

Liu Zong and Liu Heng were utterly speechless.

Was that really a negotiation?

Jiang Ning must be the only person who could have conducted a negotiation in this matter. The both of them had been wrought with anxiety and shaking in their boots the entire time.

They remembered how they had been so full of themselves and had thought that they were superior to everyone else. But that had been when they had been in Qingshan Sect. When they had been outside and dealing with members from other sects, they had always felt a hint of inferiority.

Jiang Ning had shown no hint of fear though. In fact, he had left the other sects speechless and with no grounds for refutation in their verbal spars.

The brothers were completely won over by Jiang Ning's boldness and confidence.

"You said that you have a solution for the gray fog. Is that true?" asked Liu Heng.

Everything boiled down to that.

If they could solve the problem of the gray fog, the other sects would have no reason to attack Qingshan Sect or to venture outside the mountain and seek a new home.

"Of course it's not." Jiang Ning threw them a glance. "What the hell is it anyway? I've never

seen it before. How do I know how to deal with it?”

The brothers felt their heart sink to the depths of a deep abyss. They nearly collapsed to the ground as their legs turned to jelly.

It had been all a lie.

Jiang Ning had been spinning lies.

How could that be true?

He had promised the sects that he would solve the problem of the gray fog within two months. But he had no idea what the gray fog was. How was he going to deal with it?

Liu Zong's face felt numb. He raised his hand and slapped his cheek. “Brother Jiang, are you joking? This isn't a laughing matter!”

He was on the verge of tears.

What an emotional rollercoaster life was. Moments ago, he had been filled with respect and adoration for Jiang Ning, who had displayed such courage and strength before the sect leaders of the six major sects and made a forceful stand against them.

But now, Jiang Ning admitted that he had been lying!

“I'm not joking,” said Jiang Ning. “This is something we have to deal with sooner or later. We just have to come up with a solution.”

Having said that, he turned and left silently.

All Liu Zong and Liu Heng could do was exchange a look with each other and pray that everything would go smoothly.

They had complete faith in Jiang Ning. He was the only one who could lead Qingshan Sect out of its current predicament.

Meanwhile, at Qingshan Sect, Liu Chuandao and the rest had been waiting for Jiang Ning, Liu Zong and Liu Heng's return.

"Why are they taking so long? Did something happen to them?" Liu Qing was overcome with worry. "Father, we should go save them!"

There was no way she wasn't worried.

It had been ages since Jiang Ning had brought Liu Zong and Liu Heng down the mountain. The negotiation should have ended a long time ago. Why weren't they back yet?

She walked back and forth frantically. Her pacing stirred anxiety in Liu Chuandao as well, but he couldn't show it.

Everyone in Qingshan Sect was filled with tension. No one wanted the fighting to continue because of the deaths it would bring.

No one wanted to die.

"Stop panicking. Let's wait a while longer," Liu Chuandao said.

NH

He believed in Jiang Ning. This man who had come from beyond the mountain was different from the rest of them. He had not failed to accomplish anything that he had put his mind to.

There was something special about him. It made others want to believe in him, as if his mere utterance of something made that the law.

The Senior Elder and the other elders sat there, seemingly calm but secretly wracked with anxiety too.

Of course they were panicking.

This wasn't simply a matter of Jiang Ning's safety but that of the sect's survival. If Jiang Ning died, it wouldn't take long before Qingshan Sect perished too.

This was the first time the entire sect's fate was placed in one person's hands.

"It's been too long. Something must have happened to them. Father, we have to save them!" Liu Qing blurted out. Her face was lined with anxiety and her eyes red with worry.

She should have stopped Jiang Ning from acting so rashly.

It was the three of them versus the six sects. That was suicide!

Liu Chuandao could barely keep himself together despite his best efforts. If Jiang Ning died, a battle with the six major sects would be

unavoidable.

When the battle was to start would hardly matter then.



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He was about to get up when he heard a voice from afar.

“Who are we supposed to save? Didn’t we come back alive?” Jiang Ning said loudly.

Upon hearing that, everyone looked up and was greeted by the sight of Jiang Ning striding in assertively while exuding an aura of confidence and power.

Liu Zong and Liu Heng trailed meekly behind him like sidekicks, without a hint of authority at all.

Liu Chuandao couldn’t help but think about how big the difference that separated Jiang Ning and his sons was.

He had two sons but neither of them was of any use. In fact, the both of them probably wasn’t even a match for one-tenth of Jiang Ning.

They might not even rival Jiang Ning at one-hundredth of his abilities.

Everyone got to their feet and approached Jiang Ning hastily.

“Jiang Ning!” Liu Qing was the first in line. She looked as if she was on the verge of tears. “Are you alright? Are all of you alright?”

She seemed to have realized how inappropriate it was to only show concern for Jiang Ning and rephrased her question hastily. However, she didn’t spare a glance at Liu Zong or Liu Heng at all as her eyes remained fixed on Jiang Ning.

NH

“Of course. What could happen to me?” said Jiang Ning.

“How did it go?” asked Liu Chuandao.

The elders stared fixedly at Jiang Ning.

“They agreed to a ceasefire.” Jiang Ning nodded. “I have two months to deal with the gray fog. Once that is resolved, they will stop the fight.”

Everyone had released a sigh of relief when they had heard that Jiang Ning had successfully negotiated a ceasefire. But the words that had left his lips after that had their hearts in their throats again.

Jiang Ning promised to solve the problem of the gray fog within two months?

Numerous sects had tried to address the problem over the course of decades to no avail, and here Jiang Ning was, promising to resolve it within two months.

Liu Zong and Liu Heng observed the expressions on everyone’s faces quietly. That was the look that they had had earlier. It was like looking at a mirror.

“Jiang Ning, do you know anything about the gray fog?” the Senior Elder asked after a long moment of silence.

“Not at all,” said Jiang Ning honestly. “I’ve not seen it. Why would I know anything about it?”

NH

The Senior Elder's face paled instantly. He shook his head, then nodded. "That seems to make sense."

"How are you going to deal with it if you know nothing about it?" The Third Elder was filled with exasperation.

Jiang Ning had no idea what the gray fog was in the first place. How could he deal with it?

"I have no idea," said Jiang Ning. "Didn't I tell you that I've not seen it yet? It doesn't matter how amazing a doctor is, he still has to see the patient before he can prescribe a treatment. Don't worry. I will find a way."

Having said that, he waved his hand and stopped them from questioning him further.

There was no point in asking so many questions now when he had no answer to them.

The Senior Elder waved his hand and told the rest to cease their questions.

"Alright, we will do as Jiang Ning says and stop fighting for the time being. Everyone should take this opportunity to recuperate."

This was merely a temporary ceasefire. No one knew if the six major sects might go against their word or mount a relentless retaliation if Jiang Ning failed to provide a solution to the gray fog.

Liu Chuandao nodded and issued orders for everyone to retire and rest.

NH

He turned towards Jiang Ning. “How about your men? What should we do about them?”

“Don’t worry about them. Let them stay hidden,” said Jiang Ning. “It’ll give us some measure of security.”

He had instructed Brother Gou and the rest to keep a watchful eye on the six major sects and to send word at the first sign of activity.

He beckoned the Senior Elder over. The latter came over immediately and sat down with him and Liu Chuandao. The look on Jiang Ning’s face was severe as he spoke in a hushed voice.

“I want to ask you about someone,” he said. “Is there an elder that goes by the last name ‘Lang’ in Tianlian Sect?”

“A Mr Lang?” Liu Chuandao frowned, then shook his head. “I’ve never heard of that name. I don’t think they have an elder that goes that by last name.”

Tianlian Sect was a sect that was governed by the Luo family. All of the elders were from the Luo family.

“There’s no such person,” the Senior Elder said firmly.

He didn’t know why Jiang Ning had asked them that question. They had not heard of such a person before.

“How about the other sects? Anyone with that

name?”

“None at all.” Liu Chuandao nodded. “I’m certain that there’s no such person in the six major sects. But it’s possible that someone with that name might exist in the other sects...”

“We have to be careful of him then,” said Jiang Ning solemnly before Liu Chuandao was done talking.



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