was unperturbed and ignored their pleas.

While they were arguing non-stop, he stared into the distance.

It was both a familiar yet foreign place to him.

It had been nearly three years since he headed to China with the same route and was defeated.

Now, he decided to use the same route.

However, the comrades who used to stay by his side were gone.

Ye Fan believed a little spark could start a big fire, and he was now the remaining spark of hope.

*The imminent battle should be the final battle.*

Throughout these years, Ye Fan had imagined the scene countless times.

Back then, he thought he would be excited, fumed, and aflame with the desire to kill.

Surprisingly, he felt exceptionally calm when the destined battle had finally arrived.



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At that moment, he was as calm as the sea or lake without any ripples.

A few hours later, an unauthorized jet entered Anglandur's airspace from the west coast.

The air traffic control officers tried to call out to it many times but didn't receive any response.

In the end, they decided to strike it down.

*Boom!* Soon after the anti-aircraft missile, the unauthorized jet became a fireball in mid-air.

As the air traffic control officers left to check up on the jet, no one noticed that a few figures had secretly landed on Anglandur's west coast.

"I, Chu Tianfan, have returned." The man in black stared at the mountain across the horizon.

As his lips quirked, Ye Fan laughed lightly, exuding a petrifying chill.

*Let's resolve our grudges once and for all.*



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That year, in the black of night, Chu Tianfan entered Anglandur via the west coast of the Pacific Ocean.

There was, however, no one there to receive him when that previously all-conquering overlord returned to that land once more.

An endless wildness and permeating darkness were all that greeted him.

Life had always been characterized by a sense of solitude, and so desolating the lonesomeness was that even a returning former overlord would not be spared from it.

Once the Hall Master of Dragon God Hall who had the world at his beck and call, he was on his own at that moment, flanked by those three old fellows behind him, people he could no longer rely on.

The moment Ye Fan came ashore, he paused right there and then, and what a long pause it was, so much so that it got the trio watching at a distance from the rear mystified, puzzled as to why he suddenly declined to advance.

*Could it be that he's changed his mind? With the understanding that his chances of attaining victory are slim to none, could he have become apprehensive about proceeding and is thus considering turning back? That'd be marvelous if*



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*it were true.*

“Come on. Let's go over and try to talk to Mr. Chu. Who knows? He might give up and agree to go back with us.”

With that in mind, Haibu and the others were about to proceed with continuing to shake up Ye Fan's resolve when King Folo stopped them. “Just leave him be.”

“Why, King Folo? He's hesitating now, which makes it the best chance for us to have his ears,” Haibu asked.

King Folo shook his head in disagreement. “Hesitating? Do you really think that this monster of a man who kills without batting an eyelid would ever hesitate? Back in the day, has this man so much as blinked when he slaughtered Grandmasters, trampled upon the Chu Sect, and took the entire martial arts world by storm? How could you not understand that, having fought by his side for as long as all of you did? He's stubborn as hell, so no one is going to be able to sway him from his path once he has his mind set on anyone or anything.”

“But he...” Haibu and the others then looked to the fore.

In the distance stood Ye Fan's solitary figure.



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That emaciated frame of his seemed so isolated in the dark.

With only his own shadow for his company, it elicited a feeling of profound forlornness within others.

“I guess he must be reminiscing...” said King Folo steadily and assuredly after a moment's silence.

Indeed, no one would be able to understand what was going through Ye Fan's mind at that moment as he regarded that stretch of sand running along the coastline beneath his feet.

Ye Fan would not forget that he had been there before.

That year, he led those of Dragon God Hall back to China following their defeat by the Chu Sect, and it was there that he boarded the ship back to his country.

It was also where the woman named Tang Yun gave up on all her power and status to return to the country and home with him.

Right there was where the usually dignified and respected head of the Chu Sect showered him with all the tenderness she had to give.

Every man was bound to encounter a few



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unforgettable women throughout his own lifetime.

Among them were those like Qiu Mucheng, his wife who had been through thick and thin with him, the woman he could never let down.

Then, there were others like Tang Yun, who was like a shooting star blazing across the horizon, showing up like a dazzling spark in his life.

Her presence had been so awe-inspiring and yet so fleeting as if it was all a dream.

“It has been almost three years, Yun. How have you been?”

Ye Fan was preoccupied with thoughts and complicated feelings, for he did not know Tang Yun's state in the Chu Sect at the moment.

Furthermore, he had no idea how to face her were they to meet again.

*Between the interests of the sect and her own personal feelings, how would Tang Yun choose this time?*

Previously, Tang Yun had chosen him in the end, but Ye Fan let her down when he could not take her with him.

“If the opportunity presents itself, I, Chu



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Tianfan, swear I'll never let you be on the losing end this time!"

A glimmer of resolve appeared within Ye Fan's eyes as he clenched his fists tightly.

"I've been looking forward to the arrival of this day for a long time, Chu Tianfan, and have specially staged this banquet to give you a proper send-off in the knowledge that your death is nigh."

In the stillness of the night, a sonorous voice rang out, taking King Folo and the others by surprise.

They turned their attention to the front warily, only to see a single lit lamp rising in the distant darkness while they were none the wiser.

The light from the lamp, which swayed amidst the blackness, hinted at the presence of a shadowy figure seated there.

"Who is it?"

In astonishment, King Folo and the two with him simultaneously burst out in energy in anticipation of a battle that might be forthcoming.

That entire sequence, however, merely drew a frown from Ye Fan.





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Composing himself, he then made a direct approach and sat himself down at the table.

Ye Fan wasted no time with words and merely lifted the glass in front of him, imbibing its content in one breath.

After that, he sent a resounding backhand right smack across the face of the life form seated across from him.

“Motherf\*cker! I'm throwing a banquet in your honor, and this is how you repay me, Ye Fan? I'll end you, you jerk!”

That slap from Ye Fan got Huangniu bamboozled, as it had not expected such incivility from him.

It was livid to be slapped on its face out of nowhere.

After all, it had never been struck like that by anyone before.

“I was already holding back on you back there! A send-off? More like you're wishing me dead, I should think!”

Quite shocked himself, Ye Fan had thought that the Chu Sect had gotten wind of his arrival and had thus been looking to ambush him.



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In the end, it was just that annoying calf messing around, but it made him feel quite unnerved for a moment there.

Huangniu could not care less about that, for it was in its nature to seek to get even, and the brawl eventually ended several rounds later after Ye Fan allowed it to kick him once.

“I'm not sold on the idea that you're charitable enough to come and help me seek revenge, so what are you doing here?” Ye Fan asked.

“Glad that you're aware of this. Help you? Considering our relationship, I'd have kicked you to death if not for Wan'er,” replied Huangniu with a snort.

Back then, it nearly died after being dragged through the Well of the Thunderdrake by Ye Fan.

Yet, the man cared more about his own pleasure and very little of its welfare at all.

Huangniu was the sort who would remember that sort of grudge for life.

“Then what else have we got to talk about? Get lost.” Ye Fan did not mince his words.

“Seriously? I'm kind enough to come here to offer you a heads-up, and all I get from you is a



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scolding?" Huangniu was positively incensed.

"To be honest, I really can't be bothered with someone like you, but a word of advice though; don't send yourself to your death. Go back to your country and take a look there because someone is going to destroy your home soon if you don't," it added.

Ye Fan was stunned when he heard that. "Are you saying that China is in trouble?"

"You'd think? Heck of a party going on there, I'd say," said Huangniu, smiling gloatingly.

That had Ye Fan frowning immediately.

*It looks like the Chu Sect has made a move on China.*

"I have a favor to ask of you, Mr. Huangniu. Would you go to Jiangdong and keep watch there for a bit? I'll return immediately after I've seen to our affairs here," he said in his deep voice.

Although he had the Kusanagi Sword formation set up in Jiangdong that made it hard even for Supreme fighters to break through, he nonetheless remained wary of mishaps.

Out of precaution, he thought it would be better to have Huangniu stationed at Jiangdong so



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that it could help him protect the region.

At that moment, Huangniu rolled its eyes. "Well, f\*ck me. You're a real piece of work, aren't you? Calling me Mr. Huangniu when you are in need of me, then stupid calf when you don't? The cheek of you!"

"All right, Mr. Huangniu. Enough of that. I'll find you a girl after all of this is over." Ye Fan began to try to get on Huangniu's good side.

That got Huangniu's eyes lighting up. "For real? I want a busty one. She also has to be fair-skinned and pretty..."

With a wave of his hand, Ye Fan assented readily, "Done!"

"A deal's a deal, so I'm going to come after you if you dare to pull a fast one on me!" said Huangniu with a hint of skepticism.

"Relax, and just go." Patting Huangniu's posterior, Ye Fan urged it to hurry along.

"Fine. Get cracking on it soon, yeah? I'm only going to help cover for you, so no promises whether I'd be able to hold down the fort. Also, Mount Chumen is full of perils, so don't you f\*cking die there, because who is going to find me a girl were you to kick the bucket?" Huangniu reminded.



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Ye Fan merely waved off Huangniu's reminders and signaled that he knew what he ought to do.

At the sight of his nonchalant front, Huangniu rolled its eyes. "As if it'd kill him to not act cool for once."

After rambling on for a bit, it, too, took its leave.

Before it made its exit, though, Huangniu took one last glance at Ye Fan and muttered under its breath, "You're on your own, man."

King Folo and the others caught up with Ye Fan as soon as Huangniu was gone.

"Mr. Chu, Huangniu has uncanny skills, so why didn't you try to keep it here? Wouldn't it bolster our strength by doing that?" King Folo asked puzzledly.

Ye Fan shook his head and laughed. "This stupid calf is even less dependable than you guys. It's wishful thinking on your side to hope it would put its life on the line to help me. In fact, it's a miracle that it even agreed to help me protect Jiangdong."

Knowing Huangniu's personality well and considering the nature of their relationship, Ye Fan was aware that Huangniu might not give him its all even when promised rewards in return.



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He reckoned that it might only demonstrate a token amount of effort, so he might be better off relying on himself.

Notably, through his meeting with Huangniu, Ye Fan did learn some intel of value.

Owing to the attack that the Chu Sect had launched against China, he had no doubt that the bulk of Mount Chumen's forces would be away on deployment.

It meant that the Chu Sect itself would be doubtlessly vulnerable as of then.

Thus, he could seize the opportunity to strike at the heart of their stronghold.

Before doing so, however, Ye Fan still had some other preparations to make.

The thought of that made him turn to regard King Folo and the others. "Having ventured around the martial arts world for many years, the three of you must be considerably connected. I suppose you must know some people here."

King Folo reacted in surprise as he did not understand what Ye Fan was hinting at.

*Could it be that he wants us to go out and recruit others to lend him their strength in the upcoming*



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*battle?*

“Though that may be true, the strongest among them are Grandmasters at most. As such, I doubt their addition would be very impactful,” he replied.

To his surprise, Ye Fan responded smilingly, “A Grandmaster would be more than enough. In any case, reach out to them first, the three of you. Look for those who are distinguished and influential, for there are some things I need to learn from them.”

Concurrently, Mount Chumen was in a festive mood.

In the hall, the head of elders, Tang Xian, was sharing a hearty drink with a couple of elders of the Chu Sect who had also stayed behind to guard the place.

“Hahaha... Ever since Old Master issued his dictate, leaders from the martial arts world of one hundred and twenty countries have sent us letters expressing their willingness to swear allegiance to us! So long as we are able to subdue those few nations from East Aploth, it would become difficult for the remaining martial arts worlds from Western Epea to keep up their resistance. It would thus only be a matter of time before we accomplish our goals!”



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The elders inside the hall drank merrily until their faces turned red.

That year, Ye Fan killed a significant number of elders when he stormed the Chu Sect, but by then, the vacancies had already been filled by others.

Apart from the Fifth Elder, who had recently perished in China, the Chu Sect, at present, still had eight elders that worked together to oversee the day-to-day operations within the sect.

Certainly, in terms of esteem, ability, and experience, the head of elders, Tang Xian, held absolute authority among the lot of them.

With the fires of the war raging for several months already and everything progressing steadily according to plan, a tremendous sense of accomplishment surfaced on Tang Xian's wrinkled face.

“Old Master and the others are campaigning out there, so we can't afford to slack off either! According to our plans, we must have the martial arts world from the vassal countries send all their talents who are below the age of thirty to Mount Chumen! Tell them that we'd be checking against a name list here as well, so they can expect their cities to get destroyed if any single one of them fails to show up! Also,





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send ten exploration teams to these new vassal countries to track down the remnants of Dragon Gate!”

With an authoritative look about him, Tang Xian gave out instructions in an orderly fashion, and the other elders variously went off to make the arrangements upon receiving them.

Shortly after, there were only a few of the confidantes of the head of elders left inside the room.

“What do you think our Old Master wants with so many youthful prodigies from the martial arts world, Mr. Tang? The ones we have here at the Chu Sect itself aren't any worse off compared to those from all these small countries, surely? And what's the deal with the remnants of Dragon Gate? What about it got the Old Master so obsessed that he had to lead a campaign to China personally?”

All along, the members of the Chu Sect assumed that the organization's ambitions to unify the martial arts world were borne of their head's own lust for power.

By ruling the whole world, the Chu Sect would be the one making the final call for every decision.

All the martial arts worlds would have to be at



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the sect's beck and call.

However, from the looks of it, there might be much more beyond those motivations behind the Chu Sect's bid for world domination.

It seemed as though there were other reasons for it.

It would be understandable if it were for the purpose of depriving the rest of the countries of talent.

Yet, nobody, not even the elders of the Chu Sect themselves, was in the know about the matter concerning the remnants of Dragon Gate.

In the face of his subordinates' puzzlement, Tang Xian furrowed his brows immediately. "Don't ask so many unnecessary questions; just do as you're told."

That single utterance from him did much to shut the rest of them up.

"That reminds me. What comes of the investigations into the Fifth Elder? Have we found any leads?"

During that period, the Chu Sect's forces were actively engaged in their military conquests. With every single victory that they notched up, it appeared as though they were untouchable.



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There had been, however, one particular incident that got the head of elders himself perturbed, and that was the death of the Fifth Elder and those mysterious last words the latter had left behind.

“We're still looking into it, Mr. Tang, but I'm afraid that it may ultimately prove inconclusive. According to whatever information that we have gathered so far, those who were influential in the Meng family are dead. Any survivors would likely be nobodies in the Meng family and thus would not be able to tell us anything useful,” one of his subordinates replied.

The head of elders appeared to be even more perplexed when he heard that.

“Do we really have nothing to work with at all? It appears that the leads had been wiped clean. That couldn't have been the work of any average person,” Tang Xian analyzed calmly.

Some things, when done too thoroughly, would conversely rouse suspicions, such as it was in that case.

In spite of the deaths of the prominent members of the Meng family, they were unable to find out anything about their killer.

That suggested that the other party possessed immense power in Jiangbei for them to be able



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to act as they pleased.

“In that case, send a few fighters over and seize the head of Jiangbei's greatest family. He must surely know something about this.”

Once more, Tang Xian saw to making further arrangements.

Nevertheless, he remained tense.

Again, he started to recall the day the Fifth Elder died and the message the latter gave his life to return and pass along.

*He's back. That man is back...*

At first, the members of the Chu Sect guessed that the man in question was Chu Zhenghong.

After all, he had gone missing without news for several years.

It seemed probable for Chu Zhenghong to be the only suspect since he was capable of killing the Fifth Elder and also had an association with the Chu Sect.

However, upon careful deliberation, those of the Chu Sect deemed it impossible for Chu Zhenghong to be the murderer as he had been part of the sect and had once been the head of the Chu family.



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At most, he only had some differences with the leadership of the Chu family, and they did not reach the extent where blood needed to be spilled.

As far as the Chu Sect was concerned, Chu Zhenghong bore no grudges toward them and thus had no reason to kill one of their elders.

Even if the Fifth Elder did anger Chu Zhenghong, the latter would likely refrain from killing the former on Tang Yun's account.

Tang Xian, being part of the Tang family himself, knew fully well that Chu Zhenghong had significant entanglements with the Tang family.

Back in the day, the life of the older sister of Tang Yun, who was also the eldest daughter of the Tang family, was ruined at the hands of Chu Zhenghong.

As such, Chu Zhenghong had always felt sorry toward the Tang family.

When the time came to decide who would be head of the Chu Sect, everyone's ideal candidate of choice was Chu Zhenghong, but he turned down the appointment and nominated Tang Yun for the hot seat instead.

Perhaps, that could be considered a form of



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reparations of sorts.

All of those considerations ultimately led Tang Xian to the conclusion that the person could not have been Chu Zhenghong.

*If it wasn't him, then who? Who could have killed the Fifth Elder? Someone who could have made him risk his own life to bring us such a warning must be at least a supreme grandmaster! That person is also a man... He said he was back, which also meant that he had been to the Chu Sect... A man who has been to the Chu Sect, and not only is he of the Supreme rank, but he also happens to be our enemy...*

Going by those parameters, Tang Xian swiftly narrowed down the possibilities inside his head until a silhouette finally manifested in his mind.

*It's him!*

Amidst his astonishment, Tang Xian's pupils constricted.



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*It's Chu Tianfan! Chu Tianfan has returned!*

When that name rang out from within Tang Xian's head, an unprecedented sense of dread washed over him.

His wrinkled face turned ashen, and his expression turned grim.

“W-What's up with you, Mr. Tang? You're frightening me!”

The change in Tang Xian's demeanor alarmed the second elder beside him.

“Ah! Kill me, kill me...”

At that exact moment, Chu Zhengliang, who had been sealed at the peak of Mount Chumen, suddenly let out a devastating roar.

His voice was carried by the cold night winds into the hall.

That bellow that came out of nowhere had the two elders shuddering in fear. The head of the elders himself jumped up and grabbed a blade from the table, looking to slash at the first person who might come at him.

However, very quickly, they realized that they had overreacted.

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“M-Mr. Tang. It's the head of the Chu family...” the second elder explained.

That came to the head of elders as some reprieve, but he nonetheless struggled to settle the unease he felt inside.

“For a moment, I thought that he had arrived,” Tang Xian said amidst his lingering fear.

“Who are you referring to?” asked the second elder, confounded.

Looking at him, the head of elders enunciated, word for word, “Chu Tianfan!”

*Thud!*

The second elder immediately fell off the couch.

There were some people whose name was still capable of driving horror into the hearts of those who heard it long after his passing.

Both of the elders were people who had experienced that major battle from many years ago where Ye Fan single-handedly stormed the Chu Sect, swept away the Supremes from the Chu family, and destroyed the Chu Sect's protective formation firsthand.

Had it not coincided with Chu Yuan's





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emergence from his retreat, the ancient power they had possessed for centuries might have come to ruin at the hands of that man named Chu Tianfan.

“H-Have you lost your mind, Mr. Tang? Chu Tianfan's dead. He's f\*cking dead as a doornail for a d\*mn long time. How could the dead possibly come back to life? Unless you mean to tell me that ghosts exist?”

The second elder laughed as he picked himself up off the floor, using humor to mask the panic and fear he felt inside.

What the head of elders had to say afterward, however, shook him to the core.

“Do you still remember what the Fifth Elder said before he passed? Just think about it. Who could have struck such fear within the Fifth Elder? Who possessed the ability to kill him? Who also bore such hatred toward the Chu Sect? Who else could it be, apart from Chu Tianfan?”

The second elder was positively stupefied. With a glazed expression, he regarded the head of elders while quivering. “D-Don't you scare me, Mr. Tang. Did we not witness Chu Tianfan end his own life with our own eyes? How could he possibly still be alive?”



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“We've never found his body, even now, haven't we?” the head of elders noted.

What ensued was silence. Dead silence.

Once an idea manifested, one would quickly discover how prior points of contention would seemingly come together to validate that notion.

The death of the Fifth Elder, the fall of the King of India, and the mysterious disappearance of the envoys from the various countries in the earlier period of time all seemed to indicate the emergence of someone both formidable and elusive.

It was thus highly possible that that person could very well be the one who had been pushed over the edge by the entire world; the Hall Master of Dragon God Hall and the Unrivalled Supreme—Chu Tianfan!

Panting vigorously, the second elder was feeling quite overwhelmed.

*As logical as Mr. Tang had put it, it can't possibly be. How could he still be alive? Pierced by tens of thousands of swords, Ye Fan could not have survived even if his body was made of steel.*

“Of course, all of this is purely my conjecture, so perhaps I had been worrying myself for



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nothing. Out of caution, though, we should still take care of some loose ends.”

Tang Xian's eyes darkened, and he appeared extremely solemn.

He had a feeling. Should the Chu Sect fail at their enterprise at that time, there could be only one reason—Chu Tianfan.

Hence, in order to avoid such a worst-case scenario, no matter how remote it might be, it was his duty as the Chu Sect's head of elders to ensure that they were fittingly prepared.

“What are you going to do, Mr. Tang? If Chu Tianfan is alive, the few of us are going to be hapless against him. We have to inform Ms. Tang, Old Master, and the head of the Chu family...”

Since that battle at the Chu Sect years ago, the head of the Chu family, Chu Zhengliang, had been imprisoned at the top of Mount Chumen, leading a life worse than death.

His position was vacated as a result.

It was fortunate then that Chu Zhengliang's son, Chu Tianqi, was able to break new heights and make tremendous gains in his own ability, thus able to successfully take over as head of the family, instantly turning him into one of the

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three most important figures within the Chu Sect.

That was why those three, in the esteem of the followers of the Chu Sect, were thought of as the only ones who would be able to stand against Chu Tianfan.

The head of elders shook his head. "The responsibility of dealing with Chu Tianfan belongs to Ms. Tang and the rest of them, but the business of dealing with Chu Tianfan's subordinates falls to us."

The eyes of the second elder lit up when he heard that. "Could you be referring to those four Supremes who are presently being detained by the Jones family?"

Tang Xian nodded in earnest. "We can't leave those people alive anymore. Otherwise, if Chu Tianfan is indeed still alive, he might regroup with his former subordinates and march on the Chu Sect once more. I fear seeing a repeat of the calamity of yesteryear!"

The Chu Sect had almost been razed to the ground by Ye Fan many years ago, leaving more than half of the elders dead at his hands, with many of them counted amongst the sect's most extraordinary elites.

It took them many years and the application of

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the secret technique provided by Chu Yuan to elevate their strength for them in order for them to recover.

Tang Xian managed to survive by the teeth of his skin the last time, so should there be a repeat of that previous catastrophe, it was a complete unknown whether he would be able to live through it again.

“But Ms. Tang has forbidden us to harm those people, Mr. Tang... It'd be hard for us to answer to her should we take it upon ourselves to move against them,” the second elder said worriedly.

All along, the elders had collectively hoped to be rid of those four Supremes but had been met by the opposition of Tang Yun, who wanted to turn them to the service of the Chu Sect instead.

In spite of the years that passed, those old fools had not relented. They continued to refuse cooperation and had thus remained imprisoned.

“To hell with consequences! Extreme circumstances demand extreme measures. In order to rid ourselves of any potential threats, these people have to die! We can't afford to dally either, so this needs to happen tonight!”

With his mind already set, Tang Xian went on to

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hand down his instructions on the spot.

His charges were to pass along his orders to the head of the Jones family to have the remaining members of Dragon God Hall executed.

It was already late at night, so the members of the Jones family had long turned in for the day.

Yet, the visitors from the Chu Sect still came and knocked at their door anyway.

“Where is the head of your family? Summon Mr. Jones to us! Mr. Tang has important instructions that must be communicated to him personally!” the envoy from the Chu Sect said solemnly to the subordinates of the Jones family with a decree in hand.

Not daring to defy him, the Joneses swiftly ran along to inform the head of the family, Bill Jones, of the situation.

“What did you say? Someone from the Chu Sect is here with orders for me?”

Bill, awakened from his slumber, frowned reflexively after getting changed.

*What could the Chu Sect possibly want from me this late and so urgently at that?*



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“Go and wake Michael, and have him be on the alert immediately to deal with any unexpected incidents that may arise.”

With a worried look on his face, Bill first arranged for his son to be on his guard before he went to greet the envoy from the Chu Sect.

“Mr. Tang has ordered you, Mr. Jones, to execute those four remaining members of Dragon God Hall. Their heads are to be cut off and handed over to me so that I can bring them back to the Chu Sect! Owing to the urgency of the situation, please carry out the order immediately!”

The envoy announced Tang Xian's decision and ordered Bill to follow through on it right away.

Bill's reaction, however, was that of astonishment. “What? Execute the four Supremes? Why? Did Mr. Tang explain his reasons for this? Why the sudden urgency to condemn them to death?”



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