

Beyond Love Existence

By
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emperor Jiang Chen, our fathers brother” Mei Chen looked at him and started laughing again. Jiang Chen finally reached the throne and spit against them who just continued laughing. “Soldier, hand me your sword” Li Chen suddenly serious again and reached out for it. He got it quickly and soldier took a few steps away as he knew the story of the soldier who had been killed in the tent not long ago. Jiang Chen just closed his eyes and started laughing “learn to walk before you run, young ones”

Li Chen stood for a moment, thinking what he meant and what he should do which made him more angry which made he without thinking raising the sword. "What do you mean by that, old foul" Li Chen suddenly yelled after some awkward moments. Jiang Chen stopped laughing and took a deep breath before he opened his eyes. In some quick movements he managed to get the sword and held it against Li Chen's head but he didn't strike as he felt a knife against his back. “Too slow, old man” Mei Chen said laughing, but Jiang Chen turned his face against her and said “Are you sure about that?” Before cutting a small rift at Li Chen's cheek and dropped the sword on the ground without the slightest care about what would happen next. “Don't kill him, Mei Chen” yelled Li Chen while trying staying calm even that the cut had been painful. “As you wish my brother” Mei Chen said and slowly removed the knife which made Jiang Chen laugh again. “See, I told you that you were not ready for this” he said was trying contain his laughter. That was the drop that made Li Chen boil over and in the next he almost cut Mei Chen in the attempt of pulling out the knife of her hand and when he finally got it, held Jiang Chen in the hair and yell straight in the face. “Did you really think you could make me look like a foul in front of my sister without any consequences?” And without giving Jiang Chen any chance to speak for himself, he forced the knife into the left eye of Jiang Chen who screamed of pain but no one in the palace cared and as Jiang Chen's voice died out a whispering form were heard. “I am not done with you yet, old foul” and then he did the same to the other eye, leaving Jiang Chen screaming loudly again. “Take this old foul away and give him some bandages so my brother can have some fun with him, once he returns.” Li Chen said laughing as Jiang Chen was pulled away with the guard. Li Chen looked at Mei Chen who also had started laughing. “Where were we?” Li Chen said and sat down in the throne while Mei Chen kissed him gentle. They didn't have most time alone before another soldier came in yelling. “There people have escaped and one of them is the crown prince” Li Chen started laughing again “They will be back soon enough and if not we have his father, the former emperor... now get this hall cleaned so we can get me crowned the new emperor”

the soldier nodded and ran out before quickly coming back with 20 other people who started removing dead bodies and other broken elements. Li Chen made a nodding sign to Mei Chen who quickly understood and they started walking out of the hall together leaving the throne behind.

Back outside in the rain had Hui Wen, Ling Chang and Jun Chen finally escaped the soldiers and arrows but they still had quite the trip left as there were going all the way to the harbor town Funanai and the wild escape had drained the horses energy. "Jun, lookout for a place for us to stay and rest the horses" Hui Wen before looking at Ling Chang who still were fast asleep but the wildness had made some of her bandages red again but it was less worse than before. His thoughts were broken by Jun Chen who suddenly yelled "There" and rightly so there were a small hut. It looked old and ruined so it were the perfect hiding place. Hui Wen nodded while he threw a sword to Jun Chen while signaling him to be quiet as they had to be sure it was as abandoned as it seemed. Jun Chen caught the sword without a word but his face told the pain from the arrow wound had appeared. Hui Wen was the first to step off the horse and he looked around signaling to Jun Chen to step down next to him too. Jun Chen pointed at Ling Chen who were still asleep and Hui Wen signaled that he would keep an eye on her while they searched the hut.

They searched it and found it empty and not a single soul where near it either so they took Ling Chang and the horses inside to keep them all hidden. "I know many edible foods so if you go find some wood, I will look for food while keeping an eye out for Ling Chen" Hui Wen said calm and expected Jun Chen to do as told but Jun Chen was not used to keep doing things so just replied "Can you not do both then I protect Ling Chang as have been trained by the finest swordsmen in the kingdom" Hui Wen looked at him and could already feel how annoying this would become but he had to protect Jun Chen or their escape would have been for nothing. Finally his mind managed to think of a reply "Ok, but you have to learn to live on your own some time and besides I don't remember training you so you have not been trained by the best and if you really want to protect Ling Chang, do you mind look around in the house to check if there is something we can burn as most wood will be wet by now" Hui Wen said trying not to sound annoyed and the reply made Jun Chen smile and nod. "Keep your sword ready as we don't know if the enemies are still looking after us" Hui Wen said in the door opening before leaving them and Jun Chen just nodded and took a firm grip on the sword. Soon Hui Wen stepped out in the rain again while Ling Chang and Jun Chen stayed at the house. Birds started to sing in the trees outside while the rain kept

falling and as Hui Wen had told him to do, Jun Chen had started to look after something to burn and by pure luck the house were full of wood. He ran out in the rain and was about to yell after Jun Chen but his mind managed to stop him as it crossed his mind that it would be dangerous to yell when they were on the run and enemy soldiers could be around the nearby tree so he walked back inside without a single sound. Ling Chang was laying in the middle off the room and in the little light he could see that her bandages had turned red a few places so he decided to look around in the house for something to replace the bandages as he had been to focused on the wood the first trip around the house. He could not believe his luck when he found some old clothes which seem like it could still hold to being stretched so he started to walk back to Ling Chang while thinking about that it was quiet a gold mine they had found but suddenly he heard the door opening and he ran to it expecting Hui Wen's return but no one was there. "It most had been the wind" he said to himself without much sound and started to walk back inside the room with Ling Chang. As he reach the door, he caught a stranger kneeling in front of Ling Chang and the little light in the room revealed that he were already holding Ling Chen's sword. "Stop right there" Jun Chen yelled without the worrying about more people but the man did not even look at him and just picked up Ling Chang's medallion and looked curious on it. "Put down the sword and medallion now... If you do it now, I let you go in peace" Jun Chen yelled harsh trying to scare the man. The man was still not interested in Jun Chen who started to walk closer and raise his own sword above his head, ready to strike. "Are you deaf?" He yelled and when the man still not recognition he started to swing the sword against the man when the strangest thing happened. His strength disappeared like morning dew for the sun and the stranger turned his head slowly against him. "Are you going to kill your helper?" The stranger said and Jun Chen felt himself answering but without opening his mouth a single time "I killed everyone who touch her without permission" and his free hand grasped around the blade on his sword and started tried to force the sword down against the stranger but it did not move and blood started to appear. He also felt pain but he did not want to show the stranger so he just forced himself to become more and more angry. "Stop hurting yourself, just because I am here, I mean you no harm" the stranger said gentle and Jun Chen felt his hands relax but the sword keep starting in the air. The stranger returned to Ling Chang who still were fast as sleep before speaking again "Now excuse me while I help your friend here" and stared to remove the bandages one by one which to Jun Chen's surprise were free of any injuries and just clean

soft skin. "Who are you?" Jun Chen heard himself speak and the stranger just looked at him without answering before turning back at Ling Chang and removed the last bandages as he were done he stood up. "My job here is done, but before I go let me free you of this" the stranger said and held his hand against Jun Chen's wounds from the sword and he watched them heal before closing his eyes. In the next he heard Hui Wen yell of him and at first he could not understand the words but they became clearer. "How can you sleep now?" He finally heard and the words made Jun Chen confused and when he opened his eyes, he were outside the house the rain with an angry Hui Wen in his face. "You are supposed to look for wood and protect Ling Chang" Hui Wen yelled, making Jun Chen fly up as he knew he had not been sleeping. "But... I..." Jun Chen tried to started the story but he did not get far before Ling Chang stood in the door not wearing any bandages. "Cover yourself Ling Chang" Hui Wen said while forcing himself and Jun Chen to look the other way. Ling Chang was still confused but did as told and soon appeared back with her clothes on. "How long have I been out? And don't lie to me, I can see my wounds have healed" Ling Chang said with a demanding voice and Hui Wen looked at Jun Chen who still have not been able to tell what have happen. "Some stranger suddenly appeared in the house and I tried to defend you but something stopped me from attacking, no matter how hard I tried but before I know it, the stranger healed you and I closed my eyes for one second before Hui Wen was yelling of me" Jun Chen finally managed to say while Hui Wen and Ling Chang looked at him with doubt but ended up believing him. "If you say so" Ling Chang said after being done thinking and Hui Wen nodded continued "Glad you are alright now Ling Chang, that makes the remaining trip more easy but enough about that for now... we need to get some dinner" The rain had also stopped so Ling Chang and Xiao Chang went inside the house and started bring out the dry wood from there while Hui Wen had started up the fruits and berries he had found in the forest. The fire started playing in the air while they started eating the food in silence and it was not like on the palace or back home but it were food and it tasted great. Ling Chang was the first to break the silence "I can see the emperor is not with us anymore, what happened while I was out?" She asked low which made Jun Chen stop eating and look into the flames while Hui Wen stopped eating too but replied with a sad voice "We don't know if he is death or not but we know that the hall we escape though broke down by some explosion and left us no choice that to leave him" "He is alive, hurt by alive... I... I can feel it" Jun Chen broke in without looking away from the flames. Ling Chang felt the cold rush down her back and she knew she shouldn't have asked about it but Hui

Wen tried to cheer up both of them. "If he is alive, we will save him once we have the means to do so but first we have to get you trained in becoming a man and a woman" Jun Chen looked up from the flames like he wanted to rely but kept silent. Hui Wen used the chance to continue "The plan is to travel to Funanai as I have some good friends who will help us as long as they live" "If" broke Jun Chen in while retuning his watching of the fire. "Yes, we don't know how much damage our enemies have done yet, but if they are captured or killed we will travel away from here until you are ready" Hui Wen continued. "I never become as good as my father" Jun Chen said with a rough voice before turning angry and continued "Why did you not find my father's brother before all of this happened" his eyes ran full of tears but the heat from the fire made it impossible for them to appear. "I searched for him in many countries and twice as many years, I know it is not much but I am sorry and if we get the signs that your father lives, I will turn every rock to get chance to save him as he was my best friend" Hui Wen said with a broken voice while Ling Chang were still eating. With a quick movement did Jun Chen stand up and started to walk against the door of the house "I am going to bed, wake me up when we are continuing or it is my turn to guard" he said without turning around while not sounding happy or sad. Ling Chang wanted to stand up and said something but a hand held her down, making her turn around to yell of Hui Wen but the hand was not his. She started to scream as she watched Jun Chen picked up two sword and threw one to Hui Wen who in some quick movements was standing next to him and ready to fight. Jun Chen attacked the soldier holding Ling Chang down which had to release her to able to defend himself against the attack while Hui Wen started to fight some of the other soldiers who also started attacking them. Ling Chang ran inside the house to get to cover but an arrow flew through her hair and brushed her left ear, making the rage from the other fights return and with a quick movement she grasped her sword and return to the fight heading directly at the shooter who did not have a chance of defending himself. "Ahhh" he screamed loudly and flew to the ground. Hui Wen killed the next one but he was a skilled fighter so the soldier did not even scream as he were cut down from the back. "Kill the horses, so they cannot escape" a soldier yelled before Jun Chen cut him down in one strike but it was too late, two other soldiers threw some of the fire at the house which quickly started burning fast, making it impossible to save the horses. Ling Chang started laughing in front of the fire which scared both friends and foes, making the two soldiers who started the fire attack her at one time but she just looked at them with diabolic eyes and cut them down with one

swing. "Kill them all" Hui Wen yelled to Jun Chang who just nodded before continuing the fight. Suddenly an explosion came from the house and Ling Chang's family medallion flew through the air and hit Ling Chang in the back of the head with such force she fell to the ground and before she had a chance to get back up her rage disappeared and some nearby soldiers took the chance to capture her and started to carry her away while the medallion and sword stayed behind. Jun Chen was the first to notice what had happened after the explosion and his loss of focus made the nearby soldier cut him just above the elbow on his sword using hand, making him drop it and the soldier tried to capture him too but Hui Wen was already at the scene and killed the soldier "Focus, you have much to learn about fighting but now I want you to rescue Ling Chang before they get too far away" a bit angry Hui Wen said before handing him the sword. Jun Chen did not need many seconds to rest or think before he ran after Ling Chang and cut down the two soldiers just as Hui Wen cut the last remaining soldier. Jun Chen and Ling Chang looked at the mess they had made before Hui Wen's voice cut through their vacant stare "Get the sword and medallion if you still want them, Ling Chang... we leave at once" The command awoke Ling Chang and she ran over to the medallion and took it around her neck before picking up the sword. "Let's go" she said but Hui Wen moved his finger up to his mouth sending the signal for them to be silent before pointing at the dead soldiers. Ling Chang knew he wanted silence but did not understand the last part before Jun Chen forced his sword down inside the back of the dead soldier. Hui Wen wanted them to be sure that they were not leaving anyone with knowledge about their trip. Ling Chang started to walk around looking at the dead soldiers but each of them looked death to her until she reached the last one. The man was bleeding from the mouth giving him no chance of screaming but there was still a chance for him to survive so she raised her sword like she had seen Jun Chen do and started to press down against the soldier but froze right at the edge of his belly. "Do it" Hui Wen signalled her but tears started to appear in her eyes instead as she could not make herself do anything without her rage. Jun Chen walked up and soon he was next to her before he made his hands cover her hands. Without a word he started to push down the sword and the soldier did a few movements before laying perfectly still and Jun Chen pulled the sword out of him again which made Ling Chang break the silence "We are not the bad guys, why are we doing things like this if we are not the bad guys" she yelled and scared the birds nearby away. Jun Chen did not say a word but just walked away from her while Hui Wen walked closer to them and with a surprisingly calm voice replied "You are right, my

child. We are not the bad guys but if a single one of those men have heard out talk about were we are going, we are going to be in big trouble and then it does not matter much if we somehow gets to Funanai alive” Ling Chang looked down but the soldiers death face made her try to look on the grass but the blood had already change its colour, making her feel nausea.

Hui Wen looked at her a bit confused as this was the first time, she had not fainted before the fight was over “What happened ton you?” He asked gentle and took her away from the death bodies while signalling to Jun Chen to finished the remaining soldiers to be sure they did not leave anyone alive. “What do you mean?” Jun Chen answered as they had escaped the area. Hui Wen looked at her with seriously eyes while trying to figure out if she were playing him or answering truthfully. “I mean, you are fighting and everything but now you cannot kill a soldier because you are worried if we are the bad guys” He answered gentle trying harder to figure out what happened. “I don’t remember killing anyone, but and don’t remember much from entering the house to some men tried to carry me away from the screen just before you told me to get the sword and medallion” she said while tears started to run down her checks and Hui Wen knew she was telling the truth. “Sorry, I just thought your father had trained you already” Hui Wen replied before removing the tears form her eyes. Jun Chen signalled him that he were done killing the soldier without breaking their talk and Hui Wen stood up before helping Ling Chang up too. “I won’t force you to do anything you don’t want but it might make it harder for me to help you revenge your family” Hui Wen said as they both stood up. “I know, but please try” Ling Chang said while almost starting crying again. Hui Wen thought for a moment before replying her “Maybe, first we need to get to Funanai or further if the town are destroyed and we cannot find my friends but you can show your strength by guiding us thought your former home Shinobe as we need to cross it to get to Funanai” Ling Chang looked at him with death serious eyes “Am I going home?” And Hui Wen nodded slowly “Yes, for a moment you are but we cannot stay there very long as even if the town is more or less whole, too many people knows you but let us start the journey now before it gets too dark” Ling Chang did not know how to react so she just turned around and started walking against Shinobe, her home while she thought of the possibility of her seeing her parents death bodies. Jun Chen tried to take her hand to stop her but she just pulled it away and walked even faster which made Jun Chen and Hui Wen just walk behind her. It had turned evening when they finally reached Shinobe and not even the smoke in the horizon had made Ling Chang slow down if anything it had made her walk even

faster. They reached the first burning house in the edge of Shinobe and only the sight of the dead people who were laying around it did Ling Chang finally stop. Tears started to run down her checks but before Jun Chen could reach her, she cleaned her eyes and focused on being strong so she started walking again. "Are you sure, she is alright?" Jun Chen asked Hui Wen who watched the lots of burning houses in the horizon. "I do not know, but we have to figure out what is happening to her and why she does not remember her battles, now hurry up and go after her and pray she don't find any of her parents" Hui Wen said with slowly growing serious voice and Jun Chen was about to ask but Hui Wen stopped him "I said go" and Jun Chen turned around and started walking faster in attempt of capturing Ling Chang who already was almost out of sight. In the meantime had Ling Chang reach the centre of town and started to figure out what way would be the fastest way home as the normally way was blocked by a fallen house still full of flames. As she finally decide, a hand grab her hard and she were about to scream but kept it inside to show her strength, so in the next she turned around against the owner and pulled her sword only to stop it inches from Jun Chen who had finally had caught of with her. "Sorry" it flew out of Ling Chang while she quickly returned the sword to her place. Jun Chen took a deep breath as he knew he would have been death if she had completed the strike. "All my fault" Jun Chen said without revealing how worried he were for a moment as he noticed that Ling Chang was not listening anyway. "How does it feel to be back?" Jun Chen said trying to break down the silence from Ling Chang. Ling Chang looked at him but did not say a word but the speed, she had been walking with had turned into a more normal pace as they walked past a broken dragon sculpture. "Is that not your family symbol?" Jun Chen said when he noticed the similarities and Ling Chang stopped before replying with a rough voice. "Yes, it is... It is one of the six dragons from our religion if you don't remember" Jun Chen thought for a moment as he was not used to faith and religion and before he could answer her, Ling Chang continued without sounding rough anymore "Sorry, trying to focus my strength here and about the dragons then the stories tells that there is six dragons, one for each element in the world" Jun Chen just became more and more confused so Ling Chang stopped and sat at the ruins of the sculpture. "My town was the green dragon Mu, grandmaster of the nature because your father trusted my father very much. You have the leader of the dragons, earth dragon Tu. I am sure you father have given you a medallion too" Jun Chen stopped looking confused and opened his shirt and took out the medallion and right as Ling Chang had said it were an earth dragon which was seen by it being

yellowish while hers were greenish. "Were are the other medallions?" Jun Chen asked Ling Chang who smiled for the first time in a while and replied "I don't really know as it were your father's idea of given them." Hui Wen arrived at the place and had heard their talk about dragons. "I know, were one more is" and pulled forward a bluish medallion "I am carrying the dragon of water, Shui because of my many travels over sea and away from here. I know I could have showed it to the guards back when we tried to enter Kuzuyama but the events that had already happen clouded my mind" Hui Wen looked down as he said the last part. There were a moment of silence before Ling Chang said something "It is alright Hui Wen, by the way do you know who owns the remain ones?" But Hui Wen just shocked his head. "No, I do not... Now let us find a place to stay for the night as it doesn't seem like there are anyone here" Ling Chang stood up quickly "My home is very private but don't know what happened to it, but follow me" Hui Wen just nodded as he were still standing and Jun Chen stood up as quickly he could too. "Maybe I should go find some food while you check out the house as the darkness is coming fast" Hui Wen said and pointed at the sunset which had been hard to notice by all the houses in flames. "Good idea, I go with Ling Chang to find the house in case there are any bad guys left" Jun Chen said and Hui Wen just nodded before they spilt up. "We cannot go the easiest way there as that burning house is covering the way" Ling Chang said gentle before started to walk down another road. "Unless something happened to this road, then it is the fastest now" Ling Chang continued while Jun Chen just followed her. "Can you tell me more about those dragons?" Jun Chen asked without sounding too stupid, making Ling Chang light up a bit and smiled again "Did you not learn anything about them at the palace?" Ling Chang replied with a happy voice. Jun Chen tried not to sound embarrassed about himself so he answered "No, I..." more he did not manage to say before Ling Chang trust into laughter before stopping just as quickly when she noticed that Jun Chen's head were turning red from more than the flames around them. "Sorry, I am not used to people not knowing the stories about the dragons" Ling Chang quickly said before Jun Chen just smiled back at her "It is alright, I am the crown price of this country and I don't even know most basic things... my father... is a way better leader than me" Jun Chen said while his smile turn into a sad face again. Ling Chang tried to find the words but they would not appear on her tongue. "Let us go back to the dragons" Ling Chang suddenly said trying to sound happy again even his face still did not seem like it. Ling Chang nodded and started "I told you there were six dragons and we know my family have the nature dragon, your family have the earth dragon and Hui

Wen's family has the dragon of water... that leaves out the fire dragon Huo who might be a red medallion, the metal dragon Jin who might be a silver medallion and last my not least the void dragon Oryu who might have a purple medallion." Ling Chang held a break to give Jun Chen a change to catch up with all the information. "Did you get all that?" Ling Chang asks a bit excited to tell more and Jun Chen smiles before nodding "Before I continue, I have a question for you... are you sure not seen you father give away those medallions?" Ling Chang asked once more a bit eager. "No, nothing in mind my rings a bell about medallions in that colours, beside I think it was before my time if your father and Hui Wen have gotten one as I have not seen Hui Wen my entire life but my father knew him and trusted him so I will too" Jun Chen replied calmly. Ling Chang wanted to say something back but her mouth stopped moving when her eyes caught something black hanging from the gate opening to her house. There was no doubt, it were burned bodies and not just any bodies, it were her parents Xiao Chang and Lan Chang or rather what was left of them. Jun Chen tried to hold Ling Chang hand but it just slipped out and before he could do more she were already at the legs of her parents trying to get them down. Jun Chen started to walk over to and tried to speak but before the first word could leave his mouth Ling Chang turned around and looked directly at him with the eyes of rages. "You... YOU... YOU DID THIS" Ling Chang yelled louder for each word and before Jun Chen had the change to calm her down, she pulled out her sword and held it over a small fire. "Stop, you know I did not do it" Jun Chen started but Ling Chang did not seem like she care or even heard him so he pulled his own sword too and prepared himself for the coming fight. "Do not do this Ling Chang" he tried again and her eyes became normal for less than a second when her name were said but the rage came back almost double in strength. Jun Chen was about to try again but without warning Ling Chang attacked and all Jun Chen could do was blocking the attack as he knew he had to calm her down and not kill her. "Where were Hui Wen when you needed him" he thought to himself while blocking the one attack after another. "You will pay for this" Ling Chang yelled loudly while not stopping her attacks. Jun Chen blocked and blocked "Ling Chang, it is me, Jun Chen" he tried to yell back and again the name made her rage disappear but it was far from enough, he had to find a way to knock her out without harming her too much. Suddenly from down the road, he could see Hui Wen walking with some food and a horse. "Hui Wen, Help me" he managed to yell before Ling Chang attacked again and this time it were almost ending in catastrophe as Ling Chang had managed to force a sword behind his and almost hit him but another sword

blocked the attack. It were Hui Wen who had heard his help called and thrown all the food in an afford to help. "What happened?" Hui Wen managed to say while moving the sword form Ling Chang a way from him and Jun Chen. "I do not know, we were talking happily about the dragons when she caught the eye of the burned bodies over there" Jun Chen rambled while the fight continued but it was a bit more easy now when it was two against one. "I think those bodies are her parents, young foul... Now focus" Hui Wen said and Jun Chen nodded and replied "Of course" without a single ramble. Hui Wen looked at him for a moment before turning back at Ling Chang who tried to attack them once more. "Now" Hui Wen yelled and charged back at Ling Chang's attacks blocking her ever move, given Jun Chen a change to move behind her. "I cannot hold her much longer" Hui Wen said and in the same were Jun Chen knocking Ling Chang down from behind, making her fall to the ground like a small doll. "Good" Hui Wen said while cleaning his sweating face. "Now cut those parents down and burry them in case Ling Chang wakes up again soon." Hui Wen continued. Jun Chen wanted to say something but Hui Wen was not done. "I know it will reveal we have been here but I am more worried what she will do if she wakes up and they still hang there while we are asleep" Jun Chen stopped trying to say a word and did what Hui Wen had told him too. As he were done, Hui Wen had prepared some food for the two of them. "Eat, we cannot stay here much longer, we have to get to Funanai before drawn" Jun Chen wanted to say something but just eat like he were told and soon they were on the way with Ling Chang on the horse.