"Why would I lie to you?" Jared asked. "Oh, what a pity, what a pity." Flaxseed kept smacking his thigh and lamenting. Alas, there was nothing he could do. Their consummation was consensual, after all.

"Why are you saying that? It's not like you need more women." Jared then dragged Flaxseed out of the hotel.

While the two were strolling the streets, Jared unleashed his spiritual sense and realized that there were plenty of combat masters around.

However, they were not hostile toward Jared; they were all doing their own things. With a knit in his brows, Jared continued. ambling down the street.

Meanwhile, in the Zagorski residence's hall, Austin was grimly sitting on the main seat as numerous executives of the Zagorski family sat further down the table.

"Mr. Zagorski, there are many unfamiliar faces who have appeared in Norham today. Moreover, they are all combat masters. Even the weakest of them all are Martial Arts Marquis. There are also many Greater Martial Arts Marquis within

the crowd," one of the executives reported to Austin. "Do you know where they came from?" Austin asked.

"No, but some of them are from various sects and prestigious families around Norham. I'm not sure about the others," the executive replied.

"A top-grade resource material like the ten- thousand-year herb can never be a secret, huh?" Austin sighed. It felt as if he had aged ten years in a second.

"Dad, Norham is our family's territory. We have seven Greater Martial Arts Marquis working for our family, and we even have dozens of Martial Arts Marquis. Why should we be scared of them? So what if the ones who are here are from the big families in Jadeborough? The strongest party has the final say here," Kayson confidently uttered.

"Mr. Zagorski, you don't need to worry too much about this. With our capability, those visitors will not necessarily be able to defeat us," one of the executives reassured Austin.

"I wouldn't be worried if the Garcia family of the Southwest Region was the only one who came, but who knows how many sects and prestigious families have sent their Martial Arts Marquis here? If they were to form an alliance to go up against our family, what do you think. our chances of winning are? Even if we do emerge as victor and get that ten-thousand- year herb, we'd still have suffered a great loss.

How are we going to guard the herb by then? The ten-thousand-year herb won't be anything. beneficial to us when that happens. Instead, it'll be our family's ticking time bomb. Everyone will be eyeing us, and they'll be ready to destroy us for the herb."

Since news about the ten-thousand-year herb had spread like wildfire, Austin was well-aware that disaster would befall the Zagorski family even if they did get their hands on the herb.

"What do we do then? We can't just watch as other sects and prestigious families take the herb, right?" Kayson pointed out in confusion.

"Of course not. If our family can't get it, we might as well do someone an easy favor instead..."

Austin narrowed his eyes before saying to Austin, "Find a way to invite Jared here. Remember to be nice and polite. If you enrage Jared again, I'll break your legs."

"Dad, what are you talking about? Are you going to give Jared the ten-thousand-year herb?" Kayson gasped. "What's wrong with giving it to him if we can't get it?

Moreover, we're not going to get our hands on the ten-thousand-year herb, so we're not actually giving it to him. If Jared has the capability of getting it, however, we'll be doing him a favor in helping him. We'll get into his good books. Doesn't that sound like a good idea?" Austin explained. "But, Dad..."

Kayson was about to say something else, but he clamped his mouth shut when he saw Austin's glare. "Shut up. When will you grow a brain in that head of yours? You're such a short- sighted fool..."

Having been chided, Kayson no longer dared to utter anything else in protest. Thus, he turned and left to seek Jared.

On the other hand, Austin said to the executives, "Instruct all your men to look into the background and details of all the newcomers in Norham. I want to know how many are here for the tenthousand-year herb."

"Yes, sir!"

The executives left.