

Legend of the Fire Sword World Guide

Warning: this document contains spoilers, so read at your own risk
A world and reference guide to the Legend of the Fire Sword series. Contains character background stories, character guide, location guide, and everything you need to know about the series.

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Volume 0 Section Contents

Legend of the Fire Sword - Volume 0 - Special Edition

Demons are everywhere; they lurk around dark corners waiting for their prey. But some demons disguise themselves as humans...They are living amongst us, plotting to throw the world into chaos. It is the destiny of whoever wields the Legendary Fire Sword to stop these demons at all costs.

Lurking in the shadows is an ancient 500 year old demon who slain thousands of master swordsmen. Can the Demon Slayer uncover the mystery of the Vanishing Warrior and save China?

Author's Note: Volume 0 is a special edition that covers the story in volumes 1 and 2. Volume 0 is a shorter version whereas volumes 1 and 2 contain more detail on the story. Warning: contain scenes of nonconsensual sex

Volume 1 Section Contents

Legend of the Fire Sword - Volume 1 - A Dynasty in Danger

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Volume 2 Section Contents

Legend of the Fire Sword - Volume 2 - Birth of the Demon Slayer

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Volume 3 Section Contents

Legend of the Fire Sword - Volume 3 - The Valley of Death

The War God is a killer whose name brings fear to even the strongest of warriors, but there may be someone just as strong as him, possibly stronger, lurking in the imperial palace. After slaying Duke Xiang and stopping his rebellion, Alex Cheng is now the hero and savior of the Shen Kingdom. However, his newfound fame and fortune comes at a price, one he is not

prepared for. While continuing his never ending search for his sister, Alex Cheng must discover his new purpose, train to get stronger, navigate court politics, and even have a whirlwind romance...all the meanwhile discovering the identity of his true enemy.

Volume 4 Section Contents

Legend of the Fire Sword - Volume 4 - The Tragedy of Shen

After using many underhanded tactics to achieve his goal, Liu Zhang has now become the new King of Shen. Now that their enemy has absolute power, it spells certain doom for our heroes. However, there still is a small glimmer of hope: the true heir is a mysterious man named Liu Cao who resides in the neighboring kingdom of Leinwan. However, Liu Zhang has already predicted this and sent assassins to kill Liu Cao and stop him from ever entering the imperial palace. Can Alex and Li successfully retrieve Liu Cao before it's too late?

Volume 5 Section Contents

Legend of the Fire Sword - Volume 5 - Red Feather Rebellion

Li Cheng takes the blind prodigy, Xiao Ye, to the Temple of Enlightenment to get her eyes healed. But their journey will not be easy, but rather one of trials and tribulations. While the other heroes attempt to solve the mystery of the War God's murder, Liu Zhang is plotting the Red Feather Rebellion. But of course, it will not be so easy with Liu Cao guarding him like a hawk. Who will succeed in this game of wits, court politics and espionage?

Warning: contain scenes of nonconsensual sex

Volume 6 Section Contents

Legend of the Fire Sword - Volume 6 - Dancing with the Black Reaper

As Alex Cheng is seeking revenge for his master, Masai Genzo, he is caught in a war between Taishi Tze and Chu Yen, two of the greatest martial artists of all time. The Black Reaper, a mysterious new enemy wearing a veil and black cape appears and his physical abilities are beyond this world. To make matters worse, he seems to have a history with Li Cheng...Is the Black Reaper friend or foe?

Volume 7 Section Contents

Legend of the Fire Sword - Volume 7 - Civil War

As Liu Cao builds up his imperial forces, Liu Zhang is building up his Red Feather Army, plunging the kingdom into chaos yet again. As the tombstones continue to increase, each one of the heroes has to deal with their inner demons as they prepare for the final battle. Alex Cheng must get stronger with the Fire Sword, Li Cheng is perfecting her Shadow Style, and Xiao Ye is mastering the Thunder Sword. Taishi Tze must settle his grudge against his former comrade, Chu Yen. Will they be able to get revenge for the War God's death?

Volume 8 Section Contents

Legend of the Fire Sword - Volume 8 - Journey to the Crimson Sea

Alex Cheng has discovered a map that leads to the long lost Water Sword and Celina and General Tai embark on a trip to the crimson sea to find this legendary weapon. But they are not the only ones looking for the Water Sword. Raizo, an ex-captain of the imperials and now captain of the strongest pirate gang in the open seas, has a grudge against the imperials and the royal family. Will the heroes get to the Water Sword in time or drown in despair?

Author's Note: This is a special edition where the story exists outside of the events of the main series. The events happened somewhere between Volumes 7 and 9 since it doesn't fit anywhere else. Warning: contains scenes of nonconsensual sex

Volume 8 - Night of the Red Feather Rebellion

This is a special edition that details the events of Celina Ce and Zi Lai during the night of the Red Feather Rebellion.

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Volume 9 Section Contents [AuthorVol_9](#)

Legend of the Fire Sword - Volume 9 - Operation Dragonclaw

The Shen imperial forces, the stand off against Leinwan, the Council of Heaven, and the Red Feather Army...all these titanic forces will collide as we reach the epic conclusion of this saga. Between Alex Cheng, wielder of the Fire Sword and Chu Yen, wielder of the Ice Sword, which one will prevail? Between Celina Ce and General Tai and the Demon Brothers, which one will prevail? And last but not least, can they finally slay Liu Zhang, aka the Vanishing Warrior?

Author's Note: This is **not** the final volume in the series. There are still more after this one!

Volume 10 Section Contents

Legend of the Fire Sword - Volume 10 - Assassin Lodge

It is said that whosoever is a target of the Assassin Lodge is marked for death and escape is impossible. This time, their target is none other than Alex Cheng, the Demon Slayer. However, there is one small ray of hope, that is, he wields the Fire Sword, Li Cheng wields the Ice Sword, and Xiao Ye wields the Thunder Sword. Those who wield a legendary sword can change not only their own fate, but the fate of the entire country as well. Still, the Assassin Lodge's headmaster holds a secret only he knows; he is not as human as he looks...

Volume 11 Section Contents

Legend of the Fire Sword - Volume 11 - The Cold Wind

After all this time, the wielder of the final legendary sword, the Wind Sword, Raijun, has appeared. Without even explaining where he's been all this time, his first move is to attack the Heaven's Council and claim the title of headmaster for himself. And then he makes a bombshell announcement, his goal is the total destruction of the Shen Kingdom...

Author's Note: Warning: contains scenes of nonconsensual sex

Volume 12 Section Contents

Legend of the Fire Sword - Volume 12 - War with Leinwan

Yet another war is waging between the Shen Kingdom and the Leinwan Kingdom and Liu Cao wants to put an end to it for good. Celina and Xiao Ye travel to Leinwan, hoping to obtain a truce between the two kingdoms. Meanwhile, Alex and Li Cheng are in dire need to repair the Fire Sword and Ice Sword so they seek the legendary blacksmith Cho'Ann. However, the path will not be easy, as rumors have it; he lives up north in the coldest place in the world. Alex and Li must travel a path full of icy cold snow, deadly blizzards, and abominable snowmen...

Author's Note: Warning: contains scenes of nonconsensual sex

Guide Section Contents

Guide to Legend of the Fire Sword

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A world and reference guide to the Legend of the Fire Sword series. Contains character background stories, character guide, location guide, and everything you need to know about the series.

Key Events and Flashback Guide Contents

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Volume 10 - Assassin Lodge Section Contents

Volume 11 - The Cold Wind Section Contents

Volume 12 - War with Leinwan Section Contents

一: Yi Ling: A Place of Danger And Misfortune Section Contents

- ☯ War God slaughters bounty hunters
- ☯ Jade hides in a closet and kills a ninja
- ☯ Alex vs Captain En Lo - him and his ninjas invade the house, Zi shows up to help. Alex ends up injured.
- ☯ Alex has a flashback of him stealing the imperial badge from En Lo.
- ☯ After falling unconscious, Alex has a flashback of his sister leaving him

二: A Test of Survival: Journey to the Temple Section Contents

- ☯ As Alex and Zi are on their way out of town, they bump into Hua again, who shows him a poster with Alex's face on it; essentially he is a wanted man. As Hua and his brutes chased them, they run into a horse stable and rode their horses, escaping the brutes.
- ☯ Flashback: while in the forest, Alex has a flash back of the time his sister ran away. "The Duke is a monster!" she screamed over and over.
- ☯ Alex and Zi are attacked by bees. They must abandon their horses in order to cross a river. They are attacked by alligators.
- ☯ Duke Xiang goes to see a certain bandit, Jiax, fight another guy. Jiax shows his brutality by showing no mercy to his opponent.
- ☯ Alex and Zi are attacked by forest bandits. Alex is forced to jump off a cliff. Moments later, he comes out of the river, and crawls onto land.

三: At Last! The Legendary Temple Section Contents

- ☯ En Lo and his group are slaughtered by the four War Gods
- ☯ Flashback: Cheng's sister was scared to death of something, and blurts out that the Duke is a monster. In the next scene, Li Cheng runs away from home, while Alex cries helplessly.
- ☯ Alex encounters a tiger and fights viciously to survive. Eventually the tiger gives up and leaves.
- ☯ Alex vs statues - at the Gate of Hope he encounters two statues. He somehow survives and escapes.

四: The Temple's 300 Year Old Secret Section Contents

- ☯ Alex has a nightmare about a time he was attacked by an East Brigade assassin. Zi fought him and saved Alex's life.
- ☯ Duke Xiang kills Lord Lee and drains his soul

五 : The Betrayal. A Dynasty in Danger. Section Contents

- ☯ The Dark Room
- ☯ Bound to a Chair
- ☯ Hunter and Prey

六 : Trouble in the Temple Section Contents

- ☯ The Defiling Kiss
- ☯ The Wrestling

七 : The Next Step: Saying Goodbye Section Contents

- ☯ The Mirror of Humiliation
- ☯ The Portrait
- ☯ The Knife Torture

八 : Encounter With A Legendary Warrior Section Contents

- ☯ The Discovery
- ☯ The Exposure
- ☯ The Sensitivity

九: A Tragic Life. The God of War's Past Section Contents

- ☯ While alone, Fo Long removes her disguise and reveals herself to be Li Cheng. She has a flashback of why she left Yi Ling in the first place.
- ☯ Lord Huang's visit
- ☯ Alex has a nightmare about Celina, someone he never met
- ☯ Bargaining & Begging

十: Back to Yi Ling, The Duke's Dark and Secret Plot Section Contents

- ☯ Hanging by the Window
- ☯ Still Hanging by the Window
- ☯ Bargaining & Begging

十一: Last Thoughts: No Turning Back Now! Section Contents

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十二: Barrage! A Chance Encounter with a Maiden. Section Contents

- ☯ Encounter with a Maiden
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十三: Flame On! Secret of the Fire Sword. Section Contents

- ☯ Jumping Off the Building
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十四: Identity Exposed. Celina's Struggle. Section Contents

- ☯ Trust & Deception
- ☯ Fighting Back
- ☯ Identity Revealed

十五: The Light That Shatters the Darkness! Section Contents

☯ The Demon Appears

一: The Celebration. Trouble in the Valley. Section Contents

After being honored as the Demon Slayer, Alex Cheng's life could not be better, or so he thought. With his newfound fame, the hero has new enemies waiting to slit his throat the second he lets his guard down. And far away, there is trouble in the Valley of Death. The War God discovers a ground filled with dead bodies that he did not kill. Is it possible that another fighter of his level has entered the Valley?

- ☯ Alex Cheng has a flashback about slaying Duke Xiang. Li has a flashback of Alex using the Phoenix Palm
- ☯ Li fights anonymous ninjas
- ☯ Flashback: Celina has a nightmare about knife torture mistreatment
- ☯ Bounty hunters were prepared to slay the War God, but instead, they were slain by Ragnarok.
- ☯ While in the carriage, Celina had a flashback of bound to a chair
- ☯ Li and Shen Long and Sui Long are ambushed by ninjas on the roof.
- ☯ Ragnarok vs War God - Ragnarok is identified as Chu Yen

二: Sadness in the Valley: Their Vow to Revenge Section Contents

- ☯ Alex and the two masked men decide to go to the Valley right away. Alex has a flashback of how his family fell apart ten years ago
- ☯ Celina has a nightmare about mistreatment - the necklace
- ☯ While taking a bath, she has a flashback of the defiling kiss
- ☯ As Alex traveled with his companions, he had a flashback of when he first fought the War God.
- ☯ Alex and the masked men find the burning body of the War God, and Li was there, crying and mourning over her master's death.
- ☯ While grieving, Li discovered someone watching them, and caught him. He was the bounty hunter who witnessed the War God's death, and he explained the story.
- ☯ Alex has another flashback of his training with the War God.

三: The Traveler from Afar. Discovery of the Spice. Section Contents

A traveler presents something of interest to the king – a spice when mixed with any food, tastes better than anything in the world. The king becomes instantly addicted to the spice, and will pay any amount to attain this treasure. But this treasure may be the poison that will lead to the downfall of the kingdom.

- ☯ As Celina was about to jump off the roof... She has a flashback of the defiling kiss
- ☯ Cheng caught her and saved her life. As they stared into each other's eyes, she had a flashback of when Jiax dropped her from the building, and Alex caught her.
- ☯ Ragnarok orders Tao to eliminate the Demon Slayer, going against Lord Zhang's orders.

四: The Purple Dragon. The Spice that is Worse than Death. Section Contents

After the discovery of the spice, Liu Bei shares this gift to the Demon Slayer, but this spice is more than meets the eye. Legend has it that the spice has led to the downfall of a dynasty. Will the Shen Kingdom end up the same way?

- ☯ Chou, the traveler, has a flashback of Liu Bei promising him vast fortunes if Chou finds more of the spice.
- ☯ The Ice Hunter and Ekin massacre the expedition group.
- ☯ Alex has gone mad from not having the spice, and he even attacked Sui Long, who punched him and knocked him out. Sui Long explains to Shen Long what happened and they put Alex in bed.
- ☯ Flashback: Celina, on his way to visit Alex, thought about his words of wisdom he said when trying to convince her not to commit suicide.
- ☯ She goes to visit the unconscious Alex, who wakes up and strangles her. His two bodyguards knock him out and tie him up to a chair. They all agree that this is the doing of the spice, the Purple Dragon. Shen Long and Sui Long are told to go to the royal library to find an answer.
- ☯ Alex is tied to a chair. Celina has a flashback of their first kiss.

五: The Council of Heaven. Violent History of the Kingdom. Section Contents

After finally being cured from the spice, Alex Cheng rests in his chambers, and an assassin in the darkness ambushes him. Sent by Liu Zhang, he is ordered to kill the Demon Slayer. The War God's death has drawn the attention of the Council of Heaven, an organization that is the enemy of the imperials, their purpose is to protect mankind. What exactly are Liu Zhang's intentions, and what role does the Council play in this deadly game?

- ☯ Vincent comes to visit Li Cheng, and they fight a pack of ninjas.
- ☯ Cho explains the Demon-Human War. Flashback: During that war, demons were slaughtering helpless humans. It is at this point that the Four Brothers of China showed up and saved the day.

- ☯ Taishi, when drinking tea alone, says to himself: "I have already lost a good friend. May you rest in peace, Genzo."
- ☯ Celina ties up Liu Bei in order to force him to drink the medicine, but he gets free and has her arrested. Her punishment is fifty spankings.

六: Graceful. Deadly! Unexpected! Dance of the Sword Style. Section Contents

- ☯ Alex vs Tao - While walking through the marketplace, Alex is attacked by Tao and his ninjas.
- ☯ Sui Long vs Ice Hunter - On his way to rescue Alex, Sui Long was attacked by the Ice Hunter.
- ☯ Celina vs Tao - Celina shows up and reveals she knows martial arts, she fights the ninjas and then Tao
- ☯ Flashback: Celina reveals her past. She used to be the top dancer at the Mu Fa Theatre, and her master's name was Fa Kay. The king one day came to see a show, and he was impressed by Celina's performance. To make a long story short, she was offered a marriage to the king of the kingdom, and there was no way she could refuse.
- ☯ Celina brings food to Alex's quarters, and they eat alone. Flashback: Celina jumped off the tower, giving up all hope on life, and Alex saves her.

七: Mysterious Plot. Truth Behind the Slaying. Section Contents

Celina, after realizing that she and Alex were poisoned from their fight with Tao, quickly summons Lei to find him, so that he can be cured. However, Alex is missing and nowhere to be found. With Celina unable to move out of bed, and Alex missing, time is running out for our hero. Will Lei and Zi find and cure Alex in time?

- ☯ While alone, Ragnarok has a flashback of the Valley of Death. Lord Zhang intervened in his fight with the War God, which allowed him to kill the War God.
- ☯ Zi watches over her 1 - Zi insists she needs to rest, but she ignores him and gets off the bed and Zi, while trying to stop her, accidentally pulls off her blanket, and they become embarrassed.
- ☯ Zi watches over her 2 - Celina still insists that she needs to find Cheng, but Zi stops her. They struggled and fell on the top and Zi kissed her and she fell unconscious.
- ☯ Just as Alex enters the room, Celina is surprised and her blanket drops. Alex, Lei, Zi, and the doctor all see her naked.
- ☯ Celina wakes up and talks to Alex, who is sitting next to her. Her blanket slips, revealing a little bit of the top, and she quickly covers herself.

- ☯ The next morning, they meet on the bridge and had a chat. When they were arguing whether or not love is important, Celina reveals the truth by saying "I love you."

八: The Exile. An Unforgiveable Mistake. Section Contents

After discovering that Alex and Celina were having an affair, the angry king summons them to be tried. What will be the fate of the adulterers? Was their risk truly worth risking their lives for?

- ☯ Celina asks Alex why did he kiss her that time. Flashback: during Operation Dragonfly, Alex saves Celina from the kidnapper Jiax, and they stared into each other's eyes and kissed.
- ☯ They continue to argue, and Celina runs away with tears. Alex tries to grab her, but she struggles, and falls into the pond. **Alex brings her to his quarters so she can change clothes. When she sees the demon's head on the wall, she screams and faints. Alex charges in, thinking she is in danger. They almost kissed, when someone knocked on the door.**
- ☯ Sui Long continues to persuade Li to confront her brother Alex, yet she does not. At this point, Sui Long reveals that Shen Long has a sister that he is unwilling to confront. He can only watch her from afar.
- ☯ Tai helps Celina escape from prison, and she thanks him for his help. As Cheng returns to his home, he hears a knock on the door, and upon answering it, finds Celina standing there.

九: Celina's Decision. Tao's Last Chance. Section Contents

Celina decides to run away, not wanting to cause more trouble than she already has. Alex searches desperately for her and is ambushed by Tao once again. This is Tao's last chance to eliminate the Demon Slayer and take his Fire Sword...but not if Li Cheng has anything to say about it.

- ☯ **Celina comes into Alex's house. She strips and they do it on the floor. Then they take a bath.**
- ☯ In the morning, Alex goes to Celina's room and finds a note, saying that she left. Without even a second thought, he goes outside to find her. In the marketplace, a thief tries to stab him, and this person turns out to be Tao.
- ☯ Flashback: Tao was the one who was hiding in the ceiling while Alex was chair bound.
- ☯ Tao's ninjas attack Alex Cheng, and then Celina shows up to help. As Tao was about to make the kill, Li interferes.
- ☯ Li vs Tao - Li doesn't care about his poison needles and kills him

- ☯ After the fight, Alex and Celina go to the beach to talk about their future. After they express their feelings through yelling, they embraced and kissed.

十: Freeze! Threat of the Ice Hunter. Section Contents

After Tao's failure, Rubble is the next in line to assassinate Alex Cheng. But he is no ordinary swordsman; he is a war veteran, one who has slain many in cold blood. After beating up Zi and kidnapping Jade, Rubble the Ice Hunter issues a challenge to the Demon Slayer. With Jade's life in his hands, this is an offer he cannot refuse...

- ☯ Flashback: Tai pays a visit to Celina in prison, saying he will free her.
- ☯ Flashback: Years ago, Tai was still a low ranked soldier and a petty thief. He stole something from the royal treasure room, and when he was caught, he dropped the jar and broke it. General Chung, enraged, sentenced him to death. But Celina spared his life.
- ☯ Zi vs Rubble - The Ice Hunter tries to attack Jade, but she resists, and runs out to the street, and ends up at a dead end. Zi attempts to save her, but Rubble's Ice Sword dominates the fight.
- ☯ Jade's grandmother gives Alex a message from Rubble. They go visit the injured Zi, who warns them of their adversary, Rubble. Li was hiding behind the wall, listening in to their conversation.

十一: Jade is a Hostage! Demon Slayer vs. Ice Hunter. Section Contents

- ☯ Alex vs Ice Hunter - Alex, Celina, Sui Long and Shen Long show up to the destination written on Rubble's letter. Rubble challenges Alex to a duel, with Jade's life on the line. Alex refuses, so Rubble puts the Fire Sword at stake.

十二: The Tragedy of Shen. Section Contents

- ☯ After hearing about Liu Bei's death, Celina thinks back to how she first met him. King Liu found met her in the Mu Fa Theater as a dancer. He invited to the palace and they had a sword fight. While taking a bath, he made his moves on her, despite her saying no.

十三: Liu Zhang's Offer. The Rescue Mission. Section Contents

- ☯ Council members chase Ekin into imperial territory. They lost him and the imperials did not let them enter, so they were forced to leave. Ragnarok tells Ekin to stay put until further orders.
- ☯ Flashback: while training, Alex thinks back to War God's training. He snaps out of it when Lei visits him to tell him that Celina is free.
- ☯ Liu Zhang orders his soldiers to seize Celina, but she beats them up.
- ☯ Liu Zhang vs Celina - she uses Dance of the Dragon but he knows its weakness. He defeats her and has her arrested.

十四: Liu Cao: Swordsman From The West. Section Contents

十五: Heaven's Eye. Fight for the Throne. Section Contents

十六: Demonic Treasure: The Sacred Bead. Section Contents

十七: Xiao Ye: The Blind Prodigy. Section Contents

十八: Shen Long's Past. Xiao Ye's Future. Section Contents

Xiao Ye's True Ability! The Walking Crane Section Contents

- ☯ Xiao reveals that she learned the Walking Crane Style from an expert. Li provokes her into have a duel, and they do. Li ends up being the winner, but it was a tough fight.
- ☯ Ekin wears a mask, shows up to attack Xiao. Zi shows up to help, but he gets beat up.
- ☯ Xiao defeats Ekin & gets the Thunder Sword. Li thinks she's terrifying

二十: The New Arrival: Friend or Foe? Section Contents

- ☯ Xiao mentions that it is her first time traveling outside of civilization, and she is not used to the scenery of the wilderness. Flashback: Li and Alex examine the map of the Shen Kingdom to plot their journey.
- ☯ Li and Xiao get attacked by ninjas in the forest. Li reveals that she knows how to use the Ice Blizzard technique, but she is far from mastering it.
- ☯ Flashback: Xiao was eating in a restaurant and the owner tried to rip her off. She proceeds to show him that she is fully capable of telling apart

different coins just by the sound alone. As the people witnessed this feat, they cheered for her and the owner became embarrassed.

- ☪ Flashback: Li sees an image of a burning house and the people she's murdered. The Black Reaper was there.
- ☪ Zhang tries to use the spice on Cao, but he caught on and spills the tea on the floor. He then has Zhang under house arrest. Flashback: While hugging him, Celina tells him to be careful, do not eat or drink anything that Zhang offers him
- ☪ Alex sees Khan for the first time in the restaurant. He then leaves to visit the marketplace, and sees a bunch of guys picking on a man and his daughter. Alex tries to intervene and ends up fighting the brutes. In the middle of the fight, Khan helps him fight the brutes.

二十一: Reunion at the Temple. The Brute's Challenge. Section Contents

1. Zhang makes a report to the Demon King in his room.
2. Khan visits Ragnarok, and reveals that he is hired by Lord Sima, and he used to be one of Zhang's students. It is also revealed that Jiax is alive and he is working with Ragnarok.
3. Li and Xiao defeats the statues and move on with their journey.
4. Ragnarok makes a secret visit to Lord Sima and Lord Fei, who are secretly backing the rebellion.
5. Khan comes to see Alex train. Khan reveals that he knows of the affair between him and Lady Ce, and this provokes Alex to accept a duel to the death.
6. Li and Xiao finally make it to the temple. She reunites with her old friends – Shang, Chan, and Fu. Her teacher, Guan Du, takes her to see Master Ho Sai.
7. Zi makes a visit to Jiang Ye, and he reveals that he is only here for Alex.
8. Xiao begins her first meditation treatment but it fails.
9. Shang invites Li to a friendly spar. As they fight, students gather to watch them. Li defeats Shang, and Guan shows up to stop the commotion. Despite Guan's request, Li refuses to go to class.

二十三: Li's Heaven's Wrath Style. Section Contents

10. Guan Du doesn't like Li's attitude, so she offers a duel. She beats him and gets more arrogant.
11. Ho Sai then challenges Li to a duel. Despite using the Ice Sword, she loses.

二十五: The Red Feather Rebellion. Section Contents

12. Flashback: Alex spares Khan's life
13. A servant attacks Lord Yu, who kicks his ass. He discovers a red feather on the servant and wonders what it's about. Yu goes to the library and discovers the truth behind the red feathers
14. Liu Zhang tells Ragnarok it's time for him to reveal himself. He walks around and kills random people
15. Some guy attacks Alex. Sui Long figures out the truth behind the red feathers
16. Ragnarok runs into Captain Tai and they fight
17. Alex runs into Ragnarok without knowing who he is and they exchanged moves
18. Fight: Liu Zhang vs Liu Cao, Zhang reveals his true skills, surprising Liu Cao
19. Alex shows up before Zhang could kill the king, so he runs away. He escapes using an underground tunnel.

二十六: The Remains of a Battle. Section Contents

20. Alex and Sui Long were talking, standing on the rubbles of the palace.
21. After Sui Long leaves, Tai shows up, with two surprise guests - Lady Ce and her dedicated servant, Lei. Alex and Ce are so happy to see each other that they embraced with everyone watching.
22. Tai and Alex visit the injured king, who warns them of Liu Zhang's true nature. Alex is promoted to captain, and he is put in charge of palace reparations.
23. Back at the Temple, Xiao was enjoying her newly found vision. She and Fu had a conversation on the roof. Li flashes back to Ho Sai's lesson.
24. Lord Yu wants to raises taxes to gain money, but Alex disagrees. Instead, he suggests using the gold reserves, which is for emergencies.
25. Alex found out that Zi rescued Celina from an assassin, and Alex is grateful. Then he put Zi in charge of palace reparations so he can spend time with Celina.

二十七: The Trip Home. Danger in Xizang Forest! Section Contents

26. Alex, Sui Long and Jiang Ye say goodbye to Celina as they head into the forest to meet Xiao Ye
27. Li Cheng and Xiao say a sad goodbye to their friends at the temple. Li could not help it anymore and cries in front of Xiao. Li enters the temple as a kid and meets Shang

28. After crying her heart out, Li visits the War God's grave. She reveals to Xiao that the War God is her master.
29. Celina visits Liu Bei's grave. Celina and Liu Bei take a stroll through the imperial garden
30. Jiang Ye was ambushed by Roh while Xiao and Li were attacked by Red Feather soldiers
31. Fight: Jiang Ye vs Jin, Sui Long vs Roh
32. Xiao is injured by arrows. Jiang saves his sister's life by taking the arrows for her. He dies in her arms.
33. Jiang's death causes everyone to go berserk, especially Xiao. They start slaughtering soldiers without regard to their own lives.
34. Xiao kneels in front of Jiang's grave and cries. Then she cries into Alex's chest. Later, Alex warns Sui Long not to do anything rash.

二十八: Story of the Four Brothers Section Contents

- ☯ Flashback: Sui Long's past, he was an outlaw who ran to the Valley and asked to be Master Genzo's student
- ☯ Sui Long vs Roh Demos. Sui Long ends up being killed, and Roh escapes.
- ☯ Alex and Li grieve over his death
- ☯ Flashback: Chu Yen betrays the Brotherhood, stealing their swords and framing Genzo
- ☯ Taishi reveals that Liu Zhang is a 500 year old demon called the Vanishing Warrior. Alex and Celina go to the imperial library to confirm Liu Zhang's identity

二十九: The Calm Before the Storm: Taishi's Training Section Contents

- ☯ Fight: Taishi vs Xiao. Taishi is the one who founded the Walking Crane Style, there are many imitations of the style. He suggests that Xiao wear a blindfold, and she gets much better
- ☯ Flashback: Guan Du vs Xiao in the temple
- ☯ Fight: Alex vs Celina. She ends up cutting his shoulder with the Dance of the Dragon. She regrets it and because of guilt, she reveals the dragon's weakness, which is the tail
- ☯ The Black Reaper kills a Council member, sneaks into the building and steals a scroll. Alex caught him and exchanged some moves, but the Reaper escapes.

三十: Mysterious! Who is Under the Shadow's Mask? Section Contents

- ☯ Taishi wants to test Alex's abilities. Alex is overwhelmed and he reveals the Melody of the Celestial Maidens
- ☯ Vincent asks Celina to spar. Two handed swords vs two handed fans. Celina reveals Dance of the Phoenix, a move she developed herself and defeats Vincent
- ☯ Flashback: Li burns down a mansion of innocent people under the orders of the Black Reaper
- ☯ Li visits Genzo, Shen Long and Sui Long's graves at night. Celina stalks her from afar. Vincent also stalks her because he is concerned about her. Li and the Shadow briefly exchange moves.
- ☯ Flashback: Li attacks Magistrate Dumai and Vincent interferes. Fight: Li vs Vincent

三十一: Secret of the Map. Can Li Cheng Be Trusted? Section Contents

- ☯ Li, wearing a ninja mask, sneaks into Lord Chung's mansion to steal a map. Chung sees her and they exchange moves
- ☯ The Black Reaper slaughters Chung's bodyguards
- ☯ Alex vs Black Reaper - Celina vs Black Reaper - Xiao vs Black Reaper

三十二: The Shadow's Secret: Duel in the Cave Section Contents

- ☯ Alex, Xiao and Celina fight some water demons in the cave
- ☯ 3 way fight: Alex vs Chu Yen vs Black Reaper
- ☯ Xiao Ye vs Li Cheng
- ☯ Liu Zhang vs Black Reaper
- ☯ Alex and Celina vs Chu Yen

三十三: A Game of Death: Alex's Decision Section Contents

- ☯ Alex vs Celina
- ☯ Celina vs Jin
- ☯ Alex vs Roh - Alex vs Raikou, Roh's demon form

三十四: Liu Zhang's Trap: The Mask Falls Section Contents

- ☯ Flashback: Fo Long takes off her mask after entering Yi Ling. She fights Vincent because he stands in the way of her killing magistrate Dumai.
- ☯ Li meets the Reaper and asks him to teach her swordcraft
- ☯ Li and the Black Reaper briefly exchange moves with Liu Zhang
- ☯ Li and the Black Reaper fight about 100 demons

三十五: Shunned by Society: Story of a Half-Demon Section Contents

- ☯ Zho Lai and some villagers kill demons to defend their village
- ☯ Kid Alex was attacked by East Brigade officers. Kid Zi kills the officers, saving his friend's life
- ☯ Shun Lai was injured as he was fighting officers, but before he died, he stabbed the captain in the eye
- ☯ In an arbitrary restaurant, the Black Reaper kills two officers

三十六: The Council Arrives: Hunt the Traitor Down! Section Contents

- ☯ Li Cheng vs Chu Yen - he beats her and takes back the Ice Sword
- ☯ Taishi and Vincent vs Black Reaper

三十七: The 50 Year Grudge: Taishi vs Chu Yen Section Contents

- ☯ Taishi vs Chu Yen - Taishi was winning until Chu Yen started using the Ice Sword moves
- ☯ During the flashback of 50 years ago, Taishi fought Chu Yen but the outcome was unknown
- ☯ In a restaurant, Li encounters 3 gangsters and beat them up

三十八: The Civil War: Rise of the Red Feather Army Section Contents

- ☯ Liu Cao vs Shu Tai - The king asks Tai to demonstrate his skill. After winning, Tai is promoted to General Tai

三十九: Beware! The Vanishing Warrior's True Strength Section Contents

- ☯ Khan vs Black Reaper - Khan is overwhelmed and runs away
- ☯ Celina vs Li Cheng - Xiao interrupts the fight
- ☯ Liu Zhang vs Li and Celina and Xiao

四十: Watch Out! The Corrupt Captain's Ambition Section Contents

- ☯ Captain Zhe-Fai vs Shu Tai
- ☯ Celina and Li fight East Brigade officers
- ☯ King Cao and Shu Tai practice sparring
- ☯ Celina and Li fight an army of East Brigade officers. Celina vs Zhe-Fai
- ☯ Taishi Tze and Cho join the fight. Taishi vs Zhe-Fai - Taishi overwhelmed him with his skills

四十一: Train Hard, Heroes! Graduation Day Arrives Section Contents

- ☯ Xiao vs Cho - her skill dominated the fight. Xiao vs Vincent - it ended in a draw - afterwards Xiao fought many others and earned the name Blind Prodigy
- ☯ Alex vs Li and Celina and Xiao

四十二: The Black Reaper's Last Message Section Contents

- ☯ Zi knocks Celina unconscious
- ☯ Black Reaper vs Alex - The Reaper demands Alex fight him to save Celina's life
- ☯ Zi fights an entire army. Zi vs Jin
- ☯ Li vs Roh - the outcome is unknown, but she survived

King Cao vs Lord Huong

Vincent Chan vs Khan Manchu

Celina vs Jin - Celina and Tai vs Raikou, Jin's demon form

Xiao Ye vs Roh - Xiao vs Raikou, Roh's demon form

Liu Zhang vs Taishi Tze

Li Cheng vs Chu Yen

Alex Cheng vs Chu Yen

Flashback: Chu Yen fights War God and Liu Zhang joins the fight

Alex Cheng vs Werewolf, Chu Yen's demon form - Alex vs Ogre, Chu Yen's demon form

Alex Cheng vs Liu Zhang

Group fight vs Liu Zhang

Group fight vs Ogre Group fight vs Lizard Group fight vs Dragon

The Night of the Red Feather Rebellion Section Contents

- ☯ While they were doing it under the sheets, Celina had a flashback of mistreatment - the exposure.
- ☯ Flashback of Bound to a Chair 1
- ☯ Flashback of Bound to a Chair 2
- ☯ Flashback of The Knife
- ☯ Flashback of The Discovery

Journey to the West: The Kingdom of Leinwan

- ☯ Sick and weak

Village of the Spice

☯ [The Medicine](#)

dreamer drug episode

☯ [The Doctor](#)

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Li Cheng 1 Section Contents

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The Cheng family has always been poor, but they were the model family, they were happy together despite their struggles. The mom and dad work on a daily basis and Li Cheng started working as a servant as soon as she can pick up

a broom. Fortune smiled on the little girl, for the lord she served recommended her to work at the Imperial Palace.

"Mom, dad, Alex, I did it!" shouted the excited girl. "I will work at the Imperial Palace!"

Alex was a year younger than Li and he was a few inches shorter than her. His eyes **glittered** when she made the announcement. He's always looked up to his older sister, as all younger siblings do. She's pretty, kind and hard working. The parents were proud of their little girl, and they patted on her on the head and complimented her all night. She was laughing and smiling the whole time. She finally made her parents proud by finding a secure job, which for a teenage girl, is a pretty blissful feeling.

Being selected to work at the palace means Li must live at the palace, so she will be away from home for an unknown amount of time. Alex was sad about that, but the parents support this notion, as if giving their daughter away to marriage.

With much determination and youth, Li worked hard at her new job. Servants have to do what they are assigned to do for the say - cooking, cleaning and attending to their lord's needs. Buildings in the palace consists of the main structure with four walls with wooden doors. Surrounded on all four sides was a balcony made of wood, elevated a foot off ground level. A handrail would cover the floor from one end to another. One would take two or three steps to get up the balcony and push the doors open to go inside. Her main job would be to scrub the balcony floors and she made sure they were sparkling clean.

One particular morning, she was scrubbing the floor diligently. She heard a man screaming in agony. Thinking someone might be hurt, she hurried to the source of the screams and peeped into the duke's private quarters. Li peeked through the door crack. Only one eye could see inside so she closed her right eye.

"Aaarrgh! Aaarrgh!" The duke's head was facing down, palms on the desk. He was sweating heavily.

Li thought he was sick, but something kept her watching. The duke's face began to turn red, really red. his facial features began to twist into something grotesque. Horns grew on his head - his cheeks withered and slid down his face, hanging down his chin. His ears grew longer and pointier. Then he turned to face the door and that was when Li saw his complete face. She gasped as this is definitely not something she was supposed to see. She got up and ran and in her haste, accidentally kicked over her bucket of water.

"Who is there?" the duke yelled.

Li ran as fast as she could, her heart beating rapidly, adrenaline surging through her body, and she could not feel her own breath. Duke Xiang saw a glimpse of her face and recognized her as one of the servants in this area of the palace.

Li came home, surprising her entire family. "The Duke is not a human! He is a demon! I saw it with my own eyes!"

"Li, what are you saying?" exclaimed Mr. Cheng, the father.

"Li you're not making sense." said Mrs. Cheng, the mother.

"You all have to run away or they'll come after you. I have to leave now!" Right after that, Li took her belongings and ran away from home. She went to the next town to hide. Mr. Cheng went after her, leaving Mrs. Cheng and Alex.

"Li, calm down!" said Mr. Cheng.

But the girl was scared for her life and was not thinking rationally. "Sorry, father. But I can't stay here anymore."

"You're not making any sense." said her father.

"I know what I saw. The duke's face became a demon's face and he saw my face! He's going to send his people after me! If I stay with you, you will all be in danger."

"But where will you go?" asked Mr. Cheng.

"Somewhere where there's no people like Xizang Forest. Goodbye father." Tears came down her face as she ran away.

Immediately afterwards, police officers showed up to arrest Mr. Cheng. He was brought to the magistrate's office for questioning. Neither Alex nor Li knew what happened to him afterwards, but they **never** saw him again.

Mrs. Cheng took Alex to a local inn. While waiting for her husband and daughter to come back, she grew restless. The worry and anxiety nearly broke her, and she made an irrational decision to go after Mr. Cheng, leaving Alex behind. She figured she'd bring back her husband and daughter and return to the inn right away. The police brought Mrs. Cheng to the magistrate's office.

Mrs. Cheng wanted to see Mr. Cheng, but the magistrate had some questions for her. They argued in that office, resulting in Mrs. Cheng's arrest. After that, she was **never** seen again.

Li ran into the forest, her heart beating rapidly, wandering aimlessly. Where to go? Anywhere away from civilization. That night, she ran through the darkness until she was too tired to continue. She sat down by a tree and managed to fall asleep due to sheer exhaustion. After sleeping for a few hours, the sunlight woke her up. For the next few days, she had to learn how to survive in this thick forest. She had to learn quick...how to find food, where to go to the bathroom, where to sleep, and how to avoid deadly animals.

These few days was the toughest time of her life, as she had to unlearn everything she knew and learn new things for survival. She lived a pretty primitive lifestyle while traveling non-stop. One day, by sheer dumb luck, she found the Temple of Enlightenment.

Upon seeing a long flight of stairs, she knew she was safe. Like many others who took these steps for the first time, Li was full of curiosity and excitement. When she reached the top, she saw three monks sweeping the floor.

One of them was Shang, a female with long black hair. "Hey we have visitor!" She ran to Li and snatched her hands. "What's your name?"

"Greetings. I am Li Cheng." she said, blushing a little.

Fu, a small monk went to join them. "You're a taller than me!" he said to Li.

Chan, a monk with a beer belly, showed up. "And I'm taller than you!"

Shang said, "And you're the same height as me. I have a feeling we'll get along great."

Indeed, Li got along with her new peers, especially Shang, as they were the only two females in the temple. They'd train together, eat together, sleep in the same room, and shared many secrets as females do. Li Cheng found herself living the same day everyday - wake up early, breakfast, train, rest, train, eat lunch, train, have free time, and train some more. The training was routine and boring, but Li went got used to it. She was really determined and discovered her love of martial arts.

Guan Du, one of the teachers, would often compliment her on her progress and give her pointers. He'd pat her on the head and say she has a bright future as a swordsman. She'd usually respond with "Thank you Master Guan!"

Despite the rough training, Li was truly happy during this time. She no longer had to worry about being hunted down and can live like a normal girl for once.

However, not all things last forever. Li always knew she'd have to leave the temple. She misses her family and she must see them again. The day Li had to leave was full of sadness and a tearful farewell.

Li and Shang embraced each other with tears streaming down their cheeks. Li walked over to the edge of the plateau and bowed before everyone, then turned around and walked down the long flight of stairs. When she took the last step on the stairs, she turned around one last time to look up. The stairs were so high that one cannot see what is at the top. What an unreal experience she just had. Li has trained at the temple for six months. It was such a short time, yet for her, it felt like six years. (Goodbye my friends. I will come back one day, I promise.)

Li's next destination was none other than the Valley of Death. She heard the rumors of the War God, but that's exactly why she's going there. There was no official boundary between Xizang Forest and the valley, but there a gradually change in the environment marked the beginning of the valley. The trees withered and plants were scarce. Also, there was the sense of death in the air. Crows croaked and the wind blew hard.

Li felt uneasy as she walked forward, her eyes glancing left and right. Suddenly, a man landed in front of her. He was wearing a priest's clothes, along with a straw hat that covered half his face. He must be the God of War of rumors.

Two more men in straw hats appeared, one to his left, Shen Long, and one to his right, Sui Long.

"Who dares enter the Valley of Death?" said the War God. "All who enter must die."

Li took a step back in fear. "You...you must be the War God I've heard so much about."

"Oh? You know who I am yet you entered this valley, little girl? Do you have a death wish?" The War God drew his sword and it began to glow red and then set a flame.

She was impressed by the sight of the fiery sword. "That sword! You really are the War God!" She kneeled and saluted with her hands. "Please take me as your student!"

All three swordsmen were surprised as well as dumbfounded. "What are you trying to pull, woman?" said Sui Long.

The War God stepped forward, tilting his hat up so he can see Li better. "Are you serious, little girl?"

"My name is Li Cheng! Please accept me as your student!"

"You came here just for this purpose?" said the War God, displeased. "What a waste of my time. Get lost."

Shen Long said, "Wait, are you sparing her life, master? All who enter our valley must die."

The War God turned so his back was facing Li. "This one is not even worth killing. I lost my motivation to fight."

"Please!" Li shouted, doing a kowtow. "I have where else to go. I am willing to do anything. I will do the mundane chores like cooking and cleaning, if you teach me swordcraft!"

The War God turned to face her and saw the glimmer in her eyes. He has not seen those eyes in a long time, they reminded him of himself. For a moment, he grew curious. "I do not take students."

"What about those two?" said Li.

"Shen Long and Sui Long are exceptional. They came to me as fugitives with no where else to go. When they met me they already have potential. Besides, you're just a girl, what can you do?"

Li stood up. "That's discrimination! I can be exceptional too. I am willing to work hard, even to the point of exhaustion. Take me as a student or kill me, but don't ignore me!"

The War God raised an eyebrow. He could kill this girl at any time, yet she dares talk to him in such a way? He grew more curious. "Let me ask you, Li Cheng, why do you want to become strong?"

Li placed a hand over her chest to express herself. "I'm a fugitive too...but I didn't do anything wrong. Because of me, my family...is in trouble. I want to see my parents and my little brother. But if I go now I can't protect anyone! It's all because of the dumbass duke!"

"The duke? Duke Xiang, the second most powerful man in the kingdom?"
Li nodded. "He's the cause of all this trouble!"

A smirk came upon the War God's face. "If I train you, do you promise to kill the duke?"

"I promise I will kill the duke." Li said, nodding. "Because he's a demon! I promise you!"

"Let me warn you, my training is tough. You might not survive. Are you able to handle it?"

Li kneeled and saluted with her hands. "I can handle it! Thank you master...War God!"

"Call me Master Genzo."

And that conversation sealed her fate as her training began immediately. The temple gave her the foundation to learn swordcraft, as she already has the stamina and basic movements. She also did the mundane chores like cooking and laundry, but those chores were shared amongst herself, Sui Long and Shen Long. She rarely saw their faces, except if they were eating. After several months of training, she received her own nickname, Fo Long, meaning "Wind Dragon." Her comrade's name is Sui Long, "Water Dragon," and Shen Long, "Spirit Dragon."

After several years of training, she was able to last a round with Master Genzo. She wore the same outfit as her comrades, the priest outfit, which includes baggy pants, a light vest, and a straw hat. Everyone noticed her progress skyrocket from day one, as if she was meant to hold a sword.

Again, the day would come when she has to leave. After **three years** of intense training in the Heaven's Wrath Style, she felt she was ready to return to Yi Ling.

Master Genzo stood in the middle of Shen Long and Sui Long. Fo Long kneeled before him and saluted. "I have learned a lot these three years. Thank you for everything, Master Genzo."

Her master replied, "You've done well for yourself, Fo Long. I believe you are ready to go into battle."

"Thank you master! I owe you everything! One day I will pay you back!" she said.

Fo Long felt nothing but gratitude to Masai Genzo. He is nothing like the rumors say...instead of being a cold blooded killer, he is a kind hearted man who is misunderstood by the world. She is now the inheritor of the Heaven's Wrath, and she is ready to get revenge.

After traversing the entire width of the forest, Fo Long reached the edge of the hill, where there was a great view of the city below and the sky above. She took off her straw hat and mask, freeing her face so she can feel the breeze against her skin. Her feelings of joy and excitement were indescribable. Years ago, Li would fear going back to the city, but today, she returns with a renewed sense of hope. Staring at the city below, she felt like a monarch about to take over everything, now that she is invincible.

When she left, she was a child fugitive. But now she is an adult, and no one will recognize her, thus the mask is not needed.

The first city on her travel itinerary was Yi Ting, whose magistrate arrested her parents. At night time, there was a horse carriage riding across town, protected by three bodyguards on horses. Li was standing in the middle of the street, clearly in the path of the carriage.

"Who's that?" said Bodyguard-A.

"What the hell are you doing, woman?" shouted the Bodyguard-B.

Li was not fazed by them at all. "I need to see Lord Dumai now."

Bodyguard-B got off his horse and drew his sword. "Move it or we'll move you as a dead body."

Li smiled. "Now we're talking." She drew her sword and charged forward. Bodyguard-B thrust his sword at her, but she dodged, went past his safe zone, and stabbed him. He fell on the ground and bled to death. Bodyguard-A and Bodyguard-C hopped off their horses and attacked her. *Slish Slash* She finished them off with no problems. This helped her confirm that the Heaven's Wrath Style is invincible.

Magistrate Dumai exited the carriage. "What the hell is the ruckus?" Then he gasped upon seeing his fallen bodyguards. "Aaagh! Who did this? Did you kill them?"

Li approached Dumai and kicked him in the chest, causing him to fall against the nearby wall.

"Ugh! Wait, why are you doing this?" said the frantic magistrate.

"Answer my question or this sword will be inside your throat. Ten years ago you arrested a man and woman with the surname Cheng. Where are they?"

"I don't remember." said Dumai.

Li's eyes opened wide. "Don't remember? Don't fuck with me!" The tip of the blade touched his cheek.

"Listen miss, I don't know who you are. But over the years I have arrested countless people. There's no way I can remember a particular one."

"You have to remember! It was one man and one woman! There's also a small boy with the surname Cheng and he has silver hair! Tell me where that boy is!"

"I don't remember. Do you know how many boys with silver hair we have in this big city? And the name Cheng is very common."

Li was extremely pissed off, her blade was shaking from the anger.
"You...you...!"

A man named Vincent just arrived and he rushed over to the scene. He threw a fan at Li. *Whoop whoop* She saw it before it hit her, and knocked it away with her blade, and the fan flew back to Vincent.

"Who the hell are you?" Li asked.

Dumai recognized him. "You're Vincent, the swordsman I'm supposed to meet tonight! Help me! I'll give you any amount of money you want!" He crawled towards Vincent and grabbed his pants. "I don't want to die, help me!"

Li said, "Look at his true face, he's just a coward who only cares about his lowly life. This is the kind of man you're protecting."

Vincent pushed Dumai off his leg. "I already knew the type of man he is. But we of the Heaven's Council do not shed blood needlessly. I was here as a representative to talk to him about the stability of Yi Ting."

Li pointed her sword forward. "There is no stability with this kind of man running the show! He has done something unforgivable! Don't get in my way!"

Vincent drew two fans from his sleeves. The ninja girl charged at him and attacked aggressively. Vincent's steel fans deflected her attacks. *Cling cling* Their range is small, but he had more control over their range of motion, and Li was unable to get close to him.

"Grrrrr. What kind of man uses fans? That's a woman's weapon."

"Oh? I did not realize fans had a gender assigned to them. What about you? A sword is a man's weapon, yet a woman is holding one."

"That's because I want to show the world a woman is as good as any man."

Vincent threw her fans at her, she blocked, and they would boomerang back to his hands every time. Only able to defend, the ninja girl was getting frustrated.

"I think the same. I want to prove to people that fans are as good as swords."

Li jumped back. "This is a waste of time. I'm not here to debate with you." She threw smoke bomb on the ground and disappeared.

Vincent and Dumai coughed from the smoke. By the time the smoke cleared, Li was long gone. Vincent had never met a female fighter like that, and he wondered who she was.

After that incident, Magistrate Dumai put up wanted flyers with Li Cheng's face all over the city, as well as neighboring cities. In just one night, Li became a fugitive again.

Li sat on an arbitrary rooftop, this is one of her habits. In ancient times, rooftops in large cities were triangular shaped, made of tiles. It was not meant for people to walk on top of them, but often times, ninjas would use the rooftops to take shortcuts or hide from people.

(The Heaven's Wrath Style is supposed to be invincible. How can I have trouble with a guy with fans? I wasn't expecting to meet a guy like that. Unless...if my training is not complete?)

Suddenly, she had a flashback of her master's words. "Invincible? Is that what you think? That's a dangerous way of thinking. When you go back to the city, you face all kinds of scenarios that you are not trained for. You must be prepared for anything."

At the time, Li brushed off his words as old-man talk, but his words ring true right now. Realizing this, she grew annoyed, knowing that with her current strength, she cannot kill a magistrate, let alone Duke Xiang.

Suddenly, she saw a burning fire a few blocks down. Unable to contain her curiosity, she headed over there, jumping from roof to roof.

Li landed atop the roof adjacent to the burning building. She saw two men on the ground. One was a regular bodyguard fighting off a man dressed in black clothes. His face was covered by a veil. His movements were peculiar, not any she has seen before. Each step he took left after-images of himself, creating an illusion of multiple copies of him. His swift movements allow him to strike the bodyguard using fast and precise strikes. The Black Reaper then ran to the next area.

Li hopped off the roof and landed next to the corpse to examine it. She was shocked to see that the cuts were so deep and clean, as if he was a piece of meat on a dish. Those illusory movements...these deep cuts...who is the man in black?

The Black Reaper just killed another guard. Li appeared with her sword. "Who are you?" asked he.

"My name is Fo Long and I want to see your true skill."

"You have a death wish, woman!" The Black Reaper dashed at her and she swings her blade at him. He side-stepped to avoid it, creating after-images of himself. Li's eyes were confused and she struck the air. She kept striking, only to hit the air, while the Reaper stayed within her range. This is his specialty - the **Shadow Walk**.

The Black Reaper felt it was his turn to retaliate - he swings his blade with circular swipes and Li defended, but it was difficult to predict where he would strike with his tricky footwork. It was very painful to defend his attacks, maybe downright impossible. She kept retreating until her back was near the wall. The Black Reaper knocked her sword out of her hand, and then pointed his blade's tip near her neck.

"Now you get to meet the real Grim Reaper."

"Your strength is nothing I have ever seen. You're completely different than my current master." Li suddenly knelt and saluted, which surprised him. "Please teach me swordcraft!"

The Black Reaper startled, took a step back. "What kind of trick is this?"

"It is no trick. I want to be your student. I'll do anything if you're willing to teach me."

The Reaper put his sword back into its shell. "What a waste of my time. You're not even worth killing. I will spare you if you leave and never appear before me." He began to walk away.

Li stood up. "Hold it!"

"Oi, don't test my patience, kiddo. I will said I will spare you and I will not say it twice."

"Teach me swordcraft or kill me, but don't ignore me!"

The Reaper turned to face her, astounded at her audacity. "Do you know what position you're in, woman?" He saw the fire in her eyes...those eyes tell that she is serious...those eyes cannot tell a lie. "Who is your master?"

"He is none other than Master Genzo."

If the Reaper's face was shown, his face would be one who is impressed. "Masai Genzo...the Legendary War God. Interesting. That explains how you were not killed by me instantly. But I work alone. I do not need a student, you'll only get in my way." (Wait. If she's mastered the Heaven's Wrath Style she could be useful to me. It will save me a lot of time if I had an underling. She's a woman and a pretty good looking one so she can seduce men of high status.) "Just so you know, I am nothing like Master Genzo. I will kill innocent people if they are in my way."

"I don't care." Li replied. "I want to learn what you know no matter what the cost."

"I have one condition. You will do exactly as I say and never question my orders. You might die several times over if you follow me."

"Yes, I agree!" She kneeled before him. "I look forward to your instructions, master...uhhh..."

"I have no name but if you must call me something, call me the Black Reaper."

"Master Black Reaper!"

"Those words don't go together. Just Black Reaper is fine."

Li stood up with much excitement on her face. "Yes master!"

Shortly afterwards, Li came to regret her decision. In a small town located in the Shen Kingdom, a mansion was burning, and most of the household members were dead. An old man, a servant of the house, crawled backwards. "No...don't do this!" he pleaded. Li approached him, with a dark look in her eyes, sword in right hand. "Why? Why do you do this?" Her left leg stepped forward and bent at the knee, and slashed his neck. *Slish* The old man fell down completely, with a blank look on his face.

Li panted for breath. She was ordered to kill an innocent old man and she went through with it. Nay, she murdered the entire family and the servants, even though they were innocent. In the background, the fires burned brightly. She

stared at the Black Reaper and many things went through her mind. He slaughtered everyone just to gain a few measly documents...was killing the servants necessary? She is not allowed to question him, for that is the promise she made. And now she may have chosen the wrong person to follow.

The mansion they burned belonged to the Lee family, a prominent family who holds land in the north. With the entire family dead, the land now belongs to the lord whose territory is closest to this town, which is Lord Huong. One of the witnesses survived the slaughter and caught a glimpse of Li's face.

The next morning, wanted posters of Li were posted all over the kingdom. She was already wanted because she tried to murder Lord Dumai, but now she is more wanted than ever.

Despite her being hunted down by multiple politicians, Li still refused to wear a mask. A ninja's asset is her stamina, and the key to stamina is oxygen. Wearing a mask will reduce her breathing by half, which will make it uncomfortable to wear, but ineffective as well.

The Reaper and Li went on a journey of several cities with them ending up in the middle of the **Shu Kingdom**. In the larger cities, customs and cultures can be seen across different kingdoms, but in rural towns, there is not much difference. Everyone is doing what they can to put food on the table.

One day, the Reaper had a bombshell announcement for his student. "Li Cheng, this is where we part ways."

Li was stunned as this came out of no where. "What? Are you serious? Why?"

"I will continue the rest of my journey alone." said he.

"Are you tossing me aside? I've done everything you asked me to! I even killed innocent people."

"I have no complaints about your loyalty." replied the Black Reaper. "The journey from here on will be ten times more dangerous. Li, you have already inherited my Shadow Style. You have your own goals, right? Such as slaying Duke Xiang."

"I guess so. But..." Li was doubtful if he actually says what he means. Without a visible face, it was hard to decipher his true intentions. That's how it's always been between her and the Reaper.

"If you do not feel ready, you can go back to the Valley and train under Master Genzo some more." The Black Reaper began to walk away.

"I guess this is farewell. Will we meet again?" she asked.

"We definitely will, when I have achieved my goal. It could be six months or a year, or even longer. But I **will** come back for you. Be my student in the future." The man in black walked away using his Shadow Walk - he vanished, then appeared further down, then vanished again, only to appear further away. After a few more repetitions, he was completely out of sight.

Li leaned against the wall with her arms crossed. (I bet he doesn't want me go with him because he doesn't want me learn the secret of the Shadow Puppet.)

Later on, Li went to an outdoors restaurant. The waiter brought her a bowl of noodles, the smoke simmering before her face, but she paid no attention to it. (Why should I go back to the War God? Is my training not complete? Am I ready to kill Duke Xiang? Breaking into the Imperial Palace is out of the question. I will wait for him to leave the palace but he'll be surrounded by bodyguards. But he's a demon...do I know how to kill a demon? If I had allies it would be so much easier.) Suddenly, a revelation came to her. (There's Shen Long and Sui Long! They're also fugitives. They are sure to join me! I have to go back.)

Li was traversing a thick forest in the Valley when she sensed something. "I know you're watching me. Come out." She threw a dagger at the tree above. A hand caught the dagger between his fingers. Then the War God's camouflage vanished and his body appeared. He jumped and landed on the ground. *Thud* "You have improved, Li." said he.

The ninja girl smiled. "Master, I have returned to be under your tutelage once again." She knelt and saluted.

"I'm surprised. I thought you'd come back in five to ten years. This is much sooner than I thought."

"Master Genzo. I know you have killed countless bounty hunters, enough bodies to make a mountain. I also know you slew countless demons. Please teach me how to kill a demon."

"I see. I take it you are ready to become Fo Long again?"

Alex Cheng Section Contents
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The Cheng family has always been poor, but they were the model family, they were happy together despite their struggles. The mom and dad work on a daily basis and Li Cheng started working as a servant as soon as she can pick up a broom. Fortune smiled on the little girl, for the lord she served recommended her to work at the Imperial Palace.

"Mom, dad, Alex, I did it!" shouted the excited girl. "I will work at the Imperial Palace!"

Alex was a year younger than Li and he was a few inches shorter than her. His eyes **glittered** when she made the announcement. He's always looked up to his older sister, as all younger siblings do. She's pretty, kind and hard working. The parents were proud of their little girl, and they patted on her on the head and complimented her all night. She was laughing and smiling the whole time.

She finally made her parents proud by finding a secure job, which for a teenage girl, is a pretty blissful feeling.

Being selected to work at the palace means Li must live at the palace, so she will be away from home for an unknown amount of time. Alex was sad about that, but the parents support this notion, as if giving their daughter away to marriage.

One day Li came home unannounced, surprising her entire family. "The Duke is not a human! He is a demon! I saw it with my own eyes!"

"Li, what are you saying?" exclaimed Mr. Cheng, the father.

"Li you're not making sense." said Mrs. Cheng, the mother.

"You all have to run away or they'll come after you. I have to leave now!" Right after that, Li took her belongings and ran away from home. She went to the next town to hide. Mr. Cheng went after her, leaving Mrs. Cheng and Alex behind.

Alex has never seen his sister act like that before and did not know what to make of it. But he was certain of one thing: he had this ominous feeling that his life will never be the same again.

Unable to decipher Li's cryptic message and fearing for their safety, Mrs. Cheng took Alex to an inn. They stayed there for two days straight with Alex restricted from leaving the inn. He was bored so he sat by the window and stared blankly at the sky. This is the beginning of this habit that he would carry him until his adulthood.

One day, Alex's mother headed out to see the magistrate that arrested Mr. Cheng. "Listen Alex, no matter what, do not leave this room until I come back, okay?" she said.

"Okay, I got it." replied the boy.

Little did he know, that was the last time he saw his mother. At this time, Alex grew very uneasy, he sat by the window all day, waiting for his family members to come back. But they never did, and the anxiety became too great. He disobeyed orders and left the inn and went back to see his neighbor and friend Zi Lai.

Alex told Zi everything, but did not explain it well, due to his emotional state. Zi did not quite understand everything, but he knew how bad the situation was.

That night, the boys decided to go find Alex's sister on their own. It was a cold night with dark clouds looming over. Alex and Zi ran through the street, now littered with puddles of water. *Sploosh sploosh*

Suddenly, a man with a sword appeared before Alex. He was from the **East Brigade**, an elite police unit under the control of eunuchs. Alex held a kodachi, a miniature sword that is perfect for a child his size. *Clang* Alex's kodachi was knocked away. The officer then slashed him in the right arm,

causing him to bleed profusely. Alex fell down face flat on the water filled street. *Splash* Lightning flared and the rain poured even harder. His blood mixed with the rain.

"Oh no! Alex!" Zi screamed. Seeing his friend injured and near dead, he snapped and became angry beyond logic. He also carried a kodachi and he jumped up like a mantis and stabbed the officer in the chest, killing him quickly. *Stab*

A second officer attacked Zi. *Clang* Zi blocked the attack from above, stabbed the officer's leg, causing him to scream. Zi jumped up and slashed him in the neck, giving him three seconds before he died.

The remaining officer was bewildered that a kid like him has such power. He panicked and ran away, disappearing into the thick rain.

Zi went to check up on his fallen friend. "Alex, wake up! Alex, speak to me! Alex!"

Alex woke up and he found himself in a stranger's bed. It is most likely a doctor's office or hospital. He sat up and looked at his right arm, it had two layers of bandages stained with a circle of blood. Curious, he touched his arm and grunted from the pain.

"Do not touch the wound, young man." The doctor brushed the curtains aside to come into the room. Zi was behind him.

"Zi...you brought me here?"

"Yeah. You're gonna be alright. Isn't that right, doctor?"

The doctor stroked his beard. "The critical period is over so your life is not in danger." The boys sighed in relief.

"However I have bad news for you. Best prepare yourself."

Alex stared at the doctor with big bright eyes. "Please tell me."

"I did what I could to stitch up your injury, but it is too deep. You can never use a sword for the rest of your life." The doctor paused so the boys can reflect on his words. "I suggest studying to become a merchant or politician, or a doctor like myself."

Zi was sad for his friend. "Alex..."

"It's fine." said Alex, looking down. "I didn't plan on becoming a swordsman. I only pick up a weapon so I can find my sister and my parents."

"I have to check up on my parents. I'm worried about them." said Zi.

"You're leaving me?"

"I'll be back soon. I promise."

Alex nodded. "Mmm."

After Zi left the room, a nurse walked in. The doctor took a hold of his injured arm. "Alright my boy, it's time to change these bandages."

Having an ominous feeling, Zi hurried home, running until he was out of breath. From a distance, he saw smoke and his heart nearly skipped a beat.

Figuring that it's not his house, he ran down the street. His eyes grew wide open and his eyeballs became dark when he saw his house up in flames. It was the worst case scenario and Zi fell on his knees, tears streamed down his cheeks. Every fiber of his being wanted this to be a bad dream...but the smell of smoke and the heat was too real...his parents are in the house and burnt to a crisp along with his house.

On the way back to the doctor's office, Zi walked like a zombie, with dried up tears on his face. After walking for hours, he finally reached the office by muscle memory.

Alex was overjoyed to see his friend. "Zi, you're back! How are your parents?"

Zi was silent, which made his friend uncomfortable.

"Zi? What happened? Zi?"

Just when he thought his tears were dried up, fresh tears dripped down his cheek. "They killed my parents!" He sobbed with his mouth wide open.

Alex was shocked and did not know how to respond. Suddenly, Alex received this feeling that he too will never see his parents again. Like Zi, he cried out loud. The room became full of their crying and sobbing. **"Waaaaah! Waaaaah!"**

In the next room, the nurse overheard them. "Those poor boys. Can't we do something for them?"

"Perhaps...perhaps not. They are fugitives." replied the doctor.

The nurse's name is Mrs. Lee, who is Jade's grandmother. She is a kind hearted old woman who cannot stand by while these innocent boys were suffering. She instructed the boys on what to do once they leave town. They are to go to the next town immediately because the East Brigade are professionals and will find them eventually. They need to go from town to town and stay at inns and motels, always staying on the move. The best bet is to cross the border to the Shu Kingdom, where the East Brigade has no power. Mrs. Lee even gave them some money for food and rent so they can at least survive a few weeks.

Alex and Zi bowed to the nurse. "Thank you for every thing, Mrs. Lee." said Zi.

"I promise I will repay the favor one day!" said Alex. "I won't let this be the end of my life. I will make it big one day, you'll see!"

The nurse's eyes were small so when she smiled her eyes became a line. "I'm sure you will, young man."

Zi and Alex, still injured, left the office and left the town.

East Brigade officers knocked on the doctor's door. *Knock knock* The doctor answered. "Can I help you?"

The officer pulled up a wanted poster. "We are looking for two boys about nine to ten years old, one of them has silver hair and his right arm is wounded."

"I have not seen anybody like that." said the doctor.

"If you do, notify us immediately." The officers left them alone.

The boys did exactly as the kind old woman instructed, they went from town to town, never staying more than one night, until they reached the border. Once they were in Shu they were ninety percent safe. Just to make sure, they still traveled until they reached the city at the very east of Shu, near the border of Chiri.

They lost their parents but they have no time to grieve as they had to survive to put food in their stomachs. Alex and Zi took on odd jobs here and there to make money. Alex was unable to wield a sword, but Zi can and he would take on dangerous jobs. Despite his mediocre skills, he managed to complete every job he was given. Alex never gave up on his sister - on his free time he'd search for clues on her whereabouts.

Eventually, they both became teenagers and unrecognizable from their former selves. They traveled by horse back to Shen and settled in Yi Ling, the capital city. If there is any place where there is information, it is here. This is also the city that Mrs. Lee moved to.

Alex and Zi reunited with Mrs. Lee and befriended her granddaughter Jade, a jewelry saleswoman who owns a store at the marketplace. Alex worked diligently to look for clues to his sister's whereabouts. One day he found the clue that he was looking for: an eyewitness saw Li Cheng and Mr. Cheng talking on the outskirts of town before she disappeared. Apparently she went into the Xizang Forest and deeper into the jungle, where supposedly there is an ancient temple full of monks. With just this one clue, Alex and Zi set forth on their journey to the forest. This is the beginning of the story in Volume 0, aka **Legend of the Fire Sword**.

[Zi Lai 1](#) Section Contents
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Zi's grandfather was a demon who was originally a man named **Zho Lai**, a farmer but also fighter from a poor village in an unknown province. Sometimes demons wander into the village, endangering everyone in it, so it is up to Zho and the fighters of the village to kill these demons. One day, a group of ten fighters went into the wilderness to search for wandering demons. They found two and killed them swiftly, but two of the fighters were wounded.

"Good job today Zho!" said a comrade of his.

"It was nothing." Zho replied with a hand on the back of his head. "I just do what I usually do."

"I'm just glad someone like you is defending our village." said the comrade.

"But our situation is getting worse. I wish I was stronger so I can protect my village."

The group of fighters returned to their home to report the good news to the village elders. Zho would often think to himself he wants to be stronger. Day after day he would train in his backyard non-stop, but he was still a human doing battle with demons. The human body has limitations and Zho would try to constantly overcome those limitations.

The village elders congratulated Zho on today's success, and Zho would reply how he usually does. "I'm just doing my job, that's all. But I wish I was stronger. It's quite difficult for us to fight demons even if we outnumber them. I worry about the day there are too many demons to handle."

"You worry too much, young man." said the elder. "Your group of fighters are doing just fine protecting our village. We all appreciate what you do."

One of the elders had his gaze intently on Zho Lai, unbeknownst to him. It was the gaze of someone cooking up a scheme.

Zho went home and was greeted by a woman named Dae. "Welcome home dear." She was a skinny woman with a long, brown hair, pale skin and small eyes.

"I'm back Dae!" Zho and her gave each other a good embrace. "How is my fiancé doing?"

"Today was really productive. Some of the village women attended a sewing class and I learned many things about sewing."

"That's great. You can make me a sweater sometime."

"I will before winter comes. Dinner is almost ready."

How this couple has dinner is the same as the entire village - they put a pot over a burning fire, and put the water into the pot with ingredients to make soup. The meat is placed on dishes and they use chopsticks to put the meat into the pot to cook it. After about an hour of eating, they were both full and Dae cleaned up. Zho usually over eats.

"Man that hit the spot!" he said, rubbing his stomach. Knock knock. Zho answered the door and he was surprised to one of the village elders at his doorstep. "En Ko? What's going on?"

En Ko was a man in a straw hat, wearing plain clothes and sandals. "I have something I'd like to discuss with you. Please come to my house."

"Uh, sure." Not knowing what this was about, Zho put on his sandals and followed En Ko into his house. As soon as Zho closed the door, his life was about to change forever. "So Mr. Ko, can you tell me what this is about?"

En Ko put down his straw hat. "Before I do that, do you mind if I read your mind?"

"Read my mind? As in sorcery? Naw, such a thing doesn't exist."

"I'm going to show you right now..." En Ko put his palm on Zho's forehead. Flashes of images entered Ko's mind and it was an intense experience for both of them. Zho stuttered backwards and hit the wall.

"Ugh! I have a headache. What did you do?"

En Ko was sweating and panting for breath. "I read all of your memories since the day you were born. Hmmm, I see. You want more strength to protect your fiancé and protect the villagers. What a noble spirit you are."

"That doesn't prove you read my mind!"

"Alright. Let me tell you something that only you know. The last time you and your fiancé Dae had sex was the night before and your favorite position is--"

"Aaaah! That's enough!" Zho exclaimed. "Okay I believe you!"

"Zho Lai, what if I told you - you can get the power you wanted for a small price. But you will no longer be yourself."

"Huh? I dunno what you mean. But I am willing to do anything to protect my village! I grew up here!"

"Anything? Even if it requires a sacrifice?" asked En Ko. He can tell his target was becoming curious, so the bait worked.

"Yes anything! I'll gladly sacrifice my own life if it comes down to it!" Zho exclaimed, making a fist.

"Even if it means losing your humanity?"

"I dunno what you mean?"

"Are you willing to become a demon to gain the ultimate strength?"

"A demon? Hell no! Those are the enemies we're trying to fight. Why would I become one of those things?!"

"There are different kinds of demons. Someone like you will never become like those mindless zombies. You can become a demon but still be yourself. You'll look the same as you are now. You will become stronger, faster, more durable, and less likely to die from blood loss. You'll be physically superior to your former self in every way! And best of all, you won't change physically. Transforming is completely optional. If you want you can stay in your human form your whole life."

Zho gave it a lot of thought. "That does sound pretty good. Are you saying that you can make me like that?"

En Ko said, "Of course. As you've guessed, I am a demon myself."

Zho's eyes grew wide. "No way! I couldn't tell all this time."

"See? No one can tell the difference. You'll be able to protect your precious village and no one will know your secret."

"Hmmm...But there has to be drawbacks, right? Can demons still...do that?"

"Do what?"

"You know...that thing...with a woman."

"Oh ha ha ha ha. Don't worry. You can do **that** all you want. You and your woman can make healthy babies. Healthy human babies. They'll have some demon blood, but they won't transform. Your sons and daughters will be half demons. Your grandchildren will be quarter demons. Your great grand children will have half of that...and your great great-"

"You're going too far ahead! Anyways, I get what you mean." Then his face grew serious. "Mr. Ko, please turn me into a demon."

"Once the process begins there's no turning back."

Zho nodded. Once he makes up his mind, he will go through with it no matter what.

Once the **turning** process began, Zho Lai felt the effects immediately. During the group's next hunt, Zho was at his physical peak. He killed two demons all by himself and he was still not tired. The rest of his group of nine men killed two other demons collectively. A comrade of Zho's put his hand on his shoulder. "Wow you are on a roll today, Zho! Have you been taking energy drinks?"

"Ha ha ha. It's not energy drinks. I been training a lot. See?" Zho flexed his biceps. Him and his hunting group laughed the rest of the way back to the village.

He felt like he was on top of the world. He was stronger than he was before the turning, he can protect his village, and his fiancé loves him as she normally does. But like a drug, his happiness did not last long.

One night, Zho was unable to sleep and went out to his backyard because he did not want to wake up Dae.

His arm was reacting strangely, it started to change color and it was painful. He grabbed his demonic arm and fell on his knees, groaning in pain. "Ugh...uuughhh. What is happening? En Ko did not tell me about this! That bastard."

Unfortunately, Dae saw what happened. Zho turned around and saw Dae, and he was startled.

"What is wrong with your arm?" Dae asked, with a hand over her mouth.

Zho stood up. "Dae, listen to me calmly. There's a good reason for this."

"How could you?" she responded. "Was this the only way?"

"You know...? That I am becoming a demon?"

"What else could this be? I thought we discussed everything together?"

"I'm sorry, Dae. I decided this impulsively. I wanted to protect the village, to protect you. This looks ugly, doesn't it?"

Dae walked over to him and touched his demonic arm. "I don't care about that. You always carry the burden by yourself. You put everything on your shoulders but you don't know that others worry about you."

Zho stared at her eyes and they were serious eyes. She was a lot more understanding than he originally thought. He thought she might freak out after

seeing his arm and abandon him. This woman truly is a keeper and he is fortunate to have chosen her.

A child of the village was spying on them from behind the fence. She was so scared she covered her mouth with both hands and tear drops appeared in the corner of her eyes.

One day, Zho was summoned to see the village elders. He showed up to find half the village waiting for him. "Village elder? What is this about?"

"Is it true?" asked the elder. "You've been hiding it from us?"

"Wait...what is this about?" asked Zho.

"Are you a demon?" the elder asked with his eyes narrowed.

All the villagers waited anxiously for his answer. Zho, being a straight arrow, can never lie to his fellow villagers. "I did it to protect the village."

The villagers chatted amongst themselves.

"Unbelievable!" exclaimed the elder. "To think that a demon was living amongst us. This is a village for humans, not for the likes of your kind!"

"What are you trying to say, elder?"

"You can no longer live here. Please leave."

Zho was shocked beyond belief. "You can't be serious?!"

Suddenly, Dae showed up and she stood by Zho. "Wait! You're all being unreasonable. Listen to me. Zho only became a demon recently. But he looks human, doesn't he? He's no different than before!"

An elder said, "But he is still a demon and he has demon blood flowing through his veins! Demons have ruined our peaceful village!" The other folks shouted in agreement.

Dae would not back down. "Think about why Zho did it? He did it to get strength to protect the village, to protect all of us! He did it for you! And now you're going to shun him just because it's different? You're all being paranoid over nothing!"

Zho was pleasantly surprised. "Dae..."

Nine of the fighters walked over from the crowd's side to Zho's side. "It's true. Zho has done nothing wrong. He has fought for his village day after day, risking his life selflessly."

Another fighter said, "He saved our lives many times! Each one of you are still alive because of him!"

Yet another fighter said, "It's an undeniable fact that he's the best fighter out of all of us."

Zho was so touched he could cry, but he held it in.

The elder stood forward. "Every thing you said is true. Zho Lai has done a lot for us and this is his home as much as it is ours. However...the people no longer trust you. You're no longer human and that is a fact."

Zho focused on the looks on the villagers' faces. Many of them had a look of distrust, some were disgusted, and the small children were scared. He tapped Dae on the shoulder. "It's fine...I volunteer to leave."

"Why?!" Dae exclaimed.

"Elder is right. Most of the village does not trust me anymore. Imagine this Dae, every day you visit the market, people will give you glances. You go to sewing class and people avoid talking to you. And I'm pretty sure our kids will get bullied. It's not something I want to put you through. This place is no longer my home." Zho held his woman by the shoulder and the two walked away from the crowd. The fighters watched helplessly as the two walked away.

Zho and Dae went back to their house and packed all their belongings into two bags. Both of them were carrying a large backpack containing everything they can fit inside. When they stepped out the door, the nine hunters were waiting for them.

Fighter-A said, "Zho Lai, we want to wish you well on your new journey."

Fighter-B said, "You've done a lot for us, and we'll never forget you. It's not much but here's some money for you."

Fighter-C said, "Here's some food in case you get hungry."

All the fighters bowed. **"Thank you for everything!"** they said in unison. The couple was touched by their words and actions. They literally did not know how to respond other than to receive their gifts of generosity. Even if the village no longer trusts him, Zho knows that his comrades appreciate everything he did for them, and they will always remain his comrades.

Zho and Dae traveled to a farming village not far away from their original home. Fortunately one of the houses was abandoned so they had no issues finding a home. One summer night, Dae was making dinner for them. The door was open, revealing nearly the entire living room. Zho sat by the wall, with a stick in his mouth, spacing out from boredom.

A man in blue clothes and a straw hat arrived at the front yard. Zho became alert and drew his sword. The man lifted up his straw hat. "Calm down, it's me, En Ko."

"I know." said Zho with an angry face. "How dare you hide information from me! You tricked me!"

En Ko put up his palms. "Whoa, calm down. I did not come here to fight you. I came because I was concerned about you two."

"Hmph." Zho put his sword back into its shell.

"Can we talk somewhere privately?"

"Dae is my wife. If you have something to say to me, say it in front of her. I decided not to keep secrets from her anymore."

Thus, En Ko entered the living room and sat down by the bonfire. When he was ready he began to speak. "Zho, what is happening to your body is perfectly normal. Your arm starts acting up because that part of your body is

becoming a demon's arm. Once you become a full demon, these inconvenient panic attacks will stop."

Zho had his arms crossed and his eyes closed. "Hmph. It's pretty inconvenient to get kicked out of my own village."

"How does someone become a demon?" Dae asked.

"By drinking blood from another demon. Zho, you have to keep drinking my blood until you become complete. Until then, don't stay far away from me."

Zho replied, "Hmph. Like hell I'm gonna do that. Your blood tastes bad."

En Ko continued. "There is another thing. You have start absorbing human souls. Souls of people who are near dead or just died."

"Are you asking me to become a murderer?" asked Zho.

"It's for your own good. Well, that's all I came to tell you." En Ko picked up his things and left.

Zho sighed and turned to his wife. "You heard him. Looks like I'm gonna havta switch jobs."

"What will you do?" asked Dae.

"I'm going to become a bounty hunter." said her husband. "My body is different than before, I can do things I normally couldn't. As a bounty hunter I can make money and take people's souls, kill two birds with one stone. But I will only kill bad guys, of course."

En Ko offered to train Zho in swordcraft. He is a fast learner, so that combined with his physical abilities allowed him to accelerate at an alarming rate. Even En Ko was surprised by how fast he mastered swordcraft. Zho developed the Shadow Style in secret, something that even En Ko could not conjure up. He wanted to focus on deception and illusions, so he developed the Shadow Walk, a move that creates after-images of himself while he moves. The second technique he developed is the Shadow Puppet, whereby he creates an exact copy of himself.

"Dae, watch this!" He proceeded to show her the Shadow Walk as he strafed left and right.

Dae clapped. "Wow, that's amazing! My eyes can't keep up at all."

Being a simple minded man, Zho felt pleased that he impressed his wife.

"Heh, that's nothing. I have even more secret techniques."

Dae clapped some more as he performed.

Later on, Zho Lai felt confident enough to enlist in the Assassin Lodge. He was accepted because of his unique abilities. But he did not reveal the Shadow Puppet to them, of course. This is his secret that not even En Ko knows about.

Zho spent the next few years taking on assassination jobs and he succeeded every time thanks to his ability and wits. The Assassin Lodge pays well, so him and Dae never worried about money. Because of his missions, they have to live in different places in the kingdom. After Zho made enough money, he quit being an assassin and began to take up labor intensive jobs so they can live in one place permanently.

A few years later, they had a son named **Shun Lai**. As a kid, he showed superhuman strength and speed. He would jump onto the edges of walls and run along the wall. Dae had to constantly tell him not to do that and it made her worry much. Both parents told Shun not to show off his powers others because it is too dangerous. However, things never work out the way they should.

When Shun was old enough, he went to school in the village they lived at. One day, he was bullied in the schoolyard. As expected, the bully is a bigger, fatter kid. He kept making fun of Shun's parents and shoving him constantly. Shun forgot about his promise to his parents and beat up the bully. All the students witnessed what happened and they were so scared they could not say a thing.

The teacher was told of what happened and she was certain that Shun has demon's blood...which makes him a demon's child. Because of that incident, Shun could no longer go to school, and the entire Lai family once again has to move somewhere else.

En Ko followed the family's trail and met up with Zho.

Zho was cutting an apple as he listened to En Ko's explanation. "Your son is a half demon, his father is a demon but his mother is a human. He will not transform, but he still has demon's blood. Unlike you, he should not use his powers because it drains his life."

Zho stopped cutting the apple. "It drains his life?"

En Ko continued, "Because he has human's body. He has your powers but demon blood and human blood is not compatible. If he keeps using his powers, it will shorten his life by a wide margin. Only use it if it's absolutely necessary."

As long as he did not use his powers, Shun was able to live a normal life. Years later, he became eighteen years old and married a woman named Mei-Lei. One year later, they had a son named Zi. Just like Shun, he is partially a demon but ages like a human. He discovered his powers early on in his childhood. Mei-Lei and Shun instructed Zi not to use his powers because of two reasons: one is if Zi is discovered then the whole family will have to run away as fugitives. Two is the demonic blood will shorten his life.

The Lai family lived next to the Cheng's and they had a son named Alex who is one year younger than Zi. Because Alex's older sister and his parents were always working, he was often home alone. Alex would often come over to play with Zi.

Mei-Lei was conflicted, on one hand she is glad her son made a friend, but on the other hand, it is dangerous for him to get too close to someone. "Zi, do not get too attached to the neighbor's boy. You do not want to spend all your time with him."

"It's fine," said Shun. "As long as you don't use your powers you can play with other kids."

Zi nodded and went to his room.

Mei-Lei said, "Are you sure this is a good idea?"

Shun replied, "It's healthy for a boy his age to have friends. I don't want my son to live my childhood...I did not have any friends."

Occasionally Zi would see Li Cheng, but that was a rare event. Most of the time, it was just Zi and Alex, playing in the backyard, having fun and causing mischief. They got along well and they did not officially announce it, but these two boys were best friends. Several years passed without much incident.

However, something happened with Alex's sister that would change both their family's fates forever.

One day Li Cheng came back home, scared to death and muttered something that did not make sense. Right after that she ran away from home, and so did the rest of the Cheng's. Alex went over to Zi to tell him that he's going on a vacation, but not where or how long. Not knowing how to decipher such a cryptic message, Zi waited patiently for his best friend to come home.

Several days later, Alex ran into Zi on the street. Both Mr. Cheng and Mrs. Cheng were arrested by Magistrate Dumai and Alex was waiting in vain for his parents' return. Alex pleaded for Zi to help him. They went back to Alex's house to grab some weapons, swords were too heavy for the boys so they both carried kodachis.

That night, the boys decided to go find Alex's sister on their own. It was a cold night with dark clouds looming over. Alex and Zi ran through the street, now littered with puddles of water. *Sploosh sploosh*

Suddenly, an East Brigade officer with a sword appeared before Alex. Alex held his kodachi and pointed it at his enemy. *Clang* His kodachi was knocked away. The officer then slashed him in the right arm, causing him to bleed profusely. Alex fell down face flat on the water filled street. *Splash* Lightning flared and the rain poured even harder. His blood mixed with the rain.

"Oh no! Alex!" Zi screamed. Seeing his friend injured and near dead, he snapped and became angry beyond logic. He also carried a kodachi and he jumped up like a mantis and stabbed the officer in the chest, killing him quickly. *Stab*

A second officer attacked Zi. *Clang* Zi blocked the attack from above, stabbed the officer's leg, causing him to scream. Zi jumped up and slashed him in the neck, giving him three seconds before he died.

The remaining officer was bewildered that a kid like him has such power. He panicked and ran away, disappearing into the thick rain.

Zi went to check up on his fallen friend. "Alex, wake up! Alex, speak to me! Alex!"

His friend had fallen unconscious from the shock as Zi continued to scream his name in the heavy rain. There is no choice, Zi carried Alex, bringing his arm over his shoulders, and walked along the empty street. The ground was completely wet and the rain was hitting him all over. He memorized the nearest doctor's office, which is not far away.

With pure determination, Zi brought his fallen friend to the doctor's. *Knock knock* A doctor and his nurse answered the door.

"Please help my friend!" Zi implored.

The doctor, upon seeing Alex's condition, quickly brought him to a bed and began treating his arm.

Alex woke up and he found himself in a stranger's bed. It is most likely a doctor's office or hospital. He sat up and looked at his right arm, it had two layers of bandages stained with a circle of blood. Curious, he touched his arm and grunted from the pain.

"Do not touch the wound, young man." The doctor brushed the curtains aside to come into the room. Zi was behind him.

"Zi...you brought me here?"

"Yeah. You're gonna be alright. Isn't that right, doctor?"

The doctor stroked his beard. "The critical period is over so your life is not in danger." The boys sighed in relief.

"However I have bad news for you. Best prepare yourself."

Alex stared at the doctor with big bright eyes. "Please tell me."

"I did what I could to stitch up your injury, but it is too deep. You can never use a sword for the rest of your life." The doctor paused so the boys can reflect on his words. "I suggest studying to become a merchant or politician, or a doctor like myself."

Zi was sad for his friend. "Alex..."

"It's fine." said Alex, looking down. "I didn't plan on becoming a swordsman. I only pick up a weapon so I can find my sister and my parents."

"I have to check up on my parents. I'm worried about them." said Zi.

"You're leaving me?"

"I'll be back soon. I promise."

Alex nodded. "Mmm."

After Zi left the room, a nurse walked in. The doctor took a hold of his injured arm. "Alright my boy, it's time to change these bandages."

Zi ran home faster than he ever did in his life. (Mom, dad, please be alright!)

Inside the Lai household...Mei-Lei Lai was lying on the floor with bloodstains on her clothes and there was a pool of blood around her body. Her face was on the floor and not seen and she was not moving.

Crash An officer was thrown against the wooden wall, destroying half the wall. Shun was holding a sword and he panted for breath...with **bloodstained** eyes. An officer was on his right and attacked, Shun slashed him in the stomach, causing him to fall. Then Shun stepped on his stomach and stabbed his neck, and the officer coughed blood before dying instantly.

"You bastards, you killed her! Why..." Shun slashed another officer. "Did you..." He slashed another officer, making him crash into the half destroyed wall. Now the wall was completely gone. "...Kill her?"

An East Brigade captain stood at the end of the room, surrounded by many of his officers. "Your son has demon's blood, and that means you, his parents are demons. Your kind must be exterminated!"

Shun was in a power lock with an officer. "We never did anything to you!" He kicked the officer away. "We never broke the law!"

Feeling safe behind his bodyguards, the captain spoke with his chin tilted up. "Demons like you should not be living amongst us humans!"

"Fuck you! I'm going to kill you!" shouted Shun in anger.

An officer from behind stabbed him with his spear. *Schleb* It hurt his back, but due to the adrenaline pumping through his veins and his mental state of pure rage, Shun still moved as if it did not happen. He turned around to slash the officer.

An officer charged at him, and Shun stabbed him in the stomach. Suddenly, a spear plunged into Shun's stomach. *Schleb* The officer pushed him back, forcing him to move back. Shun cut the spear and slashed the officer. Despite the adrenaline, he felt the injuries pile up, and he was slowing down with each injury. He charged forward, aiming for the captain himself.

An officer stabbed him with the spear. "Ugh!" With his sword in right hand, his left hand grabbed the spear to stop it from going deeper. Another officer stabbed him in the stomach, and both of them pushed him back, his feet scraping the floor. Shun used up all the strength he had to push, stopping himself from being pushed back. An officer stabbed him from the back. *Schleb*

With spears in the front and the back, he was trapped like a **shish-kebob**. Blood was dripping on the spears and he was losing consciousness.

The captain burst into laughter. "Hahahaha! What's the matter? That all you got?"

Shun dropped his sword. "My son, you must live on for our sake." His vision was blurry but he focused really hard on the captain. "Mei-Lei, I'm sorry I couldn't save you. But I can at least avenge you." Shun used the last of his strength to throw his knife. *Whoop-whoop-whoop* It stabbed the captain's eye, causing blood to squirt out like a sprinkler.

“AAAAAAH! My eye! How dare you?!” the captain cried frantically. One of the officers came to check up on him, but the captain shoved him away. He pulled the knife out of his eye. “Aaaaaaah! You goddamned demon! You’ll pay for this! You’ll pay!”

Seeing his goal accomplished, Shun laughed triumphantly. An officer from behind stabbed Shun, causing him even more pain. He has reached his limit and can no longer move or think. All the officers removed their spears at once. *Schleb*

The East Brigade splattered oil all over the house. One officer took a torch and threw it on the oil. *Froom*

Having an ominous feeling, Zi hurried home, running until he was out of breath. From a distance, he saw smoke and his heart nearly skipped a beat. Figuring that it’s not his house, he ran down the street. His eyes grew wide open and his eyeballs became dark when he saw his house up in flames. It was the worst case scenario and Zi fell on his knees, tears streamed down his cheeks. Every fiber of his being wanted this to be a bad dream...but the smell of smoke and the heat was too real...his parents are in the house and burnt to a crisp along with his house.

On the way back to the doctor’s office, Zi walked like a zombie, with dried up tears on his face. After walking for hours, he finally reached the office by muscle memory.

Alex was overjoyed to see his friend. “Zi, you’re back! How are your parents?”

Zi was silent, which made his friend uncomfortable.

“Zi? What happened? Zi?”

Just when he thought his tears were dried up, fresh tears dripped down his cheek. “They killed my parents!” He sobbed with his mouth wide open.

Alex was shocked and did not know how to respond. Suddenly, Alex received this feeling that he too will never see his parents again. Like Zi, he cried out loud. The room became full of their crying and sobbing. **“Waaaaah! Waaaaah!”**

In the next room, the nurse overheard them. “Those poor boys. Can’t we do something for them?”

“Perhaps...perhaps not. They are fugitives.” replied the doctor.

The nurse’s name is Mrs. Lee, who is Jade’s grandmother. She is a kind hearted old woman who cannot stand by while these innocent boys were suffering. She instructed the boys on what to do once they leave town. They are to go to the next town immediately because the East Brigade are professionals and will find them eventually. They need to go from town to town and stay at inns and motels, always staying on the move. The best bet is to cross the border

to the Shu Kingdom, where the East Brigade has no power. Mrs. Lee even gave them some money for food and rent so they can at least survive a few weeks.

Alex and Zi bowed to the nurse. "Thank you for every thing, Mrs. Lee." said Zi.

"I promise I will repay the favor one day!" said Alex. "I won't let this be the end of my life. I will make it big one day, you'll see!"

The nurse's eyes were small so when she smiled her eyes became a line. "I'm sure you will, young man."

Zi and Alex, still injured, left the office and left the town.

The boys did exactly as the kind old woman instructed, they went from town to town, never staying more than one night, until they reached the border. Once they were in Shu they were ninety percent safe. Just to make sure, they still traveled until they reached the city at the very east of Shu, near the border of Chiri.

They lost their parents but they have no time to grieve as they had to survive to put food in their stomachs. Alex and Zi took on odd jobs here and there to make money. Alex was unable to wield a sword, but Zi can and he would take on dangerous jobs. Despite his mediocre skills, he managed to complete every job he was given. Alex never gave up on his sister - on his free time he'd search for clues on her whereabouts.

Eventually, they both became teenagers and unrecognizable from their former selves. They traveled by horse back to Shen and settled in Yi Ling, the capital city. If there is any place where there is information, it is here. This is also the city that Mrs. Lee moved to.

In the back yard, Alex was topless and sweating all over. He was swinging his sword. *Whoop whoop* He stopped practicing out of frustration. (I can move it fine, but there's no power in the swings. My injury is still affecting me to this very day.)

Meanwhile Zi Lai was somewhere else, kneeling in front of a trunk. He opened the trunk and inside were folded clothes, including black boots and a veil.

In an arbitrary restaurant, two East Brigade Officers were eating noodles. There were several other customers, all minding their business. The Black Reaper appeared, causing people to stare at him.

Officer-A said, "Hey check out this guy."

Officer-B said, "Isn't it too early for Halloween?"

"Do you work for the East Brigade?" asked the Reaper.

Both officers stood up and walked over to the man in black. "That's right. And it's rude to cover up your face in front of an East Brigade member." said Officer-A.

Officer-B followed up with, "You can take off that veil or I cant cut it off for you."

The Black Reaper began to pull his sword out of its shell.

Officer-A: "Watch where you put your hand! Do you know the consequences of what you're about to do?"

Officer-B: "Disrespecting us East Brigade members means the death penalty."

"Death penalty? Interesting. You will receive the death penalty." The Reaper drew his sword and fought the two officers. *Clang clang* Using the Shadow Walk, he confused them and attacked them. His cuts were so precise that one slashed killed them while standing up. They never stood a chance, falling to the ground with blood gushing out of their wounds.

All the customers panicked and ran away, all except one, hiding under his table. "This swordsman just took care of those two guys from the East Brigade. He moved so fast my eyes couldn't keep up...this man is the grim reaper in black! **The Black Reaper!**"

"Black Reaper huh?" replied he, "Has a nice ring to it." Then he disappeared just as he came, sudden and without a trace.

Doosh doosh Zi jumped onto a tree branch using his ninja like reflexes. Alex was sitting atop a wall, leaning against a tree that grew around the wall. His attention was focused on the book in front of him until his friend appeared. "Zi, where have you been?"

"Uhhh, I had some things to care of." Zi said, rubbing the back of his head.

Alex closed his book. "Lemme guess, chasing girls at the red light district?"

"Ahahaha..."

"Geez, if only you put in effort into your swordcraft you could be a decent swordsman. You know some people can't even hold a sword but they try harder than you."

"You're right about that, Master Cheng." Zi said playfully. "Well, want to see the doctor today?"

Alex sighed. "I told you, there's no doctor that can heal my arm."

"Who just mentioned trying hard when you're giving up already?"

"You're right." Alex tossed the book away. "Let's go. We might even find a clue about my sister." He hopped off the wall.

So off went the duo to another doctor's appointment. Zi has been keeping his identity a secret from his best friend his whole life, and he intends to continue. His friend already has enough problems and he needs not any more right now. Zi often pretends to be a slacker for two reasons: one, to make Alex not feel bad about his injury, and two, to hide his true strength...his demon's blood. After all, he is half demon, the product of a grandfather who is demon

and a grandmother who is human, an **abomination** that should not exist in this world.

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Genzo said, "Did you forge the swords that we asked for?"

"I always keep my promises." said Cho' Ann. "I have created one sword with the ultimate power for each of you. The first sword was forged in the coldest place on earth, where there is a blizzard every second, temperatures reach subzero and not suitable for human habitation. That one became the Ice Sword. The second sword was forged from the magma pits of the hottest volcano in the mountains of Hawaii, and out of that came the Fire Sword. I climbed the tallest mountain in the world and placed the third sword there. Thunderstorms happen daily and thunder would strike the sword constantly, creating the Thunder Sword. As for the last one, I placed it in the windiest place on earth, the tunnels of Lagrange Canyon. The cold winds move at over 100 miles per hour and tornados happen often...out of that came the Wind Sword."

The Four Brothers glanced at each other with pleased looks.

"The four swords are placed in the four corners of the world. Each one of you will go to the designated location to claim your ultimate weapon. I have here four maps." Cho' Ann gave each warrior a map.

Taishi said, "You have no idea how grateful we are."

Raijun said, "We can never repay you for this."

"It's fine." Cho' Ann replied humbly. "Promise me to make this world safe from the demons."

"So, gentlemen, I guess this is farewell." said Masai Genzo. "Let us meet back here when we all have our ultimate weapons."

"Mmm agreed." said Taishi. "I will definitely come back with the Thunder Sword, even if it takes years."

"I only need six months to claim mine." said Chu Yen.

The Four Brothers put their fists in the center and did a cheer, and wasting no time, set off on their individual journeys.

Chu Yen's claim was correct; he only took six months to get the Ice Sword and bring it back to China. In fact, all of them brought their designated weapons back within six months.

The Four Brothers met up at the mountain top where they left and sworn an oath of brotherhood. The four of them placed their newly found swords in the middle. "**All for one and one for all!**" Then they all raised their blades to the air.

Masai, Chu Yen, Taishi and Rajiun were fighting a horde of demons in the forest. Amongst them was a group of twenty swordsmen who volunteered to join them in the cause. Despite being outnumbered, they have the legendary swords at their disposal.

Froom A group of vampire demons just got burned to a crisp. "This Fire Sword is amazing! Cho' Ann is a man who lives up to his reputation!"

"True!" said Chu Yen. "But my Ice Sword is better!" He took a mighty swing, creating the Ice Blizzard, destroying a group of vampires. "You only killed thirty demons. But I killed thirty one."

"So it's a contest you want, eh?" replied Masai.

"There they go again." said Taishi.

"Whatever keeps them motivated." replied Rajiun.

The volunteer swordsmen ended up not doing much fighting, but rather witnessing the awesome power of the Four Brothers. "Wow, their power is unrivaled!" "I've never seen anything like it!" "Look at Taishi's Thunder Wave!" "I prefer Genzo's Heat Wave!" "Yeah but nothing beats Chu Yen's Ice Blizzard!"

In half a day's time, they wiped out an entire horde of demons. The swordsmen praised the Four Brothers non-stop, marveling at their abilities. Soon, the word spread to all the major cities, then spilling over to the towns and smaller villages, and eventually reaching the ears of warlords.

The fall of the Han Dynasty changed nearly everything in the country, affecting the poorest peasants and the richest warlords. There was no unified army any longer, and that means no law and order. Demons from the wilderness started attacking villages at the border, causing a need for bounty hunters and martial artists to defend them. Power went to individual warlords who controlled provinces with their private armies. Warlords would fight each other for control over territories. During the **Demon-Human War**, at any given time there were at least twenty provinces.

This system was fragile, however, and will not last. A warlord's income is primarily from taxes. Citizens who are attacked by demons received no protection and refused to pay taxes. Other citizens refused to pay out of spite. Nobles received no respect nor did armies, the ones who received the most respect were martial arts schools and the martial artists they produced. During this chaotic time, people romanticized heroes. Stories were written about them, songs were sung, and plays were shown. Out of all the heroes, four of them stood out above the rest...the Four Brothers of China.

There is not a soul who has not heard of Masai Genzo with the Fire Sword, Chu Yen with the Ice Demon, Taishi Tze with the Thunder Sword, and Rajiun Ruong with the Wind Sword. Just a mention of their name garners respect from martial artists, other swordsmen admire them, and women gasp at their very presence. Only Taishi enjoys being popular with women, however. Masai Genzo is focused on doing what is right, while Chu Yen is obsessed on

surpassing Masai. No one knows what Raijun's preference is, as he never talks about himself.

The warlords recognize this, and begin to capitalize on it. If they force their citizens to pay taxes, there will be rebellions, which is not good for the citizens nor the warlords. So they formed alliances with the members of the Four Brothers. Four such nobles whose provinces were next to each other agreed to have Chu Yen as their leader. The people were willing to listen to Chu Yen, as his name garnered respect amongst the populace. This became a win-win situation; Chu Yen gets a high position, equal to a king, while the nobles kept their land and taxes. Thus, this is how the land became divided: Chu Yen runs the Red Province, Masai Genzo rules the Blue Province, Taishi rules the White Province and Raijun oversees the Purple Province.

One day, in the old city of **Seiruun**, a soldier was harassing a girl on the street. He was holding her arm while she tried to get away. "Come on baby, let's go on a date."

"Let me go, you jerk!" she pushed him away, and made a run for it.

He grabbed her hand. "You refuse me? It's a privilege you won't get in ten lifetimes."

Suddenly, a tomato was thrown at the soldier's face. "Who dares?"

The man who did it was a friend of the girl, and the girl ran to him and hid behind him.

"Don't go around and harass whoever you feel like." yelled the young man.

The soldier approaches him. "How dare you...do you know who I am? I am a Red Soldier!"

"Tch. Just because you're a Red Soldier doesn't mean you can do as you please. The Red Army is supposed to protect the citizens."

The soldier became more displeased. "You insolent..." He drew a sword and pointed it at that man's neck. "Assaulting an officer like me is a crime."

The girl shrieked and the man grew nervous. "If you're going to arrest me, do it. Leave her out of this."

"You have no say in the matter." A hand touched the troop's shoulder. "What is it?" Upon seeing one of the Four Brothers, his attitude quickly changed. "Master Genzo."

"Let them go. A Red Soldier like you can be forgiving, can't you?"

"B-But he assaulted me."

"A tomato in the face can hardly be called an assault. Maybe he wanted to give you free food? These people are my friends. Give me face and let them go." said Genzo.

"Yes, my lord." The troop turned to the girl and the young man. "You're in luck today." With that, he walked away.

The girl and her protector thanked Genzo a dozen times. Genzo, however, remained modest and insisted they do not need to pay him back.

Later on, Genzo confronted Chu Yen regarding the matter. "Yen, you are getting too arrogant. Your soldiers are becoming like you."

"I don't know what you're talking about." Chu replied. "We have agreed to split the country into four sections, and each one of us will rule our own section. I know how to govern my section, the Red Province."

"And you have done a poor job, Yen. Your soldiers are spoiled and arrogant, and they show no regard for the well being of the people. Your leadership is lacking and it is being revealed in the morale of the Red Soldiers."

Chu turned around. "Tch, listen Genzo, you have no right to tell me how to govern my territory. You worry about running your territory. I do not need you to teach me how it is done." He walked away, leaving a bitter feeling between them.

That was merely one incident in which those bitter feelings were revealed. Chu Yen and Genzo have often argued in front of Rajun and Taishi. Genzo usually has the final say because he is the senior and he is wiser than Chu is, which makes Chu frustrated.

Chu sat by the window in the dark, looking out the tower. He was extremely displeased with Genzo, who happens to be the leader of the Brotherhood. He feels superior to the other three, and feels that Genzo is holding him back. (How dare he...trespass into my territory? I have had it with Genzo.)

One day, Chu Yen received an invite to drink tea with a noble from the Red Province. They both sat down while a servant brought them tea. "To what do I owe the pleasure, Lord Furin Yi?"

But **Furin Yi** is actually Ko-Rashm disguised as a member of the Yi Household, his future self will become **Liu Zhang**. "Please, don't be so formal. Call me Furin, Sir Chu Yen."

"Very well, Furin. You have something to propose to me?" Chu Yen is a swordsman at heart and is not good at small talk.

Furin smiled. "Straight to the point, I see, just as the rumors say. Are you satisfied with playing governor for the Red Province? No wait, should I say magistrate? Or..."

"I don't have an official title. I am just here to run this region and keep the peace and the Red Province is just a temporary name, I know that much."

"Don't you want something bigger? Like being the general of **all** four provinces, or even a king?" asked Furin.

Chu Yen raised an eyebrow. "What are you getting at?"

Furin said, "I heard that Masai Genzo is doing pretty well with his Blue Province. Some say he's doing better than you."

He banged his fist on the table, and Furin knew he was on the mark. "I'm going to cut the tongues off whoever is spreading these rumors. I am stronger than smarter than Master Genzo."

Furin said, "You certainly are. If we team up you will get a chance to prove yourself. I am allies with many warlords near and far. I have the power to change the political map of our kingdom...but not without your name. After all, you are a hero of the ages."

"I'll consider it." The swordsman finished his tea.

"I knew I came to the right man. Here." He handed Chu Yen a map. "Meet me here and we'll discuss further."

"What the hell is this?" said Chu Yen. "How do I know this isn't a trap?"

"Even if it is, is someone of your caliber afraid of a measly trap set up by a lord like me? You wouldn't pass up an opportunity to surpass Genzo." With that said, Furin left the room.

Chu Yen crushed the map in his hand. Furin read him like a book...he is clearly being led on...yet it is as Furin said, he will not pass up this chance.

Chu covered his eyes from the fierce sand hitting his face. He was in a desert with a sandstorm looming in the background. As if that is not dangerous enough, there was a horde of sand and vampire demons in front of him. These creatures walked slowly, with their mouths ajar and saliva drooling. Chu took a mighty swing of his Ice Sword. "Ice Storm!" In an instant, all the demons were either killed or frozen. "Is Furin Yi really at a place like this?" He walked into the sand dust.

"Wait, do not go too far ahead!" said Taishi. Alas, it was too late, Chu has already disappeared from visible sight.

Chu covered his eyes as he moved, each step was difficult due to sand and the strong winds. "Ugh..." Suddenly, the sand dust cleared and he could see again. Before him stood a man in a yellow gown with a lord's hat. "Furin Yi...or Ko-Rashm. Whatever your name is. You are still alive in the middle of a sand storm and an army of demons. Who exactly are you?"

Furin replied, "The answer is easy. I am a demon." He drew his sword. "Now, let me see your skills that you boast about."

Chu snickered. "Alright but don't regret it, old man." He drew his Ice Sword, stood in fighting stance, and his sword glowed white.

Taishi just finished off another demon. *Slash* "Where is Chu Yen? We must find him!" But his soldiers had enough to deal with - the sand storm and the demons. They were not able to move forward to look for their ally.

The Ice Sword was on the ground as well as Chu, who had a look of shock on his face. His eyes were shaking as everything he ever believed in was shattered. "No...I lost? How? How is this possible?"

"Hmmm. Do not blame yourself. I have much more experience than you."

"How many styles did you just use? Three? Four?"

"I used four styles. But I actually know one hundred sword styles!"

Chu was more shocked. "One hundred!? Unbelievable."

"I said I will help you surpass Masai Genzo. If you want to find out how, follow me." Furin turned around and walked away using the Zanzoken. Seconds later, he vanished into the sand.

Chu got off his behind and ended up on his knees, his hand reaching out. "Wait..." He snatched the Ice Sword and stuck it back into its sheath. He ran after Furin.

After the Betrayal

Masai said, "Alright. It is time for me to make the proposal again. Now that the demons are not a problem anymore, our ultimate weapons are too powerful to use. We should put them all in one place for storage." He placed the Fire Sword on the table.

Chu Yen placed the Ice Sword next to the Fire Sword. "I agree."

"Oh. You changed your mind, Chu?" said Taishi.

"It's pointless to argue with Masai. He always gets his way. But this is just temporary. If I need the Ice Sword I will come back to claim it."

Taishi sighed and placed the Thunder Sword on the table. "Very well. I can rest easier knowing that my weapon is being safeguarded."

Raijun put his Wind Sword on the table. "If everyone agrees then I consent."

And thus, all four brothers have agreed to Masai Genzo's proposal to keep the Ultimate Swords inside a safe room and four keys were made, each given to one of the brothers.

Genzo was walking peacefully along the road, and suddenly, Red Soldiers appeared in front of him. Behind him, two other troops appeared. Chu Yen revealed himself. "Where are you going, Masai Genzo?"

"Yen, what is the meaning of this?"

"Funny, I should be asking you that question. Where have you taken the other three ultimate swords?"

"Stolen? What are you talking about?"

"You dare betray the Four Brothers. You are a disgrace, Masai."

Genzo suddenly realized what Chu was up to. "You are framing me for stealing them? That is low, even for you, Yen!"

Chu smiled. "Hand over the swords or else..."

The troops pointed their swords at him and stepped forward. Genzo drew the Fire Sword and fought his way through. *Slash* He ran away.

"After him!" Chu yelled. "Get that traitor!"

Someone blew the whistle and more soldiers appeared and they chased after the fugitive with the glowing Fire Sword.

That night, Chu Yen came upon the safe room located in their headquarters. Chu Yen ordered the soldiers to allow himself into the building, which was all part of his Furin Yi's plan. He unlocked the door with the key and went inside.

There were four safety vaults made of metal with a lock and chain tied around it. The Fire Sword and Ice Sword were already taken out, so that leaves two vaults left to open. He pointed the Ice Sword at the lock and it became frozen and all he had to do it was cut it open. He took out the Thunder Sword inside its sheath. He walked over to the Wind Sword's vault and froze the lock and cracked it open. He took out the Wind Sword and inside its sheath.

Furin came into the room where Chu was standing before a table with the ultimate swords laid out. "Hoho, well done, Chu Yen. Your plan worked out."

"Heh. Now Masai is out of the way **and** we have the three elemental swords. We are invincible now!" He pulled the Thunder Sword out of its sheath and examined it closely. "Such power...I've always wondered what it would be like to have the power of thunder in my hands." Then he pulled out the Wind Sword and examined it closely. His face grimaced and he became silent.

"What's the matter?" asked Furin Yi. "The Wind Sword is a fake! The design is slightly different and I can sense this one doesn't have any sorcery!" He tossed it on the table like it was trash. "Damn it Raijun, he tricked us! He never trusted us to begin with."

"Raijun is a crafty one. He must have sensed something was wrong and gave you the fake Wind Sword."

Chu said slammed his palms on the table. "Now we have to hunt down Masai and Raijun, goddamn it."

Furin said, "You focus on hunting down Masai, leave Raijun to me."

Chu Yen and his army of Red Soldiers chased Masai across several cities, giving him no time to rest. He eventually made it into the Valley and hid there. The soldiers were hot on his trail and followed him there but they were all slaughtered. This Valley will later be known as the Valley of Death, a place that no one dares step foot in because whoever enters forfeits their life. And Masai Genzo's name will be forgotten due to the passage of time.

Clan-clan-clan The two swordsmen pushed their blades into each other and jumped back. They both bowed and unsheathed their swords.

"Phew, that was a good workout!" said **Pakchu**.

"You're just around my level Pakchu, and that makes you the ideal training partner." said his fellow swordsman.

Both of them went to the well to get water to freshen up. "Hey Tomei, don't you ever wonder if there's enough time to learn swordcraft?" said Pakchu.

"Not enough time?" asked his friend.

"Look at us, we are in our twenties and we have yet to master one style. But in this world, there are hundreds, maybe a thousand sword styles. It is impossible to learn it all in one lifetime. Compared to the knowledge of the world, a human life is too short...like that of an insect."

"Mmmm I get what you're saying Pakchu, but I'd rather focus on one style rather than be a jack of all trades. A single person is not meant to master more than one style."

Pakchu was not deterred, but even more enthusiastic. "But there are legendary heroes from the Tin Dynasty who have mastered multiple sword styles! And there's this barbarian from the Chou Dynasty who was a genius and he mastered four styles, surpassing everyone's expectations! There is so much to learn out there. I can never be satisfied with going to one martial arts school my whole life."

Tomei gave a hearty smile. Although they are both around the same skill level, Pakchu's enthusiasm for sword styles is unrivaled, and perhaps one day he will surpass Tomei.

In this martial arts school, Pakchu was known as an eccentric. He would talk about swordcraft to his peers even during breaks. He practiced swordcraft non-stop, more than his peers, even to the brink of exhaustion. He would sleep and dream about swordcraft. But his peers accepted him for who he is, that is what makes him so fun to be around.

Pakchu would read martial arts books from around the world and present new ideas to his master. The master is already used to Pakchu's passion and he would nod and smile as he listened. And that is how this young swordsman lived for the first twenty five years of his life; he eats and breathes swordcraft and feels he never has enough time to learn it all.

One day, a building was set ablaze. Everyone panicked and ran all over the place. A few men, Tomei included, carried buckets of water to put out the flames. One guy shouted: "My son is still in there!"

Pakchu stared at the flames and clenched his fists. "I'll get your son!"

"Don't do it!" Tomei shouted.

Of course, Pakchu ignored his friend's warning and charged into the **burning** building.

After running through several rooms, he found a small child cowering in the corner. He grabbed the child in one arm and covered his face with his other arm. *Froom* The flames swallowed up everything and pieces of wood were falling from the ceiling. He made a run for it. *Doosh doosh* Suddenly, a large plank fell on top of him.

"Run child!" shouted Pakchu.

The child, upon seeing the exit just one room down, ran while screaming. He made it back to his father. But Pakchu was stuck under the plank and unable to move. The flames made their way to the plank and towards him, and set his body ablaze. He screamed in agony. He has never experienced pain like this before in his life...he was being devoured by the **flames of hell**.

Tomei saw what happened and worked even harder to get the water. The men kept pouring buckets of water on the fire and eventually put out most of the fire. They charged into the building to recover Pakchu...he was alive but unrecognizable...

Pakchu was lying in bed, tucked under a blanket. Nearly his entire body was wrapped in bandages, including his face. His whole body was in dire pain every moment. Even holding a cup hurt his hands.

A doctor came in to examine him. He showed no emotion on his face whatsoever.

"Please, doctor, how is my condition?"

"I am sorry to say this but...you have second and third degree burns all over your body. I'm afraid you can never hold a sword again. Not only that, but you will have difficulty taking care of yourself..."

Pakchu's eyes opened wide and his jaw nearly dropped. "No...I am a swordsman. Swordcraft is my life!"

The doctor said, "I am terribly sorry. But there is nothing I can do. Even the best doctors in the empire cannot help you."

Pakchu put his hands in front of him to stare at his wrapped up palms. Even his fingers were wrapped up, with the exception of the tips and the ridges between the fingers. His skin was burned so bad that it was no longer skin that he recognized, it was a darkish brown color. He assumed that his entire body looked the same as his hands - burnt, ugly, and useless.

The doctor left the room so he could reflect in solitude. Because of one incident, his entire life was ruined. Not only does he have no chance to be with a woman, but he cannot even pursue his life's passion anymore. Even worse, in his condition he might not be able to take care of himself.

As he was bedridden, his head turned to the right to stare outside the window. Without swordcraft, his life is meaningless. He felt like the gods that he

once worshipped are laughing at him. Right now, he is no different than a corpse...so he might as well become one.

Shortly afterwards, a familiar scholar visited the swordsman. In Pakchu's memory, his face was a blank. He went straight to the window with his back facing Pakchu. "I heard the news. You have my condolences."

"The way I am now, I am no different than a vegetable." said Pakchu.

"I understand perfectly how you feel." said the scholar. "Your freedom was unfairly taken away from you."

"I am a liability to others. I can't even hold a sword." Pakchu started to cry. "There is no doctor that can fix this. Even if they can replace my skin...my hands...are still going to be useless!"

The scholar was still staring out the window. "I suppose that is all modern medicine can do. Conventional methods do not work because your body is damaged too badly. But what about unconventional methods?"

"Unconventional?" he repeated.

"What if I told you that you can still recover without any doctors?"

"Is such a thing possible?" Pakchu was still full of tears, but his sadness was replaced by curiosity.

"There is, but there is a price to pay. That price is your humanity. In return, you will get everything you want...and more."

Pakchu sat up and faced the scholar. "I am willing to give up anything, including my humanity. What's the point of being human if I cannot even wield a sword?"

The scholar smirked. "That's what I thought you'd say. A man in your condition doesn't need convincing." Then he turned towards Pakchu. "You can throw away this old life and start a new life, just as the **phoenix** is reborn from the ashes! You can become a demon! A few burns will mean nothing to you. You will be stronger and become immortal."

"Can you really do this for me?"

"Of course. I myself am a demon. I have been alive for several hundred years. To become a demon, all you need is to drink a demon's blood." The scholar proceeded to cut his wrist and let his blood drip into a bowl. Once the bowl was half full, he placed it on the desk next to Pakchu's bed. After that, the scholar left the room.

Pakchu stared at the bowl of red blood. This proposal was too good to be true, yet he must take it. His former life is over, and what is ahead is only a life of misery and despair. But within that bowl is demon's blood, his new life, his new future.

Xiao was eating in some restaurant. Usually, she orders the first thing that comes to mind, and obviously, she does not require a menu.

One of the waiters was talking to the owner quietly. "Look at that girl over there, she's blind and can't see a thing." he whispered.

"And she is unaccompanied by anyone." said the owner. He was a typical bully type of person, overweight, had a big beard, and he generally is not nice to anyone. "Now's our chance to take advantage of her."

Xiao just finished her food and went to the counter to pay the bill.

"That'll be one gold coin please." said the owner.

"Here." she replied, handing him a gold coin from her bag.

He dropped it into the tray of coins. "Ma'am, I said it is one gold coin. You gave me a silver coin."

"I am sure I gave you a gold coin."

"No, I'm afraid not." said the owner, smiling greedily. You can't see, so I am doing you a favor and telling you that you gave me a silver one. You still owe me four more silver coins."

Xiao's expert reading ability made her understood what he was up to. The tone of his voice gave her indication that he is tricking her. "No, sir. I am sure I gave you a gold coin."

"Oh really? Do you have any proof of that?"

Xiao became speechless. The owner's motive is apparent by now.

The waiter came over. "Lady you better pay the bill. You know those who don't pay in full will have to be punished."

A man and a woman were having their meal, and they saw what was going on. "I feel bad for that poor lady." the woman whispered to her husband, "They're picking on her because she can't see."

The owner continued his false narrative: "It's a fact. How can you determine what kind of coin is it? That is why I am telling you what you gave me."

"Oh?" She took a silver coin out of her bag. "What if I can prove to you I can determine what coin I am holding without having to see it? Bronze coins are easy to tell apart because of their rough texture. Silver and gold differ in their weight. Gold is denser and thus it weighs more than silver coins. What I am holding is a silver coin, correct?"

The waiter and owner were surprised. "Yes, you're very talented, I see. But you gave me only a silver one. Perhaps you misjudged it? Everyone makes mistakes."

"Where did you put it?" asked Xiao.

"I put it in the tray with the other coins already. It's my word against yours. I am trying to be nice here. If you don't pay we will notify the police."

"When you dropped it into the tray, I can tell what kind of coin it was just by the sound alone." said Xiao.

"Huh? That's ridiculous." exclaimed the owner.

"Would you like me to prove it?" Xiao remained unfazed by his taunts, which made him more worried.

The other customers grew curious and some of them went over here to see what the commotion is about.

"Go ahead, throw any coin onto the table and I will tell you what it is."

The owner threw a bronze one onto the table. It bounced and made several cling noises.

"It is a bronze coin." she announced.

"Bah, you're just lucky. Anyone can do that."

"Then do it again."

He threw a silver coin onto the table. Cling, cling, cling.

"It is a silver one." Xiao announced. All the observers gasped. "Do you still think it is luck?" asked Xiao.

The owner threw some more coins, and sure enough, she named each one correctly.

"Silver! Gold! Gold! Bronze!"

The owner was sweating like a pig. "Why...you..."

Everyone was impressed with her performance and they clapped. With everyone on her side, the owner could not continue his false narrative.

"I hope that convinced you I paid my meal fully."

"Of course!" said he, sweating like a pig. "Actually you did give me a gold coin. I saw it wrong, that's all..."

"Unlike my eyes your eyes are fine, so did you see it wrong? Business is all about honesty. If you don't mind, I have to go now."

As Xiao walked down the empty hallway, she sensed two people stalking her. She turned around to face them. "What do you want?"

"You sure made a fool of our boss, didn't you, lady?" said Waiter A.

"I see, so you work for that rip-off restaurant."

"Now, just cooperate with us and give us your money." said Waiter B.

"That money belongs to me, fair and square!"

"Then you leave us no choice, lady." Waiter A pulled out a knife.

Xiao's eyebrows furrowed, she sensed he pulled out a small object, most likely a knife. He took a stab at her and she blocked with her walking stick.

Clank He took another swing and she stepped back and her back hit the wall.

Just now, everyone heard another voice. "Hoho, it takes two men to attack a blind girl? And you need weapons? Today's men are weak aren't they?"

Xiao listened carefully. His voice sounded was that of an old man's, in his fifties to seventies. But the unusual thing was she did not hear his footsteps... what could that mean?

"Mind your own business, old man!" said Waiter B.

Taishi stroked his beard. "Hohoho, I could say the same to you. What do you want with this girl?"

"Grrrr!" The waiter charged at him with the knife but stopped when a sword's tip touched his chin, causing him to panic.

"See this? This is a real weapon, called a sword. Your knife is for cutting vegetables. Mine is used for murder." Taishi took a couple of swings. *Whish whish* A second later, the waiter's shirt was cut in pieces. He gasped and fell backwards.

Waiter A threw his knife at him and Taishi slipped to dodge it. *Whip* "So you want to play rough, eh, old man?" The waiter drew his own sword.

"Oh you've done it now, raising a sword against the likes of me. You know what that means, right? It's a fight to the death."

"Quit your preaching, old man!" Waiter A attacked.

Needless to say, Taishi made short work of him. He knocked the sword out of the waiter's hands and stabbed him in the stomach. It was deep enough to damage an internal organ but not deep enough to kill him. Waiter A fell to his knees as he covered his wound.

"Now, never appear before me again or this girl again."

The two waiters got up and ran away in a cowardly way. Xiao picked up her stick. "Thank you, mister...ummm."

"You can call me Tze, Taishi Tze."

That name sounded familiar and as she jogged her memory her lips parted. Taishi Tze? He is **that** Taishi?

"You've got to be careful, young lady. There are a lot of scumbags in this town who wouldn't hesitate to bully a blind woman. It's a dog eat dog world."

"My name is Xiao Ye. Your moves...they were so quick."

"My moves? You can see them?"

"No I cannot see them, but I my own way of seeing things."

"Your senses are quite sharp. Well then..." Taishi was about to walk away.

"Wait. Please teach me martial arts!"

Taishi was taken aback. "What? What's this all of a sudden?"

Xiao got on her knees and put down her stick. "Please take me as your student and teach me martial arts."

"Sorry, but I don't accept students..."

"Please, I'll do anything, Master Tze." She did a kowtow.

Taishi was embarrassed by her begging and did not know what to do. When he said he did not accept students, that was not true. He selectively accepted students from the Council but has never helped anyone outside of the group. Earlier, Xiao mentioned she could "see" his movements and that piqued his curiosity. Her senses, especially hearing, were keen, so what would happen if she learned martial arts? She could be a prodigy of blind kind...a blind prodigy.

“Alright...”
Xiao lifted her head up. “Thank you Master Tze!”
“But my training will be strict. You will be tired, injured, and might even die.”

“I’m ready for anything. Like you said, this is a dog eat dog world, and being blind in this city means eventually I’ll die.”

Ever since that day, she has been learning martial arts, particularly the Walking Crane from Master Tze. She always wanted to learn martial arts for self defense but could never afford a master. And to have met a famous master under such circumstances was truly her lucky day.

World Background

Contents

It has been fifty years into the Liu Dynasty, after the end of the Han Dynasty, and warriors of the past have fought hard for peace. But peace never lasts long. Demons lurks in the shadows, and they strike unexpectedly. They have been plotting a conspiracy to take over the Liu Dynasty for fifty years, and just when they almost succeeded, enters a man named Shun Alex Cheng who slays Duke Xiang.

After becoming the official “Demon Slayer,” Cheng enjoys a life of luxury...or so he thought. Now he’s the target of every demon assassin out there – and so is his sister, whom he still searches for.

Things escalate when a mysterious assassin shows up from nowhere, named “The Messenger of Death” – a killer mentioned in folklores all around China. And this man is after Cheng for his own reasons. Will Alex Cheng survive this grueling battle of endurance and skill?

Unit of money

Tael (coins of bronze, silver and gold)

1 bronze coin = 1 tael

1 silver coin = 5 taels

1 gold coin = 10 taels

Technology

Writing - Back in the day, pens were not invented, so people had to right with brushes and ink.

Communication - is done via messenger pigeons

Terminology

Air breaker

When a swordsman swings his sword and creates air pressure in the form of a wave, like a shockwave. It can be seen and can hit someone from far away. The better the swordsman, the better the air breaker.

The spice aka Purple Dragon

The spice refers to the Purple Dragon Poison. The spice has to be extracted from the herbs, and put into a soup. One someone takes one sip of the spice, they will become addicted. The cure for this addiction is to go cold turkey...but it is very difficult.

Heaven's Eye

When there's a dispute for ascension to the throne, the two candidates fight each other. The winner gets the throne. It also applies to any position of power, such as the headmaster of the Heaven's Council. It's a concept that dates back to the Chou Dynasty whom believed that strength is more important than anything.

Operation Dragonfly

Lord Yu and Lord Zhang and other lords combine their forces to take the imperial palace back from the Duke. The objectives are twofold - kill the Duke and rescue the concubine Lady Ce.

Red Feather Rebellion

A coup e'tat planned by the cunning Liu Zhang and led by Chu Yen. He secretly recruited soldiers to his cause and have them identify each other by a red feather. Once the coup e'tat begins, anyone without a red feather is killed. He used this strategy during the Han Dynasty...which caused the fall of the dynasty. Unfortunately, the second time he failed because Lord Yu discovered his plot early on. He had every single person searched and if they have a red feather in their possession, they were killed.

Operation Dragonclaw

Lord Yu, Sima, and Fei combine their forces and they form an alliance with the Heaven's Council to deal with their biggest threat, Liu Zhang, aka the Dragon. It was named as such because they wanted to clip the dragon's claws. Many key players were present, including Taishi Tze and Chu Yen.

Operation Angel Wings

A covert operation led by Tai and Vincent to rescue Lady Ce (the angel) and Xiao Ye from the clutches of Zhao Zen, a captain of Leinwan's general. First they needed to travel by boat and sneak past security, then break into General Tsai's complex while he was away.

Operation Fire and Blood

Led by commander Alex Cheng, the imperial forces break into the Heaven Council's complex to capture or kill Zhong Duo, who was a threat to the kingdom. Vincent's faction of the Council joined their forces. With Lord Huong's backing, Zhong Duo received all his troops and barbarian tribes from the north.

The War in the North

A war between Shen and Leinwan over disputed territory in the northern most lands. Some battles took place in the snowy lands. This is where the Ice Hunter made his name for killing countless soldiers, becoming a war hero. Neither side gained an advantage so a truce was called between King Liu Bei and King Lumen

Contents

Heaven's Wrath Style	
A style that originated from the Chao Dynasty	
Known users	Alex, Li, Shen Long, Sui Long, Master Genzo, Chu Yen
Moves	Heaven's Light, Heaven's Retribution, Infinity Circle, Phoenix Palm, Melody of the Celestial Maidens

Eagle Style	
A style developed from the Leinwan Kingdom.	
Known users	Liu Cao, General Tsai, Zhao Zen

Dance of the Sword	
A two-handed style that incorporates fighting with dancing moves. It is pleasing to the eyes and deadly at the same time, often used for assassination.	
Known users	Celina Ce, Fa Kay, Fei Tenten, Shao Chonqqin
Moves	1st form - Dance of the Tiger

	2nd form - Dance of the Lion 3rd form - Dance of the Eagle Hidden form - Dance of the Phoenix (Celina) Final form - Dance of the Dragon Final form - Dance of the Flying Dragon (Chonqqin)
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Dance of the Fan	
A style developed by a woman. Users hold two steel fans. Although the reach is lacking compared to a sword, it's lighter and faster. Also one can throw the fans like boomerangs.	
Known users	Vincent Chan, Celina Ce

Shadow Style	
Nothing is known	
Known users	Black Reaper, Li Cheng
Moves	Shadow Puppet, Shadow Walk

Walking Crane	
A style founded by Taishi, but later revealed it is based on the Praying Mantis Style	
Known users	Taishi Tze, Xiao Ye, Cho, Shu Tai
Praying Mantis	
An ancient style from the Chao Dynasty	
Flying Crane	
A variation of the Walking Crane, used by different branches of the Council	
Southern Crane	
A variation of Walking Crane, used mainly in the southern provinces	
Northern Crane	
A variation of Walking Crane, used mainly in the northern provinces	

Imperial Swordcraft	
It doesn't have an official name, it is the style taught in the Shen imperial army training camp	
Known users	Captain Tai, all soldiers in the army

Misc Styles	
Nothing is known	
Known users	Liu Zhang
Moves	Zanzoken (after image)

Legendary/Ultimate Swords	
Fire Sword	
Known users	Master Genzo, Alex Cheng
Moves	Heat Wave, Fire Storm, Fire Dragon
Ice Sword	
Known users	Chu Yen, Rubble the Ice Hunter, Li Cheng
Moves	Ice Blizzard, Ice Storm, Ice Dragon
Thunder Sword	
Known users	Taishi, Ekin, Xiao Ye
Moves	Thunder Wave, Thunder Storm, ???
Wind Sword	
Known users	Raijun
Moves	Wind Slicer, Wind Tunnel, Tornado Attack
Water Sword	

Known users	Raizo
Moves	Water Slicer

Dynasties

Contents

Xia Dynasty	
History	Is said to be the first dynasty, but no proof of it exists, thus it remains a legend.

Chao Dynasty	
History	It is the oldest known dynasty in recorded history. It lasted for a few hundred years. The Chao Dynasty was established after the demons were driven out from China, so it is said that this is the first true civilization of unified China. They ruled with an iron fist.
Facts	At this time, the following styles were founded: Heaven's Wrath, Praying Mantis Old palace is located in Yi-Hing

Tin Dynasty	
History	Tired of the Chao family's violent ways, they gathered an army and rebelled against the powerful Chao.
Facts	Old palace located in Shu city of Chengdu

Han Dynasty	
History	They overthrew the Tin Family from the inside and took power. Unfortunately, they were weak and eventually their kingdom fell apart, leading to the Demon-Human War.
Facts	Old palace located in Seiruun

Demon-Human War	
History	The country was divided into dozens of territories run by different warlords, each with their own armies. During the Demon-Human War, martial artists were valued over anything else. The Four Brothers teamed up with warlords to create four different provinces.
Facts	Chu Yen ran the Red Province, Masai Genzo ran the Blue Province, Taishi ran the White Province, and Raijun ran the Purple Province
Blue Province capital	Yi Ling
Red Province capital	Seiruun
White Province capital	Chengdu
Purple Province capital	Beifong

Four Kingdoms Dynasty	
History	After the Demon-Human War which lasted 20 years, China was divided into four kingdoms ruled by four different royal families.
Facts	Shen and Chiri built their own palaces, while other Leinwan and Shu used palaces from old dynasties
Capital of Shen	Yi Ling
Capital of Leinwan	Seiruun
Capital of Shu	Chengdu
Capital of Chiri	Beifong

Chao Dynasty's Rise and Fall

At this time, the land known as China was in total chaos. Demon hordes attacked undefended villages and the people fight to survive. The Chao clan was able to get a unified army together. Slowly, they formed an alliance with other clans and eventually became a kingdom. The Chao's were known for their

cruelty and ruled with an iron fist. They spared no one - women, children and old people.

People grew tired of their violence and cruelty and the Tin clan took advantage of the situation to form a committee. It was called the Heaven's Council because they believe heaven will bring justice to the kingdom. Their rebellion started in the cities where the corrupt magistrates did not know how to handle it. The Tin gathered a large enough army to attack the capital and took over. The entire Chao family was executed.

The new dynasty established a period of peace and prosperity but it did not last long. The Han clan was in alliance with the Tin but secretly they wanted to be the rulers. They plotted for many years and unlike the Tin, the Hans took over from the inside. The coup d'état lasted several days without much bloodshed.

Unfortunately, the Hans were not good at ruling and they faced many problems. Outer cities did not support the Hans because they were still loyal to the Tins. The kingdom was riddled with famines, starvation and plagues. The dynasty came to an end when Han Tien committed suicide, leaving his ten year old son to inherit the throne. Soon afterwards, the kingdom fell apart. Things returned to the way they were before the Chao Dynasty.

Locations

Contents

Shen Kingdom	
Provinces	Gansu Province, Yunnan Province
History	Founded by Liu Shen's army, he had a dream of creating a utopia. While a warrior, he was not good at politics which led to corruption in the ranks. The current ruler is Liu Bei, who has a half brother Liu Cao, who went to Leinwan.
Rulers	Liu Shen, Liu bei, Liu Zhang, Liu Cao

Major Cities	Yi Ling, Yi Ting, Yi Ping, Yi Howan, Yi Hing
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Shu Kingdom	
Provinces	Chubei Province, Guangzhou Province, Guangdong Province
History	Ruled by King Henan. This is where the Assassin Lodge resides, as well as the Red Lotus Sect.
Major Cities	Chengdu

Leinwan Kingdom	
Provinces	Yumen Province
History	This one is the furthest west of the four kingdoms, so it is called the “land to the west” by the other kingdoms. They have trading routes to Europe and thus they adopt some of the west’s culture, including their sword styles. The capital is Seiruun. Their current king is Lumeng.
Major Cities	Seiruun

Chiri Kingdom	
Provinces	Hubei Province
History	Raijun visited this kingdom and stayed for a while. King Tantan has an advisor that’s a sorceress and is said to use black magic to keep people in check.
Major Cities	Beifong, Beiping

Yi Ling

This is the capital of Shen, a prosperous city with a strong presence of soldiers and police. The economics are controlled by Liu Zhang and the police force is run by Lord Yu.

Imperial Complex

The largest building structure in the kingdom, a maze like structure that has several parts. There is the residential area, where lords and ladies would live in. There is a commoner's area where servants and guards resided. And there's the royal hall, where the king would sit on his throne and have meetings.

The Marketplace

Alex lives near the marketplace, a place he goes to every day to visit his friend Jade, who owns a jewelry store here. This is a busy place where people buy food and entertainment items.

Yi Ting

Known as the commoner's paradise, the standard of living is pretty decent compared to other cities. One of the major attractions in the entertainment district is the Mu Fa Theatre.

Mu Fa Theatre

The place where Celina grew up. Fa Kay was the manager and she recruited Celina to be a dancer. She also taught her swordcraft starting an early age.

Yi Ping

The city near the sea as well as the located furthest west. It is guaranteed that if there was a war with the western kingdom, this city will be attacked first by sea.

Note: these cities were named after Liu Shen's generals. Liu Shen is the founder of the Shen Kingdom. He established it after he had driven out the Four Brothers.

Yi Howan

The northernmost and coldest city of the entire kingdom. It snows often and is winter most of the year. It is the last city to enter before going to the Tairanian Mountains.

Yi Hing

A city that has the old palace used by the Chao Dynasty, located in a northern province owned by Liu Zhang

Valley of Death

The place where the War God resides. He was Master Genzo and there was a large bounty on his head set by Chu Yen. He killed bounty hunter after bounty hunter, year after year until they forgot his original name. They called him the War God and warned others not to enter the valley. Over the years, mercenaries still try to challenge him, not for the bounty, but for glory.

Temple of Enlightenment

A legendary temple that lies beyond the Valley of Death. It is a place said to heal all wounds, physical or otherwise. Monks train in the temple under the tutelage of the headmaster Ho Sai and his two teachers Guan Du and Chie Du.

Shared locations

Tairanian Mountains

A chain of mountains in the north that contain the spice. These mountains are shared between Shen and Shu.

Xanbei Mountains

Shared between Shen and Leinwan, this chain of mountains is where there are abominable snowmen...as well as Cho'Ann the legendary blacksmith.

Xizang or Xiyang Forest

One must cross this forest to get to Yi Ling from the Valley

Ninjiang Forest

A forest in the north of Shen

MeiXing Forest

A forest between Shen and Shu

Shu **Kingdom** Leinwan **Kingdom**

This is the capital of the kingdom. Just like Yi Ling, they have an imperial complex where the king holds his meetings.

Volumes 1 - 5 Contents

Council of Heaven		
Taishi Tze	Founder of Council of Heaven, Headmaster who carries all the orders	S
Elder Jong	One of four elders who runs the operations	T
Vincent Chan	Member of Council, fighter who uses steel fans	R

Cho Mei-Yang	Member of Council, best friend of Vincent	R
Xiao Ye	Jiang Ye's younger sister, student of Taishi, known as the "Blind Prodigy"	S
Tenma Tze	Taishi's nephew	A
Fung Ha aka Elder Ha	Leader of Seiruun branch, is an elder despite being under 40	A
Fang Mei-Yang	Cho's sister, member in Seiruun branch	R
Elder Jong	One of four elders who runs the operations	T

Four Brothers		
Ragnarok (Chu Yen)	Lord Zhang's henchmen, former comrade of Genzo	A
Taishi Tze	Founder of Council of Heaven, former comrade of Genzo	T
War God (Masai Genzo)	Former master of Chu Yen & mass murderer	S
Raijun Ruong	Owner of Wind Sword; current whereabouts unknown	A

The Liu Family		
Liu Bei	The benevolent king of the Shen Kingdom	R
Liu Zhao	Bei's father, former king	S
Liu Dao	Bei's mother, former concubine	R
Liu Shen	Bei's grandfather, founder of the kingdom	A
Liu Cao	Bei's half brother; son of Zho	A
Liu Zhang	A demon in disguise as Liu Zhang	T

All Demons		
Ko-Ragnarok	Chu Yen, turned because of his ambition and jealousy of	

	Master Genzo
Ko-Rashm	Liu Zhang, no one knows who turned him, possibly the Demon King himself
Ko-Raztul	Duke Xiang, he was recruited by Liu Zhang
Raz-Lejin	Jin Demos, a henchmen of Liu Zhang as a human and after he turned
Raz-Rojin	Roh Demos, he follows the same path as his brother
Xue Nu	Snow Lady, a demon who tried to turn Jade, using her jealousy and heartbreak
Ash-to-Nay	En Ko, a two hundred year old demon
Ash-Tul	Shao Chonqqin, turned by En Ko due his lust for power
Ash-Shinra	Raijun, turned because he was drawn to immortality
Ash-Tohrah	Tong Lian, turned due to greed and ambition

Imperial Army		
Shu Tai	General of the kingdom's army	T
Alex Cheng	Captain of the army	S
Lieutenant Hongba	Lieutenant of the navy	R

Nobles		
Lord Yu	A noble who is loyal to the king and a supporter of Alex	R
Lord Huong	A noble who is plotting to start a war between two rival kingdoms	T
Lord Sima	A noble who carries a fan all the time, a distant cousin of Liu Bei, from the branch of Liu Zho	S
Lord Fei	A noble who is a cousin of Liu Bei	S
Lord Chung	A noble with Liu family blood, from the branch of Liu Dae's family	A
Dumai	Magistrate of Yi Ting, the one who arrested Li's	S

	parents	
Du Mu	Magistrate of Yi Ping	A
Lau Mu	Magistrate of Yi Howan	T

Nobility of Shu and Chiri		
Name	Role	Type
Tantan Chiri	The King of Chiri	R
Shou'An Xi'an	Sorceress, advisor to King Tantan	T
Mal'Dozer Shu	The King of Shu	R
Ma'fuba	Sorcerer, advisor to the King of Shu	T

Past Characters		
Name	Role	Type
Dan Achai	Legendary hero from Han Dynasty, leader of Four Brothers	S-A
A'Chang the Immortal	Grand Vizier to the emperor, served Han Dynasty for 100 years, Liu Zhang's previous identity	
Han Tien	Current Han Emperor	
Han May Hu	Han Tien's son, 10 years old when he inherited the throne	
Chun Sai Man	Four Brothers, his mind's eye can tell if others are lying	
Lia Peiyi	Four Brothers, female swordsman	
Lord Shen	Liu Shen, an army general and one of top ten high lords	
Fang Fufu	A Dance of the Sword user, tasked to assassinate Lord Rastul, she is loved by Lord Sima	

Liu Zhang Section Contents	
History	<p>Known as the “Vanishing Warrior” because he has killed countless masters in his long lifetime but was never caught. His demon name is Ko-Rashm. Often if someone was killed and their killer is never found, they’d say it was the work of the Vanishing Warrior. He’d often get credit for kills he did not do.</p> <p>No one but himself knows how old he is. Estimates say he was born in the beginning of the Han Dynasty. He was a dedicated swordsman who was caught in a fire and became burnt and paralyzed for life. A demon in the form of a noble came to him to offer him immortality. Liu Zhang gladly accepted the offer, having nothing else to lose. He’s always worried about not having enough time to learn all the sword styles in the world.</p> <p>He climbed his way to the top through cunningness and scheming and plotting. He was a key advisor to Han Tien, the last emperor of the Han Kingdom. He plotted a rebellion as well as Han Tien’s assassination, causing the kingdom to crumble. Without a unified army, the land fell into chaos. Demons started coming in hordes and killing people. This was all part of Liu Zhang’s plan...create chaos and a feeding ground for demons.</p> <p>Later he noticed Chu Yen and wanted to turn him against the Brotherhood. After Liu Shen established the Shen Kingdom, Ko-Rashm killed the man known as Liu Zhang so he became Liu Zhang.</p>
Alias	<p>Ko-Rashm - demon name Pakchu - original name A’Chang the Immortal - advisor to Han Emperor Furin Yi - warlord in Red Province</p>
Appearance	<p>Black hair tied up to a bun, wears a lord’s hat Yellow robe with flowery pattern, long sleeves</p>
Hobbies	<p>Drinking tea, learning new sword styles, politics, gaining power, murder, plotting and scheming</p>
Personality	<p>Scheming, cunning, selfish and villainous. Deceptive, will hide his true skill for his plots, even if it means giving up the throne. Can see the bigger picture, has infinite patience because of his immortality.</p>
Likes & dislikes	<p>Lost interest in women a long time ago. Dislikes impatient people.</p>

Chu Yen Section Contents	
History	<p>After receiving the Ice Sword from the legendary blacksmith, he became one of the Four Brothers. Unlike the others, he is more ambitious and greedy and helped them only to further his pride and ego. When he realized he cannot surpass Genzo, Liu Zhang approached him with a promise to get stronger. He gladly accepted and betrayed the Brotherhood. He broke into the storage room and stole four of the legendary swords. But Genzo and Raijun knew what he was up to, and the Fire Sword and Wind Sword were replaced with fakes. Thus, he only stole the Thunder Sword, and the Ice Sword, which already belonged to him. Tasihi was away so his he was the only one who lost his legendary sword.</p> <p>After he decided to turn, he became Ko-Ragnarok. Liu Zhang is priming him to be a master swordsman and setting him up as the hero of the kingdom so the people would respect him. By having him murder the War God and giving him a name like Ragnarok, he will ascend to be a Hero of the Ages. Unfortunately, Alex Cheng unwittingly became a hero called the Demon Slayer and he has the Fire Sword, becoming a wedge in his plot.</p>
Appearance	Long black hair drapes down to shoulders, red headband Red robe with medium length sleeves, belt with yin yang symbol
Personality	Obsessed with surpassing Masai Genzo
Quirks	Obsessed with surpassing Masai Genzo
Likes & dislikes	Likes to gain power, dislikes Masai Genzo

Jing Cho'Ann	
History	The legendary blacksmith who forged the legendary swords - Fire Sword, Ice Sword, Thunder Sword and Wind Sword. He thought his creations would bring peace but saw how much death it caused, he gave up being a blacksmith and hid in the Tairanian Mountains.

Chow Sha'Uri	
History	Student of the legendary blacksmith Cho'Ann. He was too ambitious and thought himself better than his master. They had an argument and Sha'Uri left, saying he will create his own sword. He created the Water Sword but it was defective. Raizo used the Water Sword to combat Alex's Fire Sword but it broke, proving that Sha'Uri was wrong.

Xiao Ye	
History	A girl who's been blind for half her life, she learned martial arts from Master Taishi to defend herself. She also developed several skills to ensure her survival, such as the mind's eye, as well as superhuman hearing. She is basically a walking lie detector. The only ones that can trick her mind's eye are pathological liars.
Appearance	Long hair drapes down to her lower back, knot in the middle Usual attire is normal clothing women wear in her country, conservative but not too strict.
Special abilities	Superhuman hearing, mind's eye. Can make dolls as a hobby and a job.
Personality	Timid but not as extreme as Celina. Cheerful, very polite, will bow to show gratitude. Hides her anger. She is either calm or extremely angry, there is nothing in between.
Quirks	When meeting someone for the first time, she touches their face to "see" what they look like. When extremely angry, will turn into a cold blooded killer
Likes & dislikes	Likes men who are honest and loyal. Lying it is an instant turn off. Looks don't matter for obvious reasons. Must have a voice that is masculine, soothing and passionate.

Li Cheng	
History	She was once an innocent teenage girl who was only good at doing chores like cleaning and laundry. She used to take on jobs as a servant to different households until she was chosen to work at the imperial palace. But things went south, as the story

	goes. She is now a swordsmen who carries Master Genzo's legacy, as well as a ninja who carries the legacy of the Black Reaper.
Appearance	Pony tail, average female height As Fo Long, wore priest clothes, a black mask and a straw hat. As a ninja, wears black leather suit with zipper at the front, belt with sword
Special abilities	Can detect if others are following her. Is a master of stealth, can sneak into houses and rob them. Knows the Shadow Puppet.
Personality	A swordsman with a one track mind: strength above all else. Tends to be a loner. Will talk down to others if they appear weak, have no resolve, or too carefree.
Quirks	Likes to sit on rooftops to stare the big city or at the sky
Likes & dislikes	She prefers men that are strong, someone whose level is beyond hers, but obviously not evil. Hates playboys and lazy men.

Celina Ce	
History	She was an orphan until she was taken in by Master Fa as a teen. Since then she learned to dance and perform on stage. Secretly, Master Fa would teach her how to use a sword. One day, the king himself went to the Mu Fa theatre upon getting a recommendation from a high lord. After seeing Celina's performance, he became infatuated with her and decided to take her as his concubine. Celina reluctantly accepted and started to live in the palace ever since.
Appearance	Pale skin, pony tail Normal attire is a white qipao with flat toeless shoes. As a dancer she'd wear a colorful robe with a ribbon around the arms
Special abilities	Can play the politics game. One of the best dancers in the kingdom. Sometimes her dreams can be clairvoyant.
Hobbies	Since women, especially concubines cannot be seen with a sword, she did not get to practice. While the king spent his time at meetings, Celina would be bored so she spent much time at the imperial library. She'd read books on subjects like politics, biology, and art and also wrote letters to her pen pal Liu Cao.

Personality	Shy, timid, dislikes loud people, dislikes drinking and violence. Loving and loyal, follows her passions. Can give encouragement when she's feeling up to it.
Quirks	Tends to over think and worry. Wonders if she's a burden. Needs encouragement and attention constantly. When she feels unsure or ashamed, she looks at the floor.
Likes & dislikes	She likes men that are passionate and hard working. Likes to watch Alex train, even for hours at a time.

Alex Cheng	
Appearance	Silver hair with red headband, sharp eyes. A red robe with a yin yang symbol on the chest, a belt with a sword
Hobbies	Because of an injury, he could not use a sword. He'd spend his time reading books on subjects like politics, economics, and martial arts
Personality	At first glance, he appears bland, but he shines when he has a mission. A workaholic with discipline, will train non-stop. Humble and prefers to live a simple life. It took time to get used to people calling him Sir Cheng. Spent a lot of time wondering about his older sister.
Quirks	Likes to sit by a window and stare blankly into the sky, a habit he developed as a kid
Likes & dislikes	Likes women who are loyal and kind. Dislikes men who treat women poorly.

Taishi Tze	
Appearance	Long white beard Plain gray uniform with long sleeves, flat shoes
Hobbies	Drinking tea, teaching others martial arts
Personality	A hearty old man who appears carefree but is dedicated to his mission, a perfect blend of yin and yang. He is a strict teacher, but treats all Council members like his family. Claims to be a playboy when he was younger.

Quirks	Strokes his beard while thinking. Tends to joke with bad timing. No one understands his sense of humor.
Likes & dislikes	Dislikes traitors, thieves, rapists, and anything dishonorable.

Vincent	
Appearance	Medium sized black beard, small mustache. White robe with long sleeves, decorative hat.
Hobbies	Playing Chinese chess, studying strategy, breaking conventions and norms
Special abilities	Learned Dance of the Fan from a female teacher, then developed it into his own style.
Personality	Type R: Values his Council comrades like family, a studious martial artist. Eager to learn new ideas and does not believe in gender roles. Considered to be a 'queer' by society's standards because of his high pitched voice.
Likes & dislikes	Likes strong independent women

Liu Cao	
Appearance	Young man with blue hair Golden armor with red cape
Personality	Type T: analytical, eager to learn, disciplined. As a king, rules with an iron fist. Values intelligence and results. Believes in ability over nobility. Sometimes level headed, sometimes egotistical.
Quirks	Prefers that friends like Celina and Alex do not kneel, it's a waste of time
Likes & dislikes	Thinks women are only for breeding. Likes women that are submissive, obedient and do not question him

Organizations

Contents

Council of Heaven aka Heaven's Council
Secrecy Meeting locations change from time to time Passwords change from time to time Password from volumes 3-5: Can birds fly up to heaven? Only Angels can fly that high. Password from volumes 7-9: There was once a man who dreamt he was a butterfly...and upon waking up, wondered if he was a butterfly dreaming he's a man Password from volumes 10-12: What is reality? Reality is just another illusion, but a very persistent one
Ranks Headmaster - there can be only one headmaster, this person is in charge of all branches in four kingdoms Elder - the leader of each branch Senior - Trusted members who are commanders of Members and Recruits Member - The core of the group, one is a member after initiation Recruit - Someone who is going through the initiation process, not yet trusted

Rules of the Assassin Lodge
There is always one headmaster and one backup to headmaster Only the headmaster knows all the members. The members do not know how many members there are.
Assassinations One assassin goes on a mission - the main - and an observer is sent to watch the main. If the main fails the mission, the observer assassinates the main, then (s)he takes over the mission as the main. The main doesn't know who the observer is. It is assigned by the headmaster. If the observer should fail to assassinate the main, both the main and observer will become targets of the entire Assassin Lodge.
Membership To join the Assassin Lodge, the headmaster must meet you personally. The recruit must show him one move that he has not seen before. Failure to do that means you cannot join. Thus, the headmaster knows one move from every assassin, ensuring he is the strongest one. If you can assassinate the headmaster, you will become the new headmaster

Hiring an Assassin

Only nobles and rich folks can afford to hire the Assassin Lodge. Payment is taken up front. There is a saying that goes, "The Assassin Lodge always kill their target no matter who it is"

Northern Tribes

Tartar tribe - Nomads who live in the mountains, mostly bandits, some murderers and rapists

Known members	Jiax
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Manchu tribe - Unlike the tartars, they fight for honor. But they're equally cruel

Known members	Khan
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Lisu tribe - Rivals of the Tartar, also bandits

Lahu tribe - Peaceful tribe who lives on the northern plains, farmers and shepherds

Demon Types Contents

Vampire

These come in varieties of blue and red. Sharp fangs and claws and sucks blood off its victims.

Size	Small
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Water Demons

They live in swamps and lakes, usually attack in droves. Colors are blue and green.

Size	Small
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Red Demons

Demons with claws and sharp ears

Size	Small
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Werewolf	
Entire body covered with hair. Heightened agility and jumping power. Their colors are brown and gray.	
Size	Small
Abilities	Produce a sonic wave from its mouth
Known demons	Ragnarok

Tiger	
Heightened power and speed, deadly claws. White and black stripes.	
Size	Medium
Known demons	Tong Lian, En Ko

Ogre	
As tall as a building, is slower but more powerful. Colors are blue and red.	
Size	Large
Known demons	Duke Xiang, Ragnarok, Zhao Zen, Liu Zhang

Gargoyle	
Has wings, can fly for a little bit. Colors are black and gray.	
Size	Medium
Abilities	Flying
Known demons	En Ko

Lizard	
Four limbs, eyes on the side of head, long tail. Colors are yellow and green	

Size	Medium
Abilities	Use sharp spikes on its back as projectiles, hard scales for protection
Known demons	Liu Zhang, En Ko

Raikou	
A large hound, gray skin and white spiky hair	
Size	Medium
Abilities	Electric shock, almost the same as Thunder Sword
Known demons	Jin Demos, Roh Demos

Dragon	
Colors are red and green	
Size	Large
Abilities	Flying, breath fire, hard scales
Known demons	Liu Zhang

Demon Slayer - Vol 10-11

Contents

episode 3-4

sorceress name = Shou'an xi'an

why raijun want to take over the council

raijun's background

after he sensed chu yen's betrayal, he took his wind sword and left, the brotherhood never saw him again

he went to the easternmost part of the country - where the plains are the chiri family ruled that area and it became the chiri kingdom

raijun stayed there for a while

the royalty is the king and his closest adviser is a sorceress

everyone listens to her because she's terrifying
she also knows about the spice

raijun uses wind slicer, knocking down dummies
the general comments on his strength
then he loads an arrow onto a bow, the arrow catches fire
and he shoots the arrow. it's the sorcery done by the sorceress
raijun fears her abilities

the king died, leaving his son to inherit the throne, but the son's only 10 years old
raijun was asked to serve the royal family, he declined.
he's sure the sorceress killed the king
he left to seek help from a magistrate named zhong duo

the problem:

the sorceress plans to invade the neighboring shu kingdom, and all of
china. the king's only a child so he listens to her. rumor has it he's her son, not
the concubine's son, the concubine is no where to be found

raijun can't fight them by himself

Chiri is the smallest kingdom yet the most dangerous
all the cities are so close to each other so they have a central source of food, so
they didn't worry about food. so they focus on their military
all the warlords and magistrates fear and obey the sorceress

that's why they want control of the council in all kingdoms