

All Hail 1031

Chapter 1031: Fate

The aide also couldn't help but sigh in praise. "With such magnanimity, how can we know that the Yu Clan won't produce a second 'First Minister of the Six Dynasties?'"

The next morning, Ye Xiaoci listed the benefits of the hairy vetch one by one and expressed that the government office wanted to promote the planting of the hairy vetch with Eldest Princess Shaoyi.

As soon as the news spread, the entire Liaodong went crazy.

After sprinkling hairy vetch seeds on the idle fields, they could live without having to care about them. Not only could they be eaten, they could also be used to fertilize the land and increase the production of crops and raise the

livestock in the family. Why not

After the autumn harvest, Liaodong started a trend of planting hairy vetch.

The effect was also very pleasing.

The hairy vetch was a cross-winter crop that grew quickly. In the spring of the next year, the animal husbandry in Liaodong had clearly increased by 30% compared to before the new year.

The hairy vetch was more tender than ordinary grass. Be it cows, sheep, donkeys, or horses, they liked to eat hairy vetch more. The livestock that ate hairy vetch clearly grew fatter and stronger.

When it came to the autumn harvest, the production of soybeans had increased by 30%. The crops such as great millet, corn, winter wheat, and cotton had also increased to varying degrees.

Increased crop production also led to agricultural development in the Liaodong area.

There was another craze for reclamation in the North.

The commoners thought it was simple. Since the hairy vetch could improve the land, they would let it cover every inch of Liaodong.

After the effect of the green manure was displayed, Yu Youyao summarized the other fertilizers in the agricultural book, such as manure, bone fertilizer, mud fertilizer, mixed fertilizer, soil fertilizer, and more. She promoted simpler and easier methods to make fertilizer.

For example, she promoted the decaying method, the simmering method, the method to make waterlogged fertilizer, and so on.

Agriculture in the north was not developed, and the fertilization method was not widely used here. However, in fact, using the appropriate fertilizer measures could make the fertilizer more nutritious and increase crop production.

This method was even more widely used in the manors of wealthy families.

The fertilizer method received another enthusiastic response from the commoners.

Every family dug a few deep pits beside their fields and sorted the different fertilizers in their lives according to the records of the various fertilization methods.

After a month of promotion, the results were already beginning to show.

Yu Youyao's reputation in the North had almost reached its peak.

This work lasted for more than a year.

The winery that Yu Youyao had been thinking about was also on the right track.

In addition to the various types of wine in the Great Zhou Dynasty, the winery mainly brewed great millet wine, as well as all kinds of milk and medicinal

wine produced by the Northern Barbarians. Most of them were sold at a low price.

At this moment, Yu Youyao was already 16.

As the mourning period was about to end, the Yu Clan had already written many times to ask about her marriage. Although they had no intention of interfering, their concern was very obvious.

After Yu Shande came to Jinzhou, the siblings met after so many years and sighed with emotion. They talked about each other's recent situation and fortuitous encounters.

Only then did she learn that back then, after the refugees in the Longcheng refugee camp were settled, there was still a group of injured, seriously ill, or infected refugees who had not been settled down. In addition, the drought in the pass was still ongoing, and there were still many refugees who had fled over one after another. Yu Shande did not leave Longcheng.

"... Due to the calamity of foreign countries, many ambitious people have surged into the Liaodong area." Yu Shande was tall and strong, and he was in good spirits. He was wearing an old robe that had been washed until it was white. It looked empty on him, and his thin bones showed off his strong character.

Yu Youyao could almost see the portrait of Duke Zhonglie hanging high in the

Yu Clan's school. She both admired and sighed. "You contributed greatly to the successful resettlement of more than two million refugees."

Yu Shande shook his head and only said, "I'm just doing my best. Let's leave it to fate."

After chatting for a while, Yu Shande changed the topic. "I met Heir Song on the way to Jinzhou."

Yu Youyao couldn't help but be stunned. It had been a long time since she had heard any news about Song Mingzhao. The last time she had heard of him was when the Xie family had received a letter from the Yu Clan before they were about to leave Quanzhou. The letter mentioned that Song Mingzhao was going to be demoted to Dehua County in Quanzhou as a county magistrate and would arrive in Quanzhou in a few days.

For a moment, she actually felt that Song Mingzhao was haunting her.

Song Mingzhao was an outsider, and it was only because of the relationship between the Song and Yu families that he had mentioned it. It seemed to be a gloss over, but the Yu Clan might have the intention of asking Yu Youyao to take care of Song Mingzhao.

The Xie Residence had a lot of influence in Quanzhou. Song Mingzhao thought that using the Xie Residence's connections, his career would be smoother.

The two families were family friends, so it was human nature.

However, before Song Mingzhao could come to Quanzhou, Yu Youyao had already arrived in Liaodong with the Xie family.

Yu Shande sighed. "Heir Song has really had a rough time in the past few years. Not long after he took office in Dehua, he was targeted by the Jiazhou Residence. He sensed that something was amiss in Quanzhou and secretly sent a message into the capital, but..."

He couldn't help but shake his head.

However, Yu Youyao knew that Yu Zongshen had been mourning. The three princes were fighting for the throne, and the court was in chaos. Song

Mingzhao's every move was monitored, so the news couldn't be spread clearly. In addition, there was no substantial evidence. The Marquis of Zhen tried repeatedly in the court, but he was always stopped by Concubine Lu. In the end, nothing happened.

Otherwise, Thief Liang wouldn't have been able to take down Quanzhou so easily.

As for whether Yin Huaixi was involved, it was unknown.

Yu Shande admired Song Mingzhao quite a bit. Furthermore, they were old friends in the capital in the past. His tone revealed a hint of appreciation, so he couldn't help but mention a few more words.

"After failing to send the news, Heir Song planned to leave. Fortunately, the Zhenguo Marquis Residence sent many secret guards to protect his safety.

Before he came to Dehua, he hid a portion of his people in the dark. The Zhenguo Duke's Residence also knew that something was amiss in Quanzhou and secretly sent experts to receive him. Song Mingzhao also successfully escaped from Quanzhou before the King of Liang rebelled."

When he met Song Mingzhao, his words revealed how difficult and dangerous it was.

After leaving Quanzhou, Song Mingzhao had been kidnapped and was almost killed several times. For a moment, he couldn't even return to the capital. He fled to Zhejiang and used the north-south trade route to come to Liaodong.

Not only was Yu Shande sighing, but Yu Youyao also sighed. "It hasn't been easy for Heir Song in the past few years."

Her calm words revealed a hint of relief.

Yu Zongshen admired Song Mingzhao very much. The Song and Yu families were family friends. If it weren't for the cheating in the imperial examination, Song Mingzhao would have entered the royal court in advance. With Yu Zongshen's high regard, Song Mingzhao would soon be able to establish himself in the court. When Yu Zongshen was mourning, the resources of the Song and Yu

families in the court would definitely be heavily biased towards Song Mingzhao. In less than a year, there would definitely be a place for Song Mingzhao in the cabinet.

Song Mingzhao originally had a bright future, but in the end, because of an instance of cheating in an examination, he had reached a turning point in his fate and ruined his future.

It was really fate.

Yu Shande sighed softly. "When I saw Heir Song, the talented Heir Song was extremely thin. He seemed to be sick. I heard that he came to Liaodong this time to seek treatment..

Chapter 1032: Mourning Period Is Ending

This was just an excuse on the surface.

He saw that Heir Song's expression was a little strange. He was afraid that there was something difficult to say, but Heir Song did not say it explicitly, so he naturally could not probe.

However, not investigating did not mean that there were no clues.

Yu Youyao also said, "The Northern Barbarians have invaded on a large scale. Many immortal masters with brilliant medical skills have come to Liaodong. I have the business cards of a few immortal masters in my hand. Brother, take one and pass it to Heir Song another day. It's good for both families."

The Song and Yu families were family friends. Yu Youyao's many schemes in

Liaodong also had the support of the Zhenguo Marquis Residence. The Zhenguo Marquis Residence was quite prestigious among the generals. The war in Liaodong was not done yet, and the Zhenguo Marquis Residence's support for the border war also affected the support of the court officials for this battle to a certain extent.

Naturally, she couldn't stand by and do nothing.

Yu Shande nodded. "That's good." At this point, his eyes flashed, as if he wanted to say something but hesitated. In the end, he let out a long sigh. "Previously, the Empress Dowager wanted to bestow a marriage for King Yue Fei. She wanted to hold King Yue Fei's marriage while the Empress Dowager's funeral was delayed. Otherwise, she wouldn't know how to delay it in the future.'

Yu Youyao smiled, but her smile did not reach her eyes.

Yin Huaixi was a general. In the past two years, the war in the North had been tense, and the Imperial Court had given him many special privileges. In addition, Yin Huaixi was too famous, so it was inevitable that the Imperial Court would be a little worried. If they chose a good match in the form of a noble lady from the Imperial Court, they could naturally restrain him.

Yu Shande naturally understood this too, but he did not mention it. "Eunuch Zhu used all the documents that the Empress Dowager had bestowed back then to implicate your marriage with King Yue Fei. Our Third Grandmother's mourning period is almost complete, and your marriage with King Yue Fei has also been raised in the royal court. The family is worried and asked me to come over and ask about the situation.'

Song Mingzhao didn't seem to know that Sister Yao'er's marriage had been decided. There was a lot of probing in his words. He seemed to be very concerned about Yao'er.

Thinking of Song Mingzhao's actions after he became the top scholar, it was not difficult to guess what he was thinking.

In the end, he had made a mistake.

To put it simply, back then, when the Empress Dowager had bestowed their marriage, she had not said a word about the privilege proof.

After talking about serious matters, Yu Youyao asked Yu Shande about his future plans.

Knowing that Yu Shande had no intention of returning to the capital for the time being, Yu Youyao wrote a recommendation letter and recommended him to enter the Wu Mountain Academy to further his studies.

A few days later, there was news from Xiangping that Mr. Hu Shan was overjoyed to see talent and accepted Yu Shande as his last disciple.

It was also because of this that the Clan Chief's wife became closer to Yu Youyao. She did not hide anything in her letter and mentioned, "Your father has left the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs and returned to the Imperial Court to fill the position of the Left Deputy Imperial Censor."

The Clan Chief's wife was too embarrassed to say it directly. The title of third-grade Imperial Censor was given to him because he had given birth to a good daughter. Furthermore, he was over 50 years old. Although he was far from the age of retirement, he was already old. The Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs persuaded the original Left Deputy Imperial Censor to leave, so they gave him the position. Otherwise, he would have been openly demoted.

The Left Deputy Imperial Censor and the Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs were of the same rank. It seemed that they were equals, but in fact, he had been secretly demoted. The Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs was the head of the six ministries, and the Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs was an important official. The status of the Deputy Imperial Censor was clearly inferior. In addition, the emperor was seriously ill, and the eunuchs controlled internal affairs. The authority of the Imperial Court was greatly eroded.

Not only had he been beaten back to his original state, but he was also inferior to his previous title. However, this was only the beginning.

Yu Youyao had already foreseen Yu Zongzheng's outcome, so she did not care.

In her letter, the Clan Chief's wife had mentioned that Yu Shuangbai was learning the rules from the nannies in the palace. She had become much calmer and only said few words, but it was not difficult to guess that Yu Shuangbai was not having a good time.

She had asked the clan to take care of Yu Lianyu and Yu Fangfei's marriage in her letter earlier.

The clan was not careless either. Under the interference of the Clan Chief's wife, Yu Lianyu was married to a poor but humble scholar with the surname Yang. He had just become a High Scholar and had a bright future.

Meanwhile, Yu Fangfei was married to the second son of Madam Jiangs brother, so they could be considered to be closer.

Both marriages were not bad.

The surname Yang had been arranged by the clan. To be chosen by the clan, it seemed that not only was her family background and character good, but her talent was also not bad. In the future, with the clan's support and Yu Lianyu's personality, her life would not be bad.

Madam Jiang was smart and sensible. The Jiang family was not bad either. Although they wanted to seek favor, they did not have any ulterior motives. In addition, the Jiang family was a farming and academic family, and Father Jiang was from the same family. Their family background was not bad.

With Yu Zongshen's status, Yu Lianyu and Yu Fangfei could still have better marriages. However, this would inevitably implicate some family interests, which was not a good thing for Yu Lianyu and Yu Fangfei.

Now, one of their husbands had become a High Scholar at such a young age and probably had a bright future.

The other husband had a good family background and could live a comfortable life.

This could be considered one of her worries.

As for Yu Shanyan and Yu Shanxin, because of their status as the daughters of Yu Shuang and Bai Fengming, their marriages were not very smooth. They had yet to be arranged.

Madam Yao was anxious, but Yu Zongshen was not worried. He said directly, "A man's ambition lies in the world. It doesn't matter if he's a few years late."

He had the intention to wait until Yu Shanyan and Yu Shanxin became capable before getting engaged.

Yu Youyao agreed deeply. Now that the Great Zhou Dynasty was in chaos, men were not like women, so it was naturally better to wait a few years.

After that, the Clan Chief's wife even mentioned that Old Madam Yu's three-year mourning period was almost over. The clan planned to invite the master of the Precious Peace Temple to perform a ritual for Old Madam Yu. In addition, she also mentioned some trivial matters of the three-year mourning. It was obvious that the clan was very concerned about her grandmother's three-year mourning period and wanted to do their best. Yu Youyao was also very relieved.

As Yu Youyao couldn't come back, the Clan Chief's wife had also instructed her on some things that needed to be paid attention to other than the clothes.

Yu Youyao read it word for word and was a little stunned.

In the blink of an eye, she had left the capital for three years.

In the past three years, she had been eating vegetarian food and mourning for her grandmother. She was wearing plain clothes and the belongings of her grandmother when she was alive. Now that her mourning period was about to end, she couldn't help but feel a surge of sorrow.

Everything that had happened with her grandmother couldn't help but appear in her mind.

Yu Youyao sighed softly and wrote a reply to the Clan Chief's wife. Then, she instructed Yin Shi to make a trip to Xiangping and asked Auntie Xu to organize it. The Buddhist scriptures she had copied for her grandmother for the past three years would be sent back to the Yu Clan along with this letter.

After everything was over, Yu Youyao began to prepare to remove her mourning clothes.

This concerned filial piety, so she couldn't be careless. Although Yu Youyao couldn't return to the capital, she couldn't be careless with her etiquette. In the next few days, Yu Youyao changed into a plain dress and closed herself in to copy Buddhist scriptures.

Auntie Xu, who was far away in Xiangping, took Yu Youyao's removal of her mourning clothes very seriously and rushed to Jinzhou on the tenth of August.

After not seeing Auntie Xu for a long time, Yu Youyao was overjoyed. She threw herself into Auntie Xu's arms and wheedled. Auntie Xu's heart ached.

“You've lost a lot of weight..”

Chapter 1033: Removal of Mourning Clothes

Auntie Xu had long known that this girl was impressive. She was a golden phoenix that could not be trapped in the residence.

When she was young, Auntie Xu would often give her pointers.

In the past few years, Auntie Xu had begun to live a luxurious life, so she had placed her focus on teaching the maidservants in the courtyard. She no longer interfered much with Yu Youyao's decisions.

She had originally wanted to come to Jinzhou with Yu Youyao, but Yu Youyao did not want her to come along and suffer. She also could not leave the Yu Garden without someone to take care of it, so she stayed in Xiangping.

The etiquette of removing her mourning clothes was very complicated. With Auntie Xu's help, Yu Youyao heaved a sigh of relief.

The 13th of August was the day she would remove her mourning clothes.

Yu Youyao set up an incense table at home to pay respects to her grandmother and burn the Buddhist scriptures she had copied previously. After the memorial ceremony was completed, Auntie Xu sang auspicious words and took off Yu Youyao's mourning clothes.

Yu Youyao knelt on the meditation cushion in her white singlet.

Auntie Xu sprinkled teacup pomelo peel water on Yu Youyao with a bamboo branch. Then, she helped Yu Youyao change into a light green coat dress. “After you remove your mourning clothes, you'll be wearing plain clothes for the entire month. Then, you'll start wearing your usual clothes.”

She could only change into her usual clothes in September.

After all the etiquette involved in removing mourning clothes was done, the servants at home carried the pomelo peel water and began to splash it in the courtyard. They packed all the items for the mourning period and replaced them with new ones.

The white lantern hanging under the eaves of the gate was taken down.

It was obvious that the mourning period for the master of this family was complete. Those who came to visit did not have to hide anymore.

This work lasted until night. The entire Jinyuan Garden looked brand new.

Yu Youyao watched quietly, feeling a pang of bitterness.

Auntie Xu patted her shoulder. "A woman reaches adulthood when they reach 15 years old. Now that your mourning period is over and you're 16 years old, shouldn't you hold your coming-of-age ceremony too?"

Yu Youyao also knew that this matter couldn't be delayed. "What do you think, Auntie?"

Auntie Xu said, "In my opinion, the grander the coming-of-age ceremony, the better. You're the Eldest Princess, so all the etiquette for your coming-of-age ceremony is according to the standards of the royal family. It's best if you can return to the capital and ask the imperial family and the Yu Clan to step in. However, it's a troubling period now. Your reputation in Liaodong has greatly boosted the morale of the people and stabilized the situation in the North. This is what the Imperial Court is happy to see. I don't think the Imperial

Court wants you to return to the capital."

There was a war in front of them. The old citizens of the North should be in a state of panic, but Yu Youyao and the Xie family were encouraging reclamation, promoting green manure, teaching how to make fertilizer, increasing crop production, and driving animal husbandry.

Everything in the North was developing in a good direction. The lives of the commoners were getting better, and the shadow of war did not affect them. All of this was done by Yu Youyao.

To put it bluntly, Yu Youyao was the stabilizing force in the hearts of the commoners in the North. With her around, the North was a pure land filled with hope.

No one wanted her to leave.

Yu Youyao was at a loss. The coming-of-age ceremony was the most important day of an unmarried woman's life. She also knew what this day meant to women. However, when it came to this day, she did not know what to do.

Auntie Xu said, "I'm afraid I'll have to trouble you."

Yu Youyao shook her head. "I don't care about this. Now that the court is in troubled times, it's not appropriate to be extravagant. It's good to be polite." Auntie Xu had the same intention. "In that case, your coming-of-age ceremony is set for October. I'll discuss with your grandmother later and choose an auspicious day. Send a memorial to the capital and see what the

Imperial Court thinks. Then, we'll discuss what to do with the coming-of-age ceremony."

The Eldest Princess's coming-of-age ceremony was a big deal, so the Imperial Court would definitely reward her.

Yu Youyao nodded. "We'll do as you say, Auntie."

Auntie Xu suddenly smiled. "Once the coming-of-age ceremony is held, it's time to agree on your marriage with King Yue Fei."

Yu Youyao blushed and lowered her head shyly. She whispered, "The war hasn't ended yet. How can we get married? I—I don't plan to consider this for the time being..."

She really did not plan to consider this.

However, when she thought of Yin Huaixi, she couldn't help but feel shy.

Auntie Xu shook her head. "If you don't consider it, how do you know that

King Yue Fei hasn't considered it? You and King Yue Fei aren't young anymore. The three books and six etiquettes are very complicated. It'll take a year and a half. In my opinion, King Yue Fei is waiting for this day."

The Great Zhou Dynasty was in chaos. King Yue Fei's ambition would not stop at Youzhou. It would take time to eliminate the calamity of the other countries and calm the internal strife. If they really waited until the war was settled, who knew how long it would take? King Yue Fei was not young anymore, He was in his prime and might not be able to hold on.

Yu Youyao's breathing was a little chaotic. For some reason, images of her being with him in the army appeared in her mind. Her ears were filled with his charming cries, which seemed to be filled with pain and joy, making her feel at a loss. It was as if she knew everything, but also as if she didn't know anything.

"But the war in the North..." Yu Youyao's voice was as soft as a mosquito's. Auntie Xu smiled and said, "That's not surprising. Most of the generals are marching to war outside, so it's inevitable that marriage will be delayed. We can't just focus on war and not care about filial piety, right? The emperor also believes in marriage. How many generals in ancient times went to the battlefield in marriage robes?"

Yu Youyao was speechless. In history, there had been many generals guarding the border city. Not only had the emperor personally bestowed marriages, but he had also sent troops to escort the brides to the border city to get married.

Didn't the Empress have this idea before?

However, she had never expected the Empress Dowager to hold back.

"It's time to consider what needs to be considered. Not to mention the war, the Great Zhou Dynasty treats people with filial piety. However, there are three types of unfilialness. The most severe type is to have no descendants. Therefore, it's the most important thing to continue the family line."

"King Yue Fei has a large army and is in charge of a region. His marriage is also a state matter. It's important to stabilize the North and the country. If the

Empress Dowager hadn't given him a marriage long ago, I think the Imperial

Court would have chosen a good match for him long ago.”

Yu Youyao pursed her lips. Therefore, not only would Yin Huaixi's marriage not affect the war, but it would also greatly calm the hearts of the people in the North.

Auntie Xu knew that she did not like to hear this, so she continued, “A man should start a family and establish a career. He should start a family before establishing a career. It's obvious that in most people's hearts, a man can only show his true talent and responsibility after starting a family. He can cultivate his body, manage his family, govern the country, and bring peace to the world. As a young general, King Yue Fei's family is especially important to him.”

A family was closely related to a career. Most people who couldn't settle their families wouldn't have much achievements in their careers.

Yu Zongzheng was an example. At the peak of his life, the parents were kind and the children were filial. He married his virtuous wife, Madam Xie, and established himself in the royal court. After that, he obtained a “filial daughter” and managed the family. His life almost reached its peak.

However, all of this was an illusion. With Old Madam Yu's death and Yu

Youyao's departure, the Yu Residence was only left with chicken feathers. Yu Zongzheng was also beaten back to his original state..

Chapter 1034: Invincible

Yu Zongzheng's current official position could only be filled with his mother's chastity and his daughter, who was the Eldest Princess.

He had no virtue and could not cultivate his body. Furthermore, he could not manage his family. How could she improve in the court officials? How could she govern the country and bring peace to the world?

To men, starting a family was a sign of maturity. It was a manifestation of responsibility. Even if Yu Youyao did not consider this matter, the Imperial Court would still urge King Yue Fei to get married as soon as possible.

Yu Youyao did not know what to say for a moment.

Auntie Xu knew that she was a little confused and comforted her. ‘Putting aside these external factors, do you plan to make King Yue Fei wait for you for another three years? Are you really muddle-headed, or are you pretending to be muddle-headed? You've been in love with King Yue Fei for so long. Don't you really know what he's thinking?’

He appeared in Yu Youyao's mind again. He kissed her hair lovingly and said gently and restrainedly, “When you reach adulthood, we'll get married, okay?!”

She looked reproachful. “Auntie, why are you saying that? Marriage is a matter of parents' orders and matchmaking. As a woman, why should I think about this?”

Auntie Xu laughed. “What a little monster.”

If a daughter was satisfied with the marriage, it was naturally because marriage was a big matter. It was the order of her parents and the matchmaker's decision. Everything depended on her elders.

If she did not agree, it would mean that the daughter was lacking in talent and morals. She would feel ashamed of her inferiority and would not be worthy of a certain young master's talent. She was afraid that she would embarrass her family and let down her elders.

If this person wasn't King Yue Fei, let's see if she could still say this.

Yu Youyao was furious. Her face was so red that it was about to bleed. She couldn't help but stomp her feet. "Auntie, you're annoying. I don't want to talk to you!"

As she spoke, she turned around.

Auntie Xu held back her laughter. "Then I'll leave!" Yu Youyao endured it and did not turn around.

"I'm really leaving!" Auntie Xu pretended to leave.

"Auntie." Yu Youyao panicked and quickly turned around. She moved closer to Auntie Xu and held her arm, tilting her head on her shoulder. "Auntie, don't tease me. I've lost my mother since I was young. As my elder, I can't disrespect my Grandmother, so she couldn't teach me. Auntie is the one who taught me everything in the room. Auntie is doing this for my own good and hopes that I can make plans for my marriage early."

Auntie Xu had taken on the responsibility of a mother to her. She provided the upbringing that a mother should provide her daughter, such as the love between men and women, the way of husband and wife, and even the matters of the boudoir.

These were things that only a mother could teach her daughter.

Otherwise, why would people say that a bereaved eldest daughter was uneducated?!

Without a mother, no matter how well-mannered and meticulously raised a child was, there would always be some aspects that were lacking. Auntie Xu made up for this.

Her Eldest Aunt had also taught her a little, even more than Auntie Xu. However, there were many things that Auntie Xu had imperceptibly taught bit by bit from her life. This was something that her Eldest Aunt could not replace.

Auntie Xu stroked her back. "Yes, marriage is the greatest turning point in a girl's family's life. When a girl gets married, she has to understand marriage. She can't marry in a daze. Even if that person is King Yue Fei, you have to know that a sensible person can pretend to be stupid, but a stupid person can only be a stupid ghost."

"Yes, I understand." Yu Youyao quickly nodded. "Auntie, I'll sleep with you tonight, okay!"

Auntie Xu teased, "That's good too. In the blink of an eye, you'll be at the age to talk about marriage. It's time to teach you how to interact as husband and wife, lest you make a mistake."

Yu Youyao was so embarrassed that her face burned. She quickly hid in Auntie Xu's arms, just like when she was young. She was like a little piglet, nudging the ground while in Auntie Xu's arms, making Auntie Xu laugh.

At this moment, Yin Huaixi had just led a team of heavy cavalry and fought an intense battle with the Di army. With the number of people and equipment of both sides being equal, the You army relied on their agile and varied formations, as well as the tactical cooperation of the soldiers to annihilate more than 2,000 people from the Di army with very few casualties.

The You army quickly cleaned up the battlefield and counted the supplies. Before the Di army's reinforcements arrived, they quickly brought a large number of supplies and used the complicated terrain of the grassland to escape into the depths of the grassland, disappearing.

When Zamo He personally rushed over with his troops, all he saw was a tragic battlefield. There were more than 2,000 heavy-armored cavalry, equipped with the best heavy armor, swords, and warhorses. He had spent countless days and nights and countless efforts to train them into a trump card, but they were killed until not a single piece of armor was left.

He was heartbroken and disappointed.

For a moment, he almost had the thought that King Yue Fei of the Great Zhou was invincible.

The soldiers who had come to support them looked at the ground full of broken limbs and bones. Even the fearless Northern Barbarian army could not help but look terrified. They thought about how in the year or so since the war between the two sides, the Di army had repeatedly lost soldiers and generals. They were almost guaranteed to lose every battle.

Yin Huaixi leaned against a large rock and slowly untied a black towel from his left arm, solemnly stuffing it into his arms.

General An Yuan saw everything and couldn't help but pat his shoulder. He teased, "Good fellow, you've finally seen the light."

Yin Huaixi used to be in the capital and was protected by Old Madam Yu. He also had a relationship with her. After Old Madam Yu passed away, Yu Youyao had to observe mourning for her grandmother for three years. He also tied a black scarf on his arm for three years. Yin Huaixi took off the black scarf, which meant that Yu Youyao's mourning period was over.

Yin Huaixi's lips curled up as he nodded. Then, he said, "In this battle, we annihilated a heavy cavalry unit of Zamo He's, causing his strength to be greatly reduced. We can stop for a few days. We'll rest here for the night first and set off back to the camp tomorrow morning."

Although the heavy cavalry were good at long-range expeditions, they had been wandering in the grassland for more than a month. It was time to return to the camp to reorganize.

General An Yuan chuckled and smiled very wretchedly. "I understand, I understand. You and Eldest Princess Shaoyi have been separated for more than half a year. Her mourning period is over. I think it's time for her coming-of-age ceremony. Your marriage should be prepared as soon as possible. It'll take at least half a year for the three books and six etiquettes to be prepared. When we defeat the Di army, you'll be able to wear a wedding robe and directly be a groom."

His voice was not low at all. When the soldiers heard this, they joined in. “That’s right. Your Highness, quickly marry the Eldest Princess so that we can call her the Princess Consort. You don’t know how awkward it is for us to call her the Eldest Princess...”

“When the time comes, we’ll follow you to welcome the bride. I guarantee that the marriage will be glorious and imposing...”

“The Eldest Princess is such a good person. His Highness is really lucky...”

Yin Huaixi’s heart skipped a beat. Yu Youyao’s frowns and smiles appeared in his mind, and his heart skipped a beat. However, as the commander-in-chief, he also knew that now was not the time to talk about love. After laughing, he still had to do what he had to do..

Chapter 1035: Coming-of-Age Ceremony

Hence, he said with a straight face, “What are you talking about? This battle has been in a stalemate for more than a year. As we have the topographic map of the grassland and the distribution of the various tribes of the Northern Barbarians, we can come and go freely on the grassland. However, the

Northern Barbarians are not fools. They won’t always let us fight.”

The grassland was vast and the terrain was very complicated. Even the people of the Northern Barbarians who had lived on the grassland for generations did not dare to say that they knew the grassland like the back of their hands.

In order to survive, the various tribes maintained nomadic migration on the grassland. They had no fixed residence and information circulated slowly. This allowed the You army to take advantage of the delay in information and succeed repeatedly.

The soldiers’ laughing expressions became serious.

Yin Huaixi continued, “The ambition of the Northern Barbarians to enter the Central Plains has yet to stop. In the past year, we’ve attacked more than 30 large and small tribes on the grassland, causing the Northern Barbarians to suffer heavy losses. The Northern Barbarians have more or less realized the shortcomings of the tribes being scattered and their information not being synchronized. At the same time, our army has controlled the topographic map of the grassland and the distribution of the Northern Barbarians’ movements. This is also a terrifying threat to the Northern Barbarians. They might make a big move.”

War was like a gamble. The more they won, the more they wanted to win.

The more they lost, the more they wanted to win.

The first type would only enchant and confuse people. The most terrifying was the second type, which could make people fall into madness and cast aside all concerns.

They were definitely holding back.

General An Yuan had a bad feeling. “Your Highness, what do you think the Northern Barbarians will do?”

Yin Huaixi's expression was solemn. "If I'm not wrong, the Northern Barbarians will choose a king to integrate the various tribes and join forces to attack the Great Zhou."

General An Yuan's expression changed, and the soldiers' eyes revealed fear.

Yin Huaixi saw their expressions. "However, there's no need to worry too much. Even if they successfully choose a king to temporarily rule the entire Northern Barbarians, the internal conflict in the Northern Barbarians is very intense. Large tribes like the Meng, Har, Zhamo, and Huqiang tribes do not have much differences in strength. No one will really submit to anyone. Anyone who is pushed will have to experience a twist and turn. It's not invulnerable."

The Northern Barbarians was a hunting race. They had fixed residences and advocated freedom and conquest. Although they were strong, their lack of discipline was not something that could be gathered just by electing a king. It was simply a fool's dream to rely on peaceful methods to elect a king to rule the grassland and enter the Central Plains.

He had worked hard to set this up for more than a year. This was the day he had been waiting for.

In the past year or two, the You army had changed from their previous passive fighting style. They had taken the initiative to attack, entered the grassland, and fought with the Northern Barbarians. They had already summarized a way to deal with the Di people. They kept increasing their training and changing their equipment. Their strength kept increasing, narrowing the gap between them and the Northern Barbarians.

Soon, it was time to reap the spoils.

Only then did the soldiers heave a sigh of relief. With weaknesses, there was nothing to fear.

Yin Huaixi continued, "When we return to the camp this time, we have to be prepared for a bloody battle with the Northern Barbarians and destroy their main forces. Our army will go deep into the grassland and there will be no more obstacles. I'll bring you to the Wolf Residence Mountain and insert the battle flag of our You army into the holy mountain of the Northern Barbarians. That the Northern Barbarians will submit to the rule of our Great Zhou for generations. What do you think?"

When the soldiers heard this, their eyes lit up and they shouted, "Good, good, good..."

However, he probably wouldn't have a chance to participate in Yu Youyao's coming-of-age ceremony. Yin Huaixi pulled out the wooden stopper and raised his head to take a sip of medicinal wine, his expression filled with regret.

Yu Youyao handed a memorial to the Imperial Court. Five days later, the Imperial Court sent over an auspicious day for the imperial inspection. The date was set for the sixth of October.

It happened a little earlier than expected.

At the same time, the news of the Empress Dowager's betrothal to her and King Yue Fei had also spread in the Great Zhou Dynasty under the deliberate arrangements of the Imperial Court.

Eunuch Li, the officials of the Ministry of Rites, and the Imperial Residence, as well as the Yu Clan, set off for Xiangping on the third of September to prepare for Eldest Princess Shaoyi's coming-of-age ceremony.

Yu Youyao was a little surprised. Not to mention the Ministry of Rites, no matter which family in the capital organized the banquet, they had to spend a sum of money to invite the officials of the Ministry of Rites over to ensure that nothing went wrong.

As for the Imperial Residence, it was a place specially in charge of dealing with all kinds of matters of the royal family and relatives. It was specially handled by special people.

In September, Yu Youyao changed into her usual clothes and returned to Xiangping. She immediately took another sum of money and asked someone to repair the Xiangping courier station inside and out.

The people sent by the Imperial Court only arrived in Xiangping on the tenth of September. They had also arrived together with the palace, the imperial family, and the various families in the capital, who came to prepare the coming-of-age ceremony for Yu Youyao.

Although Eldest Princess Shaoyi was not in the capital, there could not be any mistakes in etiquette. All reputable families in the capital had to give her a coming-of-age ceremony.

The coming-of-age ceremony would be temporarily taken care of by the Ministry of Rites. The congratulatory gift would only be sent on the day of the coming-of-age ceremony.

Yu Youyao sent capable people to the courier station.

The next morning, a group of people from the Imperial Court came to the Yu Garden to greet Eldest Princess Shaoyi.

Yu Youyao had stayed in Jinzhou for more than a year. Old Madam Xie had expanded the Yu Garden into two courtyards and transplanted many strange trees from the North.

The Imperial Astronomer felt that the Yu Garden had good feng shui, so the coming-of-age ceremony was set to be held in the Yu Garden.

At the same time, the news that Eldest Princess Shaoyi was mainly holding an adulthood ceremony had also spread throughout the world. Eldest Princess Shaoyi's marriage had also become a matter of concern.

Far away in the border city, Yin Huaixi was busy training his troops and lining up to welcome the next strong advance of the Northern Barbarians. Behind him was Yu Youyao's prosperity.

The preparations for the coming-of-age ceremony were underway.

Yu Youyao received news that the Imperial Court had arranged for the old Princess Consort of Long County, who lived a long and healthy life and had a reputation for being virtuous, to be Yu Youyao's official guest.

The Yu Clan had also sent the Second Old Madam, the Clan Chief's wife, and the others over.

The group set off for Xiangping on September 26th.

Although she was not in the capital, the harem of the previous dynasty had given her the respect she deserved. This suddenly made Yu Youyao feel like she had to work hard.

At this moment, it was an eventful period inside and outside the Great Zhou.

Outside, there were barbarians eyeing them covetously, and inside, there were thieves stirring up trouble and stealing from the country. There was a drought in the pass, but there was still no rain.

She kept feeling that this shouldn't be the way to hold her coming-of-age ceremony.

However, the court had already agreed on what to do with the coming-of-age ceremony. It wasn't something that Yu Youyao could control. Even if Yu Youyao tried her best to avoid wasting the people's money and negotiated with the Ministry of Rites, the Ministry of Rites would listen accordingly, but there was a certain process.

Although Yu Youyao was helpless, she was not idle.

September was the season of great millet and sweet potatoes. The entire Liaodong was filled with the joy of harvest.

The commoners began to prepare winter wheat to sow seeds and expand the planting of hairy vetch. The animal husbandry in the Liaodong area was developing at an unbelievable speed.

It turned out that after receiving the benefits of hairy vetch last year, many businesses and commoners who were mainly animal husbandry saw a business opportunity.

Yu Youyao translated and sorted the sheepskin scroll that the You army had looted from the Northern Barbarians into the language of the Great Zhou. She discovered a lot from it. The nomadic people's experience in grazing and rearing included herding horses, feeding cows, and herding sheep..

Chapter 1036: Meeting Princess Liyang Again

Yu Youyao found many old farmers who were good at animal husbandry and wrote books containing their precious and rare experiences with them. She hired a bookstore to print them in large quantities and sold them for 80 copper coins each.

As printing was widely used, the price of books decreased. An ordinary book cost about 200 copper coins, and would cost no less than 100 copper coins. It also depended on the quality of the paper used and the number of words.

The "Records of Feeding" that Princess Shaoyi had implemented was divided into three volumes. It summarized the merits of the Great Zhou and the Northern Barbarians and was praised by many people. The price of 80 copper coins was really too low.

Eldest Princess Shaoyi encouraged the development of animal husbandry and wanted to expand the scale of livestock so that the commoners would not suffer.

It was true that 80 copper coins was worth three to four months of expenses for an ordinary family of four, but books could be shared. Many villages were led by the village chiefs to share the money. Every family would pay a small amount of copper coins and everyone would pool their funds to buy books.

Those whose families had spare money could buy the book by themselves. For those with more difficult conditions, a few families and the entire village could raise funds together, sharing the money and benefits.

After the promotion of “Records of Feeding”, the number of livestock in the Liaodong area increased a lot.

When the officials from the capital saw this situation, they couldn’t help but sigh with emotion. Although Eldest Princess Shaoyi was a woman, she was proficient in agriculture. She had done many things for Liaodong alone and changed Liaodong’s lack of supplies. They all reported these situations one by one.

Unknowingly, it was the second of October.

The old Princess Consort and the others also successfully arrived at Xiangping.

King Long’s Residence was the patriarch of the Yin Clan with a high status. It was in charge of the Yin Clan’s ancestral code and was the most prominent relative in the imperial family. Even the emperor and mingshu in the palace were restricted by their ancestors’ family rules.

The old Princess Consort of Long County was also the most respected elder in the imperial family. The only person who could invite her was the current emperor.

Yu Youyao did not dare to be negligent at all. She immediately sent a carriage to Longcheng to receive her. When the news of the old Princess Consort of Long County arriving in Xiangping came, she sent another person to the city gate to receive her.

The old Princess Consort of Long County was in her sixties. She was wearing a green-colored longevity cloak with longevity patterns. Her hair was already gray, and she had combed it into an ordinary bun that was fixed with a silver hairpin. There was a ginger-patterned longevity seal on her forehead. She looked like an ordinary old woman, looking simple, generous, and amiable.

Yu Youyao quickly went up to her. Only then did she see that the person supporting the Princess Consort of Long County was Princess Liyang, whom she had met once in the palace.

The news sent by the Imperial Court did not mention that Princess Liyang was coming.

She couldn’t help but feel a little surprised.

Princess Liyang was tall and slender. She was wearing a long cloak with a silver silk inlaid with fur. She looked charming and beautiful, and she was very outstanding.

The two of them greeted each other. Princess Li smiled. “It’s been many years since we last parted in the palace. How have you been?”

Yu Youyao had a higher grade than Princess Liyang, but considering that Princess Liyang was the legitimate princess on the surface, she said politely, “Thanks to you, everything has been good all these years. I didn’t know that you had arrived earlier. If there’s anything wrong, please forgive me.”

The person who used to lower her head in front of her now raised her head higher. Princess Liyang felt complicated, but she held her hand affectionately.

“When I heard that you were going to hold your coming-of-age ceremony, I had the intention to come and become the host. It’s also because the war in the North hasn’t ended and the coming-of-age ceremony is a little tight, so it’s not

appropriate to make it public. I don't want to cause trouble along the way and ruin your auspicious time, so I didn't mention coming to Liaodong. Good sister, don't blame me.'

She made it sound as if they really had a close sisterly relationship, not as if they had only met once. Her meaning between the lines was clear, and she was thinking for Yu Youyao.

Yu Youyao was a little sick of it. The people who became hosts were usually sisters who were close to her in the family or close friends. Princess Liyang called her a "good sister" and a "best friend". Furthermore, Princess Liyang wanted to be the host. Naturally, she couldn't refuse.

Her status was too high, and she could still befriend noble ladies in the capital. After arriving in Liaodong, because of the huge difference in status, even if there were people who wanted to seek favor with her, they did not dare to approach her easily. In addition, she was mourning and lived in seclusion most of the time, preventing some people from getting close to her. In addition, the situation of the nobles in Liaodong was complicated, and she deliberately avoided them.

Therefore, after coming to Liaodong, she had never been on good terms with any young miss.

Fortunately, the Clan Chief's wife had mentioned in her letter that she wanted to bring some talented young misses from the clan over. She had some candidates for the host, but it had yet to be officially decided.

It couldn't be helped that Princess Liyang was involved.

The two of them chatted for a while. Yu Youyao bowed to the old Princess Consort of Long County. "Matriarch, you're well. It's been hard for you to travel for me.'

You Youyao was wearing a flower crown dress and looked down. She looked as quiet and tender as a flower.

The old Princess Consort of Long County liked her at a glance. She quickly held her hand and patted it gently. "It's still late autumn in the capital, but as soon as we enter Longcheng, the cold wind seems to blow into the cracks of my bones. It's really bitter. To think that you're so considerate. You sent people and carriages to receive us. You even arranged for a kitchen maid who knows how to make medicinal cuisine, She makes nourishing medicinal cuisine, incense, medicine, and supplements every day. She's prepared and served us well.'

The few mingfu in the imperial family also joined in.

The Imperial Court valued Eldest Princess Shaoyi's coming-of-age ceremony very much. The Ministry of Rites had invited the emperor to give a handwritten decree, which was why they had invited the talented and virtuous elders of the imperial family over. Naturally, they did not dare to be negligent.

However, it was inevitable that the journey would be difficult. There would definitely be some criticism.

Yu Youyao was thoughtful. As soon as they entered Longcheng, she sent people to ensure that they did not suffer. Everyone praised Eldest Princess

Shaoyi even more.

They had also experienced the good upbringing of the Yu Clan.

Yu Youyao quickly helped the old Princess Consort of Long County up. "I'm ashamed and grateful to have my elders work hard for me. It's also because I'm young and inexperienced. If there's anything I've overlooked, you have to teach me.'

Even though her elders had praised her, she did not show off her contributions nor did she say that she had suffered. She only said that she was young and inexperienced. She was worried that she would not do a good job, so she expressed her gratitude and respect for her elders.

She was really an exquisite person.

The old Princess Consort of Long County smiled. "Don't be humble. In my opinion, you're the one who's experienced the most among us." At this point, her expression was a little complicated. "If you hadn't made this trip, I wouldn't have known how much you've suffered in the past few years. It's really been hard on you."

"Matriarch, you flatter me." Yu Youyao smiled and warmly welcomed her into the house.

After the tea, the group settled down.

It could be said that she had taken care of everything..

Chapter 1037: Ambitious

Not long after, the Yue Fei's Residence sent someone to the Yu Garden to bring Princess Lishan to the Yue Fei's Residence to settle down.

Although Princess Lishan was not of the royal bloodline, as the Empress's niece, she had been raised in the palace as a legitimate princess since she was young. Even if her identity was spread, she could not be negligent.

The small Yu Garden couldn't afford to accommodate this "big Buddha". Yu Youyao wasn't willing to accept Princess Lishan's trouble, nor was she impatient to put on a show of "sisterly love" with her, nor was she willing to stay under the same roof as Princess Lishan and pretend to be polite to her all day.

The Yue Fei Kings Residence was the most suitable.

In the afternoon, the Second Old Madam and the Clan Chief's wife came to look for Yu Youyao.

The Clan Chief's wife's expression was solemn. "It's good for you to know that recently, there have been many rumors in the court about Duke Xu. Back then, the old matters of the Ning Residence were also mentioned. There were even people clamoring to redress the rebellion of the Ning Residence. Princess Liyangs identity as the Empress's niece can't be concealed."

Princess Liyangs identity was originally an open secret. However, due to the old case of the Ning Residence, the implications were too great. The Empress Dowager had also given her a lot of face, so no one dared to mention it.

Now that Princess Liyang's identity had been exposed, no one would believe that there was nothing fishy.

She did not say it clearly, but Yu Youyao understood.

The old case of the Ning Residence involved the tragic matter of the emperor personally conquering the north back then. Even the current emperor could not escape unscathed.

Now, it was an eventful period in the court.

Someone had used the old matters of the Ning Residence to shake the structure of the court. Once this matter blew up, it would be like poking through a window paper. It would undoubtedly expose the matter of the emperor harming loyal and kind people to the world. The emperor would lose his virtue, the dignity of the Imperial Court would be lost, and the people of the Great Zhou Dynasty would lose all their hearts. They would only exist in name. There would be another controversy about the rebellion of Thief Liang.

Meanwhile, if Duke Xu could not hide the fact that he framed those who were loyal and kind, the army would definitely be affected. At that time, the morale of the army would be greatly reduced, and there would be nothing to fear.

It was really killing two birds with one stone.

Thief Liang would be able to reach into the royal court, preparing for the general attack.

Yu Youyao's heart skipped a beat. "So, as an orphan of the Ning Residence,

Princess Liyang is in the limelight and is here in Liaodong to temporarily lie low."

Since she was hiding from the limelight, the fewer people who knew about it, the better. It was not good to make it public.

The Clan Chief's wife nodded. "There was an uprising in Shandong. I heard that the local government office was smashed by the uprising army. All the officials were tied up and paraded on the streets. In the end, they were killed. The officials the Imperial Court sent to Shandong to appease the rioters were also cruelly killed. All kinds of actions to provoke the Imperial Court caused it to lose all its dignity. However, there aren't enough troops in the capital now, and the capital is too busy to care. Helpless, we could only ask the King of Dongning to send troops to attack the rebels in Shandong and quell the rebellion in Shandong. The King of Dongning hasn't sent troops yet. It's obvious how ambitious he is..."

Yu Youyao gasped in shock. With this order from the Imperial Court, it would seem logical for the King of Dongning to send troops. With a legitimate reason to send troops, there would be a chance to seize the throne and usurp state power.

He had not attacked secretly not because he did not want to, but because the time was not right. The Liang thieves were sitting in the Xiangyang Fortress, and the war with the Liang army was still unclear. There were many variables.

The King of Dongning would definitely send troops. However, he had to wait for the winner of the battle in Xiangyang to be determined. Once the King of

Dongning sent troops, he could forget about bringing his troops back.

It was easy to invite a god, but difficult to send him away.

The Clan Chief's wife sighed and said, "Your Second Uncle has been working hard and is seriously ill. During this period of time, he has been going to court with an illness. Gradually, he doesn't have much energy and can't attend to other things. There are groups of demons dancing in the court. The Yu clansmen who stayed in the capital gradually returned to the clan. Although you're not in the capital, you have to consider any news about the court carefully."

This short sentence revealed a lot of information.

There was no doubt about Yu Zongshen's control over the royal court, but with Yu Zongshen's illness, the court began to fall into chaos.

In the Yu Clan, there were two memorial tablets. One was for Duke Zhonglie, a place where scholars in the world made pilgrimages to show their virtue. The other was a chastity memorial tablet, and it was a model for women in the world to cultivate virtue.

No matter how chaotic the world was, anyone with any ambition would not dare to cause trouble in the Yu Clan. Otherwise, they would incur the wrath of the heavens and the people, and lose the hearts of the people in the world.

The Yu Clan was already seeking to protect themselves.

Yu Youyao asked with concern, "How's our Second Uncle's health?"

The Clan Chief's wife looked a little sad and said vaguely, "The imperial physician only said that he shouldn't work too hard or think too much. Then, this illness can be cured."

She did not even mention the specific illness. She did not say if it could be treated or how it could be treated. Yu Youyao's heart skipped a beat. She kept feeling that the word "cured" had an ominous feeling.

Yu Zongshen was only in his forties and was in his prime. In the past, his health was not bad. Why was he suddenly so seriously ill?

The atmosphere became a little heavy.

The Clan Chief's wife did not seem to want to mention this topic either. She changed the topic. "By the way, your marriage with King Yue Fei has already been raised in the royal court. I heard that the cabinet has asked the Imperial Astronomer to calculate the date. As for the exact date, we still have to wait for news from the Imperial Court."

Previously, when Auntie Xu had mentioned it, Yu Youyao had an idea. Now that her elders had mentioned it in person, she blushed and only pretended to be embarrassed. She pursed her lips and did not dare to say anything.

The Second Old Madam's smile deepened. She held her hand and said, "Good child, you have to be mentally prepared. The Imperial Court values King Yue Fei's marriage very much. I reckon that as soon as your coming-of-age ceremony is over, they will send the Imperial Astronomer, the Ministry of

Rites, and the imperial family to Liaodong to settle all the matters and prepare the marriage early."

At this point, Yu Youyao couldn't keep quiet. "Why— Why are they in such a hurry?"

Clan Chief's wife nodded. "There's nothing we can do about it. You and King Yue Fei aren't young anymore, so we can't delay it. It'll be more reassuring if we do it as soon as possible. However, don't worry. The marriage is organized by the Imperial Court, so there definitely won't be any mistakes in etiquette. We won't let you and King Yue Fei worry at all. We'll only suspend the war at the front line. When King Yue Fei is free, we'll confirm an auspicious date."

Now that the court was in chaos and Duke Nings old case was mentioned, it was very disadvantageous to the Imperial Court. The Imperial Court hoped to use the marriage between Eldest Princess Shaoyi and King Yue Fei to divert those rumors that were disadvantageous to the Imperial Court and calm the country and the hearts of the people.

Yu Youyao lowered her eyes. "I'll follow the elders' arrangements."

Madam Clan Chief and the Second Old Madam both smiled. They held Yu Youyao's hand and asked about the preparations for the coming-of-age ceremony.

Yu Youyao answered them all.

After saying that, the two of them did not rest. They quickly went to look for the officials in charge of preparing for the coming-of-age ceremony and were busy managing it together.

This work lasted until the sixth of October.

The old princess consort of Long County was the main guest who would put on the adult hairpin for Yu Youyao. The person-in-charge was a sister-in-law of the Yu Clan who had a complete family, and the host was Princess Lishan.

After everything was over.

The people who had been invited to watch the ceremony also came one by one.

It was a lively scene in the Yu Garden..

Chapter 1038: Three Ceremonies

The Ministry of Rites sent the coming-of-age ceremony gifts prepared by the various families in the capital into the Yu Garden.

The endless stream of gifts broadened the horizons of the people who had come to watch the ceremony today. They also deeply realized how noble Eldest Princess Shaoyi's status was.

When the auspicious time came, the bamboo moved.

Eldest Uncle Xie Xun stood up and gave a ceremonial speech.

Yu Youyao, who was dressed in plain clothes, slowly walked into the flower terrace. After bowing to the viewing platform, she knelt in the middle of the table.

As the host, Princess Lishan also dressed up and attended. She dipped her hand into the copper basin. After doing the hand-washing ceremony, she helped Yu Youyao comb her hair.

The comb gently scraped from the top of her head until her hair was slightly combed, again and again, until her long black hair fell behind her head like a waterfall. Under the candlelight, it emitted a dense luster. She was beautiful.

After bowing, Princess Lishan placed the boxwood comb so that it was facing south.

Looking at this boxwood comb that had been used for many years, Yu Youyao thought of Yin Huaixi. Her heart felt a little empty, and she felt a little aggrieved for no reason.

At this moment, the old Princess Consort of Long County, who was the main guest, stood up and went up the east step to carry out the hand-washing ceremony.

The Second Old Madam and the Clan Chief's wife quickly accompanied her.

After the hand-washing ceremony, both sides greeted each other.

The person-in-charge served the handkerchief and hairstick. It was the phoenix pearl hairstick that Yin Huaixi had given Yu Youyao on her fifteenth birthday.

Yu Youyao stood up and headed east. She bowed to the guest and sat upright on the witness stand. When her gaze landed on the long hairstick, her heart trembled and a sour and sweet taste spread.

She took a deep breath and gradually calmed the bitterness in her heart.

The old princess consort of Long County stepped forward and recited her blessings. "On this auspicious day, I'll give you the clothes of an adult. Give up your childish ambitions and become virtuous. I hope that you live a long life and enjoy good fortune."

Then, she knelt down and combed Yu Youyao's hair into a Tiaoxin bun. Her long black hair was gathered on the top of her head and combed into a round shape. It looked like a peak from the side, and it looked as beautiful as a ridge.

The Tiaoxin bun was a high bun, and it was also a solid bun. Most women would often comb their hair into this hairstyle after reaching adulthood.

Due to the variety of Tiaoxin bun styles, there were no less than a hundred styles. Every style had its own charm. Even if they were combed in the same way, with different jewelry, the charm would be different. It was very popular in the Great Zhou Dynasty.

After the bun was combed, the Princess Consort of Long Prefecture picked up the long hairstick with a phoenix pearl and added it to Yu Youyao's hair with a serious expression, "The first ceremony is a success."

The long phoenix hairstick was like a phoenix resting in her hair. The tassel pendant was long and reached her ears. It gently trembled at her temples and cheeks, revealing her dignified and quiet demeanor.

Princess Lishan stepped forward and symbolically adjusted Yu Youyao's hairstick.

Yu Youyao slowly stood up. Everyone watching the ceremony bowed and congratulated her. The scene was very lively.

After the ceremony, she returned to the east room. Yu Youyao changed into a plain dress that matched her coming of age. She tidied her appearance and returned to the banquet to show off to the audience!

"With a bow, your bloodline will nourish your kindness!"

Yu Youyao's mother had passed away early, and her father was far away in the capital, so he naturally couldn't come. The Yu Clan had prepared Madam Xie's memorial tablet, and her Elder Maternal Uncle Xie Xun replaced her father.

Since ancient times, there had been a saying that one's maternal uncle was of highest status in one's maternal family. There was a detailed explanation of the phrase "maternal uncle" in the *Shuowen Jiezi*. In ancient diplomacy, great vassals with different surnames could be called "Elder Maternal Uncle", while minor vassals could be called "Younger Maternal Uncle". The words "maternal uncle" could be used for vassals, who were second only to a lord of a country.

In some places, there was also the saying that there was a thunder god in the sky and one's maternal uncle underground. To a certain extent, a "maternal uncle" could take on the responsibility of a parent. Among all the relatives, her uncle had the highest status.

Yu Youyao understood this very well.

In a family, be it one's elder paternal uncle or one's younger paternal younger uncle, there were direct interests involved. Benefits dominated, and ties were secondary.

However, as her elder maternal uncle, there were not many direct benefits involved. Meanwhile, familial ties dominated. Having a good maternal uncle was a rare blessing. With her maternal uncle's support, she usually did not live too badly in her father's family.

Yu Youyao's mother passed away early. If it weren't for the fact that she had a few good uncles and her grandmother doted on her, her days in the Yu Residence would have been terrible.

Therefore, in Yu Zongzheng's absence, Eldest Uncle Xie Xun naturally replaced him.

Yu Youyao recalled that after her grandmother passed away, her uncles had spared no expense to help her leave the Yu Residence and the capital. It was also her uncles who often guided and supported her. Even with her current status, the Xie Residence had spared no effort to help her.

For a moment, she had mixed feelings. Yu Youyao knelt on the ground and sincerely bowed to her Eldest Uncle, Xie Xun, and her mother's memorial tablet. For some reason, her eyes suddenly turned red.

The first ceremony was complete.

The second ceremony began.

The person-in-charge brought over a handkerchief and a hairpin.

The old Princess Consort of Long County stepped forward again and recited a congratulatory prayer, "On this auspicious day, you have donned the clothes of an adult. You have to promise that you will maintain your dignity and wisdom. I hope that you will live a long life and always be blessed."

Then, she helped Yu Youyao to remove her adult hairpin and knelt down to insert an ornamental hairpin for her.

It was the one that her grandmother had prepared for her. It was a large golden silk phoenix hairpin inlaid with red treasures. It was exquisitely crafted. Even the feathers of the phoenix were exquisite.

There were more than ten pure natural and uncarved rubies inlaid on it. They were like rubies, thick and beautiful like fire and blood.

The hairstick had a single prong and was mostly used to stabilize hair.

Meanwhile, a hairpin had two or more prongs. Most of them were used to tie one's hair or decorate one's bun. There were also many insertion methods. They were diagonally inserted, inverted, twisted, and so on. Most of the hairpins were made of gold and silver. They could be bent flexibly and were a little smaller than a hairstick.

Old Madam Xie, who was watching the ceremony, looked at the big golden phoenix in front of Yu Youyao's Tiaoxin bun, making her look extremely radiant. Her eyes suddenly turned red and she couldn't help but cry.

Madam Wang, who was sitting at the side, also had mixed feelings. She gently patted her hand to comfort her.

Old Madam Xie said in a hoarse voice, "In the past, I hated Old Madam Yu very much. I kept feeling that she was too scheming and harmed Roujia's life." At this point, she sobbed a little, and even her voice choked. "I suddenly feel a little grateful to her. She raised Little Yao'er very well..."

She should be gratified to know this in the netherworld.

Princess Lishan helped Yu Youyao with the hairpin. Yu Youyao went to her room and set up a deep robe that matched the hairpin.

"The second bow represents your elders' love!"

Yu Youyao held back her tears and bowed to her eldest maternal grandfather, her maternal grandfather, her maternal grandmother, the Second Old Madam, the Clan Chiefs wife, and a few uncles and aunts. Thinking of how much they had cared for her all these years, she couldn't help but feel a lump in her throat.

It wasn't until this moment that she truly understood that the coming-of-age ceremony wasn't just a ceremony. It wasn't just about etiquette. This was a great filial ceremony since ancient times. The coming-of-age ceremony allowed the witness to be grateful to her parents and elders. She had to understand that from now on, she had to bear the responsibilities, obligations, and responsibilities of an adult.

Therefore, it was solemn and profound..

Chapter 1039: Auspicious Sign from the Sky

Old Master Xie looked gratified.

Old Master Xie's eyes turned red on the spot, and he almost embarrassed himself.

The second ceremony was complete.

The third ceremony began.

The person-in-charge brought over a handkerchief and a crown-shaped hairpin.

The old consort of Long County stepped forward and gave a congratulatory speech. "On this auspicious day, you have completed the coming-of-age ceremony. Your relatives have come to celebrate your virtue. I hope that you will live a long life and receive blessings from the heavens."

The old Princess Consort of Long County took off Yu Youyao's hairpin and added a crown-shaped hairpin.

The crown-shaped hairpin was a reward from the palace. It was a crown with twelve phoenixes. It was similar to the Eldest Princess's crown, but it was not the same.

The phoenixes on the Eldest Princess's crown made her look even more magnificent, dignified, and imposing. The crown-shaped hairpin looked a little more lively and light, and did not seem not as expensive as the crown.

Princess Lishan crowned her!

Yu Youyao had put on a large sleeved gown that matched the crown. It was also prepared by the palace.

The royal family used purple, and the nobles and ministers used green and blue gowns. They were long and noble. They were inlaid with many pearls and jade of equal sizes and various gems. There were more than a thousand of them.

At first glance, one only felt that it was beautiful and dignified.

The palace did not lack these expensive pearls, jade, and gems. The Internal Affairs Department was not careless either, immediately shocking everyone on the spot.

“This is the third bow. The world is at peace. The sky is clear and the ground is bright!!

Yu Youyao knelt facing the south to pay respects to the world.

The third ceremony was complete.

Next, it was time to prepare the sweet wine.

Those of royal descent used sweet wine for the sacrifice, while those who were born of concubines used wine.

Some officials went on stage and removed the furnishings of the coming-of-age ceremony. They set up a banquet on the west step. The old Princess Consort of Long County bowed and invited Yu Youyao to sit.

Yu Youyao stood on the west side, facing south.

After the ceremony, she bowed.

This was a Taoist sacrificial ceremony.

It was a sacrificial ceremony.

Princess Lishan served the sweet wine. The old Princess Consort of Long Prefecture took the sweet wine and recited a blessing. “The sweet wine is sweet and thick. I praise you. I'll pay my respects to you to ensure your prosperity. I hope that you will receive blessings from heaven and live a long life.”

Yu Youyao bowed and took the sweet wine. She knelt at the table and sprinkled some on the ground to worship the world. Then, her lips touched the cup symbolically and before she placed the sweet wine on the table.

The person-in-charge served the white rice, and Yu Youyao ate a little symbolically.

After the sacrificial ceremony, the ceremony to bestow an adult name began.

At this moment, a servant rushed into the hall while panting. The people watching the ceremony were stunned. They all felt that this servant did not know the rules. How could he barge into the Eldest Princess's coming-of-age ceremony?!

Not only was it inauspicious to interrupt her coming-of-age ceremony, but it had also embarrassed her.

Even if it was a huge matter, he should hold it in.

Everyone couldn't help but shake their heads and look at Eldest Princess Shaoyi.

Yu Youyao's expression was calm, and she was not displeased at all that her coming-of-age ceremony had been interrupted. Just as she was about to ask what had happened, she saw the servant fall to his knees with a thud and shout, "Young Miss, there's news from the government office that it's a joyous occasion in Guanzhong. Yesterday, it snowed in seven to eight counties. The drought is over, it's over..."

Immediately, there was an uproar.

"Is it snowing? Is it really snowing?" Someone was in disbelief.

"It's snowing, it's finally snowing. As expected, there is always a way out..." Someone shouted excitedly.

"That's great, that's great..." Tears welled up in someone's eyes.

Although Liaodong was not too affected by the drought in Guanzhong, millions of refugees surged into Liaodong, affecting the hearts of millions of people in Liaodong.

Everyone became excited.

However, Yu Youyao's expression turned solemn.

After a short period of excitement, the coming-of-age ceremony continued. However, Yu Youyao did not know that everyone present was looking at her with even more respect and even a hint of fanaticism.

Auntie Xu saw everything and quietly left the hall. She found a smart servant and went out to gather information.

The servant ran out of the Yu Garden.

The old Princess Consort of Long County still looked excited. When she recited the blessing, her tone subconsciously became a little more serious, and she exuded a sense of solemnity.

“The ceremonies are complete. On this auspicious day, I declare your name. Your courtesy name is very beautiful and matches you. Protect your name forever. Your name is Zhi Yao.”

Yu Youyao vaguely sensed this change. She felt a little strange.

Thinking about it, Song Mingzhao did not use her courtesy name to cause trouble, so she was reluctant to part with the one her mother had personally given her before she died. She immediately replied, “Although Zhi Yao is not sensitive, she dares not to disobey!”

After the ceremony, the ceremony to listen to teachings began.

As Yu Zongzheng was not present, as her Eldest Uncle, Xie Xun bowed on behalf of her father. There was also joy on his face. “You should keep in mind not to easily listen to others. You don’t know if they’re slandering others. You have to endure and think twice. How do you know that it’s not your fault? You have to calm down.”

She could not easily listen to or believe others when they gossiped. How could she know if they were deliberately sowing discord?

When dealing with people, she should endure it and think about it again and again. She should think twice before understanding. She should use her thoughts to nurture her character. Only then would others sincerely admire her.

This was a warning to Yu Youyao to not be anxious. She had to calm her mind and cultivate her character. With Yu Youyao’s current status, although she did not have to be cautious, she still had to think carefully.

Yu Youyao listened to the lecture. “Although Zhi Yao isn’t sensitive, she doesn’t dare to disobey!”

Yu Youyao bowed to her parents and elders again. Then, she bowed to the main guest, the audience, the person-in-charge, and the host to show her gratitude. Finally, she bowed to thank the guests.

At this point, the ceremony was complete.

Xie Xun stood up and announced, “There’s a daughter in the Yu Clan, Yao Yao.

She’s filial, pure, kind, and respectful. She has become an adult on an auspicious day.”

The people watching the ceremony sighed. All the etiquette, process, and blessings of the coming-of-age ceremony were similar. There was not much difference. Whether the coming-of-age ceremony was held well depended on who was the main guest, the person-in-charge, and the host. The more prominent their status and the more virtuous their reputation, the more complicated the etiquette would be.

Ordinary families would look for familiar families to be their guests and invite a few madams and young misses who they were on good terms with to watch the ceremony. It was fine as long as they were polite.

Large families were naturally more particular.

For someone like Eldest Princess Shaoyi, although the coming-of-age ceremony was not very grand, it could not withstand the weight of her status. She received treatment that only the royal family had.

After the ceremony, Xie Xun, Xie Liao, and Xie Tiao prepared to start the banquet without stopping.

The Second old madam and the Clan Chief's wife were busy greeting the guests.

The Xie Residence lived up to its reputation of being rich. There were eight major cuisines, all kinds of medicinal cuisine, snacks, and fresh fruits that were almost impossible to eat in this season.

Not only that, but the Xie Residence had also spent a large sum of money to hold a banquet on the streets for three days. The banquet stretched over five kilometers. During the banquet, everyone could receive a free portion of food and 200 copper coins as a reward. It was enough for three to four months of expenses for an ordinary family of four. It was not a small sum.

At this moment, the news of the heavy snow in Guanzhong swept through the entire Xiangping like snowflakes.

The entire Xiangping City was in an uproar..

Chapter 1040: Matchmaking

The servant who had gone out to gather information returned not long after.

. The commoners outside all said that last night, it was the Princess's auspicious day. This snow came at the right time, and it was even more wonderful. The Princess's virtue was blessed by the world, and her kindness touched the heavens. That's why auspicious snow fell from the heavens. It's like icing on the cake or sending charcoal in the snow. When the Princess is auspicious, an auspicious sign will descend from the sky. This is a good omen..."

Auntie Xu frowned, her expression solemn.

Yu Youyao came out after changing her clothes. When she heard this, she said to the servant, "Go down first and get Head Steward MO to come over."

The servant quickly kowtowed and left.

Head Steward MO rushed over.

Yu Youyao briefly mentioned some of the rumors outside and said, "The rumors will definitely become more and more intense. We have to restrain the servants in the Yu Garden. During this period of time, be careful with your words and actions. Don't listen to others.' Head Steward MO left with a solemn expression.

The room fell silent.

As usual, Auntie Xu was about to raise her hand to touch her head to comfort her. However, when her gaze landed on her round bun, she suddenly realized that the little girl had grown up and held her coming-of-age ceremony. She was no longer the little girl who had been hiding in her arms like a little piglet, wheedling and wanting Auntie Xu to stroke her head.

Auntie Xu put down her hand and poured a cup of hot tea for her. "The snow came at the right time. The commoners don't have any ill intentions. It's also because you've done too much for the North. Everyone is grateful for your kindness.'

Yu Youyao shook her head. “A timely snow promises a good harvest. It’s obvious that there can only be a good harvest when auspicious snow falls in

December. However, October has just arrived, and this winter is still very long. If it snows consecutively, it will definitely cause a snow disaster. There has been a drought in the Central Region for four years in a row. Those who really can’t take it anymore have fled to Liaodong. However, most of the commoners are unwilling to leave their homes and are still struggling in their hometowns. once the snow disaster comes, who knows now many people will freeze to death.’

The snow was good, but the timing wasn’t right.

So was this really an auspicious sign from the sky?

If there was really a snow disaster, the rumors outside would become a big joke.

Auntie Xu sighed softly. “There have been three consecutive great harvests in the Liaodong area, especially last year and this year. Due to the green manure, the production of crops has increased a lot. The government office also has food reserves that can help the refugees. It’s better to have snow than not to have snow. After all, with this snow, after winter, there will be hope for the commoners’ lives. However, if it doesn’t snow, next year will be a hopeless year. This snow is auspicious for everyone.”

Once a person had hope, no matter how difficult it was, they could still hold on.

Without hope, people couldn’t live anymore.

Yu Youyao sighed softly. “Auntie, the war at the front line is at a stalemate. The Di people are afraid of King Yue Fei’s power, so they haven’t sent out troops easily. However, the snow disaster is no different from a calamity for the hunting people who lack supplies and rely on grazing and hunting for a living. In the face of survival, they will definitely abandon all scruples.”

Auntie Xu patted her hand. “Don’t think too much about it. He’s survived the drought for a few years. It’s nothing more than dealing with the soldiers when they come. I think His Highness has already made a plan.”

Yu Youyao’s coming-of-age ceremony came to an end in this sudden snow.

The rumors became more and more intense, but the Yu Garden was not affected.

The next day, the old Princess Consort of Long County called Yu Youyao over and looked at her with a smile. “Good child, so that you know that the

Imperial Court values your marriage with King Yue Fei very much. Now that your mourning period is over and you’re about to reach adulthood, it’s time to talk about marriage. I’m here this time because I’ve been entrusted by the Imperial Court to be your matchmaker.”

Just because the Imperial Court had given her a marriage did not mean that she did not need a matchmaker.

An engagement needed a matchmaker to mediate it so that it would be logical. Marriage also needed a matchmaker to step in to protect it. Only then would this marriage be considered legitimate.

The old Princess Consort of Long County became their matchmaker. The subsequent three books and six etiquettes would be handed over to the official media.

The Imperial Court had directly asked the old Princess Consort of Long

County to come over and act as a matchmaker, which meant that the Imperial Court had already spoken to Yin Huaixi. Yu Youyao blushed. "Marriage has always been a big deal under the orders of parents and the matchmaker. This matter is also decided by the elders."

The old Princess Consort's smile deepened. "In that case, when I return to the capital, I'll personally make a trip to the Yu Residence to meet your father and be polite. Then, I'll ask the official media to prepare three books and six etiquettes. I guarantee that you won't suffer."

Yu Youyao nodded slightly. Her marriage was not up to Yu Zongzheng to decide, but she could not surpass him in etiquette.

The old consort of Long County did not mention the wedding date. She had to settle the three books and six etiquettes first. The war in the North had yet to be decided, so the Imperial Astronomer Council would choose a few auspicious dates to hold the wedding.

The old Princess Consort of Long County was not careless either. She even personally made a trip to the Yue Fei Kings Residence to see Butler Wen. "King Li of Zhou and his wife have passed away. As King Yue's uncle, the etiquette of the three books and six etiquettes should be handled by the emperor.

However, as the emperor, etiquette should be handed over to the imperial family to prepare for him. My son, the Prince of Long, will take on this matter and definitely settle this etiquette well."

Even when a princess got married or a prince married a concubine, the etiquette that should be handled by the emperor was handed over to the imperial family.

Butler Wen hurriedly said, "His Highness sent a letter earlier and mentioned his marriage to the Eldest Princess."

Every word in the letter was sincere. They were all praises for Eldest Princess Shaoyi. He kept saying that the Eldest Princess had a precious character and admired her talent and character. He was grateful for the kindness of the emperor and the Empress Dowager. He also said that in this life, he would only marry the Eldest Princess. He expressed that the war at the front line was at a stalemate and he could not leave. He felt deeply regretful about this, so he begged the imperial family to do their best to arrange the marriage and not neglect the Eldest Princess...

In addition, the letter mentioned the management of the three books and six etiquettes, and attached a gift list.

Although King Yue Fei was not around, he had explained clearly what to do with the marriage and how to be most respectful.

It was obvious that King Yue Fei valued Eldest Princess Shaoyi very much.

The old Princess Consort of Long County roughly looked at the gift list. There were a total of nine gift lists. Not only was the gift list generous, but it was also meticulous in all aspects.

Anyone with discerning eyes could tell at a glance that this gift list had not been prepared in a day or two. It was probably that King Yue Fei had already started preparing the gift list from the moment the Empress Dowager bestowed the marriage.

What was most surprising was that all the gifts on the gift list were placed in the Yue Fei Kings Residence in the capital.

It was obvious that King Yue Fei had long been preparing for the marriage.

The old Princess Consort of Long County's smile couldn't help but deepen. "The Eldest Princess is the number one noble daughter of our Great Zhou. The marriage should be handled carefully so that King Yue Fei can rest assured."

After the matchmaking matter was settled, the old Princess Consort of Long County set off for the capital.

Yu Youyao arranged for someone to take good care of her on the way. She sent the old Princess Consort and the others off gratefully and reluctantly.

Princess Lishan stayed in Xiangping.

Yu Youyao also began to busy herself with all the matters related to preventing the snow disaster..