

All Hail 391

Chapter 391 Who Dares to Bully Me?

Yu Youyao pouted. "I'm not stupid. When Prince You is rehabilitated, Cousin will be able to recover his title. At that time, Cousin will be a prince with military power. Of course, I have to hug Cousin's legs tightly before he makes a move. In the future, no one will be able to compare to my status in Cousin's heart. Let's see who still dares to bully me."

With that, she rested her chin on her hand with an expression that said, "Aren't I very smart? Praise me quickly."

However, Zhou Linghuai was amused. "Cousin, please take care of me in the future."

He also controlled a trade route in the north and west of Shanxi. He also managed many businesses. Since the little girl was ambitious and wanted to earn money, why won't he fulfill her wish?

Yu Youyao patted her chest. "Cousin, don't worry. As long as my escort business is completed, I won't lose anything. When Zhou Yonghe's plan is done, I'll show it to you."

Upon hearing the little girl mention the name of the man beside her, Zhou Linghuai's eyebrows twitched slightly. He immediately remembered who this Zhou Yonghe was and said, "He's a talent. He's a weak scholar who took on the job. He's quite a bold and ambitious person."

Yu Youyao had many people by her side, but the only person she liked was Zhou Yonghe.

Yu Youyao nodded. "Not only that, but he doesn't lack methods and wisdom. He's also doing things appropriately. After training in the escort business for a while, he can take on a big role."

On one hand, she placed Zhou Yonghe in an important position because this person had been given to her by her grandmother and was worthy of her trust.

In addition, she also admired Zhou Yonghe.

Zhou Linghuai changed the topic. "The guards of King You's Residence are set up on the left, right, front, back, and middle. Each of them has a thousand households and a hundred households, which means a total of 5,000 people."

Yu Youyao's eyes widened. "According to the ranks of the officials in this dynasty, there are strict rules. The vassal lords can only have 2,000 guards at most. Why are there so many people in the King You's Residence?"

She said a little more because King You was a member of the royal family.

Zhou Linghuai chuckled. "Actually, although the so-called guard regulations are clearly stipulated, the person in charge of the real power already has many privileges. In addition, my father is a member of the orthodox royal family. It is clearly stipulated in the "Weekly Rites" that the prince can deploy 3,000 guards as his birthright, and the descendants of the princes will have similar power but fewer guards. In this way, within the regulations of Youwang Mansion, 5,000 guards can be used, but with various privileges. In fact, a maximum of 8,000 guards can be raised. There are also hidden guards, which add up to tens of thousands."

Among them, 3,000 were hidden dragons that he had raised in secret. They were elite cavalry.

Another 2,000 were elite troops.

These two armies were powerful in combat. They were good at defeating many with few troops and had powerful expeditionary combat abilities. To be able to travel 400 kilometers in a day, their power was not inferior to the strongest Liaodong army in the previous dynasty.

The 2,000 elite soldiers were best at army formations and surprise attacks. They had a miraculous effect of restraining the cavalry.

Yu Youyao was shocked. "So many?!"

Zhou Linghuai nodded. "Since we're going to run an escort business, there will naturally be a lot of people needed. I'll send a thousand people to you. They'll arrive one after another in three months. When the time comes, you can make your own arrangements."

Yu Youyao was shocked and quickly waved her hand. "Cousin, I don't need so many people. 500 people is about enough. A thousand is too many."

Zhou Linghuai chuckled. "If I give it to you, it'll be yours. In the future, you'll distribute their food yourself. You can order them around however you want. Once your escort business is established and you open a trade route, you will need many people."

Yu Youyao wanted to refuse, but on careful thought, her cousin's words made sense, so she nodded. "Thank you, Cousin." With that, she took an old camphor treasure box from the table. "Cousin, this is the banknote I can use for the time being. Take it and use it first. If it's not enough, ask me for more."

She wouldn't take advantage of her cousin for nothing.

If her cousin treated her well, she had to treat him well too.

Zhou Linghuai opened the box and saw a stack of banknotes inside. The corners of his mouth couldn't help but twitch a few times. Coincidentally, he heard the little girl boldly telling him to ask her for more money if it was not enough. Fortunately, he swallowed the tea in his mouth. Otherwise, he would have choked again.

How did he give the illusion that he was very short of money?

To make the little girl feel that he was like a "freeloader"?

Zhou Linghuai was puzzled and could only refuse. "I don't lack money for the time being. Cousin, take back the banknote. If you want to do an escort business, you'll need to spend a lot of money."

Yu Youyao pushed the box back to her cousin and smiled. "I know that it's not easy for you. You still have tens of thousands of guards in your hands. You don't lack money now, but you definitely will in the future. Cousin, you don't have to feel embarrassed. This money is considered the rental fee for a thousand guards, so you have to accept it. No matter how much you suffer, you can't let your subordinates suffer. It's not easy for you to come this far after having your family destroyed. They've followed you loyally all the way. You have to treat them well."

The King You's Residence had been betrayed and had all the assets. Her cousin still had to raise so many people. It must have been difficult for him in the past few years.

He had only said that he wasn't short of money for the time being because he was used to being humble. He couldn't possibly say that he had a lot of money and wasn't short of money at all!

However, he did not know what the little girl was thinking. She actually felt that he was too embarrassed to accept the banknote. She had even taken the initiative to help him find an excuse: a thousand yuan rent for the guards!

It was to thank him!

Zhou Linghuai was completely speechless. "I'm really..."

Yu Youyao smiled. "Cousin, why are you being so polite to me? Look, I've never been polite to you. If I want to run an escort business, I just ask Cousin for help. If I lack people, I just ask Cousin for them." As she spoke, she wrinkled her nose and was a little unhappy. "Cousin doesn't want my money. Could it be that you're distant from me?"

Zhou Linghuai rubbed his forehead. "Okay!"

In the future, he could also help her from other places, in case he made the little girl unhappy.

After all, the little girl had promised to help him raise an army.

He couldn't possibly refute her good intentions!

After the matter of the escort business was settled, Zhou Linghuai found two more rangers who had been in the martial world. Yu Youyao understood some of the rules and matters within the escort business and organized them in books to study carefully.

After that, the two rangers were sent to Little Zhouzhuang to help Zhou Yonghe manage the escort business.

Unknowingly, it was June.

The weather was getting hotter and hotter, and it hadn't rained for more than a month.

Rumors spread throughout the Great Zhou Dynasty. Everyone said that King You had died with injustice, angering the heavens and sending down a fire punishment. Only when King You washed away his grievances would the heavens send down rain.

The commoners did not know anything about the royal court.

However, there was a saying that went, "The wind rises at the end of Qingping." Changes in the world often began in the royal court. Among the commoners, the more insignificant one was, the faster they could experience the changes in the world.

Chapter 392 The Marquis of Changxing Enters the Capital

After King You's death, the commoners could vaguely feel a hidden surge, so they couldn't help but feel terrified.

This kind of fear erupted after Ye Hanyuan knocked on the drum and reported the Marquis of Changxing's ten crimes. In just a month, anger rose everywhere in the country, and there were small-scale unrests in many areas.

The news was quickly sent to the palace and presented to the emperor.

Only then did the emperor clearly realize the serious consequences of King You's death for the Great Zhou. He suddenly recalled that there was an ancestor in the previous dynasty who had established the emperor's grandson and wantonly killed meritorious officials.

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The Imperial Grandson persuaded the Primordial Ancestor, "Don't kill anymore!"

When the Primordial Ancestor heard this, he said, "You're benevolent by nature. In the future, when you ascend the throne, you'll definitely become a benevolent emperor. I'm purging those officials who took credit from you in case these people use their positions to bully you in the future."

The emperor's grandson was silent for a long time. "Grandfather, once you kill these meritorious and brave generals, I won't be able to use them. Then, what will happen to me in the future when the vassal lords rebel? You've cleaned up the royal court for me, but the court will be filled with their juniors and henchmen. In the future, when I ascend the throne, how can I face them? How can they be loyal to me?"

When the Primordial Ancestor heard this, he regretted it greatly.

Unexpectedly, the imperial grandson was right.

After the death of the Primordial Ancestor, the emperor's grandson ascended the throne. He originally had the heart to govern the country, but he did not have any loyal court officials. He originally had literary and military strategies, but he was useless. The only person he could trust was a eunuch.

In the end, the vassal lords rebelled in the name of "Emperor Qing's Rule."

Youzhou was located in a special place. Not only was it a barrier against the invasion of the Di people, but it was also a barrier to defend against the capital and intimidate the vassal lords.

The Di people were fiercer than a tiger. Who could guard this huge Youzhou for him?

If the vassal lords rebelled one day, who could help him calm the chaos? Who could guard this country for him?

The emperor racked his brains. In the huge royal court, he actually had no one he could use and no one he could trust!

At this moment, the emperor could more and more sense the benefits of King You guarding Youzhou. The anger in his heart grew day by day.

Finally, in mid-June, the Marquis of Changxing, his subordinates, the officials of Youzhou, the local nobles, and more than 120 people were escorted into the capital.

The 3,000 elite soldiers of the Divine Arms Battalion escorted the prison carriages into the capital majestically. The commoners who were congested on both sides of the street were furious. Rocks, rotten eggs, rotten grass, leaves, and so on kept smashing into the prison carriage—

"These animals are worse than dogs. King You's Hall is the guardian of the Great Zhou Dynasty. You killed King You's family. You're simply heartless. Die..."

“Pfft, there are gods everywhere. You people have done all kinds of evil. This is retribution, right...”

“Bastard, go to hell and pay with your life for King You...”

“Go to hell...”

“Go to hell...”

“Die...”

The commoners pushed the soldiers on both sides of the street, screaming and cursing.

Zhou Linghuai sat on the second floor of an inn and quietly watched the long prison carriages drive through the streets.

A man in black appeared silently. “Young Master, everything has been arranged. In a few days, the news of the large-scale rebellion in Shandong will spread to the capital.”

The corners of Zhou Linghuai’s mouth twitched slightly. “The previous dynasty’s strength was weak, and the area around Shandong became the backyard of the Dongyi. Dongyi plundered the area, causing Shandong to become a ‘land of the desolate people’. After the Great Zhou Dynasty was established, Emperor Gaozu led an expedition to the east and encouraged Shandong to explore the wasteland. A large number of refugees who had been displaced by the war rushed to Shandong. As a result, Shandong was mixed with all kinds of people. The various clans lived together. Not only were there bandits and thieves, but there were also many rebel forces hidden. Small riots were frequent, and the previous emperors of the Great Zhou Dynasty were troubled by this.”

The man in black cupped his hands and said nothing.

Zhou Linghuai frowned slightly. For some reason, a sense of ruthlessness rose in his heart. “Let Ye Hanyuan see his true colors. How good would it be to stab the dog emperor to death in the Golden Hall? The ten sins of the Marquis of Changxing will be exposed to the world. Father, you don’t have to bear the name of colluding with the enemy to betray the country as a rebel. The people of the world will be resentful and riots will happen everywhere. At that time, the Youzhou army will rebel and kill the Marquis of Changxing and all the generals under him. All the officials, nobles, and vassal lords of Youzhou can’t help but take action. The Great Zhou Dynasty’s world will come to an end, and I won’t have anything to do with it.”

Sensing his master’s violent emotions, the man in black lowered his head. A living person actually did not seem to have a presence.

This was Young Master’s original plan.

Zhou Linghuai suddenly closed his eyes. He thought of the little girl looking at him with sparkling eyes. There seemed to be a starlight in her eyes, like a galaxy that shone in his heart.

From then on, there was a dazzling galaxy in his heart.

What he looked forward to the most was this pair of bright and clear eyes, not the scene of him using any means to bury the entire world for his own selfish desires.

Instead, he wanted to cut off all the filth for her.

Zhou Linghuai opened his eyes and gently rubbed the cooling beads on his wrist. The delicate wooden feeling made his impetuous and ruthless emotions gradually calm down. “Heh, how troublesome.” He sighed slightly with a helpless expression. “Forget it. I’ll just take it that the previous generation owes her.”

Anyway, he would take revenge and protect her for the rest of her life.

He would let her do as she pleased for the rest of her life!

While Zhou Linghuai was having a headache, the Marquis of Changxing and the others were sent to jail. The emperor ordered the Ministry of Justice, the Court of Justice, and the Imperial Court to conduct a three-division review and a cabinet review.

Everyone in the court panicked again.

The three divisions would interrogate them for at least a month, and at most two to three months.

The Marquis of Changxing’s crime of murdering the royal family was very serious. The officials who participated in the trial were all carrying out their tasks. Naturally, they did not dare to be negligent.

If they didn’t interrogate them, they wouldn’t know what they would do. In the first trial, it was found that they would mistreat the commoners, ask for seal money, forcefully occupy farmland, and so on. All kinds of trivial matters would also be involved.

The crimes were written page after page, implicating one official after another.

It was simply shocking.

The emperor was furious. “Investigate. Investigate hard. Find as much as you can. If you dare to miss out on anything, I’ll cut off your heads.”

The Three Laws Department was so frightened that they peed their pants. They quickly looked for the Cabinet Grand Secretary, Xia Yansheng, and the Marquis of Zhen.

Xia Yansheng sighed slightly. “If the emperor wants it investigated, so be it. Investigate as much as you can.”

The emperor had not been involved in politics for a long time. King You’s death made him feel threatened. He was worried that if he did not kill everyone in the court, how could he show the dignity of the royal family?

Xia Yansheng agreed with a deeper meaning.

When the people from the Three Laws Department heard this, they understood. They would investigate what they could. They had to bypass the Marquis of Ningyuan (Marquis of Weining), who had just been demoted. After all, the emperor’s attitude towards the Marquis of Ningyuan was unclear.

The Marquis of Zhen’s attitude was the same as Xia Yansheng’s. “Do as you should.”

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Chapter 393 Shandong Rebellion

The court officials were not fools. As soon as King You's death spread, the people of the Great Zhou Dynasty were furious. There were frequent riots everywhere. At this moment, the emperor was a furious lion. If he did not kill until blood flowed like a river, it would not be enough to intimidate the world.

He wanted to use a bloody method to tell the entire court and the vassal lords everywhere, "The authority of the royal family is not to be provoked."

This was the mind of an emperor.

Just as the court was in a state of panic...

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An urgent document was sent into the capital. The ferghana horse galloped along Chang An Street. The spy holding the document high shouted, "Shandong Emergency Report, Shandong Emergency Report..."

When the commoners heard this voice, they retreated and made way.

The ferghana horse sped into the palace from Chang An Street.

The spy knelt on one knee and said anxiously, "Your Majesty, the various tribes in Shandong have launched a large-scale rebellion. The leader, Li Qiguang, shouted that you were an incompetent ruler and persecuted the ones who were loyal..."

When the emperor heard the words "incompetent ruler", he was like an angry lion, and his eyes turned red. "Summon the ministers into the palace to discuss matters."

When the officials received the news, they did not dare to delay at all and rushed into the palace.

The emperor stood high above and looked down at the ministers below. "There's a large-scale rebellion in Shandong. Do you have any good plans?"

This concerned the danger of the country, so how could the officials dare to hide it.

Xia Yansheng immediately cupped his hands. "Li Qiguang has always thought of himself as a remnant of the Gulu Kingdom. He has been buying people's hearts in the Shandong area and has gathered a large number of people under him. The Imperial Court has sent troops to suppress him twice and tried to persuade him to surrender, but to no avail. Now that he's starting a rebellion, I'm afraid he's using the reputation of King You to rebel. Your Majesty, please choose a suitable general as soon as possible and bring troops to suppress the rebellion."

"Elder Xia is right. Shandong is located in the hinterland of the Central Plains. From the north to the south, it borders Hebei, Henan, Anhui, and Jiangsu. It's less than 600 kilometers away from the capital. If the traitor, Li Qiguang, takes over Shandong and forms a force, the capital will be in danger. Your Majesty, please appoint a general immediately to bring troops to quell the chaos."

"There's no time to delay suppressing the chaos. Your Majesty, please issue a decree immediately..."

The court officials knelt on the ground and exclaimed.

The emperor in the high position stared at the court officials kneeling on the ground. The redness in his eyes had yet to dissipate, and instead, he looked even more shocked.

The dead silence pressed down on the court officials until they did not even dare to breathe loudly.

After an unknown period of time, the emperor's calm voice sounded. "In your opinion, who should I send to Shandong to calm the chaos to have a guaranteed victory?"

He enunciated the last four words softly and heavily, each one seeming to be squeezed out from between his teeth.

The royal court was silent.

No one dared to say anything else. It was not a big deal to recommend a general, but everyone present knew what the words "guaranteed victory" meant. If they were not careful, they would lose their heads.

The situation in Shandong was complicated, and riots often happened. The previous emperors of the Great Zhou Dynasty had a headache over this.

No matter who went, they probably did not have the confidence to win.

The emperor sneered. "Dear ministers, you have to think carefully. You can win this battle, but you can't lose. Otherwise, the dignity of our Great Zhou will be damaged by a mere thief. This will be a big loss. Your heads will be chopped off."

The Marquis of Changxing's crimes were monstrous, and the citizens of the world were furious. There were frequent riots everywhere. If they could not show the dignity of the Great Zhou Dynasty in this battle, it would encourage Li Qiguang and the rebel forces everywhere.

At that time, if the world was in chaos and the vassal lords rebelled...

The emperor suddenly closed his eyes.

If his younger brother, Yin Lixing, was still around, would these bandits dare to bully the Yin Imperial Family?

Now that his brother, Yin Lixing, was dead, it became an excuse for these bandits to rebel.

He thought that it was extremely ridiculous!

The court officials knelt on the ground, not even daring to raise their eyes. Those who were timid trembled on the spot.

The emperor immediately laughed in anger. "Why? Do you all think you're mute? I remember that back then, the heir killed a few officials and nobles who didn't want to assist in the war in the north and only wanted to escape. All of you couldn't wait to jump out and talk about how King You had gathered his troops and wanted to summon him to the capital to be punished..."

But now that King You was dead, no one in the court could be used?!

At the mention of King You, the court officials broke out in a cold sweat on a hot day.

The silent atmosphere completely angered the emperor. He shouted, "Where's the Minister of War, Lord Xu? The Ministry of War is in charge of the wars in various places. Do you want to be mute too?"

The new Minister of War, Lord Xu, immediately walked out of the crowd and knelt on the ground.

The emperor clearly saw that there was a wet patch on the back of his red official uniform. "Who do you think can take on this role?"

Lord Xu's body trembled. Even though he was kneeling on the ground, he could still feel the king's gaze, which was filled with killing intent, land on him. He wanted to cry but had no tears. "I'll recommend the Marquis of Ningyuan to lead the troops to calm the chaos in Shandong."

The words "guaranteed victory" already showed how much the emperor valued this battle.

If he recommended some young generals, they would definitely not be able to take on the heavy responsibility. Only old officials with outstanding military achievements would have more chances of winning.

Of course, he did not want to offend the Marquis of Ningyuan.

Duke Ning Yuan was definitely involved in King You's death.

However, the Emperor had only demoted Imperial Concubine Lu to second-rank Concubine Lan. The Marquis of Weining's Estate had also been demoted to second-rank Marquis of Ningyuan's Estate. It could be seen that the Emperor still wanted to use the Marquis of Ningyuan's Estate.

However, among the noble old generals in the capital, there were some old established generals that they could not afford to offend, such as the Marquis of Zhen.

Only the Marquis of Ningyuan, who had been demoted, was the best candidate.

There was no turning back. Lord Xu gritted his teeth secretly. "The Marquis of Changxing is a direct descendant of the Marquis of Ningyuan. The two families are in-laws. King You died unjustly. Although what the Marquis of Changxing did is unforgivable, the Marquis of Weining is also in the wrong. Although the emperor has punished the Marquis of Ningyuan, it's still difficult for the anger of the people to be appeased. It's a good opportunity for the Marquis of Ningyuan to redeem himself."

As the emperor listened, his eyes flickered.

Lord Xu was trembling in fear as he continued, "Marquis of Ningyuan has made outstanding military achievements. Three years ago, the Di people invaded the north wantonly. Although it was King You and the heir who turned the tide, it was also thanks to the Marquis of Ningyuan's help. I think the Marquis of Ningyuan's reputation will definitely intimidate the rebels and suppress the rebellion in Shandong. Then, he will make unparalleled contributions to the Imperial Court."

Every word and sentence made sense.

The court officials below lowered their heads, not daring to show their faces.

As for Marquis of Ningyuan, his eyes darkened and he almost fainted on the spot.

Li Qiguang considered himself a remnant of the Gulu people and had been entrenched in Shandong for generations. It could be said that his roots were deeply rooted. A strong dragon could not

suppress a local snake. Once he led his troops there, not only would they face the chaos under Li Qiguang, but they would also face all kinds of open and hidden attacks.

In the history of the Great Zhou, many generals had been buried in Shandong.

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He did not have the confidence to win.

Chapter 394 Self-Invitation

There was another suffocating silence in the royal court.

After a while, the emperor stared at Lord Xu's gaze and gradually looked at the Marquis of Ningyuan. "What do you think, Marquis of Ningyuan? Are you willing to lead troops to quell the rebellion in Shandong?"

The Marquis of Ningyuan trembled and had no choice but to walk into the hall. He knelt on the ground with a thud. "Your Majesty, ever since my leg was injured in the battle with the Di people three years ago, I can no longer ride a horse, let alone lead an army to war. I'm afraid I can't help the Imperial Court calm the chaos and damage the dignity of our Great Zhou. I-I beg Your Majesty to find another..."

"Enough—" The emperor was furious. He suddenly grabbed his teacup and smashed it on the Marquis of Ningyuan's head.

The Marquis of Ningyuan screamed and fell to the ground.

However, no one in the court dared to look at him.

Everyone knew very well that when Marquis of Ningyuan said that he would resign, the matter of quelling the rebellion in Shandong could not be handed over to him. After all, before they could stop the rebellion, Marquis of Ningyuan had already cowered. How could this rebellion be quelled?

The emperor also understood this principle, so other than being furious, he could not force Marquis of Ningyuan to lead the troops.

After venting his anger, the emperor seemed to have exhausted all his strength. His face immediately turned ashen, and he staggered back to the dragon throne, panting heavily.

When the eunuch saw this, he quickly took out a pill and fed it to him.

After taking the pill, the emperor was very tired. He narrowed his eyes and looked at the blurry scene below, his face turning green.

At this moment, there was the sound of wheels in the hall. The emperor, who had almost lost his mind in his anger, suddenly heard a hoarse voice. "Your Majesty, I, Yin Huaixi, am willing to lead my troops to Shandong to calm the chaos with my crippled body. If the riots are not eliminated, I swear I won't return to the court."

Yin Huaixi's request for battle was simply like a slap to the Marquis of Changxing, who had been unable to ride a horse due to his "leg problems" and lead his troops to calm the chaos.

Yin Huaixi was a 15-year-old young man with crippled legs and a weak body. However, he was still filled with loyalty and heroism.

In contrast, he was an old general with outstanding military achievements and was deeply valued, but he actually dared to resign.

The Marquis of Ningyuan, who had fallen to the ground and was pretending to be unconscious, almost couldn't pretend anymore.

The emperor suddenly opened his eyes and stared fixedly at "Yin Huaixi", who was sitting in a wheelchair. "I'm deeply gratified that you were able to step forward when the Great Zhou Dynasty was in danger. You're worthy of being a man of the Yin family." Then, he changed the topic and said with some concern in his tone, "However, your health isn't good. Go back to Fuyang Palace and recuperate!"

Over the past few days, the heir, Yin Huaixi, had been living in Fuyang Palace.

He had also sent someone to investigate Yin Huaixi thoroughly.

Naturally, he knew that Yin Huaixi had been practicing martial arts with King You since he was five years old. He had entered the military camp at the age of seven and lived with the soldiers in the army, displaying extremely strong military talent.

When the Di people invaded the Northern Barbarians on a large scale, it was such a twelve-year-old youth who killed the officials and nobles who were unwilling to help in the battle. He gathered supplies and personally escorted them to the battlefield, resolving the shortage of supplies for the You army. He fought side by side with King You and turned the tide, resolving the danger of the north.

Not only that, but back then, when Mr. Xian Yun traveled to the north to set up a precious chess game, no one in the world could understand it.

In the end, he was the one who solved the chess game.

Yin Huaixi was undoubtedly a genius. If he did not have a broken leg, he would definitely be of use to him. He would replace his father, King You, and help him calm the chaos in Shandong and suppress the You Prefecture.

Unfortunately, he was crippled.

He would have to live in a wheelchair for the rest of his life and wouldn't be able to ride horses and shoot arrows on the battlefield.

"Yin Huaixi" shook his head. "In the rebellion in Shandong, we can't afford to lose."

The emperor frowned and was immediately displeased. "Someone, send the heir back to Fuyang Palace to recuperate."

"Yin Huaixi" thought of Young Master's instructions and said, "Your Majesty, please listen to me. If you still don't want me to lead the troops to quell the chaos, I have nothing to say."

The emperor looked at him steadily. "Tell me!"

"Yin Huaixi" lowered his eyes. "There are three reasons why I want to lead the troops to Shandong."

At this point, he paused for a moment, and his voice became much deeper. "Firstly, my father has been in the military for half his life and is loyal to the Imperial Court. He has no ulterior motives. Although he's dead, it's no big deal. However, that thief from Shandong actually dared to use my father's reputation to rebel and tarnish my father's reputation. As his son, I should eliminate the traitor and use the name of my father to make an example of the world and raise the reputation of our Great Zhou."

The emperor's heart skipped a beat when he heard this. "Yin Huaixi" had such goals because he was ambitious. Perhaps he...

However, when he saw his legs, he suppressed the thoughts in his heart.

There was no hurry.

He wanted to hear what he had to say next.

"Yin Huaixi" raised his eyes and looked straight at the king on the dragon throne. "Secondly, my father is loyal to the country. He was sincere. Although he was framed and wronged, he obtained benevolence. The commoners don't know the truth and were instigated by the traitors, causing anger in the people. The reason why Li Qiguang was able to get a hundred people to respond at once and dare to launch a large-scale rebellion in Shandong is because of the people's anger. He used the people's anger to accuse the emperor of harming a loyal and good ruler. For his rebellion, he gained dignity by asking for justice for the people. If the people's anger is injustice, how can it be appeased? Can the world be at peace? The people's anger can't be appeased unless the accused's son appears."

His words hit the nail on the head, making the emperor's breathing quicken.

During this period of time, there had been anger everywhere in the country, and there had already been small-scale riots in many areas.

If the people's anger was not eliminated, a large-scale rebellion like the Shandong rebellion would definitely not be the first or second. At that time, the consequences would be unimaginable.

Yin Huaixi was right. Only Yin Huaixi, the heir of King You, could calm the people's anger.

In that case, he really had to be involved in the rebellion in Shandong.

Before the emperor could speak, he waited to hear him continue.

"Yin Huaixi" continued, "Although your leg is crippled and you can't ride a horse or shoot an arrow, you are still his son." He pointed at his brain and pursed his lips slightly, his eyes revealing a hint of arrogance. "His brain is still there. This brain is filled with the wisdom of strategizing and deciding the outcome of a

thousand miles. Also, his heart still exists.” He pointed at his chest. “A man should hold a three-foot sword and make extraordinary contributions. If he doesn’t follow his goals today, why should he be afraid of death?”

His powerful words were heard by everyone present.

His words only meant one thing.

He was not afraid of the rebellion in Shandong.

The emperor couldn’t help but shout excitedly, “Good, good. You’re a good man. You should hold a sword that’s three feet long and make extraordinary contributions. You haven’t fulfilled your ambition today, why are you afraid of death?” At this point, the emperor laughed loudly. He suddenly stood up from the dragon chair and strode down the steps to “Yin Huaixi”. He patted his shoulder. “Your father really taught a good son. As expected of the dragon son and phoenix grandson of the Yin Imperial Family. He’s ambitious and courageous.”

Chapter 395 Every Consideration

All the civil and military officials in the court boasted about their achievements, but none of them could compare to the aspirations and vitality of this man.

His Yin family should last for thousands of generations.

Every word of Yin Huaixi was provocative and heartfelt.

Even the civil and military officials in the court could not say anything wrong, let alone mention that Heir Yin Huaixi was still using the title of the son of a guilty official to provoke the emperor.

!!

The court officials heaved a sigh of relief and shouted, “Your Majesty is wise.”

The emperor immediately returned to his high position and announced in the hall, “From today onwards, Yin Huaixi will be promoted to the Great General of the Eastern Expedition, and Count Changning will be the deputy general, and... a group of people will lead an army of 100,000 soldiers to fight against the rebels...”

As Yin Huaixi couldn’t fight, the emperor appointed two old generals to assist him in the war. In order to protect Yin Huaixi’s safety, he even gave him a hundred palace guards.

Immediately, the entire court was shocked.

The palace guards belonged to the emperor and only listened to his orders. There were hidden dragons and crouching tigers inside. The emperor had sent the palace guards to Yin Huaixi, which showed how much he valued him.

Yin Huaixi took out the Four Seas Flood Dragon dagger from his sleeve. Blood was drawn out with the scabbard and dripped onto the hall that was covered in gold tiles. “I will definitely not let down the emperor’s grace.”

When the emperor saw this scene, his eyes were a little dazed. This scene was so similar to when his brother had gone to Youzhou back then.

When the news reached the outside of the palace, the tea in Mr. Xian Yun's mouth was no longer fragrant.

He immediately went to the Yu Residence.

Recently, Mr. Xian Yun had been entering the residence frequently. Everyone in the residence knew that Mr. Xian Yun and Young Master Zhou of the Green House were friends despite their age difference. The gatekeeper was no longer surprised.

When Mr. Xian Yun arrived at the Green House, he saw Zhou Linghuai sitting under the grape trellis and drinking tea leisurely. He was furious. "Rascal, I've lived for most of my life, but I've never seen a second person who's more scheming than you."

Zhou Linghuai drank his tea and ignored him.

Mr. Xian Yun sat down opposite him and glared at him. "There's anger everywhere in the country. Were you the one behind this? Were you also involved in the rebellion in Shandong?"

The weather was hot, and after he finished speaking, he felt his mouth go dry.

He snatched the teapot from the table and took a cup. Then, he poured himself a cup of tea, picked up the teacup, and poured it into his mouth.

After drinking it, Mr. Xian Yun wiped his mouth with his sleeve. "Yin Huaixi, you're really scheming. You've used the so-called people's anger to invite yourself to Shandong to calm the chaos. The emperor has no reason to refuse. When the army returns to the court, it's time for the dust to settle on the Marquis of Changxing's case. It's even more logical to use King You to restore the ancestral temple. The good reputation of being a loyal ruler and bringing peace to the world will be obtained by your father, King You."

What bullsh*t loyalty? If this kid had any loyalty, would he have forced the vassal lord to rebel?

He had never thought that Yin Huaixi would not be able to calm the chaos in Shandong.

Zhou Linghuai pursed his lips, disapproving of Mr. Xian Yun's words.

The more Mr. Xian Yun spoke, the angrier he became. "At that time, on account of your merits, the emperor will definitely consider letting you inherit the title of King You and take over the 300,000-strong army of Youzhou. However, nothing is absolute. You're worried that there will be additional complications, so you want me to enter the palace and intercede for you. This matter is set in stone. Heh, it's really a good method. Every step counted. No, I'm really underestimating you. It's not just ten steps ahead. You've been plotting for today since three years ago..."

This was what it meant to have flawless plans and peerless wisdom.

Look at this method. He was the bad one, and also the good one.

At this point, Mr. Xian Yun couldn't help but laugh at himself. "No wonder. I'm just a wandering crane. Even if I have a reputation for virtue, it's not to the extent that I can convince the emperor to let a fifteen-year-old weak, crippled, and sickly young man take over the 300,000-strong army of Youzhou and lead the war in Youzhou. It turns out that you've planned for today from that time."

At this point, Mr. Xian Yun's thoughts suddenly became clear. "You've flattened the chaos in Shandong and naturally nurtured your own power there. Shandong is in the hinterland of the Central Plains, and it's rich in resources. It's in sync with Youzhou. If you control Youzhou and Shandong, it's equivalent to controlling half of the north of Jiangnan at the same time. Yin Huaixi, you're simply..."

heIf she hadn't said it, he wouldn't have known. Now that he had said it, he knew how deep this kid's scheme was.

Even he did not see through it much.

He had really lived for so long in vain. It was embarrassing.

"Are you done?" Zhou Linghuai put down his teacup and looked down at him.

Mr. Xian Yun glared at him angrily. "You want to chase me away? No way."

Zhou Linghuai supported his forehead with his hand and looked irritable. "In this world, the most brilliant scheme is often to hit the nail on the head. I took such a big detour and took all the trouble to obtain military power in Youzhou. How can it be a good scheme or a good method?"

Not only that, but he had also taken on the responsibility of bringing peace to Shandong. How stupid was he? Wasn't it good to stay in the Yu Residence every day and drink tea, read books, eat cake, paint, and carve?

Why would he ask for trouble?!

Did he think he was willing?

It wasn't like he was his father. He would ask for trouble only if his brain was damaged!

When Mr. Xian Yun heard this, his eyes darted around. "If you hadn't mentioned it, I wouldn't have realized that this is indeed not in line with your style of doing things." He looked at Yin Huaixi and saw that he was subconsciously rubbing the incense beads on his wrist. He suddenly understood. "The reason why you took such a big detour is because you're worried that Little Miss Yu will be unhappy when she finds out, right? Haha, this scheme is endless... Haha..."

Thinking about it carefully, Yin Huaixi had taken a big detour to take 300,000 troops from Youzhou. It was indeed the greatest benefit at the lowest price.

Although it was a little troublesome, at least not too many innocent people were implicated.

Yin Huaixi was ruthless by nature. He dared to kill officials and nobles at the age of twelve. It was obvious how cruel this child was.

Now that he actually knew how scrupulous this plan was, Mr. Xian Yun's eyes widened.

Zhou Linghuai looked troubled and disdainful. "Tsk, the elites in Ludong are chaotic. The clans are intertwined. It's easy to quell the rebellion, but it's difficult to control them. These clans have their own history, words, customs, and ancestral codes. The clan law is greater than the law of the country. As long as the clan isn't destroyed, Ludong won't be at peace." At this point, he felt more and more that he had gotten himself into big trouble. He felt extremely disgusted. "The Dongyi has already retreated to the south of the east border guarded by the King of Dongning, but the east

border is closer to Ludong. With the King of Dongning eyeing me covetously, can I easily control Shandong?"

Otherwise, why would he say that he was asking for trouble?

Otherwise, why would it be troublesome?

Who would be willing to do such a thankless task?

There were benefits, but he still needed to waste too much effort scheming. When had he, Yin Huaixi, ever caused trouble for himself?!

Mr. Xian Yun understood immediately. "If we don't beat around the bush, what do you plan to do?"

Zhou Linghuai's gaze suddenly darkened as he said calmly, "It's very simple. Although Li Qiguang is the leader of the rebels and seems to have gained power, he's actually not a Marquis of Qi. A snake is ultimately a snake, but there's no doubt that Li Qiguang wants to control Shandong."

Chapter 396 Real Intention Revealed

Mr. Xian Yun agreed deeply. Everyone knew Li Qiguang's ambition. "You want to use Li Qiguang?!"

Zhou Linghuai changed the topic. "I just have to offer advice to Li Qiguang. I'll burn the clan's ancestral shrine, destroy the clan's ancestral code, and pressure the local clans to learn Chinese characters. I'll marry into the Han Dynasty. In the future, in the name of defending the clan, I'll crusade against Li Qiguang. The remaining forces of the clan will definitely be willing to join forces and be used by me. Ludong will completely be under my control. Without the so-called ancestral code, they'll be loyal when they completely integrate into Han life."

Mr. Xian Yun, who was drinking tea, immediately choked and spat out a mouthful of tea. "in Huaixi, in terms of insidiousness, no one in this world can compare to you. Li Qiguang has interacted with the clan in Ludong for many years, so how can he not know the importance of the clan's words, ancestral codes, and so on to them? How can you be sure that he will do as you say?"

Destroying someone else's ancestral hall and ancestral code was an unforgivable and wicked thing. To think that he could think of such a despicable move.

Zhou Linghuai said calmly, "If he doesn't want to, I'll create an opportunity for him to think."

Mr. Xian Yun immediately did not know what to say. "How do we create an opportunity?"

Zhou Linghuai said slowly, "After the Imperial Court's rebellion and defeat, Li Qiguang's reputation has increased greatly, and East Mountain has become his. How can he allow others to sleep soundly? If it were you, what would you have done after gaining power?"

Mr. Xian Yun felt that his brain was not enough. "Of course. While dealing a huge blow to the Imperial Court, he'll completely control Ludong and develop his own power in Ludong."

Zhou Linghuai smiled. "Look, even ordinary people think that way. Li Qiguang can't even compare to you, so I'm afraid his thoughts are inferior to yours. However, if he wants to stabilize his power in Ludong, the clan is the first obstacle. He defeated the imperial army and is at the peak of his success. If he doesn't touch the clan now, when will he?"

Mr. Xian Yun's eyes widened in anger. He asked indignantly, "It's easy for you to say. If the clan is so easy to deal with, it won't become a threat to the Great Zhou Dynasty. If you were Li Qiguang, what would you do?"

Zhou Linghuai said calmly, "Probably just watching from the sidelines and reap the spoils later."

When Xian Yun heard this, he came to a realization. The clans in Ludong were entrenched and intertwined, and the conflict between the clans was very intense.

Li Qiguang had defeated the rebel army. As long as the clan believed that he had suffered heavy losses, the other clans would definitely fight endlessly for power.

In the midst of their struggle, it was not a big deal to destroy the ancestral hall or the ancestral code.

The clan consumed its own energy. When it was almost exhausted, it would definitely hit again.

He was simply reaping the benefits.

The clan forces that had occupied Shandong for hundreds of years and caused a headache for the Imperial Court were simply like children playing house in Zhou Linghuai's mind.

Mr. Xian Yun asked again, "So, after you suppress the rebellion, you don't plan to take over Ludong?"

According to this kid's plan to defeat the Imperial Court, Ludong was nothing.

However, now that he had invited himself to "Calm the Chaos in Shandong", there was no doubt that he would win this battle. Li Qiguang had become a dead chess piece, and his plan could not be implemented.

However, this kid was very scheming. No matter how rich Shandong was, it would still be troublesome if the clan could not be eliminated. He might not take Ludong seriously.

However, this kid was very sinister. Just because he did not take him seriously did not mean that he would hand over the place he had conquered.

Based on his understanding of this kid, he definitely had other tricks up his sleeve.

As a result, he had calculated more than ten steps ahead.

It was more than a hundred steps!

How could a person's thoughts be so deep? How could a person's methods be so sinister?

Zhou Linghuai said matter-of-factly, "It's also a big problem to accept it. I don't want to do such a wicked thing as destroying the ancestral hall and the ancestral code anymore. Then should I leave it to other people?"

When he said the word "other people", his eyes revealed a different meaning.

When Mr. Xian Yun heard this, he understood who this "other person" was. "Are you so sure that the King of Dongning will do it?"

Zhou Linghuai nodded. "Back then, after the emperor ascended the throne, the King of Dongning was the first to offer the Four Seas Flood Dragon Dagger to express his sincerity. Then, he publicized that the Four Seas Flood Dragon Dagger was an auspicious sign from the sky. Among the four vassal lords, the emperor was the most at ease with the King of Dongning."

Thinking of the Four Seas Dragon Dagger, the smile in his eyes turned cold bit by bit.

Mr. Xian Yun smiled. "In the Warring States Strategy, the King of Qin dressed in court attire and had nine guests meet the envoy of Yan in Xianyang Palace. Jing Ke presents Fan Yuqi's first letter, while Qin Wuyang presents the map box and bows to His Majesty. Qin Wuyang's expression changed and he was frightened. The officials blamed him. Jing Ke smiled at Wuyang and thanked him, 'I, the humble servant of the northern barbarians, have never seen the emperor. I hope that the King will use it less and send an envoy to the front.' The King of Qin said to Jing Ke, 'Take the painting that Wuyang is holding.' When Jing Ke took the painting and sent it over, the real reason was revealed."

This was the famous The Emperor and the Assassin story in history.

The crown prince of the Yan Kingdom sent Jing Ke as an assassin, determined to kill Qin Shihuang to resolve the threat of the collapse of the country.

The warrior, Qin Wuyang, accompanied Jing Ke on his assassination. He brought along the head of the enemy that the Qin King had always wanted to kill, Fan Yuqi, and the most fertile land in Yan Kingdom that the Yan Kingdom planned to offer to the Qin King.

However, there was a sharp dagger hidden in the map that was used to assassinate Qin Shihuang. The blade was also tempered with strong poison.

When Qin Shihuang received Jing Ke, he saw that his enemy had been beheaded. When he heard that the Yan Kingdom wanted to offer a large piece of land, he opened the map excitedly. When the map was completely unfolded, the Dagger appeared.

The corners of Zhou Linghuai's lips twitched slightly. "Offering a dagger? Why not show it openly?"

When Jing Ke assassinated the King of Qin, he had to gain the King's trust first. Only in the end did he reveal his true intentions.

Didn't King Dongning offer his dagger back then to gain the trust of the current emperor?

There had long been clues about the vassal lords' disloyalty. However, later on, King You appeared out of nowhere, shocking the vassal lords everywhere.

Mr. Xian Yun shook his head.

Zhou Linghuai sneered. "The Marquis of Dongning is ambitious. There's no reason not to eat such a big piece of fat meat in front of him. Of course, even if he doesn't want to eat it, I'll force him to eat it bite by bite. However, if he wants to eat this piece of fat meat, he has to deal with the troublesome clan. Smart people should know what to do..."

Mr. Xian Yun finally couldn't help but ask, "How many years are you counting?"

Chapter 397 Too Scheming!

Zhou Linghuai thought for a while. "About three to five years?"

Mr. Xian Yun wanted to vomit blood. "You're also ambitious. Such a big piece of fat meat is in front of you. Why don't you eat it? Why do you have to give it to others?"

Zhou Linghuai looked at his leg. "It's broken. I have enough to deal with."

Mr. Xian Yun already had a deep understanding of Yin Huaixi's sinister nature.

If he didn't want to do it, he would dig a hole and let others do it.

In the future, when the King of Dongning became powerful, he would suppress the King of Dongning who had "done wicked things". He would join forces with the remaining power of the clan and reap everything that the King of Dongning had worked so hard to manage in Ludong without any effort.

At that time, Ludong's remaining clan forces would definitely be grateful to him and voluntarily join forces to help him!

How could there be such a sinister person in this world?

He would let others do all the bad things and get all the benefits.

Mr. Xian Yun couldn't help but say, "Does Little Miss Yu know that you're so sinister?"

Zhou Linghuai was smug. "This isn't called sinister. This is called resourceful. If she finds out, she'll only praise me for being amazing."

Although he had schemed many times, he had not done a single bad thing. If others fell into his trap, it would be because they were too stupid. He could not be blamed.

He had always been the little girl's most powerful and favorite cousin.

How could she do such dirty things?

Mr. Xian Yun was speechless.

She couldn't help but pity the King of Dongning. Yin Huaixi was already thinking about him before he even conquered the east. How tragic!

But!

At the thought of King Ping, who had been forced to send his heir into the capital to be a hostage, he felt that King Dongning did not seem to be that miserable. Then, he thought of himself, who had accidentally become a chess piece. It seemed to be alright?

At the thought of this, Mr. Xian Yun felt much better. Looking at the kid in front of him again, he was no longer as displeased as before.

Indeed, people were all based on comparison.

However, the problem was that a certain sinister person was still shaking his head and sighing. "If I hadn't taken such a big detour and let Li Qiguang defeat the 100,000-strong army of the Imperial Court, I wouldn't have taken such a big detour and given Ludong to King Dongning first. You have to know that King Dongning is much harder to deal with than Li Qiguang. Sigh..."

However, if he did not ask for a decree to suppress the rebellion in Shandong, the 100,000-strong army of the Imperial Court would innocent citizens would be implicated.

definitely lose.

At that time, Li Qiguang would be in power, and the rebels would be famous. The entire country would really be in chaos, and many innocent citizens would be implicated.

The little girl had told him that when she was young, Grandmaster Hui Neng had once said, "A righteous person can reach nirvana!"

After Mr. Xian Yun saw the little girl, he also said, "If you can do good deeds, you will definitely be able to have a good ending!"

Actually, this was nothing much.

However, these two people were both people of great virtue in the current world. Ordinary people could not compare. However, Yu Youyao was just a young lady. Be it her family background or experience, she was not outstanding. Her fate actually aligned with his.

This was definitely not a coincidence.

Coincidentally, the fates that the two of them obtained were similar. They both pointed out the word "virtue."

He did not believe in fate, but he also believed in the karma of the world.

There was a cause and an effect. If the young lady wanted to do good deeds, she would definitely receive good karma. Whether it was true or not, as her cousin, he naturally had to fulfill it.

In that case, he could only work harder and take a trip to Shandong to achieve his goal.

Mr. Xian Yun did not want to say this anymore, because every word this kid said made him feel like his intelligence was in danger. He changed the topic. "Where's Little Miss Yu? Why haven't I seen her?"

In the past, every time he returned to the residence, Yu Youyao would inevitably come over when she received the news.

Zhou Linghuai rubbed the incense beads on his wrist. "She went to school."

Mr. Xian Yun nodded. He had heard that Yu Youyao was smart and learned everything quickly. In order to take care of the other young misses in the residence, Ms. Ye asked her to attend home classes every three days.

As the two of them spoke, they saw Yu Youyao rushing into the Green House.

Zhou Linghuai put down his teacup and was about to tell her to run slower or she would fall when he heard—

Yu Youyao panted and said, "Cousin, it's all over the news. There's a large-scale rebellion in Shandong. No one in the court is willing to lead troops to suppress it. The heir, Yin Huaixi, is in the golden hall. He asked to pass a decree to go to Shandong to quell the rebellion..."

After receiving the news from the home school, she rushed to the Green House.

The weather was so hot but she did not even use an umbrella. Her sparkling face was red from the sun, and her forehead and the tip of her nose were covered in sweat.

Zhou Linghuai quickly poured a cup of tea and handed it over.

Yu Youyao was thirsty and hot. She took the teacup and poured it into her mouth. After drinking it, she asked, "Cousin, what exactly is going on? You..." She suddenly stopped talking and glanced at Mr. Xian Yun, who was sitting at the side and slowly drinking tea. She swallowed the words that were about to come out of her mouth and bowed slightly. "Why are you suddenly here?"

The little girl was guarding against him! Mr. Xian Yun found it funny. "Yes, like you, I received news from the Imperial Court, so I specially came to look for your cousin."

He deliberately emphasized the title of "cousin" and even slowed down his speech.

Yu Youyao was smart, so how could she not understand the meaning behind his words? However, she pretended not to understand. "Didn't you say that you're idle and don't care about the matters of the royal court?"

Although she did not ask her cousin and he did not say anything explicitly, she could most likely guess that Mr. Xian Yun had long guessed his cousin's identity as the heir of King You, Yin Huaixi. That was why he had sent a greeting card to the residence to see her cousin.

The changes in the royal court were more or less plotted by her cousin.

Mr. Xian Yun must have played a role in it.

Therefore, it was fine even if she exposed her cousin's identity in front of Mr. Xian Yun.

But!

There were many things that even if she knew, she did not want others to interfere.

Mr. Xian Yun choked and laughed dryly. "Haha, we were just chatting casually."

"Then are you done chatting?" Yu Youyao asked. Seeing that Mr. Xian Yun's teacup was empty, she picked up the teapot and twirled it from right to right, filling a cup of tea until it was 70% full.

Mr. Xian Yun was so angry that he blew his beard and glared at her. "I'm done talking. I'm leaving."

Turning the teacup clockwise is a tactful way of seeing off guests in the tea ceremony etiquette. It indicates that the host has something to do and invites the guests to leave quickly.

This brat. It was as if everyone knew who she was. Even Young Master Yin did not guard against her.

Yet, she was chasing him away. Hmph!

After Mr. Xian Yun left angrily, Yu Youyao immediately asked worriedly, "Cousin, are you really going to Shandong to calm the chaos? I heard that there are many clans in Shandong that are intertwined. The situation is very complicated. The Great Zhou Dynasty has sent troops to suppress it several times in the past and many generals have died in Shandong. How can you invite yourself to calm the chaos in Shandong?"*LaaT*

Chapter 398 Unpopular

Zhou Linghuai's gaze darkened. "You should know that after my father's death, it wasn't just the vassal lords who were restless. There were also those rebels and bandits hidden in various parts of the Great Zhou Dynasty. Ye Hanyuan knocked on the drum and cried out for my father. These stinky rats spread words like 'a fatuous ruler is tyrannical and persecutes loyal people' all over the country. They sowed discord among the people, causing anger to rise everywhere. These rebels used the people's anger to cause chaos everywhere."

The matter of the people's anger had something to do with him, but he was not the one in charge.

The recent turmoil had nothing to do with him.

However, Li Qiguang's rebellion was his doing.

Li Qiguang "occupied land as a king" in Shandong. The clan had conflicts with the Imperial Court, and the situation in Shandong was long out of the Imperial Court's control. Li Qiguang's intention to rebel was obvious, and the rebellion would erupt sooner or later.

He had only pushed the time forward.

Yu Youyao frowned. "These people are causing chaos everywhere. In order to suppress the chaos, the government will definitely cause bloodshed or human lives. Wouldn't that confirm that the ruler is incompetent? This way, the anger of the people will become more and more intense, and the imperial court's suppression will become even more cruel. The anger of the people will evolve into officials forcing the people to rebel. Wouldn't it be logical for these people to gather the commoners and raise the rebel flag?" At this point, her heart skipped a beat. "Many of this is done by the vassal lords!"

The ones who wanted to rebel the most and had the most strength were the vassal lords. It was impossible for them to be indifferent.

Zhou Linghuai nodded. "The anger of the people will not subside. If the rebellion is unfair, I have to go to Shandong. Once Li Qiguang grows up in Shandong and takes a good position in Shandong, he will wantonly absorb the rebel forces from all over the world and form a force that can compete with the Imperial Court."

Yu Youyao understood.

As he was the heir of King You, Yin Huaixi, he was the only one who could go to Shandong.

If he did not go, the people would be indignant and the rebellion would not be appeased.

Yu Youyao's breathing tightened as she grabbed her cousin's hand. "Cousin, can you not go?!"

She did not think at all that her cousin should go to Shandong to calm the chaos, nor did she think that the people's anger would definitely be calmed by her cousin. It did not just happen in a day. The people's anger rose everywhere. Although there were people who were trying to stir up trouble, didn't it reflect that the Great Zhou Dynasty was rotten inside and out and was not popular with the people?

The situation in Shandong was dangerous. Even the brave and skilled old generals in the court did not dare to challenge it.

The Marquis of Ningyuan, who had received the emperor's grace, had to resign even if it meant angering the emperor.

How could her cousin deal with such a complicated situation in Shandong?

Zhou Linghuai lowered his eyes. "If I don't go, the world will definitely be in chaos. At that time, the people..."

Yu Youyao did not even think about it. "But I don't want anything to happen to Cousin. Although I don't want to see the world in chaos and the people suffering from the flames of war and being displaced, I also know that if I'm successful, I'll be able to rule the world. If I'm poor, I'll be able to protect myself. I can't do it all now. I just want Cousin to be well."

She was willing to do good deeds, but kindness that exceeded her ability was not kindness, let alone virtue. It was stupidity.

She wasn't stupid.

Zhou Linghuai suddenly smiled and stopped teasing her. "Silly girl, if I didn't have the confidence to win, how could I have taken the initiative to fight?!"

Just now, he was just a little curious. What would the little girl's attitude be towards him going to Shandong to calm the chaos?

He was surprised that the little girl did not let him go.

Yu Youyao did not believe it, and her expression did not look too good. "Cousin, are you really confident in quelling the rebellion in Shandong, or are you deliberately lying to me to reassure me? I heard that in the past, the Great Zhou Dynasty has sent troops to suppress the forces of the Shandong Clan several times, but in the was inconvenient for him to move. What if he was injured again?

Also, her cousin was peerlessly smart, but he had never really led end, it was left unsettled. It's not that I don't trust you. I know that you're very powerful, but..."

Firstly, how could her cousin's health take the long journey?

Secondly, she had heard that any large clan that could establish themselves in the Shandong area always had some strange and unpredictable methods. Her cousin's leg had yet to recover and it was inconvenient for him to move. What if he was injured again?

Also, her cousin was peerlessly smart, but he had never really led troops into battle and was inexperienced...

... .

Her mind was in a mess. There were thousands of reasons why she didn't want her cousin to go to Shandong. Every one of them made her even more worried.

Zhou Linghuai shook his head. "I've already asked for permission to calm the chaos in the royal court, and the emperor has also given an oral decree. In a few days, this news will spread throughout the world. There's no reason for me to go back on my word."

Yu Youyao pursed her lips and stopped talking.

Was she angry?!

Was she angry with him for not discussing such a big matter with her?

Zhou Linghuai's scalp went numb as he understood. "The situation in Shandong isn't as complicated as you think. The reason why Li Qiguang could start a rebellion is because he joined forces with the local clans and borrowed their strength."

Yu Youyao's eyes turned red as she complained loudly, "You lied to Zhou Linghuai panicked and opened his mouth to explain."

She was already so worried, but her cousin still acted as if nothing me!"

The little girl pouted, her eyes so red that she was about to cry.

Zhou Linghuai panicked and opened his mouth to explain.

She was already so worried, but her cousin still acted as if nothing had happened. Yu Youyao was furious. She glared at her cousin and questioned loudly, "If the situation in Shandong isn't complicated, why didn't any of the civil and military officials step forward to fight?"

Zhou Linghuai wanted to say that although the situation in Shandong was complicated, it was only relative to others...

However, Yu Youyao was in a fit of anger. "If it weren't for the fact that the situation in Shandong is too tricky, why would the court let a guilty heir take over the military power and suppress the rebels? You're lying to a child!"

The "countering of the rebellion" was a rare opportunity to make a contribution. Those bandits were all a motley crew and could not compare to the regular army of the Imperial Court. As soon as the army came down hard, they would basically be defeated.

It was not dangerous, and it was easy to fight.

Therefore, "countering the rebellion" was also a springboard for the rise of noble descendants.

In the past, as long as they encountered such a good thing, all the generals in the court would fight to lead the troops. The court officials would also fight until their faces turned red.

However, the situation in Shandong was different. The peaceful rebellion had become complicated. Others couldn't wait to hide far away, but her cousin actually volunteered himself.

The more Yu Youyao thought about it, the angrier she became. She raised her voice again. "You didn't even tell me about such a big matter. Why are you trying to be a hero? There are so many experienced old generals in the court. Even if no one asks to fight, the emperor will still assign them. When is it your turn to stand up for yourself?"

The little girl's face was flushed red from being too agitated. Her eyes were bright and shockingly clear.

Zhou Linghuai suddenly remembered that every time his father was injured in the past, his mother would always hold back her tears and help treat his father's injuries while scolding him angrily.

He was the most ruthless person who rushed on the battlefield more fiercely than anyone else. He was just short of carving the word "obedient" on his forehead, let alone replying.

Chapter 399 Cooperation Strategy

Every time he saw it, he couldn't help but tease, "You're an illustrious war god. In the end, you were still scolded by a woman until you couldn't raise your head. You really should let your soldiers see how cowardly you are."

Every time his father heard this, he would take off his shoes and chase after him to hit him. "Rascal, what do you know? Your mother's heart aches for me and she's worried about me. She's in a fit of anger, so her anger will dissipate after scolding me. Sigh, no, brat, that's my woman. So what if I let her scold me a little? I'm willing to be scolded by her. I'm willing to be afraid. What has it got to do with you? No, tell me clearly, what woman? That's your mother. If I hear you being disrespectful to her again, I'll beat you to death..."

When the little girl was angry, he did not dare to retort, nor did he even dare to explain. Zhou Linghuai lowered his eyes. Could this be considered a twist of fate?

After Yu Youyao's outburst, she gradually calmed down, but her emotions were still a little unstable. Her voice was also sobbing. "Cousin, why did you go to Shandong to quell the rebellion?"

Looking at her red eyes, Zhou Linghuai's heart ached. "Although the situation in Shandong is complicated, as long as we dismantle the alliance of the clans, Li Qiguang is nothing to be afraid of."

Yu Youyao looked at her cousin without blinking. "If Li Qiguang can rise up in Shandong, the various clans will also benefit from breaking free from the control of the Imperial Court. Their alliance is driven by benefits. I'm afraid it won't collapse easily!"

Zhou Linghuai chuckled. "It's not difficult at all." He dipped his finger in the water and drew two crossed lines with the symbol '+' on the chessboard. He chuckled. "It can be broken even if there's unified cooperation!"

After staring at the chessboard for a long time, Yu Youyao immediately understood. "I understand now. Unified means unifying the weak to attack the strong. Therefore, Li Qiguang joined forces with the clans to resist the Imperial Court. Cooperation means the strong will come together to attack the weak." At this point, her eyes suddenly widened. "Other than Li Qiguang and the various clans, there are many officials of the Imperial Court in Shandong."

Zhou Linghuai nodded with a smile and listened to her continue to analyze.

Yu Youyao became calmer and calmer, and her train of thought became clearer. "The clan, Li Qiguang, and the officials of the court have formed a situation of checks and balances in Shandong. They're implicated and colluded to balance the situation in Shandong. Now that Li Qiguang has joined forces with the clan to rebel, the ones who are most threatened are the officials of the court. Once Li Qiguang grows up in Shandong, the first thing he has to do is change the interests of the officials. In the worst case scenario, it will affect their lives. They definitely don't want to see Li Qiguang grow up in Shandong. Cousin's plan is to secretly ally with him."

"That's right." Zhou Linghuai nodded.

Yu Youyao was a little puzzled. "However, Cousin, how can you be sure that these officials of the Imperial Court will cooperate with you? The situation in Shandong is complicated. As officials in

Shandong, it's inevitable that they'll be related to Li Qiguang and the clan. What if they don't stop and simply join Li Qiguang? Not only can they save their lives, but they can also benefit from it?"

For the sake of their lives, it seemed normal for these court officials to side with Li Qiguang.

"Look!" Zhou Linghuai took three chess pieces and placed them on the chessboard, forming a triangle.

He reached out and pointed at the black chess piece at the top. "This black chess piece refers to Li Qiguang." Then, he pointed at the two white chess pieces on the left and right respectively. "They represent the officials and the clans, respectively."

Yu Youyao looked at it carefully.

Then, Zhou Linghuai took away the black chess piece at the top. There were only two white chess pieces left on the chessboard, one on each side, representing the court officials and the clan. "Do you understand?"

Yu Youyao looked at the two white chess pieces on the chessboard and immediately came to a realization. "Li Qiguang is powerful. In the three-way relationship, he has the advantage. Be it the court officials or the clans, they can't avoid him. However, if Li Qiguang is eliminated, there will only be the clan and the court officials left in Shandong. Among these two forces, the court officials live on the left. The clans live on the right and the officials manage the people. It's only right and proper. Without Li Qiguang's restriction and suppression, the court officials will become the ones who benefit the most."

In other words, after removing Li Qiguang, the ones who benefited the most were not the clans, but these officials of the Imperial Court.

All the people in the world came for benefits, the world was ruled by benefits.

As long as they had enough benefits, it was enough for them to take the risk.

Zhou Linghuai smiled. "After Li Qiguang's death, in order to prevent a second Li Qiguang from appearing, the Imperial Court will strengthen its rule over Shandong and weaken the power of the clans. These imperial officials who helped the Imperial Court to calm the chaos have contributed greatly, and there will be no lack of rewards. This way, the officials' control over Shandong will also increase. If both of them are doing well, who will refuse such a good thing?"

Yu Youyao agreed deeply and added, "Moreover, although Li Qiguang is from a clan, he has never been very friendly to the Imperial Court. Even if the local officials join Li Qiguang, I'm afraid they won't gain his trust. It's not necessarily impossible for Li Qiguang to kill them. Therefore, joining Li Qiguang isn't the best choice. However, it's different if they work with Cousin. Not only will they benefit from both sides of the Imperial Court and Shandong, but they can also ensure the safety of their lives."

Her cousin's plan seemed simple.

In reality, he had seen through everyone.

Zhou Linghuai nodded. "Therefore, they have no choice but to cooperate with me and be of use to me. Moreover, there's no turning back. Each of them has the determination to win and will spare no

effort. The most terrifying thing in this world is never the knife in their hands, but the knife in their hearts."

The knife in a heart was invisible and could kill without a trace.

Yu Youyao really believed now that her cousin had not said it casually when he said that he was confident in calming the chaos. Instead, he had already made plans.

She even suspected that her cousin had long expected this day and had already made plans in Shandong.

After pondering for a moment, Yu Youyao said, "There are probably more than a hundred officials of the Imperial Court in Shandong. Compared to the commoners under their rule, they've also hidden into a faction. Li Qiguang hasn't officially raised the flag of rebellion, so he naturally doesn't dare to touch them easily. These officials of the Imperial Court have worked in Shandong for many years. No one knows the situation in Shandong better than them and the power of the clan. There's a saying that goes, 'Know yourself and know the enemy, and you can win a hundred battles.'"

If they could even become officials, the rebellion in Shandong would be half resolved.

With the 100,000 troops led by her cousin, he would definitely win.

Zhou Linghuai nodded. "They keep each other in check and are connected. The more they know, the more they can be used."

Yu Youyao thought of a piece of history. "Zhang Yi implemented the Connection Strategy in the State of Qin and achieved the goal of annexing land externally, allowing the King of Qin Hui to pull out the land of the three rivers in the east, border Bashu in the west, take in the county in the north, and take the Hanzhong in the south."

The cooperation strategy would break the alliance of the six states, making the western states focus on the Qin state.

Her cousin's strategy was to use the court officials to break the clan alliance and make her cousin the main official.

Chapter 400 A Rabbit that Bites Others

Yu Youyao changed the topic. "Cousin, you don't have to do it personally. The cooperating officials will support them so that they have enough capital to fight the clans and sow discord among the clans. Then, Cousin will exert pressure on Li Qiguang from the outside and break up the alliance of the clans from the inside out. The clans all have ulterior motives and look united, but they're not. It's impossible for them to be on the same side as Li Qiguang. At that time, they'll be in a state of disunity. What's there for Li Qiguang to fear? If Li Qiguang dies, no matter how powerful the clan is, they won't be able to do anything. This chaos can be calmed."

Zhou Linghuai nodded. "That's right!"

Yu Youyao looked at her cousin and sighed. "Cousin, how did you develop your brain?"

Before he could calm the chaos in Shandong, the situation in Shandong was already in his hands.

She could almost foresee Li Qiguang's defeat.

It wasn't an exaggeration to say that the wall was reduced to ashes with a smile!

Zhou Linghuai had never thought about this question carefully, but he had never been perfunctory with the little girl's questions. Hence, he thought about it seriously for a moment and said pertinently, "Probably born with it?!"

Yu Youyao was speechless.

Zhou Linghuai clenched his fists and chuckled. "Are you relieved now?"

Yu Youyao pouted. Thinking of how she had lost her temper at her cousin just now because of anxiety, uneasiness, and worry, she couldn't help but feel a little embarrassed.

It turned out that she was the one who was really stupid!

The situation in Shandong was all under her cousin's control. When Shandong achieved great success and her cousin returned to the capital to quell the rebellion of King You, not only would it be more logical and legitimate, but her cousin would also inherit the title of King You. He would naturally take over the 300,000 troops in Youzhou and openly take back everything that belonged to him.

Not only that, but his cousin had contributed to the suppression of the rebellion. The emperor would also reward him handsomely, and the power in his hands would be even greater than before.

Her cousin's reputation and prestige would also spread throughout the Great Zhou.

Yu Youyao patted her forehead and thought of how silly she had been just now. "Cousin, I was just worried about Cousin's health... so don't..."

Although she knew that all of this had been planned by her cousin, she was a little worried when she thought of how weak he was.

Zhou Linghuai smiled. "No, I think Cousin is very cute."

Her eyes were red, like a rabbit that wanted to bite someone.

Yu Youyao's face turned red from the praise, and her eyes wandered. Then, she rolled her eyes and smiled. "Cousin, is this considered leaking a military opportunity?"

Zhou Linghuai's expression paused for a moment. "Yes!"

Yu Youyao quickly asked, "Then, as the commander, what punishment should you get?"

Zhou Linghuai said, "Depending on the severity of the matter, the lightest punishment will be a hundred strokes of the military paddle and a warning. The heaviest punishment will be to take over his position as the main general and listen to Marquis's punishment. If it's more serious, one will be beheaded..."

Yu Youyao's scalp went numb when she heard this. She quickly interrupted him. "Uh, then I'll punish Cousin. You have to eat well, sleep well, and take good care of your body. When Cousin returns to the court, I want to see a safe and unharmed cousin, okay?"

The little girl squatted in front of him and looked up at him. She knew that he was confident of winning, but her eyes were filled with worry for him.

Looking up was a very subtle posture. As she stretched her neck and raised her head, all the emotions on her face were visible.

His wheelchair was about the same height as the little girl's. Moreover, the wheelchair could be raised and lowered. The little girl did not have to sit or squat and look up at him every time she spoke to him.

He had indeed adjusted the wheelchair to the same height as the little girl.

However, the little girl's habits could not be changed.

Later on, he realized that the young lady had never cared about height.

Just that he was sitting.

When interacting with others on an equal footing, it was never about heights but mentality.

Talking to a sitting person while standing was equivalent to being a superior to a subordinate. It did not conform to the etiquette of interacting equally, nor did it conform to the principle of mutual respect.

Zhou Linghuai chuckled. "When the time comes, bring Uncle Sun along."

As long as it was what she wanted, he could do it.

Yu Youyao finally smiled. She leaned closer to her cousin and held his arm. "Cousin, when will the army set off? Do we need to prepare anything else?"

Zhou Linghuai smiled. "The Ministry of War is preparing the rations. At that time, the transportation team will set off first. In ten days, after worshipping the heavens and counting the troops at the drill ground of the capital camp, I will lead the troops to quell the rebellion. The emperor will send imperial physicians and eunuchs to accompany me and take care of my food and daily needs. There's no need to prepare anything."

Yu Youyao nodded. "In that case, there are still ten days. I have to go back and carefully prepare some useful things for Cousin. The imperial physicians and eunuchs definitely won't prepare anything meticulously."

"Thank you, Cousin." Thinking that he wouldn't see her for at least a month or two, Zhou Linghuai let her prepare some.

She was right. Anything that came from her was indeed more meticulous than anything else.

The court officials stayed in the palace to discuss all the matters of suppressing the rebellion.

Li Qiguang of Shandong had allied with the local clans to launch a large-scale rebellion by claiming that the emperor was insensible and harmed loyal and kind people. The emperor wanted to send troops to quell the rebellion. However, the Marquis of Ningyuan, who had always been deeply indebted to the emperor, actually excused himself from quelling the rebellion with the excuse that he had leg problems and could not lead troops.

The emperor was furious, but no one in the court was willing to step forward and lead the troops.

Only the heir of King You, Yin Huaixi, invited his troops to calm the chaos with his weak crown, crippled legs, and weak body.

The emperor pitied Young Master Yin's illness and refused to agree.

Young Master Yin was young and weak. His body was disabled but his mind was not crippled. He was sick and benevolent.

He had made it clear in the court that his father, King You, had been a hero for a lifetime. Although he had died, he had no regrets in the world. In the royal court, a thief that stole the crown in Shandong actually used the name of his father, King You, to carry out a rebellion. The act of rebellion was equivalent to King You being disloyal, unrighteous, and heartless. As his son, he should quell the rebellion and return his father's clean name. The commoners would be less resentful and he would raise the prestige of Great Zhou.

There was an uproar in the capital.

For a moment, there were various opinions, and the entire capital was in an uproar.

There were people who praised King You for his outstanding military achievements.

"A man should hold a three-feet-long sword and make extraordinary contributions. If he doesn't follow his ambition today, how can he die? Well said. As expected, a tiger father doesn't have a dog son. The heir is weak in age and his body is disabled but his mind isn't crippled. He's sick and benevolent. He's really a hero..."

"The heir has the demeanor of his father. I heard that three years ago, the Di people invaded wantonly. The twelve-year-old heir fought against the Di people with King You and saved Youzhou. How can a mere bandit from Shandong compare to the Di people..."

"Back then, Mr. Xian Yun traveled to Youzhou and set up a precious chess game in the city for half a month, but no one could crack it. In the end, it was Heir Yin who cracked this situation. It's obvious that he's talented in military strategy. What's there to be afraid of a mere thief..."