

Chapter 22

Ridding Your Enemies By Your Adversary's Hands

Zhu Lei'Er sighed: "Fourth uncle, I thought their intentions were obvious, but after hearing your words I'm confused again."

Yu Peiyu said: "There must be a reasonable explanation for all of this."

Zhu Lei'Er asked: "Do you have an explanation?"

Yu Peiyu said: "There must be a hidden secret in your home, one of great value."

Zhu Lei'Er said with surprise: "Secret?"

Yu Peiyu said: "Because of this secret that's why your fa... Dongfang Meiyu didn't leave. Also the reason why granny Hu came and it explains why Yu Fanghe set fire to the entire town."

Zhu Lei'Er eyes looked surprised and said softly: "Secret? What kind of secret?"

Yu Peiyu asked her: "Did your mother say anything extraordinary before she passed away?"

Zhu Lei'Er frowned and said: "My mother said nothing special. She only told me that the house was the only thing she left me. She hoped that I would treasure it, that's why I am not keen on leaving it."

Zhu Lei'Er looked enlightened and looked at Yu Peiyu, Yu Peiyu looked at her too.

They both stood up and quietly went back to Zhu Lei'Er's house.

Although the fire was extinguished but there were still some small fires here and there, the smoke was very thick too.

But the house was burnt down, like the larger part of Family Li Village. Some of the walls were standing. Some men in black robes were cleaning up the mess and putting out small fires.

The villagers and Yu Fanghe and co were nowhere to be seen.

Yu Peiyu stood in a corner of the house and carefully observed the surroundings.

Zhu Lei'Er asked: "Fourth uncle, shall we look now? Or shall we wait and see what they're up to first?"

Yu Peiyu said earnestly: "You haven't noticed anything all these years. So the secret must be hidden very well. Furthermore now the fire has been put out for the larger part, they will soon be here."

Zhu Lei'Er asked: "Will we look for a place to hide now?"

Yu Peiyu nodded.

Zhu Lei'Er looked around and said: "Let us hide in that house there."

Yu Peiyu shook his head and said: "There are still a few small fires there, they will soon go over to put it out."

Zhu Lei'Er asked: "Fourth uncle, what do you suggest?"

Yu Peiyu answered: "The kitchen."

Zhu Lei'Er looked in the direction of the kitchen and said: "But the kitchen has been burnt down entirely, we cannot hide in there."

Yu Peiyu smiled: "Although the kitchen is gone, there is still something that's still there."

Zhu Lei'Er immediately understood and smiled: "Of course the furnace²³, that wasn't destroyed in the fire. Fourth uncle, you're very smart."

They entered the kitchen and saw that the water vat was still intact too, Yu Peiyu took a bucket and poored water on the furnace to cool it down.

After a few buckets they quickly hid in there.

Zhu Lei'Er looked at saw that her home was burnt to a crisp and felt very sad, but she smiled to Yu Peiyu: "Look uncle, my home is burnt down entirely."

She didn't want Yu Peiyu to know that she was sad, how could she not be sad? This was her home, she was born here and grew up here too. She spent her entire life in this house and now it was gone.

Yu Peiyu gently consoled her: "Don't be sad. If you like this place we can rebuild a house on the same spot."

²³ The furnaces in those days were quite large, and with difficulty two persons could hide in it.

Zhu Lei'Er remained silent for a moment and sighed sadly: "We can rebuild the house, but we cannot go back to the past."

Yu Peiyu too was saddened.

He thought back about his home, his courtyard and those happy, tranquil days with his father. His benevolent, kind smile and his wise teachings...

That was just six months ago, but it seemed like a lifetime away.

He said sadly: "What is in the past cannot be brought back. You're right."

Zhu Lei'Er said sadly: "I used to get up very early in the morning. I went to the kitchen and started to cook congee for my third uncle. Sometimes I would put in half a pig's liver and entire chicken. Third uncle would praise me and eat the entire bowl empty. But now..."

She lowered her head and sighed: "The furnace is still here and I can still cook congee, but who will eat it..."

Yu Peiyu was very saddened and comforted her: "Fourth uncle will eat your congee."

Zhu Lei'Er lifted her head and said with happiness: "Really!"

It was dawn now and the light shone on her beautiful face. Her watery eyes were filled with happiness and joy. Although there were still some tears on her face but her sadness was gone now.

Yu Peiyu was a bit startled to see her happy expression, his heart skipped a beat. He quickly turned away his head.

Zhu Lei'Er sighed: "I know that fourth uncle is just saying that to make me feel better. A hero like you will have plenty of important matters to attend to, you won't have time to eat congee of a small girl like me."

Her voice sounded ever so sad, Yu Peiyu couldn't bear to see her like this and said with a smile: "Fourth uncle isn't lying to you. I do have a lot of things to do, but those businesses will be over one day. At that day I will come here and eat your delicious congee."

Zhu Lei'Er smiled sweetly: "I will prepare a large pot just for you everyday. I won't let you go unless you've eaten every bit."

Yu Peiyu said seriously: "Eating congee everyday isn't good either, not very nutritious. You have cooked me an egg once in awhile. You don't want to starve your fourth uncle, do you?"

Zhu Lei'Er giggled: "Congee is only in the morning, for lunch I will poach you some eggs. Also a bowl of chicken soup and deliciously roasted beef. I can guarantee that you'll be addicted to me cooking in just one day."

Seeing that she was happy again, Yu Peiyu was pleased too. However when he remembered that his family and home were gone, he hadn't avenged his father yet. He was sad again, that fake Yu Fanghe used the name of his father to do all kinds of evil things. He was facing this war alone with no help, I think the only time he has for a bowl of congee will be in another lifetime. All of a sudden the tears welled up in his eyes.

Zhu Lei'Er asked gently: "Fourth uncle, why are you crying?"

Yu Peiyu quickly wiped away his tears and said with a smile: "Fourth uncle wasn't crying. I'm a grown man, some dust just entered my eyes."

Zhu Lei'Er looked at him for some time, she laughed: "Uncle, you think that you're very mature, aren't you? If you weren't the sworn brother of third uncle I should call you [fourth brother]."

Yu Peiyu was happy but also a bit melancholic when he saw her pretty and happy face. He didn't know what to say.

At this point some people walked over.

Four men entered the inn next to the house of Zhu Lei'Er, the four men looked agile and muscular. In one look one could see that they were strong men but by their walk they didn't seem to have any superior martial arts.

The first man carried a long spear, the second used a long fork and the other two both carried a sabre and a shield.

They were using their weapons to poke at the ashes of the building, it seemed that they were looking for something.

Zhu Lei'Er looked at Yu Peiyu, her eyes were filled with respect and admiration. She praised his intelligence in her heart.

The wielder of the spear laughed: "The warden is too punctual, nobody is still here."

The man with the fork laughed too: "Do you think the warden was responsible for this order?"

The man with the spear asked: "Whose order is it?"

The man with the fork waved his hand to call them around him. And he lowered his voice and said: "I heard that our warden is aiding the chancellor of Wulin in search of something."

The man with the spear said: "So setting fire was also his idea?"

The man with the fork answered: "Of course it was his idea. Otherwise the warden wouldn't have come here personally."

Yu Peiyu and Zhu Lei'Er understood now, these were not the henchmen of Yu Fanghe. Yu Fanghe had conveniently found a scapegoat, and if something happened the scapegoat would be blamed.

Those men whispered and walked to a different location and continued to poke between the ashes.

Zhu Lei'Er sighed: "This Yu Fanghe is very crafty. He has planned and thought of everything. He has found some fool to take the fall and protect his reputation as chancellor of Wulin."

Yu Peiyu sighed too: "He is the real mastermind behind all these plots, and if someone would find out he would easily shift the blame away."

Zhu Lei'Er asked: "For killing he had asked master Nu. But who is this warden they kept talking about?"

Yu Peiyu said seriously: "I think it must be the warden of the Thunderbolt Clan. I've heard many things about the secretive weaponry of the Thunderbolt Clan and their mastery of gunpowder. Only they are capable of burning down an entire town in a few moments."

Zhu Lei'Er asked: "Fourth uncle, do you know the name of the warden of the Thunderbolt Clan?"

Yu Peiyu said: "Lei Feng."

Zhu Lei'Er repeated softly: "Thunderbolt Clan... Lei Feng... Thunderbolt Clan... Lei Feng..."

Silver Blossom wasn't killed or injured in the fire. Thank goodness for her.

She was repeating those names a few times, Yu Peiyu was puzzled and asked: "Are you planning on taking revenge on them?"

Zhu Lei'Er said: "Although they were just following orders. But they're responsible for burning down my home. I will burn down their homes too, or else I won't be able to live with myself."

Yu Peiyu didn't say anything but just sighed.

This young girl was very proud and stubborn. If you had mistreated her she will always remember and try to take revenge.

However if you're good to her, she will always remember your kindness and will try to repay you.

Yu Peiyu was worried about her and couldn't leave her to her fate.

At this point a loud voice said: "The Lightningfire of the Thunderbolt Clan is very formidable. I'm most fortunate to see this amazing skill."

It was the Flowered Chestnut Sword, Lin Shoujuan.

He deliberately spoke loudly, so everyone will be convinced that it was the Thunderbolt Clan which was responsible for this fire.

Another voice said: "This fire has also burnt away lots of our money."

The man sounded proud and arrogant, it was the warden of the Thunderbolt Clan Lei Feng.

Zhu Lei'Er whispered softly: "This Lei Feng is an idiot, he doesn't know that he's scapegoat."

Zhu Lei'Er said: "Let us not talk anymore. We might be discovered."

A group of men walked over smiling and chatting.

Yu Fanghe and an imposing old man were walking ahead. Lin Shoujuan and a few others were following them.

The Thunderbolt Clan was not only famous in Wulin, but they also held monopoly in the sell of products related with fire, i.e. lamps, flints, oil, etc.

They were one of the most richest clans in the world, and this warden felt very proud and was very arrogant.

The four men earlier respectfully stood there to await their warden.

Lei Feng asked sternly: "Did you find anyone else?"

One of the men answered: "Except for that woman, we didn't see anyone else."

Yu Peiyu knew that the woman was Silver Blossom. He was glad to know that Silver Blossom was alright. He also felt guilty for leaving her behind and felt very bad about it.

He felt that he should have taken better care for her, since she was travelling with him.

Lin Shoujuan suddenly walked over to the four and said: "Sorry to have troubled you."

The four of them bowed and one of them said: "It is nothing."

Lin Shoujuan said: "Seeing the way you've put out the fire that fast, you must have a lot of experience in these situations."

The man said: "Very true, I've done this sort of thing many times."

Lin Shoujuan suddenly turned very angry and said: "How dare you! So you're admitting setting fire and killing is something you've done often!"

He drew his sword and before they understood what happened, they were already killed by Lin Shoujuan.

Lei Feng turned around and yelled: "Lin Shoujuan! Are you insane!"

Lin Shoujuan took out a white cloth and wiped off the blood of his sword. He turned to Lei Feng and said coldly: "These four just admitted that they've set fire to villages before. And they admitted this in front of chancellor Yu. Now that I know what they've done in the past, I cannot allow them to continue to cause evil."

Lei Feng angrily said: "What the hell are you talking about? Chancellor, do... have you heard what this fellow is saying?"

Yu Fanghe said casually: "Everyone is allowed to kill rogues like these. He is right."

Lei Feng backed away from Yu Fanghe with three paces and said with fear: "But... but set... setting fire was your idea! You promised us 30,000 taels of silver if we burnt down this village. We did all the work and... and now you're saying this kind non... nonsense."

Yu Fanghe looked a bit angry and scolded: "I have always upheld chivalry in my life. I would never instruct to do such a vile act. How dare you slander my reputation? If you don't watch your mouth, don't blame me for being fair."

Lei Feng was sweating like a pig and understood what was going on. He shouted angrily: "You despicable hypocrite! Why..why do you want to frame me!"

All of a sudden someone attacked him with a sword, it was Lin Shoujuan. He attacked swiftly with seven, eight stances and Lei Feng couldn't even draw his sabre. His shoulder was cut and he fell down. He turned to the group of martial arts experts and yelled: "How can you allow him to do this! You're famous martial artists too!"

The men who came with Yu Fanghe looked up into the sky and were chit-chatting with each other.

There was little left of Lei Feng's expensive brocade. The Thunderbolt Clan was never famous for their martial arts and this Lei Feng was spoiled by his father and grandfather when he was a child. So he never trained intensively in his life.

And Lin Shoujuan was a good swordsman and didn't give him the opportunity to use his famous Thunderbolt Clan secretive weaponry.

Lei Feng managed with difficulty to withstand ten stances, he was panting heavily and laughed arrogantly: "Yu Fanghe! You want to silence me, don't you? You can have my life!"

He leapt towards the tip of the sword of Lin Shoujuan, he didn't want to be humiliated anymore. The sword pierced through his chest, Lin pulled out his sword.

Lei Feng put his hands on his wound on his chest. He laughed sadly: "Good! Marvelous! I've finally seen the chivalry of the so-called orthodox schools! HAHAAHAHAHA..."

His final laughter sounded very eerie, most of those men got goosebumps when they heard Lei Feng.

And some of them even lowered their heads. Lei Feng said with his dying breath: "It is a shame that Hong Lianhua isn't here, he wouldn't... wouldn't..."

Before he could finish he was dead.

Zhu Lei'Er grabbed Yu Peiyu's hand tightly and was sweating, she was very afraid of what she just saw. Even Yu Peiyu was astounded and shocked.

Another two men quickly walked to Yu Fanghe, they wore masks and wore black robes. Obviously they were henchmen of Yu Fanghe. They were also holding two shovels.

Lin Shoujuan said loudly: "Don't bury them! Take their bodies and show them to the villagers of this town. They were the responsible for the fire here and chancellor Yu has punished them accordingly. Also inform them that chancellor Yu will investigate and try to recover the compensation for their losses."

The two men bowed and said: "I understand."

A voice from a burnt house said: "Marvelous! Someone has to pay for the lost of their homes."

Lin Shoujuan yelled: "Who is it! Reveal yourself!"

The voice said: "Mr. Lin, don't be startled. I am just a harmless old woman, Mr. Lin can easily kill an old woman like me."

Yu Peiyu and Zhu Lei'Er recognized the voice, it was that horrible granny Hu. Zhu Lei'Er gritted her teeth with anger and hate, Yu Peiyu knew that she hated this old woman very much and would love to kill her on the spot. He gently took her hand and pulled her closer to him, he felt that her hand was very cold. His heart was filled with tender affection for her. He held on to her hand and didn't let go. Zhu Lei'Er lowered her head and didn't dare to look at Yu Peiyu now. But her hand was not cold anymore in fact she was feeling very hot, like she was on fire. However Yu Peiyu did not notice this change.

Granny Hu slowly walked to Yu Fanghe and entourage and she was chewing on some beans.

She laughed: "Teethless people love to chew on beans for some reason. Must be the funny sound we make, don't you think so too?"

Lin Shoujuan who originally wanted to silence this talker now stood still and slowly observed granny Hu.

As an experienced martial arts expert he knew that this old woman must be a famous expert too. He turned to Yu Fanghe for advice.

Yu Fanghe's face changed a bit and managed to smile with difficulty: "Madame, are you..."

Before he could finish, granny Hu interrupted: "Mr. Yu, don't be friendly and courteous with me. I'm just an old woman, I will die if the chancellor of Wulin would treat me with such respect."

She now turned to Lin Shoujuan and said: "Mr. Lin is not only a famous swordsman but he is also a very capable orator."

Lin Shoujuan smiled forcibly: "Madame, you're too kind."

Granny Hu just giggled and continued: "The place where I'm standing used to be the general convenience store in this town. Although it was a small shop but it was still worth about 3500 taels of silver. I think if I added all those shops, houses together I think you should pay about a few thousand taels of gold. Do you agree with me?"

Lin Shoujuan said: "I think so too."

Granny Hu continued: "But saying chancellor Yu will investigate and try to recover their losses is just putting the blame on someone else. That way chancellor Yu won't have to pay even one tael of silver."

Lin Shoujuan and the other men's face changed, but Yu Fanghe smiled: "In that case I will pay Madame a large sum now. Just to compensate for your losses."

Granny Hu giggled: “Madame? I’m not married yet, nobody likes an old hag like me. And now nobody will love me either.”

Yu Fanghe laughed: “In that case. Miss, what do you want? I will see what I can do for you.”

Granny Hu laughed loudly: “Miss?!? I haven’t heard that in about 60 years now. I’m feeling all weak now just hearing you call me Miss. I will let you go just because of that.”

Yu Fanghe was still smiling, but a few of those martial artists looked annoyed.

Shadowless Du Fei angrily scoffed: “The chancellor is a great man, who doesn’t want to lower himself to your level. Old crone, if you’re wise leave now!”

Granny Hu smiled: “I wouldn’t dare to be rude against the chancellor and all the heroes here. Just Du Fei alone can handle me.”

Du Fei grunted.

Granny Hu sighed: “But I’ve lived long enough. Great Mr. Du, please kill me.”

Du Fei looked at Yu Fanghe, who remained emotionless. Du Fei saw that the old woman was still chewing beans and looked really like she wanted to be killed.

Du Fei laughed dryly: “Since you know my name, you must know you’re no match for me. I don’t like to kill old women, I don’t want to be mocked by friends.”

Granny Hu laughed loudly: “I used to think that Du Fei was a real man. But now... he is even too afraid to kill old woman. I think his friends will laugh at him for being such a coward.”

Long Beard Xiang and Lin Shoujuan both smiled when they heard that.

Du Fei felt humiliated, he knew that this old woman must know a thing or two. But he didn’t care anymore. He yelled: “Don’t blame me, old crone! You sought this upon yourself!”

He was called Shadowless Du Fei, his art of levitation was very high and he had already drew his sabre. He was storming towards granny Hu at very fast speed.

Before they knew it, they saw Du Fei about to hack granny Hu. But suddenly Du Fei dropped his sabre, his hands clutched to his throat and was breathing heavily. He looked very angry.

Everyone didn’t understand what was going on. Granny Hu sighed: “Silly child! Just because I gave you a bean that doesn’t mean you have to spare me.”

Now they understood, when Du Fei roared this old woman shot a bean in his mouth.”

Everyone was surprised and shocked. Yu Peiyu thought: This granny Hu is even better than Tang Wushuang.

Suddenly he realized that the fake Tang Wushuang wasn't here. Too many things happened in these two days, that fake Tang Wushuang was his only lead.

Zhu Lei'Er saw that Yu Peiyu was sweating heavily and his hand was very cold. She used her sleeve to gently wipe away his sweat. But he was in a trance.

However Du Fei was sweating even more, he clutched his throat and said: "Bean... bean..."

Granny Hu laughed: "Is it stuck? Well, cough it out!"

Du Fei put his finger in this throat and tried to vomit, but his hand was too big. He could only fit three fingers in there. He tried to use his fingers to scrape out the bean, but it only made it worse. He's choking and coughing.

Suddenly he had spasms, he fell down and blood came out of the corners of his mouth. He was waving his arms in the air, blood splattered everywhere around him. There were only two fingers on one hand, he bit off his own fingers during his seizure.

Long Beard Xiang wanted to help him out and stepped forward, but he quickly stepped back again. He turned to Lin Shoujuan and said: "The bean... there must be poison on it."

Lin Shoujuan nodded.

They could hear a gargling sound, it was Du Fei. He was choking on his own fingers. Everyone was frightened by this type of poison and didn't dare to speak now.

Granny Hu laughed at Du Fei: "Those beans are very tasty, I wonder how they taste with those fingers. I must admire you for trying out this new method of eating beans. Unfortunately I cannot taste such delicacy."

Everyone saw the blood on Du Fei's face and the awfully gargling sound he was making. Everyone felt sick and after granny Hu's words they even felt worse. Long Beard Xiang couldn't help it anymore and threw up.

At this point Du Fei's arms to stop waving, and the gargling noise slowly died out.

They saw that there was still blood oozing out of his fingers, but it was as black as ink.

Granny Hu said softly: "It is amazing that Shadowless Du Fei couldn't cope with a mere bean."

Yu Fanghe sighed deeply: "Granny Hu is here... "

Everyone shrieked when they heard granny Hu's name. She turned to Yu Fanghe and said: "It seems that you've just recognized me."

Yu Fanghe apologized: "Forgive me. I should have guessed it was Madame Hu all along."

Granny Hu looked at him for some time, her usual wicked face was gone. She looked surprised and shocked, it was like the first time she saw Yu Fanghe.

Yu Fanghe was still smiling but he felt uneasy being stared at by her.

Granny Hu shook her head and sighed: "Just awhile ago, you wanted Du Fei to kill me. Now he is dead and you're still pretending. You're some formidable man, even I don't know what you're thinking."

Yu Fanghe smiled: "I really do not... "

Granny Hu scoffed: "You don't know me! Twenty years ago we have met before. Anyone who has seen me once will never forget my ugly face. And besides we can even be considered friends."

Yu Fanghe couldn't smile anymore. Nobody noticed except Yu Peiyu...

Zhu Lei'Er felt that his hand was warm again and noticed his heart was beating very fast and his body was shaking.

Granny Hu said: "Why pretend not to know me?"

Yu Peiyu almost bursted out: He doesn't recognize you because he isn't the real Yu Fanghe. Twenty years ago you met my father, this man is an imposter.

He used with tremendous difficulty to surpress that urge. He looked like he was in pain. Zhu Lei'Er shivered when she saw his face like that. She had never seen him in such pain before.

Yu Fanghe laughed loudly: "Twenty years ago... I forgot about what happened twenty years ago a very long time ago. And I do not wish to remember those events. Why should you also remember those issues?"

Granny Hu said coldly: "I will never forget that event."

Yu Fanghe's laugh was also dying out and he felt very uneasy when he heard granny Hu's words.

Yu Fanghe laughed dryly: "So you want to settle that score today, don't you?"

Granny Hu looked at him for some time and said: "You're right. I do want to settle that score. You must know that I tend to repay my enemies and let us not forget to add the twenty years of interest."

She was still chewing on beans and looked at Yu Fanghe in a strange manner.

Lin Shoujuan loudly said: "Madame, you shouldn't forget the present status of master Yu."

Granny Hu said: "What status?"

Lin Shoujuan said sternly: "Master Yu is now the chancellor of Wulin, if you deliberately make things difficult for chancellor Yu. You will become the common enemy of Wulin."

Granny Hu giggled: "The entire Wulin? I just see the five of you, I'm confident that an old woman like me can handle the likes of you."

Lin Shoujuan grabbed his sword tightly, Long Beard Xiang looked nervous. Both were sweating now. Long Beard Xiang backed away a bit and said: "Madame Hu, I would not dream of interfering between you and chancellor Yu."

Granny Hu said calmly: "Now there were four."

A man next to Xiang stepped forward and said: "I am not busybody either. And I will not question the affairs of Wulin seniors."

Granny Hu said: "Three."

Another man said: "I fully agree with brother Song. I too am not a busybody."

Granny Hu laughed: "Only two. Chancellor Yu does know how to make good friends."

Lin Shoujuan wanted to attack now, but Yu Fanghe grabbed his hand and shook his head.

Lin Shoujuan asked: "Chancellor, you want to engage her first?"

Yu Fanghe smiled: "She doesn't want to fight us yet. If she wanted that, she wouldn't waste her time talking to us."

Lin Shoujuan was still hesitating, granny Hu laughed: "It seems you became chancellor because you have some talents. Right, I'm still talking to you because I want you to answer a few questions. You cannot escape me now, so I suggest you would cooperate."

Yu Fanghe asked: "What is that you want to know?"

Granny Hu said: "These men are all famous people from the orthodox schools, but to be honest they are just a bunch of losers. Why did you deliberately trick Hong Lianhua, Jun Haitang and others to leave this place? And why are you here again?"

Yu Fanghe stayed quiet for a minute and said slowly: "Do you not know my motives?"

Granny Hu said: "I want you to confirm my suspicions."

Yu Fanghe said: "I'm looking for something extremely valuable. I take it that granny already knows this."

Granny Hu said: "If you would find this object, will you share it with me?"

Yu Fanghe smiled: "I will share it with everyone present."

Granny Hu picked up a shovel and threw it at Long Beard Xiang and yelled: "What are you waiting for? Dig!"

The men started to dig now, and after some time a few of them started to pant heavily. Their expensive brocades were soaked with their sweat.

One of the sighed softly: "If word would get out that the head of the *The Tranquil Distance Armed Guard Agency*, *Han Dayuan* and the young keeper of the *Myriad Wood Manor* Song Hongxing are doing this sort of degrading jobs... (*sigh). We would become the laughing stock of Wulin."

Song Hongxing was embarrassed by his remark and smiled forcibly: "But we agreed to do this."

Han Dayuan said softly: "We agreed to do this out of our free will. But I'm afraid that if we found that item... They will forget about our efforts."

He looked around and saw that granny Hu and Yu Fanghe were standing very far away from them. He felt a bit relieved.

Song Hongxing saw that those two were very far away, so he said softly: "But why would he invite us over? If he isn't planning to share... "

Han Dayuan whispered: "He is just looking for a few workers."

Song Hongxing wiped away his sweat and said softly: "Yu Fanghe doesn't seem like that kind of man."

Han Dayuan scoffed softly: "That's what I thought too, but after seeing what he did to Lei Feng. I fear our fates will be similar to Lei Feng."

He turned to Long Beard Xiang and said: "Old Xiang, did you hear me?"

Long Beard Xiang wiped his sweat and said: "Yes, I heard you. But what can we do now."

Lin Shoujuan yelled loudly: "Did you find something?"

Xiang answered: "Nothing, nothing yet."

Granny Hu coldly said: "I suggest you would put more effort in it, or else..."

Xiang retorted: "But what if that thing isn't here."

Granny Hu said casually: "If it isn't here, I will bury you three into that hole."

At this point Zhu Lei'Er whispered: "They can't hear us now, right?"

Yu Peiyu nodded.

Zhu Lei'Er said softly: "What are they looking for? My mother has not hidden anything here. She just wanted to become an ordinary housewife."

Yu Peiyu said: "They aren't looking for jewelry and such."

Zhu Lei'Er asked: "How come?"

Yu Peiyu said: "If they were they could have taken that parcel we left behind. It was full of invaluable."

Zhu Lei'Er said: "But we wrapped it tightly with a few layers of cloth."

Yu Peiyu said: "With their Wulin experience and eyesight, they're bound to see what was in the parcel."

Zhu Lei'Er frowned and said: "What could it be?"

Yu Peiyu didn't answer her, because he didn't know the answer either."

The three men had already dug a deep hole, but there was still no trace of the object they wanted.

They just found some wood, dirt and after digging further they were a bit worried.

Lin Shoujuan asked: "Could it be that Zhu Mei didn't hide that object here?"

Granny Hu said: "She took it with her and it must be here."

Lin Shoujuan asked: "Madame, why are you so certain?"

Granny Hu scolded: "Idiot, anyone with half a brain can figure that out."

Yu Fanghe explained: "Dongfang Meiyu knew that she hid that item here, that's why he didn't leave her. Dongfang Daming used the item to lure Heavenly King Li and the others over to assist him."

Lin Shoujuan was puzzled and asked: "But why didn't Zhu Mei use that item in her own benefit. Why hide it?"

Granny Hu sneered: "She just wanted to become a good wife and an excellent mother. If a woman really loves a man she will occasionally do the most strangest things."

Suddenly granny Hu, Yu Fanghe and Lin Shoujuan turned around they heard the noise of a carriage riding their way.

Zhu Lei'Er whispered: "I think I know what they're looking for."

Yu Peiyu just said: "Hmmm?"

Zhu Lei'Er said: "They must be looking for some secret powerful martial arts codex. My mother must have found that codex but did not have the time to study it. She must have hidden it here somewhere, however Dongfang Meiyu found out about this secret."

Yu Peiyu kept nodding when he heard that reasonable explanation, he couldn't come up with a better explanation than hers.

After she was finished the carriage had almost reached Yu Fanghe and others. There were 16 horses pulling the carriage, and the carriage was the most biggest carriage anyone has seen. It was bigger than an ordinary house.

Yu Fanghe frowned and asked: "Did you secure this place?"

Lin Shoujuan answered: "I've instructed our men to surround the village."

Yu Fanghe said: "But why is this carriage here? Have they fallen asleep during their watch? They should have stopped this carriage and if they failed they should send out the alarm."

The carriage stopped, and a voice inside laughed: "Don't blame those men! They did wanted to release a signal but before they could, their heads were chopped off. If someone was to lose his head, he isn't very capable of doing anything anymore."

The voice sounded very friendly, funny. One would almost believe the voice belonged to the friendly bloke next door.

But granny Hu's face changed, she looked terrified.

She wanted to leave as soon as she heard the laughter. But she couldn't just leave the item behind.

But now it was too late, the doors of the carriage were opened, ten strong muscular men carried a large bed outside.

The bed was the largest anyone had seen before, and lying on the bed was the fattest man one has ever seen before.

Furthermore they were a dozen plates of delicacies on the bed and the fat man was eating happily.

Yu Fanghe and others weren't smiling anymore. This man was disgustingly fat, it was like he was one big lump of talking blob of fat.

Long Beard Xiang, Song Hongxing and Han Dayuan got out of the hole and were bemused to see this fatty.

The fat man laughed: "I think I would be the fattest man in the history of China. If there was a competition who the fattest man was, I would win it for sure. Do you agree?"

Granny Hu couldn't laugh at this joke, in fact it seemed like she aged a lot in a matter of seconds.

The fat man laughed: "Why aren't you laughing? Isn't it funny to see a fatty like me?"

Granny Hu managed to produce a smile on her face and said: "I don't see a fatty. Is there a fat man here? Why can't I see him?"

The fat man said: "I'm just standing here. Can't you see me?"

Granny Hu smiled: "Sir, you're just a bit muscular. You can't be considered fat."

The fat man angrily shouted: "What! Do you think every fatty doesn't like to be called fat! I don't need you flattering to me."

Granny Hu sort felt relieved to see him angry and smiled apologetically: "I'm just telling the truth."

The fat man shook his head and said: "You're lying. I should really cut off your tongue."

But he sighed: "But I'm just too fat and I'm too lazy to move. Do me a favour and cut off your own tongue. No, your nose will also do."

This fat man was actually telling people to cut off their tongues or noses and he sounded like he was engaging in pleasant conversation. Everyone thought he was mad.

Granny Hu took away the sword from Lin Shoujuan and immediately cut off her own nose.

Her nose fell on the ground and she ran away as fast as possible.

Lin Shoujuan and others were too shocked to say or laugh.

The fat man laughed: "What a stupid old woman! Why did she cut off her own nose? Don't you think that was hilarious?"

Xiang, Song, etc. looked at each other and couldn't laugh. The fat man sighed: "These men don't have a sense of humour."

He pointed at Song Hongxing and asked: "What's your name?"

Song Hongxing stuttered: "My... na... name... is... Song... Hongxing."

The fat man said: "Why won't you laugh? I remember seeing you smiling earlier."

Song Hongxing tried his best to smile or laugh but it looked like he was crying now.

The fat man sighed: "You don't know the first thing of humour. Do me a favour cut off your own ears."

If someone else would say this to Song Hongxing he would become very angry and laughed at the arrogance of that person.

But now he didn't know what to do. He knew that this fatty must be quite lethal otherwise granny Hu wouldn't run away like that.

But he wasn't too keen either to cut off his own ears. And he thought: I certainly can't defeat you, but I can try and run away.

He quickly used his best form of the art of levitation to get away from the fatty.

The fat man laughed: "Look he is running from me. Why?"

Song Hongxing can be ranked as a first rate expert of this era and by the time the fat man laughed he was already 20 metres away from him.

Everyone was certain that this fat man couldn't catch up with Song anymore.

Suddenly he saw a silver flash flying towards Song with incredible speed, and the silver object made a turn and flew back to the fat man. They saw it was just a silver plate.

Song Hongxing was still running, but after two extra paces his upper body fell off. And blood gushed out of his lower body like a fountain.

His legs walked another two steps before the lower body fell too.

Everyone was horrified, the fat man used the plate to slice the body of Song in two halves.

They had never seen such martial arts before.

The fat man laughed: "Isn't that funny? Do you see that? That body still walked another two steps. It is hilarious, isn't it?"

Before he could finish Han Dayuan already laughed very loudly.

The fat man said: "Someone is finally laughing. What's your name?"

Han Dayuan stuttered: "Han... Dayuan."

The fat man smiled: "You laughed so loudly. You must find me very entertaining."

Han Dayuan said quickly: "Yes, a fat man like you is very entertaining."

The fat man laughed: "You have a sense of humour. I like that in a man. Say, can you do me a favour?"

Something snapped inside Han Dayuan and he screamed: "You... you... want... me... to do you a fav... favour?"

The fat man laughed: "Of course you, who else?"

Han Dayuan leapt up and cursed: "You damn fat pig! I... I... Take this!"

He raised his shovel and stormed towards the fat man. He hit the fat man with full force with the shovel. But there was no hole in him, in fact his fat sort of absorbed the shovel. Han Dayuan tried his best to pull out the shovel from the fat man, however in vain.

The fatty casually slapped Han Dayuan, and Han flew backwards and made a few somersaults in mid-air. When he landed his head was mutilated beyond recognition.

Long Beard Xiang was called the Invincible Fists but he had never seen or dreamt that such prowess existed.

The fat man turned to him and asked: "What's your name?"

Xiang knelt down and said: "My family name is Xiang. Sir, if you want me to cut off my ears I will cut them off. If you want me to cut off my nose I will do so. I won't run and won't resist."

The fat man sighed: "Initially I wanted you to cut off that long beard of yours. But if you really want to cut off your nose and ears, by all means."

Xiang collapsed on the ground, he could almost cry.

The fatty said: "Well, what are you waiting for?"

Xiang gritted his teeth and drew his sabre and cut off his nose and ears.

He fainted of the pain.

The fatty turned to Yu Fanghe and smiled: "I hear that you're the present chancellor of Wulin."

Yu Fanghe said: "That is right."

Yu Fanghe still remained calm and dignified, both Yu Peiyu and Zhu Lei'Er admired his strong will.

The fat man smiled: "You do have something of a chancellor in you. Could you do me a favour?"

This time it was Yu Fanghe's turn. Yu Peiyu tightly held on to Zhu Lei'Er's hand. He didn't know whether he should be happy or excited.

He wanted to see the imposter dead for a very long time, but he wasn't too keen to see him die at the hands of another. But he had no choice, because he too realized he was no match for that fatty.

Yu Fanghe smiled: "If the famous Tian Chixing *The Day Eats The Constellation* has something troubling him. I'm most willing to help."

Tian Chixing was a bit startled and asked: "How do you know my name?"

Yu Fanghe smiled: "I have heard of your fame and appearances for a very long time. It is indeed a honor to finally meet you. *The Star Constellation devours everything, he has eaten countless martial artists. His stomach can hold a thousand people.*"

Tian Chixing asked seriously: "Who told you that?"

Yu Fanghe used his hand to make a gesture, unfortunately both Yu Peiyu and Zhu Lei'Er couldn't see what that sign was.

Yu Peiyu saw the startled expression on Tian Chixing's face, Tian Chixing asked earnestly: "You... you recognize that person?"

Yu Fanghe smiled: "That person doesn't dislike me, so we became quite close."

Tian Chixing grabbed something from a plate and started to eat, he was called the world's biggest omnivore for a reason.

He smiled: "Since you know that crazy person I won't ask you to do me a favour. But I do have a few questions."

Yu Fanghe said politely: "Ask away, sir."

Tian Chixing said: “Feng San helped out the late Zhu Mei once and that’s why he lived here for some time. Is that true?”

Yu Fanghe nodded and said: “Yes.”

Tian Chixing asked: “Where is he now? Did he die in the fire?”

Yu Fanghe shook his head and said: “We didn’t find the remains of Feng San, in fact nobody died in this fire.”

Tian Chixing frowned and said: “I hear that Zhu Mei managed to get hold of something. It is said that whoever owns that item will rule Wulin. Is that correct?”

Yu Fanghe smiled: “True too.”

Tian Chixing asked: “So you were looking for that item earlier, right? And have you found it?”

Yu Fanghe replied: “Yes, we’re looking for it. But we haven’t found it yet.”

Tian Chixing smiled: “Why won’t you continue to dig?”

Lin Shoujuan and Yu Fanghe looked at each other and smiled wryly. They both picked up the shovels and started to dig, they dug and dug and even struck a water source.

Lin Shoujuan and Yu Fanghe were soaked and Yu smiled wryly: “Still nothing.”

Tian Chixing said seriously: “Zhu Mei must have hidden it somewhere else.”

Yu Fanghe sighed: “I believe so too.”

Tian Chixing laughed: “It is better that way, otherwise that thing will only cause trouble.”

He started to laugh very happily.

Yu Fanghe coughed and asked: “Do you have anymore requests, sir? If not we will take our leave.”

Tian Chixing laughed: “Nope! Go, quickly leave! My head hurts when I think of that strange character.”

Yu Fanghe and Lin Shoujuan swiftly left this place, Yu Peiyu shook his head and sighed when he saw those two escaping that easily.