

Chapter 38

Fortuitous Occurrences

Everyone was surprised and annoyed that the wine was being replaced by water with sugar. After seeing eighth squire Fu drinking a cup, he was looking radiant he added with a big smile: “Sugar water is better than wine... Hahahahahaha let us eat!”

Some of the smarter people were waiting for that sentence for some time now and could not wait to pig out on the banquet.

Suddenly eighth squire Fu looked angry again and said earnestly: “Who prepared these dishes? Do you want to kill my guests?”

The smarter people were afraid again, some of them smiled apologetically: “What is wrong with these dishes?”

Eighth squire Fu said seriously: “These dishes contain too much fat, fat can harm the body... That is why it is said that plain vegetables and tofu guarantee a long and healthy life. Especially practitioners of martial arts should be more careful about our health, eating food with too much fat will only do harm. One can easily become fat and when one becomes fat his body won't be that flexible anymore, in battle an inflexible body is most dangerous. I will feel most sad if anything happens to my guests.”

He had sound reasons, no one could say that his reasoning is flawed. Everyone was both angry and disappointed, eighth squire Fu made it seem like he had the well-beings of his guests as his first priority.

He himself sighed when he looked at the succulent dishes in front of him: “I am old already, I am not afraid of becoming fat.”

He drank and ate heartily and said softly: “I don't mind suffering for my friends I will eat these dishes on your behalf. Please drink my friends.”

Everyone stared at each other and cursed this old goat in their hearts and hoped he would choke on the food or stuff himself to death.

Now Yu Peiyu began to understand why people called him [the rich bastard], he met some thrifty and greedy men in his life but this eighth squire Fu really was too outrageous. How could such a person exist?

Suddenly a voice from the main hall said loudly: "As your good friend I will help you. Friends should share the problems and wealth, let me share your disaster."

This sentence was in the minds of all the guests and they were happy that finally someone had the nerves to say them.

All of them were worried and wondered how had the audacity to challenge eighth squire Fu.

Eighth squire Fu's face changed and put down his chopsticks, he laughed coldly: "I never had any good friends, all my friends are dead now. Who are you?"

That person laughed: "Little brother came from afar to congratulate eighth brother. Why would you say that I am dead."

When he first spoke he sounded like he was very near but nobody could see him, but now he sounded very far away.

In a moment a figure appeared at the door, a very tall figure and very skinny. He wore greenish long robe with a strange-looking sword in his girdle, he wore a big straw hat covering his face.

Eighth squire Fu seems to have recognize the unwelcome guest also eighth Madame Fu seemed to look restless now. The strange man staggered in and laughed: "Won't you invite an old friend to a seat anymore?"

Eighth squire Fu's face was looking very dark now, but still said: "Yes, of course. Take a seat."

But he did not do anything additional to welcome this old friend.

The man in green robe said: "I understand only people who bring nice gifts are allowed to sit, those with no gifts or worthless presents will even get a spanking. Am I right?"

He searched his robe and sighed: "I think I forgot to bring a present, what shall I do? Of course, as the saying goes a poor scholar can present a piece of paper too. It is the thought that counts, isn't it?"

He took out a old piece of paper, gods knows what he used it for and put it in front of eighth squire Fu and laughed: "I wonder if this gift is suitable."

And the other guests looked surprised and upset including Yu Xuan, everyone who came here brought the most valuable treasure they could find. Even a coral of 2 metres was not good enough and the bringer was even killed of it, this fellow has the audacity to give eighth squire Fu a piece of old paper.

But strange enough eighth squire Fu said: "Enough... it is good enough."

The man in green robe said: "Since eighth brother says it is enough, I will share brother's discomfort too."

He suddenly moved to a guest with incredible speed and picked the man up by his neck and flung him out of the main hall, this guests' nickname was "Half A Mountain" meaning he was quite fat. But the man in green robe picked him up with ease and chucked him out of there with no effort.

The man in green robe started to drink from the bowl of shark fin' soup and drank heartily from the expensive wine of eighth squire Fu.

Eighth squire Fu did not move or talk.

The man in green robe suddenly said: "I have never suffered this nicely for a long time, eighth brother let me share all your troubles in one go."

Eighth squire Fu suddenly looked pale and red, he loudly shouted: "You dare to call yourselves famous martial artists of Wulin, shouldn't you pay respects to the famous Mr. Tian."

Everyone was suprised that he was scolding them instead of the man in green robe, Yu Peiyu secretly smiled this way eighth squire Fu did not have to share his expensive food with the others. He really was too thrifty.

Yu Xuan looked at the sword of the man in green robe, suddenly he got up and walked over. He respectfully asked: "Sir, since your surname is Tian. Are you related to the famous divine dragon swordsman Mr. Tian, who subdued Mount Tian and roamed and won the respect throughout the entire realm."

The man in green robe did not answer he removed his big straw hat and revealed a long pale face. He looked very smart at first look but when you look carefully his face was covered with scars making him look mysterious and scary.

When Yu Xuan saw his face he backed away with three steps.

All the other guests got up too, Yu Xuan bowed and said: "It is indeed old master Tian."

The man in green robe laughed: "Yes, I am Tian Longzi."

When he laughed all his scars sort of moved making him look even more ugly and scary.

Yu Peiyu had heard of the name divine dragon swordsman Tian Longzi, he is said to be very elusive and his martial arts are very lethal. Yu Peiyu had fought his son, Tian Jiyun so he looked at Tian Longzi a bit longer.

Tian Longzi observed Yu Peiyu with his sharp eyes and smiled: "And who is this young friend?"

Yu Xuan quickly answered with a smile: "He is Yu Er, he is one of my pupils."

Tian Longzi scoffed: "You look very smart and I am surprised that the Hainan School can produce outstanding young men like you."

He looked at Yu Peiyu a bit longer, suddenly he turned to Yu Xuan and said: "It is said that the Eight Beauties of Wulin are in your possession, is that true?"

Yu Xuan lowered his head and secretly looked at eighth squire Fu: "Ehh... this... euh..."

Tian Longzi clapped his hands and laughed: "I understand, no wonder old Fu asked you to sit at the honorary seat. You gave him the eight beauties of Wulin as present."

Everyone wondered are those little stone statues called the eight beauties of Wulin?

Tian Longzi smiled: "Eighth brother, are you still upset because I ate your food and drank your wine? Well, you won't be upset when I just want to look at those eight beauties of Wulin, will you?"

Eighth squire Fu did not look happy and did not speak.

Tian Longzi also looked unhappy and said seriously: "I just want to have a look, they won't be damaged by a mere look."

Eighth squire Fu looked pale and suddenly smacked the table, he loudly said: "Tian Longzi, don't think I am afraid of you! My hundred paces divine fist is not inferior to your Advancing, Linking 18 Dragon Touring Moves."

Tian Longzi said casually: "Also not superior to it either."

Eighth squire Fu grunted.

Tian Longzi smiled: "I knew that eighth brother won't fight a battle in which the outcome is unknown. Just let me take a look at those statues, that is all I want."

Eighth squire Fu gritted his teeth, eighth Madame Fu smiled apologetically: “Brother Tian is always known for being honest. A look won't do any harm to it? I think everyone here would like to have a look too.”

Everyone thought that eighth Madame Fu was a very mannered and considerate hostess.

Eighth squire Fu remained quiet for awhile before saying: “Very well, get my crystal bowl and fill it with clear water.”

Everyone wondered why water and a crystal bowl were needed to look at a few stone statues, everyone just had to stay patient and wait.

A beautiful large crystal bowl was brought out filled with water, eighth squire Fu put it on a table. Everyone in the hall knew that such a bowl was priceless and wondered what purpose it served.

Eighth squire Fu said: “In the last 30 years many experts were produced in Wulin, the amount of famous heroes is uncountable. However there are only eight women who are proclaimed to be matchless beauties in the last 30 years in Wulin, their ages and backgrounds are different from each other. Still their stories and beauty can captivate many men.”

In one of his hand he held the iron box and continued to say: “Master Yu presented me this, eight statues carved to likeness of these eight beauties.”

Everybody was disappointed when they heard this, even the statue of the world's most beautiful woman could not interest these people very much. A statue is still a statue, what is so wonderful about a lifeless figurine.

Eighth squire Fu said: “A statue is still a statue... lifeless. But these are different, these are alive.”

How can stone statues be alive?

Eighth squire Fu took out a statue and placed it on the table, he asked: “Do any of you recognize her?”

The statue was carved with utmost precision, even the eyelashes, eyebrows were carved on with perfection. It was almost that this beauty was alive. She wore the clothes of girls in Xinjiang giving her a different charm from Han Chinese beauties.

Tian Longzi smiled: “Is she the Miraculous Flower of Xinjiang Red Peony.”

Eighth squire Fu said coldly: “Brilliant observation, you really are well-informed.”

Tian Longzi smiled: “Red Peony is the favourite concubine of the number one expert of the Tibetan Mi Zong Buddhism, lama Hongyun. She was not only beautiful but her mere smile could dazzle any man, many men tried to look for her only to have a look at her unmatched beauty. However Hongyun lama is a very jealous man and does not allow other men to look at his favourite concubine.”

Eighth squire Fu said proudly: “But now we can watch to our heart's contend, carefully observe.”

He put the stone figurin into the water, when the statue was in water it became [alive]. Also her clothes slowly disappeared revealing a beautiful body and figure dancing gracefully in the water.

Eighth squire Fu could not help himself but to laugh: “Lama Hongyun has protected her like a treasure never letting anyone look at her, he will kill everyone who lays an eye on her. We can look at her as we please and even play with her...”

Almost everyone was dazzled by the appearance of Red Peony, some were even drooling. Only a few intelligent men were thinking that eighth squire Fu is a bit too strange.

Tian Longzi smiled: “Eighth brother, why don't you look for a partner for Red Peony to dance with.”

Eighth squire Fu said: “That is a good idea.”

He looked into the iron box and said: “Red Peony is not that young anymore, I will look for a young lass whom she can dance with.”

He took another stone figure and put it in the bowl of water, he smiled: “Do you know who the most beautiful woman is in the southern regions of China? I will place the most beautiful woman of Xinjiang and Su province together, they will dance for us. Except for me who can arrange such a enchanting sight.”

When he finished, Yu Peiyu looked awfully pale. The statue chucked in the water was of Lin Daiyu.

Lin Daiyu was dancing in the water she was smiling and pouting, like she was telling Yu Peiyu with her facial expressions her tragic encounters.

Yu Peiyu could not control his temper anymore, he got up and kicked the table.

Everyone was angered and got up, they all thought that this young man has gone insane. This time it was Yu Xuan who turned pale.

Even eighth squire Fu was surprised and shocked, he never thought that this young man would have the nerves to be so bold in his presence. Only Tian Longzi was smiling, he looked at Yu Peiyu it seemed that he knew who Yu Peiyu really was.

After a moment eighth squire Fu composed himself, he was not angry he even laughed: "Since you do not wish to live anymore, let me fulfil that wish of yours.

He pushed away the table in front of him, he patted his robe that was wet of the splattered water and slowly walked to Yu Peiyu.

Everyone knew the power of the hundred paces divine fist and in his fit of anger he must use his full power, everybody made sure they stayed away from Yu Peiyu. They were afraid that they might be accidentally hurt too.

Yu Xuan felt a bit responsible for Yu Peiyu being here and did not want to abandon him, but he was very afraid of eighth squire Fu. He was still hesitating what to do when he was pulled aside by Tian Longzi.

All of the people Yu Peiyu was the most calm at this moment, but he was still very angry. When eighth squire Fu walked his way he did not greet, walked to him or back away from him.

He just said calmly: "You are not my match, let Madame Fu take your place in this battle."

Everyone was shocked again, the hundred paces divine fist of eighth squire Fu were known throughout the realm. But nobody knew that eighth Madame Fu was also a martial arts expert.

Eighth squire Fu looked scared now and exclaimed with shock: "What do you mean with that?"

Yu Peiyu said coldly: "You know perfectly well, what I mean. Do you want me to say it even more evidently?"

Eighth squire Fu now even looked more afraid and the ever high and mighty eighth squire Fu has fallen today.

His wife eighth Madame Fu stayed the same, but it seems that layers of her make-up were falling off her face.

Yu Peiyu smiled casually and picked a statue from the floor, he said: "Actually you don't need these statues, you are not interested in women. But you can't help it that other people gave them to you."

Eighth squire Fu backed away from Yu Peiyu with big paces and stuttered: "How... how... do you... you know?"

Before Yu Peiyu could answer, eighth Madame Fu advanced forward with three steps and struck out her fist towards Yu Peiyu. The power released from that fist came crashing down on Yu Peiyu, nobody guessed that the refined nice old lady would know such fierce stances. Because eighth Madame Fu attacked first she soon

gained the upperhand, Yu Peiyu could only defend and not counter-attack. He was forced back with several steps and had difficulty catching his breath now, suddenly a flash of bright light was directed towards eighth Madame Fu's chest.

She cried out and made a somersault backwards and stood six metres away from Yu Peiyu now, her robe was sliced open revealing her chest. Her hairy bosomless chest.

Tian Longzi held his sword in his hand and laughed loudly: "Just as I thought, eighth Madame Fu is a man..."

All the guests were stunned. Eighth squire Fu crawled into himself and covered his face, eighth Madame Fu used her hands to keep her robe closed preventing people seeing her chest. A most pitiful and hilarious sight.

Both of them had good martial arts, they still had good martial arts and could very well still attack Yu Peiyu and Tian Longzi. However their secret was revealed and were most embarrassed now, they were reluctant to fight anymore.

Furthermore this secret was well kept for decades, the only person who knew about this was dead for years. How come this young lad knows about it, this normal young man... Could it be that more people knew about it? Fear struck them in their chests.

Now they were afraid, nobody else feared them anymore and most of them started laughing at them.

Tian Longzi laughed: "No wonder you have a bunch of feminine male servants, you like those disgusting creatures because you are two revolting creatures too. A man marrying a man, this is new... Wonderful!"

Suddenly someone said: "If he likes to marry a man, that is his business, for all we care he marries a monkey. If he likes that who are we to say no. As long as he doesn't want you to become his wife, you should not interfere with affairs of others."

A man walked inside, he sounded very tired like he has not eaten for days. He looked very strange, his skin was hanging loosely from his face, he wore an expensive robe but it looked too big for him. Three people could fit in it.

Who was this strange man, how dare he retort Tian Longzi, not many people in the world had that ability or the nerves to do that.

He looked strange but not very impressive, everyone was of opinion that Tian Longzi could kill him with one slap.

Tian Long Zi was both angry and amused by this man, but he smiled: "I take it you too have a man as wife, judging from your appearances no woman would like to marry you."

Everybody started laughing loudly.

This strange man had too much skin hanging over his body, he laughed three times very loud before saying: "Even so it is none of your business is it?"

His laughter was loud but he did not look amused at all even now he stayed emotionless, everyone wondered how he produced that laughter. They were starting to find this strange man eerie.

Tian Longzi coughed: "What will happen to women if men started to marry men, this matter I have to look into."

That strange man said: "Are you certain?"

Tian Longzi said: "Indeed, I will look into this no matter what."

Suddenly everyone heard two loud slapping sounds, and Tian Longzi's cheeks were red and imprints could be seen on his cheeks. He also swayed to left and right quickly after each slap.

The strange man looked at Tian Longzi indifferently, Tian Longzi thought he was dreaming, fortunately his cheeks were not hurting too much.

But everyone looked at his cheeks with amazement, he unintentionally touched his cheeks and noticed they were feeling very hot. He started to lose feeling in his cheeks and called out.

The strange man laughed: "Still meddling in other people's affairs?"

Tian Longzi made a strange gargling sound.

The strange man patted eighth squire Fu on his shoulder and said: "Well, how are you going to repay me for helping you out?"

Eighth squire Fu stuttered: "Th... thank... yo... you, sir... "

He was already scared out of wits by the martial arts of this strange man, he felt his body was paralyzed when this man patted him on his shoulder.

The strange man said: "If you don't know how to repay, let me tell you."

He picked up the iron box and started to put the stone figurines in and said: "If you can give me this, I will be content."

Eighth Madame Fu scraped her courage and said: "May I ask what your name is, sir?"

The strange man asked: "Don't you recognize me?"

He shook his head and sighed: "If others did not recognize, nevermind. But you? I am most saddened by this, very sad..."

Suddenly he took out a bag from his very very big robe and out of that bag he took out a drumstick, he look peckish and smelt the drumstick. Suddenly he sighed again and put the drumstick away.

When eighth Madame Fu saw his strange behaviour, his face changed and stuttered with fear: "Ti... Ti... Tia... Tian..."

She repeated the character [Tian] over and over again but could not say the another word.

Yu Peiyu suddenly knew who this person was and exclaimed with surprise: "Sir, are you Tian Chixing?"

The strange man laughed loudly: "You're right! Very good that a young man like you knows who I am... not bad... not bad at all."

Yu Peiyu also knew why he looked so strange now, he used to be extremely fat and that is why his clothes do not fit anymore. When a fatty becomes skinny too quick, he will look like this present Tian Chixing.

But how did the ever so fat Tian Chixing lose so much weight in only three months, it is not easy for fatties to become thin in the first place.

Eighth Madame Fu stuttered: "Sir, how... how come... you... are this... healthy... looking all of a sudden?"

Tian Chixing sighed: "You do not know the state I was in, I cannot eat a thing nowadays. Every time I eat my stomach hurts terribly, so if a person hardly eats how can he not become skinny."

He sighed again: "My nickname should be changed into [the hungry constellation] now."

Tian Chixing is known for having "eaten his way to invincibility" why is he even afraid to eat a drumstick now? Everyone was curious but did not dare to ask.

Yu Peiyu suddenly asked: "Sir, how long were you pursued by the Parrot? Those days must have been awful."

Tian Chixing stared at Yu Peiyu with amazement and said: "You know about that too?"

Yu Peiyu said: "I know a bit about that."

Tian Chixing kept staring at him and said softly: "This youngster knows a lot... he knows a lot..."

Yu Peiyu smiled: "Everyone pursued by the Parrot will feel most terrible, you will have sleepless nights. You cannot even enjoy a decent meal anymore. After one or two months one is bound to look most sickly."

Tian Chixing sighed: "You are absolutely right. In these past two months I wanted to die several times, fortunately he left me alone after two months. But after my stomach could not really take heavy eating anymore, so from being a big eater I can now hardly eat at all."

He was practically crying at this point, if one cannot even find the interest to eat delicious food anymore. That must be most tragic.

Yu Peiyu looked at the box with the stone figures he was holding now and said coldly: "So sir is find a different interest now?"

Tian Chixing laughed: "Not entirely, I want these figures because I am looking for someone."

Yu Peiyu asked: "Who are you looking for?"

Tian Chixing said: "No matter what she too is one of the eight beauties of Wulin, her statue is bound to be on of them here. Well, I am afraid to look at her true self but I am not afraid of a mere figurine."

Yu Peiyu frowned but asked: "Who is she?"

Tian Chixing blinked with his eyes and made a gesture with his right hand.

When Yu Peiyu saw that gesture he looked pale and exclaimed with surprise: "That day did Yu... chancellor Yu make the same gesture to you, sir?"

Tian Chixing was stunned too and said: "You know about that too? Very strange... very strange."

Yu Peiyu said: "According to my knowledge that gesture refers to [Mr. Dongguo]."

Tian Chixing said: "Mr. Dongguo? Who told you that this gesture refers to Mr. Dongguo? Since when is Mr. Dongguo a matchless beauty."

Yu Peiyu's heart skipped a beat and said: "That gesture refers to... ?"

Tian Chixing looked very afraid now and said: "If you don't know, how should I know?... "

His sentence was interrupted suddenly there was a persimmon in his mouth, how did it get there? Nobody saw how it flew into his mouth.

A voice said: "Nowadays it is most difficult to find a good place to rest."

The voice came from the roof and when everyone looked up they saw a big cloth sack, the voice came from inside that sack. Was someone in that sack? How did a sack got up there? Why would anyone hide in a sack like that.

Yu Peiyu was most surprised, some of the guests called out loudly: "It is the sack of universal mystery... The preceptor of the sack is here... "

Everyone fled out of the main hall except Yu Peiyu, Tian Chixing did not even spit out the persimmon out of his mouth he did not even take the iron box with him. He knew that one should run as fast as possible when the sack of universal mystery appears.

The entire main hall was deserted, Yu Peiyu was standing alone in this big main hall where a series of strange events happened.

He too was feeling a bit scared at the moment and was wondering whether he should leave too.

Suddenly a voice from the sack said: "Young lad, since you are still here. Why won't you help this old man out of the bag?"

Yu Peiyu was shocked and wondered what he had to do now.

The voice said: "Well, are you going to let me suffocate in this bag?"

Yu Peiyu was looking pensive and replied: "Since you got into that bag yourself, why can't you come out by yourself?"

The voice stopped talking and started to make squirming sounds like he was really suffocating in there after some time the squirming sounds stopped too.

Yu Peiyu stamped his feet and leapt up, however when he reached that beam the sack fell down. Yu Peiyu leapt down again and opened the bag, but there was no one in the sack.

That is impossible because Yu Peiyu heard a voice coming from inside the sack himself. Yu Peiyu could not believe his eyes he heard a voice of an old man coming from the sack himself, he could not have just disappeared like that.

Suddenly he heard a voice from that beam again and saw his pair of feet and white long beard. The feet were small but the beard was very long.

Yu Peiyu took a deep breath, other people would think they encountered an immortal or a demon. But Yu Peiyu knew that the old man got out of the sack when he leapt up and took advantage when Yu Peiyu looked at the sack falling down. But

the martial arts of this old man were truly awesome, he could even trick someone like Yu Peiyu.

Yu Peiyu still remained very calm and smiled faintly: "Well, since old sir has such pleasure in playing hide-and-seek I won't disturb you anymore."

The old man asked: "Do you want to leave too? Look at this first!"

Before Yu Peiyu had the chance to respond something dropped down, Yu Peiyu was afraid to catch it with his hands and used the sack to catch it.

Under the lights of the lamp it was a stone figurine, when Yu Peiyu looked on the floor he noticed that the iron box with the eight beauties of Wulin were gone.

The old man must have taken the box when Yu Peiyu was busy opening the sack, but that was also in an instant the old man was really too fast for words.

Yu Peiyu was really getting scared now.

The old man laughed: "Young lad, take a good look at the beauty in your hands. It would be a waste to pass out on such a wonderful opportunity."

Yu Peiyu held the figure in the light and the figure seemed to come alive, she wore a black long dress. She was most beautiful but she also had an air of indifference and coldness, making her stand very far apart from one.

The old man asked: "Do you recognize her?"

Yu Peiyu said: "No, I do not."

The old man sighed: "You were born too late, that is why you don't recognize her. About 30, 40 years ago almost all men in the realm were willing to die for Madame Dark Jade."

Yu Peiyu said calmly: "I find her a bit too cold."

The old man laughed: "Because she was acting very cool a lot of people wanted to get to know her better. Nine of the ten men are fools, don't you know that?"

Yu Peiyu said: "Even the most beautiful woman has to die some day, what does this Madame Dark Jade have to do with me?"

The old man said: "If you don't know her, I would not let you see that stone statue of hers."

Yu Peiyu looked surprised and confused.

The old man said: "That gesture you made to Tian Chixing refers to her."

Yu Peiyu's heart started to beat faster and faster, but he remained calm and said: "Still I do not know her."

The old man said: "Think carefully, have you really not seen her before? To my knowledge you should at least have met her once."

Yu Peiyu's heart skipped a beat and remembered Hai Dongqing's teacher. She was a true beauty too but she had her face veiled.

He also remembered a carving of a sack on the bamboo plaque.

At this point he could not control himself anymore and blurted out: "Are you Mr. Dongguo?"

The name [Mr. Dongguo] is filled with a sense of mystery and Yu Peiyu was a bit shocked too when he said that name.

The old man laughed: "In face we are old friends too, don't you recognize me anymore?"

The old man gracefully descended from the beam, slowly like a leaf floating down and his beard was swaying with the wind.

When he landed Yu Peiyu saw that he was a skinny, short old man with a very long white beard. He looked very familiar to Yu Peiyu and suddenly he called out with surprise: "It's you!"

Yu Peiyu met this old man before.

The first was when everything started his father was killed and he was forced out of his home by those imposters, at that moment he did not know how to live on. Then he met a strange old man wanting to commit suicide, Yu Peiyu saved the old man and also refound his courage to live on too.

The second time was when he lost confidence in his own martial arts and then he met the old man again. Because he was pondering heavily he did not recognize the old man. The old man had a painting in his hand of a mountain that did not look like a mountain but captured the essence of the mountain. He remembered the words of the old man clearly: [It is a mountain but I drew it so it wouldn't look like a mountain. But if you look carefully it is a mountain. Although I didn't give it the form of the mountain, I managed to put the essence of the mountain in my painting. Other people may not see it, but I can. If I painted the mountain it will appear like a mountain to me. In my eyes and in my heart I know I painted a mountain. The beautiful part is I understand it but other people do not.]

Because of these words Yu Peiyu was able to place himself in the ranks of a true martial arts expert of the realm

The theory of Xiantian Wuji School is based on the emphasis of essence over form, if one is able to leave the form and is able to enter the world of no boundaries no extremes.

Simplicity over complexity Yu Peiyu has reached the advanced level of the martial arts of his own school, although Yu Peiyu has not yet reached the level of perfection yet of no extremes and boundaries but he is close.

Yu Peiyu felt that this old man has no ill intentions towards him, in fact every time he needed help he was there to aid him. If he was supposed the evil mastermind of everything, it would be impossible. But the words of Madame Dark Jade sounded so convincing.

Yu Peiyu looked up and saw Mr. Dongguo looking at him, he smiled: "Have you recognized me?"

Yu Peiyu said respectfully: "I always remember your wise teachings, old sir."

Mr. Dongguo pointed at the statue of Madame Dark Jade and said: "Have you seen her?"

Yu Peiyu said: "Yes, I have."

Mr. Dongguo said softly: "It is strange that she left you alive."

Yu Peiyu asked: "Why does she want to kill me?"

Mr. Dongguo said: "Because you are the only one who can expose her secrets."

Yu Peiyu asked: "What secrets?"

Mr. Dongguo asked: "Do you know what her name is?"

He did not give Yu Peiyu the chance to ask and immediately answered the question: "It is not strange that you don't know her actual name, not many people know her real name. It is a big secret."

Yu Peiyu asked: "Why?"

Mr. Dongguo said: "Her name is Ji Beiqing."

Yu Peiyu said: "Ji Beiqing? Is she related to Ji Kuqing?"

Mr. Dongguo said: "Yes, they are... she is his younger sister and wife."

Yu Peiyu was flabbergasted.

Mr. Dongguo sighed: "Unfortunate... most unfortunate... "

He added with a wry smile: "All the members of Ji family are strange, they all are very pretentious and believe that they are better than everyone else. Nobody is fit to marry into their family."

Yu Peiyu said with a scary tone: "So... their entire... family is... created through inbreeding?"

Mr. Dongguo said: "Indeed, for generations brothers and sisters are... married to each other and because of this incestual relationships most of their descendants are mentally retarded or mad or even both. Ji Beiqing may look beautiful but she too is mad."

Yu Peiyu broke out in a cold sweat now.

Mr. Dongguo said: "She is a very proud madwoman and when she saw what kind of son she brought into this world she left everything behind in disappointment. That is why Ji Zanghua has no brothers or sisters so he was forced to marry an outsider, however he has never spent the bed with his wife."

That is why Ji Lingfeng did not acknowledge Ji Zanghua as her father and he also understood the pain of Madame Ji now.

So his original theory was correct Ji Lingyan and Ji Lingfeng were father by someone else, probably someone of his own family. Probably his [second uncle].

But he also wondered why Ji Beiqing would kill her brother and husband Ji Kuqing, that is something he saw with his own eyes.

Mr. Dongguo said: "From then onwards Ji Kuqing went even more insane and the same time Wulin was startled by a series of murders and thefts. Large quantities of treasures were stolen, numerous famous martial artists were killed, but nobody would have guessed that Ji Kuqing was behind these crimes."

Yu Peiyu heard of this story before, at Murder Manor old man Gao told him of this story this also meant that Mr. Dongguo was telling the truth.

Mr. Dongguo said: "More than ten odd top martial arts experts were investigating this matter, but only one deducted the culprit was Ji Kuqing but nobody believed him."

Yu Peiyu quickly asked: "Sir, do you know him?"

Mr. Dongguo smiled: "Of course I know him, he is my own younger brother, the thousand mile eagle Dongguo Gao."

Yu Peiyu always knew that old man Gao must have an impressive background, but he never guessed that he would be the brother of Mr. Dongguo.

Mr. Dongguo looked at Yu Peiyu and smiled: "I know you must know him too."

Yu Peiyu sighed: "I owe old master Dongguo a lot, he saved my life several times."

Mr. Dongguo said: "My brother has reached the level of perfection in the art of levitation, he is honest, fair and righteous. Furthermore his medical skills are unsurpassed in the realm, even Hua Tuo³⁷ might not be much better than my brother."

Yu Peiyu unintentionally touched his face and respect welled up in his heart.

Mr. Dongguo said: "Ji Kuqing was unable to withstand my brother's actions against him, so he feigned his death and fled to the western borders to meet up with his wife, sister Madame Dark Jade, Ji Beiqing."

Yu Peiyu asked with surprise: "Ji Beiqing was in the western borders?"

Mr. Dongguo said: "Yes, the two met up with each other there. They had still intentions of realing the realm of martial arts and were preparing themselves to enter China again. However they feared my brother and I a lot and used another famous martial artist as a puppet."

Yu Peiyu looked very pale and stuttered: "Sir, you... mean... that Yu... that Yu person..."

Mr. Dongguo looked sympathetic now and he said gently: "Your father, Mr. Yu was a true gentleman he would not assist them in these awful crimes. They knew that too and used a vicious ploy to kill your father and they found someone to impersonate him and manipulate the reputation of the late Mr. Yu."

Yu Peiyu was now both angry and very emotional, he remembered the day his father died tragically. He was also most grateful because finally someone knew that his father was not a hypocrite and was innocent.

Mr. Dongguo patted him on his shoulder and said gently: "The net of Heaven has large meshes, but it lets nothing through. Although you have suffered a lot these months and you have been ridiculed and mocked. But soon you will be able to clear your father's name and make a difference in the realm."

Yu Peiyu felt very warm and tears were welling up in his eyes, he kowtowed to Mr. Dongguo and said respectfully: "Sir, were you aware about my real identity all this time?"

³⁷ Hua Tuo: a famous physician duiring the Three Kingdoms Period (220 - 280 AD).

Mr. Dongguo helped him up and said: "Of course I know, from the very first day misfortune fell upon you I saw you and urged you to keep on living."

Yu Peiyu took a few deep breaths to calm himself again, he said sadly: "There is still something I do not understand."

Mr. Dongguo asked: "What is it?"

Yu Peiyu gritted his teeth and asked: "Who is that fiend who is impersonating my father? How does he know the skills of the Xiantian Wuji School? He is capable of imitating my father to the spitting image."

Mr. Dongguo stayed silent for awhile, he sighed deeply: "A dragon has nine sons, each son different from the other. Your father Mr. Yu Fanghe is a remarkable, friendly gentleman. But his younger brother, Yu Duhe is thieving, murdering thug."

Yu Peiyu remembered reading something about that in the Yama book of debts and his limbs turned cold, he said with a trembling voice: "That fiend... that fiend... is my very own... uncle?!?"

Mr. Dongguo said sadly: "I should not pass judgement of family affairs of others but you must know that your uncle was disowned by his own family. Your father did nothing bad to him in fact he did everything possible that could lead his brother to the right way, however in vain."

Yu Peiyu looked very sad and could only nod now.

Mr. Dongguo said: "When Yu Duhe left your father, he turned even worse he was truly running amok in the realm. He killed and stole as he pleased and made many enemies, because of his superior martial arts and intelligence he was able to escape from his enemies several times. Everyone wanted to slice up his body, he was really hated that much."

He continued: "One day he was at a famous brothel in Luoyang city, he was drinking heavily with the famous courtesan [Grand Qiao] till he got drunk. Little did he know that Grand Qiao was working for his enemies. That is almost 18 years ago around the second month."

Yu Peiyu repeated softly: "18 years ago... second month... "

He remembered that in Murder Manor that a certain Yu person came there 18 years ago around the second month of that year.

Mr. Dongguo said: "That Yu Duhe was an exceptional fighter, even in his drunk state he could fight a way out of an encirclement of more than ten martial arts experts, he fled to Murder Manor."

He continued with a sigh: "Yu Duhe knew that someone would protect him there in Murder Manor and he knew his way in the manor..."

Yu Peiyu asked: "Was it not his first time there?"

Mr. Dongguo said: "He had an affair with Madame Ji for a long time, Ji Lingyan and Ji Lingfeng are his daughters."

Yu Peiyu was still stunned, although he guessed that already but now his suspicions were confirmed. So the piece of jade was really a family heirloom of the family Yu.

And the embroidered characters on that pouch: Always at your side, never leaving never stop hoping.

The lover of Madame Ji was his uncle. That is why Ji Lingfeng and Ji Lingyan treated him differently because blood is really thicker than water, they are cousins.

Mr. Dongguo said: "Madame Ji hid Yu Duhe in the secret passage and thought he would be save there. However at that time Ji Kuqing pretended to be dead there too and saw Yu Duhe."

Yu Peiyu asked: "Why... did...?"

Mr. Dongguo understood what he wanted to ask and sighed: "Ji Kuqing wanted to silence Yu Duhe, but suddenly he realized that he could use this man also he saw a lot of resemblance in him. So he took Yu Duhe with him."

Yu Peiyu knew this too, because if not why would Yu Duhe leave behind that piece of jade.

Mr. Dongguo said: "Ji Kuqing made a clever choice because Yu Duhe was the younger brother of the late Mr. Yu Fanghe he now everything of his brother. Furthermore he had no difficulty in learning the habits of his brother, because they are brother they resembled each other a lot in appearances and height."

He sighed deeply: "It is not sheer coincidence, everything was thought of with utmost precision. If they did not have Yu Duhe, their target would not have been Mr. Yu."

Yu Peiyu looked pensive before asking: "Is Ji Kuqing well-versed in surgical skills?"

Mr. Dongguo said: "Not him, but Madame Dark Jade has that ability. I have heard that she learnt those surgical skills and the art of disguise from Persia. It is different from my brother's but the outcome is very similar."

Yu Peiyu asked: "Sir, do you know that she has two pupils?"

Mr. Dongguo said: "Do you mean Hai Dongqing and Yang Zijiang?"

Yu Peiyu said: "Yes, indeed."

Mr. Dongguo said: "These two young men are not too bad, unfortunately they are being used by them. To my knowledge they are not aware of the secrets of their teacher."

Yu Peiyu said softly: "Of course! Even an outsider like me believed her words... How can her own students not believe her? But who sent the shades?"

Mr. Dongguo answered: "Ji Beiqing of course."

Yu Peiyu asked with surprise: "Why would she send her own subjects to kill her own disciples?"

Mr. Dongguo said: "Perhaps Yang Zijiang and Hai Dongqing were starting to know too much about her, if you're a disciple of such a person knowing too much is really dangerous. Furthermore she might think that she has almost won and has no more need for Hai Dongqing and Yang Zijiang."

He continued with a serious tone: "No matter what, Ji Kuqing and Ji Beiqing are really madmen. Their actions cannot be explained with logic."

Yu Peiyu asked: "Except for the shade I encountered, are there other four shades?"

Mr. Dongguo laughed: "Those are mere futile words of her to scare people, telling a few lackeys to impersonate ghosts is quite easy."

Yu Peiyu was pensive again and softly said to himself: "So Hai Dongqing and Yang Zijiang were also deceived by their teacher."

So when he told us to hide in the tunnel, he had no ill intentions. And Hai Dongqing truly believed the lies his teacher told him, so he was being honest to me in that secret passage... "

He broke out in a cold sweat, because Hai Dongqing was taking Zhu Lei'Er and Iron Blossom to the home of Ji Beiqing. He did not even know how to save them, he did not even know where she lived. Furthermore was Mr. Dongguo telling the truth?

Mr. Dongguo said: "I discovered these secrets too by digging for many years, but most of it is just my deduction. There is no proof and no one will believe it like that... Who will believe me when I say that the Yu Fanghe of now is just Yu Duhe pretending to be his brother."

Yu Peiyu sighed: "Sir, even I am not totally convinced by your story. How can others?"

Mr. Dongguo carefully observed him and said calmly: "I know you still have some questions and doubts now, but I will take you to see someone."

Yu Peiyu asked: "Who?"

Mr. Dongguo smiled: "You will know when you see him."

So Mr. Dongguo lead Yu Peiyu to his place to meet this mysterious person.

They walked off the main road and took a small path, they passed a brook and came to idyllic place with a cottage there. Yu Peiyu could smell the scent of herbal medicine.

Was someone ill in the cottage? And who was preparing the medicine?

The medicine was still cooking on the furnace outside, but no one was to be seen.

Why did Mr. Dongguo lead Yu Peiyu here?

A small cat jumped towards Mr. Dongguo, he smiled and caught the cat: "Little Black, Clever little back. Don't pull out my beard."

Yu Peiyu was not interested in meeting the pets of Mr. Dongguo and wondered why he was here.

Suddenly he heard a voice from behind him: "It is has been a long time, young master Yu. How are you doing?"

Yu Peiyu turned around and saw a familiar face, an old face with a pair of clear, sharp eyes.

Yu Peiyu was both surprised and happy, he called out with happiness: "Old sir, you're here."

It was old man Gao, it seemed like an eternity ago when he last saw him.

Old man Gao, Dongguo Gao was holding a bucket of water and silently walked up to the back of Yu Peiyu. Suddenly he saw the scar on Yu Peiyu's face and observed a bit carefully, he smiled: "It seems that the Jade Emperor does not allow us mortals to be perfect. Being flawless is perhaps not good at all."

Yu Peiyu seemed to be stunned and did not know what to say anymore.

Dongguo Gao patted him on the shoulder and laughed: "I know what you want to say, no need. There is someone in there who is very concerned about you and keeps wondering whether you are alright. Go in quickly."

Who could it be in the cottage?

And who is ill?

Is it Ji Lingyan?

Is it Xie Tianbi?

Or even Lin Daiyu?

Yu Peiyu's hands trembled when he opened the door.

He saw a man in a white robe lying in bed, he looked very distinguished but sickly. His eyes brightened up when he saw Yu Peiyu.

When Yu Peiyu saw him he was going mad with happiness and shouted: "Brother Feng San! You are here!"

After seeing old man Gao/Dongguo Gao and Feng San, Yu Peiyu believed Mr. Dongguo but there were still some questions in his heart that he could not explain.

He saw Madame Dark Jade, Ji Beiqing kill Ji Kuqing with his own eyes.

But he quickly narrated what happened to him and Zhu Lei'Er for the past few months to Feng San, Yu Peiyu felt sad and ashamed.

Feng San consoled: "Ji Beiqing won't harm Lei'Er, she just wanted to keep her as a hostage so you will listen to her commands."

Yu Peiyu lowered his head and said: "I should have thought about this earlier, why did I allow her to be taken away by her."

Feng San smiled: "Don't worry too much about Lei'Er, she is a clever and naughty girl. She could very well outsmart Ji Beiqing."

Yu Peiyu felt somewhat assured, he now took out the black notebook and bamboo plaque and said: "I found this at the house in Family Li Village..."

Feng San frowned and said: "Why would Lady Zhu treasure this so much?"