

## All Hail 481

### Chapter 481: Major Officials

As soon as these words were spoken, Old Madam Yu finally understood. For a moment, she was quite surprised. “Yao Yao, you mean?”

Yu Youyao did not answer. She only turned to look at Yu Zongzheng. “Father, is there a vacancy in the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs?”

No matter how stupid a person was, they should understand what she meant. Yu Zongzheng reacted and said excitedly, “The case of King You has affected all the six ministries, especially the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs. The current vacant position includes the Left Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs, a physician, and a person in charge...”

Before he could finish speaking, he suddenly understood something. For a moment, his mouth was dry, and he couldn’t help but lick his dry lips.

Old Madam Yu listened carefully. “The emperor probably wants to use Song

Xiuwen’s case to let you fill the position of the Left Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs. You’re a third-rank official, and you’re also from the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs. Although you’re not from Hanlin, this position is very important.”

Previously, Eldest Son had participated in the three divisions’ trial and had been praised by the emperor. If he was transferred to the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs, it was naturally impossible for him to be demoted. Among the vacant official positions in the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs, only Eldest Son was worthy to be the third-grade Left Assistant Minister.

There was no doubt about it.

The faint guess in his heart was confirmed. It was obvious how excited Yu Zongzheng was. “In that case, Song Xiuwen’s case should be handled carefully. ”

Old Madam Yu nodded. “That’s right!”

She had thought that with her eldest son’s straightforward temper, he would already be at his limit as a censor in this lifetime.

She did not expect him to have such an opportunity.

When he arrived at the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs, he would become an important official. The entire Yu Residence would rise.

Yu Zongzheng couldn’t help but feel excited. However, when he thought about how this matter hadn’t even started yet, he suppressed his excitement and joy. However, he was still a little overjoyed.

Seeing that he was so emotional, Old Madam Yu’s expression turned cold. “It hasn’t even started yet. You have to be careful not to leave any traces outside. Do you know that there’s an official in our dynasty who found out about his promotion in advance and was so smug that he celebrated

openly at home? In the end, when this matter reached the emperor's ears, he felt that this person was so frivolous and useless, so he gave his official position away."

Although she said that, she also understood that Boss's reaction was the reaction a normal person should have.

Back then, Eldest Son's ranking in the palace examination was not low, and he was also in the second grade. After entering the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs, his future was limitless. Who knew that... he had wasted more than ten years in the Imperial Court.

Now that there was a chance for him to stand out. How could he remain calm?

Yu Zongzheng immediately restrained his expression and looked enlightened.

"Mother, you're right. I'm too frivolous."

Old Madam Yu and Yu Zongzheng chatted for a while more about Song

Xiuwen...

At this moment, Yu Youyao waited for a while, but when she did not hear anything else, she could only say, "Father, I'm afraid many people in the court have figured out what the emperor is thinking. I think the Minister of Official Personnel Affairs who worked with you this time knows very well."

Old Madam Yu immediately looked at Yu Youyao with a complicated expression.

Although the emperor's thoughts were very obscure, it wasn't that people couldn't figure it out after thinking about it carefully. It was just that they hadn't thought about it for a moment.

It was too difficult for the Imperial Court to move up.

However, Yu Youyao understood immediately. Her sharpness in court matters and her understanding of the emperor's thoughts were accurate. If she were a man, the Yu Residence might have another cabinet minister.

Unfortunately...

Yu Zongzheng was stunned for a moment. "Any minister in the court who can succeed is good at following the holy will."

Yu Youyao sighed slightly. Yu Zongzheng was a little straightforward, but he was like a fish in water in the Imperial Court. When he arrived at the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs, he could still manage it on the basis of the emperor's importance.

If it were anywhere else in the six tribes, he would be devoured until not even bones were left.

However, it was also because of Yu Zongzheng's personality that she had no choice but to say, "In this case, the Minister of Official Personnel Affairs, who is also the Imperial Envoy, will probably entrust you with a heavy responsibility. He will give you a chance to stand up for yourself and cater to the Holy Decree. To put it bluntly, what to do with this case are all on Father. This is a test of Father's ability to adapt to the situation. Others are just accompanying him for the examination. You have to be extremely careful with your words and actions. You can't expose them. You should also have a plan.

You can't be blind."

"Secondly, Song Xiuwen's case concerns the Zhenguo Marquis Residence and the emperor's interests. We can't drag this case out. It's even more important if it involves many people. We have to resolve it quickly."

"Thirdly, among the crimes that the Marquis of Ningyuan reported to Song Xiuwen, there is a crime of corruption and disregard for the law. The key to this case is to obtain the dirty money that Song Xiuwen was greedy for. Only by obtaining the dirty money and letting the emperor have it will you be able to succeed."

"Fourthly, you can't interfere too much with the interests of the other officials in Jiangnan. Otherwise, I'm afraid Father won't be able to escape so easily. Once you're trapped in the power vortex in Zhejiang, you'll cause trouble instead. I'm sure you know what happened to King You."

Yu Youyao was just short of saying this explicitly. After dealing with Song Xiuwen and thinking of a way to get the dirty money, this case could be closed.

If they did not get the dirty money, they would directly ask the various officials in Zhejiang for it and let them gather it themselves. It seemed that in order to resolve this case as soon as possible and not implicate too many people, they were very willing to spend money to avoid disaster.

After all, as long as money could solve a problem, it was not a problem.

The emperor only cared about "wealth."

Her words were clear, and the pros and cons were obvious. Old Madam Yu and Yu Zongzheng were no longer just shocked.

Yu Youyao's every word and sentence was shrewd. In just a few words, she explained the crux of Song Xiuwen's case, and it was reasonable.

Little did she know that after the official appointment, Yu Zongzheng still had to discuss matters with his aides.

What should they do with this case? What should they do? How far should they go?

They had to be summarized after discussion.

However, with just a few words, Yu Youyao had deduced the crux of the matter. Even Old Madam Yu, who had lived for most of her life, and Yu Zongzheng, who had been in the government for many years, did not think of it for a moment.

Yu Zongzheng looked at Yu Youyao with a complicated and proud gaze. He felt both regretful and helpless. "Who taught you all this?"

She was actually so sensitive to court matters.

Yu Youyao subconsciously said, "Cousin did it when he was free. He would also tell me about the royal court and analyze the current political situation. If I

know more, I can more or less understand it.”

Yu Zongzheng was completely speechless.

When his nephew, Zhou Linghuai, first entered the Yu Residence, he did not look down on him, but he did not take him seriously.

Later on, when Zhou Linghuai was valued by Mr. Hu Shan, he also knew that Zhou Linghuai was quite talented and had to be treated differently.

Later on, Mr. Xian Yun visited Zhou Linghuai as a friend.

Only then did he realize that he had underestimated Zhou Linghuai..

Chapter 482: Framed

How was Zhou Linghuai a prodigy? He was clearly a genius, even better than Song Mingzhao. At the thought of his broken leg, it was extremely regretful. Otherwise, the Yu Residence would have another pillar of talent.

Now, his eldest daughter, whom he had always thought of as stupid, had also been taught by Zhou Linghuai to be an extraordinary woman. Unfortunately, she was a woman.

He did not know what to say.

Old Madam Yu was also speechless for a long time. “Yao Yao, your words hit the nail on the head. Have a good discussion with your aide. Tomorrow, we’ll arrange to meet the Marquis of Zhenguo to discuss with him what to do with Song Xiuwen.”

Yu Zongzheng nodded. “I had the same intention. It’s just that the Zhenguo Marquis Residence has suffered a huge setback this time.”

Yu Youyao’s heart skipped a beat. Worried that Yu Zongzheng wouldn’t be able to handle the complicated situation in Zhejiang, she said, “I don’t think so!”

Yu Zongzheng subconsciously looked at Yu Youyao. “Why do you say that?”

Yu Youyao chuckled. “The Marquis of Ningyuan refused to fight at that time and angered the emperor. He was also suppressed by the cabinet, and he was indescribably miserable. He pushed out Song Xiuwen firstly to divert the attention of the cabinet, and secondly, he had the intention to divert the trouble to the Zhenguo Marquis Residence.”

All the court officials knew this very well.

Yu Youyao continued, “Song Xiuwen definitely can’t be saved. If Father interferes in this case, at the very least, he can’t get too involved with the

Zhenguo Marquis Residence. It might not be the case for anyone else. To the Zhenguo Marquis Residence, it’s naturally better for Father to participate in this case than anyone else.”

Old Madam Yu also knew this very well. Yao Yao had specially pointed this out, so there must be a hidden meaning behind her words.

Yu Zongzheng also seemed to sense something. “So?”

Yu Youyao thought for a moment and said, "When Father meets the Marquis of Zhenguo tomorrow, suggest that Song Mingzhao go south with you as an aide."

Old Madam Yu laughed when she heard that.

Perhaps others did not understand what she meant, but as an experienced person, how could she not know how brilliant her granddaughter's actions were?

She glanced at Yu Zongzheng from the corner of her eye. If Song Mingzhao followed him south, this case would be stable.

Yu Zongzheng did not understand the deeper meaning, but he felt that letting Song Mingzhao accompany him was a wonderful move. "Song Mingzhao will accompany me south. It'll also give the Zhenguo Marquis Residence a way to deal with him, so they won't be too passive. Moreover, Song Mingzhao has a meritorious status. Three years later, he should participate in the imperial examination and officially step into the royal court. Bringing him along this time is also a form of training for Song Mingzhao. Song Mingzhao's understanding of Song Xiuwen will also help me investigate the case."

Yu Youyao glanced at Yu Zongzheng and finally understood why Yu Zongzheng's straightforward temper could always establish himself in the royal court.

Yu Zongzheng was straightforward and did not envy the capable. As long as others' opinions suited his interests, he was willing to accept them. This was also a merit.

At this moment, Yin Huaixi, who was far away in Youzhou, also received a messenger pigeon from the capital.

Yin Huaixi unfolded the note and smiled. "With Yu Zongzheng's talent, he's at the top of the Assistant Minister rank. With the emperor's attention, it's not a bad place to place him in the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs."

Yin Qi lowered his head. Young Master's words were simple.

Although the emperor wanted to put Madam Yu in an important position and Yu Zongzheng's performance at the three divisions' trial was indeed commendable by the emperor, it was not easy to arrange for Yu Zongzheng to enter the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs.

He had to grasp the emperor's thoughts so that he could appropriately follow the emperor's wishes.

It was also because Song Xiuwen had been unlucky for eight lifetimes that his nephew had harmed him. That was why he had asked Young Master to throw out the jade to lure Song Xiuwen out. He had taken the opportunity to arrange for Yu Zongzheng to help Song Xiuwen with his case so that Yu Zongzheng could take the opportunity to make a contribution. At that time, it would be only logical for him to replace the position of the assistant minister of the Ministry of Officials.

Yin Huaixi closed his eyes and thought for a moment. "The changes in the court are all due to the Imperial Censor of the Imperial Court. Although he's a fourth-grade official and his rank isn't too low, his status is a little low. If he's not careful, he'll be easily implicated. Yu Zongzheng's rank is higher, so it's enough for him to protect himself." At this point, he paused for a moment. "A woman depends on her father's status. Yao Yao will be able to stand tall among the noble ladies in the capital. If people want to bully her, it's best to think twice."

If Yu Zongzheng's official status was higher, even if he had brought his eldest daughter to the Marquis of Changxing's Residence, the Marquis of

Changxings Residence would not dare to bully him easily.

Madam Yang was seriously ill. Although Concubine Qiu could help socialize outside, she was still from an ordinary family.

Those noble families still needed Yao Yao to step in herself.

She was the eldest daughter of a mother who died after childbirth, and her father's status was low. Even if she was rewarded and valued by the Empress Dowager, her reputation was just for show. She still had to have a reliable father.

At this moment, Eunuch Zhu's voice sounded from outside. "Head General Yin, Chang Ningbo is here. He's waiting outside."

Yin Huaixi stuffed the note into his sleeve. "Invite him in."

Yin Qi had already jumped onto the roof beam. Yin Qi was someone Yin Huaixi had planted in the palace guards, so he was not worried about exposing his identity.

Eunuch Zhu responded and soon led Chang Ningbo into the tent.

Chang Ningbo did not stand on ceremony. Before Yin Huaixi could greet him, he had already sat down on a chair and nibbled on a fat peach.

He did not stop eating. "King You has been avenged. Master Yin is finally satisfied. "

These words only stated a fact and had no other meaning.

When he first came to Shandong, he would still feel some pity and sympathy for Yin Huaixi because of this.

However, recently, he had watched helplessly as this young and weak youth in their eyes played Li Qiguang, who had dominated Shandong for many years.

The dignified and ambitious Li Qiguang had already been "killed" by Yin Huaixi before he even started fighting the Imperial Court's army head-on.

Yes, Li Qiguang had "died" from being tricked.

Li Qiguang had many troops under him. The clan raised private soldiers, and there were close to 140,000 people in total. However, before the two sides could fight head-on, Yin Huaixi had already "killed" Li Qiguang.

No one would be willing to accept this.

On the day they captured Li Qiguang alive, he was escorted into the camp.

At that time, his hair was disheveled, and his body was covered in blood and dirt. When he saw Yin Huaixi, he was like a vicious dog that had seen a piece of flesh and bone. His eyes were bloodshot as he stared fiercely at Yin Huaixi. His face was ferocious, and his throat made a series of sounds. He was completely like a mad dog.

He wished he could eat his flesh and drink his blood.

“Yin Huaixi, you despicable and shameless person.. How can you use some sinister tricks to scheme against others? If you have the guts, let’s fight...”

Chapter 483: Stupid as a Pig

At that time, this young man in a wheelchair looked at him indifferently. “Do you think I don’t care about my face? How can someone like you be worthy of fighting me head-on and exhaust my troops? Do you even look in the mirror?”

You need to know that I’ve already risked my reputation by going to Shandong to suppress the rebellion. It’s your honor to be my enemy.” Chang Ningbo was dumbfounded.

However, he actually felt that what Master Yin said made sense!

His disdainful words made Li Qiguang go crazy on the spot. “Yin Huaixi, how dare you look down on me? What right do you have to look down on me? I started the rebellion to enforce justice on behalf of the heavens and the people, and harmed your family. It’s precisely the dog emperor that your father and you have worked so hard for. If you still have any guts, you’ll...”

Yin Huaixi interrupted him impatiently. ‘You started a rebellion because you wanted to use the case of King You to stir up resentment in the world and completely mess up the entire court. You’ve calculated it correctly. Even if the Imperial Court sends troops to suppress it, they won’t dare to really make a big fuss. I have 100,000 troops, and you have 150,010 people under you. If the clan does its best to help you, you can gather at least 200, 000 soldiers under you. 101,00 versus 200,000, and you have a sure win. This kind of clumsy trick is just to stir up dissent among the vassal lords and watch the Imperial Court fight them. You can reap the benefits.”

Li Qiguang was dumbfounded.

He had indeed calculated that the Imperial Court would not be able to do anything to him. He had launched a rebellion to muddy the waters of the Great

Zhou Dynasty. At that time, the vassal lords would probably not be able to sit still.

Yin Huaixi looked at him pitifully. “You’re as stupid as a pig. Heh, calling you a pig is an insult to your brain. Have you never been beaten by your father? Or has your mother not taught you a lesson? After sitting in the well for a few days, you think you’re a frogman? Do you think you’re invincible?”

All the soldiers present were dumbfounded. There seemed to be something wrong with the high and mighty Head General Yin.

“Heh, calling you a dog is really an insult to a dog. What did a dog do wrong? You’re just a beast, so you have to suffer the insults of others. You stupid thing, you’re worse than a pig or a dog. You’re just a grass worm that can be crushed to death with a finger. Why are you filling it with garlic?!”

“Ahhh...” Li Qiguang looked indignant. He raised his head and shouted, spitting out a mouthful of blood. Immediately, his eyes rolled back and his thick body fell to the ground with a bang.

Lying on the ground, he protested silently, “I’ve already been captured alive and my head is about to fall off. Why should I suffer your vicious insult and torture?”

I’m not convinced, but I have no choice.

Yin Huaixi glanced at her coldly. “With such a temperament, you still want to rebel? It’s not even so ridiculous for a toad to want to eat swan meat.”

Chang Ningbo had used up a bunch of his hair. He needed to calm down and think carefully. Was this the same person as the Head General Yin he knew? With such a vicious tongue, why hadn’t she been beaten to death?

He suspected that Master Yin’s leg had been broken because she had a sharp tongue, and he had evidence.

Chang Ningbo looked at Head General Yin in a daze and was quite shocked. Not only him, but the surrounding soldiers were also dumbfounded.

Back to the topic, after seeing how meticulous and shrewd Yin Huaixi was, the pity he had for him dissipated.

Powerful people did not need any pity.

No one in this world had the right to pity Yin Huaixi.

Li Qiguang was wrong about one thing.

Yin Huaixi wasn’t a despicable person, nor did he only know how to play tricks. Even someone like him, who hadn’t read many books on war, knew that all was fair in war. He also knew that soldiers were cunning.

He did not fight Li Qiguang head-on only because Li Qiguang was not worthy.

Yin Huaixi was a flood dragon that soared into the sky and burrowed into the ground, while Li Qiguang was only a grass python crawling on the ground. How could the light of a firefly compete with the sun and moon?

He was really overestimating himself.

Head General Yin could kill such a person without any effort.

All the soldiers in the camp knew that Head General Yin had put in so much effort to plan because he wanted to reduce the casualties of the soldiers as much as possible. He wanted to fulfill his promise and bring them home alive to reunite with their families!

Head General Yin had done it.

Back then, when he first entered the military camp, he had encountered a soldier who had entered the army. He admired King You very much and said that he was a good general.

At that time, Chang Ningbo, who was still young, asked, “What kind of general can be considered a good general?”

He said, “I know what the world is like. The mountains and rivers still exist in this pavilion. Those who ascend are all outstanding scholars. There are leftover scriptures in the funeral. I’ve already seen how big the world is, but I still pity the greenery.”



Chang Ningbo did not read much. “What does this mean?”

He said, “My personal understanding is that if a person is so powerful that they can easily turn the world around, they have also seen through the coldness and ugliness of the world. After experiencing the coldness and warmth of the world, they understand the vastness and complexity of this world. They stand at a high place, but there's still dust in their eyes. They look down, empathize with the weak, and have feelings for everything.”

Later on, the young Chang Ningbo went on expeditions and encountered countless generals, both good and bad.

However, he had never seen the person that the “scholar soldier” had mentioned.

Until he met Yin Huaixi.

Chang Ningbo thought that Yin Huaixi was probably the good scholarly general that was being spread.

Chang Ningbo held the peach in his hand and nibbled on it. Suddenly, he stopped nibbling. No one knew what he was thinking. It was rare for him to look serious.

Yin Huaixi asked calmly, “Why are you looking for me?”

Chang Ningbo took a hard bite of the peach. “These clans are really f\*cking difficult to deal with. Each of them has tens of thousands of private soldiers in their residences. At the mention of this, they'll look around and pretend to be ignorant. Tell me, what should we do?”

Yin Huaixi was not surprised. He only said, “I've already sent a report to the Imperial Court yesterday. The Imperial Court's orders will be issued in a few days.

Chang Ningbo was stunned when he heard this. “You mean, you're not going to leave after cleaning up this mess in Shandong?”

Yin Huaixi nodded. “We came to Shandong to quell the rebellion. Now that Li Qiguang has been captured alive, all his traitors have been dealt with one by one. The relevant aftermath of the war has also been completed. Open up the warehouse to boost food supplies, treat the commoners, settle the refugees, and stabilize the situation in Shandong. If there are any more, it will be overstepping our boundaries.”

Chang Ningbo naturally understood this logic. “It's just that Shandong has been in trouble for many years. Now that Li Qiguang has been eliminated, the clan has also been dealt a blow. If we don't take this opportunity to clean up the clan, I'm afraid it won't be long before Shandong reverts to its old ways.”

Prince Yin had an extremely high reputation in Shandong. The clans were afraid of him like a mouse seeing a cat. They wished they could dig out everything and give him benefits. When they saw him, they even took a detour..

Chapter 484: Credit

The officials of the various prefectures admired Head General Yin even more. They had to report everything to him first and listen to his opinion before making a decision.

The commoners respected him as if a god had descended into the world. Master Yin would go out a few times to check on the people, and the commoners of Shandong would even welcome him.

Chang Ningbo knew very well that only when Head General Yin was in charge of Shandong could he intimidate the clan and change Shandong.

Once Head General Yin left, the officials of the various prefectures probably wouldn't be able to suppress the clans.

Yin Huaixi said, "Shandong has accumulated ills. It's not something that can be resolved in a day. It won't be a day or two to completely manage it. I've been ordered to calm the chaos, but it's not good for me to stay in Shandong. That way, it'll be a great rebellion."

Chang Ningbo also knew this. He had originally wanted to go to the Imperial Court and report the situation in Mingshan East to the emperor to see if he could escort Li Qiguang and the clans back to the capital first.

Unexpectedly, Head General Yin had already sent a request to return to the capital.

Yin Huaixi could tell what Chang Ningbo was thinking, so he changed the topic. "Chang Ningbo's worry is not unreasonable. Although the situation in Shandong has stabilized a little, the clan is still plagued with trouble, so we have to send an army to oversee it. We can let the King of Dongning temporarily help to manage the accumulated ills in Shandong."

When Chang Ningbo heard this, he slapped his thigh hard. "That's right. Why didn't I think of this? His fief is in the southeast area, neighboring Shandong.

It's more logical for him to help the officials of the various prefectures govern Shandong and resolve the ills in Shandong. When I return, I'll report the situation in Shandong to the emperor."

Zhou Linghuai's lips curled up slightly, but he did not say anything else.

The next day, before the letter of appointment from the Imperial Court was issued, Yu Zongzheng arranged to meet the Marquis of Zhenguo, Song Xiuqi, early in the morning.

Song Xiuqi said righteously, "Lord Yu, you don't have to worry. If Song Xiuwen's crime is convicted, the Zhenguo Marquis Residence will definitely put righteousness before family and help Yu Zongzheng. We won't let the emperor down."

Now that the Zhenguo Marquis Residence had expressed their stance, Song Xiuwen's case was much easier to handle.

Yu Zongzheng also returned the favor. "Mingzhao was famous for his talent in the Fall Quarter Examinations last year. He's really talented. He's already 16 this year, right?"

Although he wanted to praise Song Mingzhao, he couldn't rush to give him benefits. He couldn't forget his status, so he didn't explicitly mention bringing Song Mingzhao south.

When the Marquis of Zhenguo heard this, he laughed. "Mingzhao turned 16 in

June. Although he has been studying at the Precious Peace Temple, he has been in charge of some trivial matters at home."

In other words, Song Mingzhao had already begun to participate in many matters at home. He wasn't just studying hard. Not only did he have potential, but he also had talent.

They were all involved in politics. Yu Zongzheng's words were reasonable, so he followed suit and this matter was settled.

Yu Zongzheng went with the flow and said, "Sixteen years old isn't young anymore. In two to three years, Mingzhao will be participating in the examination. As Mr. Xian Yun's disciple, with his talent, he will definitely have a place in the top three. Shouldn't we let him go out and train? It'll be beneficial to him in the future?"

Yao Yao had suggested that he bring Song Mingzhao along. He felt that it was a good idea and discussed it with his aides.

The aides agreed that bringing Song Mingzhao south would do more good than harm to Song Xiuwen's case. The Song and Yu families were connected, so it was not impossible to bring Song Mingzhao along.

The Marquis of Zhenguo revealed an expression of agreement. "It's better to travel ten thousand miles than to read ten thousand books. Previously, Mingzhao originally wanted to take a walk in Youzhou, but he didn't know that Youzhou was a troublesome place, so he didn't go. After that, the situation in the royal court changed. The winds were endless, and the rain didn't stop. This training was delayed. I'm also having a headache over this matter. Brother Yu, do you have a countermeasure?"

The emperor had personally appointed Yu Zongzheng to accompany the Minister of Personnel, who was also an imperial envoy, south to investigate Song Xiuwen's case.

After careful discussion with the Old Madam and his aides, he came to a conclusion that the emperor wanted to nurture the Yu Clan and promote Yu Zongzheng.

Yu Zongzheng was afraid that he would take the opportunity to rise up and become an important official.

The Song and Yu families were long-time friends, so the Zhenguo Marquis Residence wouldn't feel bad about this. If the Yu Residence could benefit, it wouldn't do them any harm. They just felt a little upset.

After all, it was an indisputable fact that Yu Zongzheng had stepped on Song Xiuwen's advancement. Of course, they also knew that Song Xiuwen had suffered a setback. In the end, it was because Song Xiuwen had touched the emperor's interests that the Marquis of Ningyuan had the chance to divert the trouble.

Everything had little to do with Yu Zongzheng.

It was a good thing for the Zhenguo Marquis Residence that Yu Zongzheng could participate in this case. It was also not as bad as being implicated by Song Xiuwen.

This was a blessing in disguise.

At this point, there was no need to keep him in suspense. "If Brother Song can be at ease with me, why don't you let Mingzhao accompany me south? The Jiangnan area is rich and important for the Imperial Court when it comes to taxes. I think it'll be a rare experience for Mingzhao to go there."

The Marquis of Zhenguo was overjoyed. "Brother Yu, you have the intention to praise Mingzhao. I can't ask for more. Please take care of Mingzhao on this trip. I thank you."

Although it was said to be an experience, it was actually to let Song Mingzhao participate in Song Xiuwen's case. In the future, when Mingzhao participated in the examination, this experience would also be recorded in his resume. It would play a vital role in his future.

Although losing Song Xiuwen was a huge blow to the Zhenguo Marquis

Residence, if they could take the opportunity to train Song Mingzhao, it would be a blessing in disguise.

However, Yu Zongzheng was a straightforward person. Although he was a little powerful in the officialdom, he was not an experienced person. This plan did not seem to be his own idea.

However, on second thought, ever since Yu Zongzheng's first wife, Madam Yang, recuperated from her illness, Old Madam Yu and his eldest daughter seemed to have been in charge of the household.

It was also from that time onwards that Yu Zongzheng's career in the government had become smooth sailing.

The case of King You had implicated so many people in the Imperial Court. Even his father-in-law, Yang Shiguang, had been exiled, but he was actually fine.

Later on, he even participated in the three divisions' trial and received praise from the emperor.

And now...

He had also often heard his mother and wife mention that Yu Youyao was scheming at such a young age. She was also capable of showing filial piety to her elders and relatives.

Her family was well managed and she was a capable person.

Previously, Mingzhao had vomited blood and lost his life. It was also because of Eldest Miss Yu's Musk Medicinal Fragrance Pill that he was saved.

Everyone said that when the family was harmonious, everything would prosper. Only when the family was stable could the men focus on the royal court and politics. It seemed that Yu Zongzheng's daughter had contributed greatly to his future.

The two of them reached a consensus.

When he returned home, the Imperial Court's appointment document was officially issued.

In the name of the Imperial Censor, Yu Zongzheng would follow the Minister of Personnel, who was also an imperial envoy, south to investigate Song Xiuqi's case. He would set off three days later..

Chapter 485: Return to Court

In the afternoon, Yu Zongshen left the government office early and came to the main house.

The three of them closed their doors and discussed political matters for two hours, temporarily settling the rules of Song Xiuwen's case.

Yu Zongzheng knew very well that Song Xiuwen's case concerned his future. After that, he had a discussion with his aides to fill in the gaps. After that, he even looked for Yu Youyao, planning to hear her opinion.

Yu Youyao's sharpness in the matters of the royal court made Yu Zongzheng, who already valued her very much and did not treat her as a child, even more afraid to underestimate her.

The upbringing of aristocratic families was never based on age. When their descendants became successful, they would try their best to give them more opportunities to train and perform, even for women.

The men and women of the aristocratic families each had their own duties. The men had taught them meticulously to bring glory to their ancestors.

Women were nurtured diligently also for the glory of the family and the clan.

The difference between men and women was that men oversaw public matters, and women ran the household- both carries different importance.

The Wang family of Langya had raised dozens of empresses. It was impossible for them to teach their children to be both virtuous and talented without tight reins on them.

"A woman's lack of talent was virtue". This sentence is very subjective, and depends on a person's perspective. But what it really meant was that women should value morals over talent. There is no conflict between morals and talent. Talent and virtue were the epitome of model women from aristocratic families.

It was impossible for the legacy of a narrow-minded family to be passed down.

After Yu Youyao saw it, she roughly did not miss anything. She reminded,

"Father, after you go south, why don't you interact more with the Zhejiang navy in private? This should be a breakthrough."

She remembered that among the crimes that Duke Ningyuan had reported to Song Xiuwen, there was the crime of embezzling money from the army.

How could a soldier be greedy? It would definitely be deducted from the soldiers' salary.

When Yu Zongzheng heard this, his entire body trembled. "Song Xiuwen is in charge of the navy. Isn't he afraid of implicating too many people?"

He had only consulted his eldest daughter on a whim, but he did not expect her to really give him a surprise.

Yu Youyao nodded and continued, "If Song Xiuwen's corruption is confirmed, Father, don't step in. Just instigate the soldiers to cause trouble. If the matter blows up, it has nothing to do with you. At that time, someone will naturally contact you in secret. Father has suggested at the right time about Song Xiuwen's corruption, and someone will naturally prepare a large sum of money for you to report to the emperor."

Although they had used those soldiers, those soldiers had been treated unfairly all year round. If they did not blow things up and make the officials of

Zhejiang wary, even if they dealt with Song Xiuwen, there would still be Li Xiuwen and Zhao Xiuwen.

Yu Zongzheng looked at Yu Youyao deeply and said nothing.

Yu Youyao sighed slightly. She understood Yu Zongzheng's gaze, but what should she do?

Humans died for wealth, and birds died for food!

The Great Zhou Dynasty had already rotted into its bones. Even Prince You, who was a member of the royal family, was actually persecuted to death by the faction behind the interests of the north.

Since ancient times, Jiangnan had been rich. How many people could go crazy over it?

Once the benefits behind them were touched, the consequences would be unimaginable.

He could only do his best to seek justice for the Zhejiang navy. This way, his trip south would not be in vain. He had not let down the emperor and had a clear conscience.

Her grandmother had taught her "mind tricks". The first thing she had to learn was to weigh the pros and cons.

Three days later, Yu Zongzheng set off south, and Song Mingzhao followed quietly.

The Imperial Court issued a decree, ordering the general of the east, Yin Huaixi, to lead 100,000 troops and escort Li Qiguang and the remaining members of the clan in Shandong back to the capital.

Yu Youyao counted the days one by one.

Seven days later, the Great General of the East, Yin Huaixi, handed a document to the Imperial Court and said that the army was stationed in the camp in the suburbs of Tongzhou to seek instructions from the Imperial Court.

The emperor was overjoyed. He immediately asked the Ministry of Rites to prepare to receive them and hold a banquet to invite the meritorious officials. The next day, the Minister of Rites brought a group of officials to the suburbs of the capital to welcome them.

When the commoners received the news that the army had returned to the capital, they were even more excited. They ran to the suburbs of the capital early in the morning to welcome them.

It was rare for Old Madam Yu to bring her family to a restaurant on Chang'an Street. "It's usually lively, so there's no need to join in. However, we can't miss the grand event of the Great General of the East returning to the court. We should bring you out to see the world and broaden your horizons. You should understand that this peaceful and prosperous world isn't easy to come by. As humans, we should do something."

Yu Shanyan and the others were also taught a lesson.

The Great General of the East, Yin Huaixi, was also 15 or 16 years old this year. He was not much older than them, but the story about him could be called a "legend". They couldn't help but admire him.

As it was still early, Old Madam Yu and Madam Yao sat together and drank tea and chatted.

Yu Youyao pulled Yu Lianyu to play chess with her. Yu Lianyu couldn't refuse. She had a bitter expression and felt a little hopeless.

Yu Fangfei watched from the side and couldn't help but laugh secretly.

Eldest Sister was good at everything, but her chess skills were not good. She even liked to play chess with others. Her siblings at home were afraid to play chess with her.

Yu Shuangbai crawled in front of the window on the second floor and looked at the lively street below. She pointed at the old uncle selling candied hawthorns by the roadside. "Second Brother, look. There are candied hawthorns on the street. Hurry down and buy a few sticks for me."

Yu Shanxin leaned over and took a look. "Alright, just you wait!"

With that) he flipped through the window and crawled onto the street like a monkey. He stuffed an ingot of silver into the old man's hand and swaggered back with the candied hawthorn.

Madam Yao frowned. "Brother Xin is too ridiculous."

It was fine if she tasted the food outside fresh, but how could she eat too much? What if she ate something bad?

However, Old Madam Yu was overjoyed. She waved her hand. "It's rare for them to come out, so we don't have to keep them around. They can eat whatever they want and play whatever they want. Whether it's good or bad, we have to taste it ourselves to know."

Alright, since Old Madam had already sent it to her, Madam Yao couldn't say anything else.

The few of them liked candied hawthorn very much. When it was their turn, Yu

Shanyan shook his head. "I don't like sweet food. Give it to my sisters!"

Yu Shanli couldn't refuse, so he could only take the candied hawthorn that Yu Shanxin had stuffed into his hands.

At noon, cheers and applause came from Chang'an Street, and the sound of bells and drums was mostly drowned out by the enthusiasm of the commoners.

Yu Youyao and the others quickly moved to the window and stuck their heads out.

After a while, they saw a team of armored men riding tall horses on Chang'an Street. The leader was Chang Ningbo.

In the middle of the team, there were polite officials carrying etiquette and music. They were wearing black clothes and a majestic crown. They held feathers in one hand and a short knife in the other. It was a lively and prosperous scene.

Yu Youyao took a closer look. "The etiquette and music standards prepared by the Ministry of Rites are six lines and six columns. There are a total of 36 people. It's a six-sided martial dance. The Great Zhou Dynasty uses eight for etiquette and music, six for the imperial grandsons, and four for the dukes and marquises. This is the highest etiquette of the Great Zhou Dynasty's officials.."

Chapter 486: Throwing Fruits into the Carriage

There were three types of dance: scholarly dance, martial dance, and combined scholarly and martial dance. Her cousin was a general, and he danced martial dance.

The emperor welcomed her cousin into the capital with the etiquette and music for a prince.

Yu Shuangbai was not interested in this. She tilted her head to look behind her and immediately shouted excitedly, “Eldest Sister, look, isn’t the person sitting in the carriage behind the Great General? Why is he sitting in the carriage? Why isn’t he in a sedan chair? I really want to see what he looks like...”

Seeing that the carriage was approaching, Yu Youyao called out to Chun Xiao,

“Quick, bring over the fruit plate on the table.”

Yu Shuangbai tilted her head. “Why do you want the fruit plate?”

Chun Xiao had already brought over a fruit plate. Yu Youyao smiled mischievously. “Of course,” she took a grape and threw it at the carriage, “I’m throwing fruits at the carriage!”

The window of the carriage was open, and Yu Youyao’s grapes were thrown at the window curtain.

Sitting in the carriage, Yin Huaixi, who was taking a nap, did not even raise his eyes. He raised his hand and grabbed until the juice in his palm flowed out.

Then, he opened his palm to take a look

A grape was smashed into pieces by him!

From the color of the peel and the smell of the juice overflowing, it could basically be determined that these grapes were produced in Shandong Daze Mountain. During the rebellion in Shandong, fruits were transported into the capital from the south. There were almost none in Shandong.

Yin Huaixi knew who had thrown this grape. He stared at the grape in his hand and laughed. “Naughty!”

After taking out a soft towel and soaking it in water, he cleaned his hands. Yin Huaixi gently lifted the curtain and looked up. His gaze accurately found Yu Youyao’s little head from the second floor of Chang’an Street.

Yu Shuangbai said excitedly, “Why is General Zheng Dong wearing a mask? I can’t even see his face. What a pity. Ahhh, Eldest Sister, look, he’s looking over here.” She grabbed Yu Youyao’s arm and shook it twice. “Eldest Sister, is he looking at me...”

Yu Youyao rolled her eyes. “He’s clearly looking at me.”

Yu Shuangbai puffed up her cheeks and asked indignantly, “How do you know that he’s looking at you and not me?”

Yu Youyao said eloquently, “Then it must have been the grapes I threw into the car that attracted the attention of General Zhengdong. That’s why he lifted the curtain and looked over...”

Yu Shuangbai was speechless.

Meeting her cousin’s vast and deep eyes, Yu Youyao blinked slightly and threw another orange over.

Yin Huaixi caught it with one hand and heard a burst of jubilant voices. The commoners raised their voices and kept shouting, “Head General Yin, Head General Yin...”

One after another, fruits and snacks were thrown at the carriage, mixed with sachets, handkerchiefs, and other items.



Yu Youyao was dumbfounded. She had only thrown the fruit just now to attract her cousin's attention. Who knew that this move would be noticed by others?

This was what it meant to throw fruits at a carriage!

Not long after, Yin Huaixi's carriage drove past.

Behind them were Li Qiguang and the remaining members of the clan. There were at least 20 people in a long row of prison carts. They were all famous figures in the big clans that used to run amok in Shandong.

The streets were filled with cheers, praises, and curses.

Yu Youyao thought of Qu Yuan's "Eastern Lord". "He will come out from the east, shine on my threshold, touch the horses, and drive them safely. At night, the flood dragon will be bright. He will ride the lightning and carry the cloud flag..."

This poem wrote that the light of the sun at dawn shone all over the world.

The East King went out to patrol, holding the dragon shaft in his hand. Lightning flew in the sky, and the clouds intertwined. There were thousands of flags. The observer played the zither, played the drum, rang the bell, and danced. It was grand and passionate, and it depicted the noble, graceful) dignified, and heroic scene of the East King.

How similar was it to the scene in front of her?

This lineup lasted for the time it takes to burn an incense stick. As the team gradually walked away, the streets were still filled with voices.

Old Madam Yu sighed. "The younger generation will surpass us!"

It was rare for her to come out. When it was time for lunch, Old Madam Yu did not return home. She only ordered a table of good dishes from the restaurant and the entire family gathered for a lively meal.

It wasn't until late at night that she returned to the residence reluctantly.

Yu Youyao also knew that although her cousin had returned to the capital, he was going to the Court of Justice to hand over the prisoners.

At night, the Imperial Court would hold a banquet to reward the meritorious officials.

Tomorrow morning, at the court meeting, he still had to present the details of the battle in Shandong and the current situation in Shandong. The emperor also had to reward him based on his contributions.

The day after tomorrow, he still had to help the Court of Justice and the Ministry of Justice to try Li Qiguang and the others and arrange for them to be convicted.

After surviving this ordeal, Yu Youyao realized that she would not see her cousin for at least another six to seven days.

Yu Youyao expressed her unhappiness and frustration.

She thought about how the commoners welcomed her cousin today when his carriage passed by Chang'an Street, with cheering and dancing, and how the courtiers responded with bows and drums.

Yu Youyao was very touched.

Was this the Yin Huaixi, who radiated with boundless radiance and was as calm as the sun god of the East, really the cousin who lived in the Inner Residence and restrained his sharpness like an abyss?

Yu Youyao smiled bitterly.

Ever since her cousin's identity was exposed, she had been consciously running away. Now that her cousin had become Yin Huaixi, it was impossible for him to stay in the Yu Residence forever. Youzhou was where he belonged, and the world was where his ambition lay.

And compared to him, what was Yu Youyao?

A woman from the Inner Residence had lived there for her entire life and could not even leave the capital. In the future, if she left the Yu Residence, she would just be going from one cage to another.

Distance and time would eventually separate the two childhood sweethearts.

Until they drifted apart and forgot about each other.

Yu Youyao closed her eyes and got rid of the messy thoughts in her mind.

Regardless of whether the world would change in the future, at least her cousin had always treated her well. She should cherish this rare childhood friendship and never forget it.

That night, the capital was brightly lit. The banquet in the palace lasted until late at night.

That night, Yu Youyao tossed and turned, unable to fall asleep as she looked at the bedside lantern that her cousin had given her.

The next day, Yu Youyao was in low spirits.

Chun Xiao was shocked. She thought that her Miss was sick and insisted on calling a doctor. It took a lot of persuading for Yu Youyao to stop her.

It was not until noon that news came from the palace.

“Commander Yin Huaixi of the Eastern Conquest pacified Shandong, and captured the leader of the rebel faction, Li Qiguang. Him and all members of his clan shall be rewarded with a mansion, gold, fertile land...”

A long list of rewards followed. It took nearly an hour before it ended.

When Yin Huaixi was driven out of the palace in the carriage bestowed by the emperor, he was followed by a long line of palace maids and eunuchs. The items bestowed by the emperor was said to be ten miles long.

The onlookers on both sides of the street were simply comparable to the grand scene of the Great General of the East returning to court yesterday.

In the next few days, news of what happened in Shandong spread throughout the capital..

Chapter 487: Side of the Bed

The soldiers participating in the pacification of Shandong were rewarded according to their contributions. The officials who helped Yin Huaixi pacify the various prefectures in Shandong were all praised by the imperial court.

The emperor summoned Chang Ningbo alone. Chang Ningbo said bluntly,

“Although Li Qiguang has been eliminated and the clan has been dealt with by General Yin, the remaining forces will still cause trouble. If we can’t take this opportunity to completely control the situation in Shandong, I’m afraid the clan will still be in danger.”

This was also the emperor’s worry. “Minister Chang, do you have a good strategy?

Chang Ningbo said, “Lord Yin has left Shandong. The officials of various prefectures are afraid of suppressing the remaining forces of the clan, afraid that the clan will make a comeback. In my opinion, we need to send troops to Shandong to intimidate the remaining forces of the clan and help the officials of the various prefectures govern Shandong.”

The emperor twirled the jade bracelet in his hand with an inexplicable expression.

Chang Ningbo’s words hit the nail on the head. However, the battle in Shandong had already ended, and the imperial court needs a good reason to send troops. As such, to do so would be a difficult problem.

Chang Ningbo already had a solution in mind, but he was not stupid enough to speak bluntly in front of the emperor. He knows that he was a just military official and could not be compared to the vassal lords.

As expected, the emperor pondered for a moment before asking, “King of Dongning’s fief is the closest to Shandong. There’s no need to deliberately send troops. We only need to order him to send troops to the border area adjacent to Shandong to deter the clan. We then also order him to assist the officials of the various prefectures to govern Shandong. What do you think of this plan?”

Chang Ningbo thought to himself that Master Yin had guessed correctly.

Among the various vassal lords, the emperor trusted the King of Dongning the most. The eastern border was far away from Jingzhao, separated by

Shandong. A detour is necessary, which would be at least a thousand miles.

Most of the roads were mountainous and rugged, and very difficult to walk.

Asking the King of Dongning to temporarily assist in governing Shandong was no different from handing Shandong over to the him. If the King of

Dongning had any ulterior motives, he did not need to take a detour around

Shandong. He only needed to go through Langya Mountain to get close to Jingzhao.

It was impossible that the emperor did not think of this, but he still made this decision.

Firstly, Shandong had accumulated a lot of ills and needed to be dealt with urgently. However, the clan raised private soldiers and could only be suppressed by sending troops.

Secondly, it was because he trusted the Marquis of Dongning.

Thirdly, the battle with Yin Huaixi in Shandong had brought out the prestige of the imperial court and the people's support. No matter how stupid the Marquis of Dongning was, he cannot consider rebellion at this time. After all, he had to have a reason to revolt.

Yin Huaixi had also considered all of this, which was why he hadn't been shy about mentioning the King of Dongning when they'd discussed this matter.

Chang Ningbo contemplated it, but did not show it on his face. "Your Majesty has thought it through. General Yin has an extremely good reputation in Shandong. After the war, he praised much about the emperor's benevolence and kindness in ruling the people."

It was a simple sentence, but the emperor understood the meaning behind it.

Asking the King of Dongning to temporarily help govern Shandong was also a helpless move. What he was most worried about was not the King of

Dongning's disloyalty, but the fact that the King of Dongning had accumulated a lot of power in Shandong.

However, Chang Ningbo's words made it clear that the people were on the side of the imperial court.

The emperor made up his mind and said, "Rome wasn't built in a day, To govern Shandong, we still need to be benevolent and empathize with the people."

The hearts of the people had already been reciprocated. If he continued to be benevolent, there would be nothing left for King Dongning to do.

Whether it was Chang Ningbo himself or the emperor, they both ignored what Chang Ningbo had said just now. "General Yin has an extremely good reputation in Shandong. After the war, he praised much about the emperor's benevolence and kindness in ruling the people."

At first, there was nothing wrong with this sentence.

However, after thinking about it carefully, it is understood that there is a cause and effect.

First, there was Yin Huaixi's prestige in Shandong, then came the emperor's benevolence and kindness to the people.

At this moment, no one could understand the subtle difference.

The next day, the emperor ordered the King of Dongning to send troops to the border between the eastern border and Shandong to help the prefectures to govern Shandong.

When the news reached the Yin Residence, Yin Huaixi was drinking tea with Sir Xian Yun.

Sir Xian Yun sighed inwardly. Yin Huaixi hadn't gone to Shandong yet, but he was already prepared for today. "How can you be so sure that the King of Dongning will do as you've imagined and abolish the clan's ancestral code to eradicate the evils in Shandong? If he really has the intention to disobey, then he should understand that destroying someone's ancestral code will harm one's morals and reputation. He shouldn't be that stupid."

Emperors from ancient times would be labeled as tyrants if they were to burn books and waste scriptures.

The founding emperor of the Great Zhou Dynasty, Emperor Gaozu, could kill mercilessly just because of a disagreement. Although the people he killed were all people who deserved it, such bloodthirsty nature was very rare in history.

But why did no one dare to call him a tyrant?

This was because after he ascended the throne, his first move was to appoint the last prime minister of the previous dynasty, Yu Xiang, as Duke Zhonglie.

At that time, the Yu Family was famous. Together with the Ye Family of Linjiang Prefecture, they were known as the Northern Yu, Southern Ye.

Emperor Gaozu's actions were an act of respect for the Confucian Empire.

The second step was to implement the revival of the old dynasty system.

Confucianism was advocated.

Yin Huaixi held a teacup in his hand. The high-quality Ru kiln porcelain was like a pile of fat, white and smooth. Young ladies liked Ru kiln very much, and among the items the emperor had bestowed this time were a few pieces of Ru kiln porcelain that had been passed down through the generations.

She would probably like it very much.

Yin Huaixi chuckled as he thought about it. "Do you think the emperor ordered the Prince of Dongning to temporarily assist the prefectures of Shandong in governing Shandong because he trusts him?"

Sir Xian Yun frowned and did not say anything.

There was definitely trust, but most of it was probably out of helplessness.

How could one allow others to sleep soundly in their own bed?!

Li Qiguang was wild like a grassland, a motley crew. Although people wanted to get rid of him, compared to the vassal lords who had heavy troops and could fight well, it was obvious who was more of a threat.

Yin Huaixi laughed coldly. "The dog emperor is very suspicious. He still has some trust in the King of Dongning. Once the King of Dongning really sends troops to the border between the Eastern Region and Shandong to help the prefectures govern Shandong, the dog emperor will probably be sitting on pins and needles, unable to eat or sleep in peace. King of Dongning once earned a bit of trust by presenting the Four Seas Dragon dagger to the dog emperor, when he ascended the throne at a young age and his foundation was unstable. By then, this bit of trust would have dissipated."

Sir Xian Yun understood immediately. "In order to reassure the dog emperor, the King of Dongning has no choice but to damage his reputation and morals. He risked the world's gossip and condemnation of the writings. He did not hesitate to become enemies with the clan to carry out such a ridiculous act of abolishing the clan's ancestral code?"

Yin Huaixi had predicted all of this from the very beginning!

He really didn't know if he should take pity on the King of Dongning for being so unlucky. Why did his fief have to be closest to Shandong and give Yin Huaixi a chance to plot against him?

One has to sigh, for King of Dongning probably did not even know that he had been reduced to a pawn.

Tsk, how pitiful~

Still, thinking of the Prince of Liang, who had risked his life to send his son into the capital to be a hostage, Sir Xian Yun felt that he could not blame the Prince of Dongning for being unlucky and choosing the Eastern Region as his fief..

Chapter 488: Self-hurt

Yin Huaixi was such an immoral and insidious person. When it came to scheming, he didn't care about the person or the face, and he didn't care about the location or the distance.

He had just schemed against the Cabinet not long ago.

There was probably no one in this world that he could not scheme against.

Yin Huaixi chuckled. "Being on bad terms with a clan is what the dog emperor wants to see the most."

However, Sir Xian Yun still had doubts. "There are many ways to become enemies with the clans. There's no need for King of Dongning to choose the worst one. Does he have other motives?"

Instead of answering, Yin Huaixi asked, "What kind of person do you think the King of Dongning is?"

Sir Xian Yun thought for a moment. "From the fact that he presented the dagger back then, this person is very cautious. It shows how ambitious he is!"

Yin Huaixi nodded. "That's right. Li Qiguang has been eradicated, and his clan has been beaten to a pulp. No matter how ambitious King of Dongning is, this isn't the best time. If he can take this opportunity to gain the trust of the current emperor, Shandong will be within his grasp. If he can obtain Shandong, he won't have to worry about not having a chance to rise in the future."

King of Dongning's goal was to take over Shandong.

Mr. Xian Yun understood immediately. "You're saying that the Prince of Dongning did not hesitate to damage his reputation and morals by abolishing the ancestral code of the clans, ostensibly to reassure the Emperor, but his ultimate goal is to gain the Emperor's trust?"

Yin Huaixi laughed. "Even you understand that crippling the ancestral code is an immoral act that harms one's morals. How could the emperor not understand? This action is enough to make the emperor, who already has some trust in the King of Dongning, completely dispel all doubts about him. What threat does a vassal lord with a tarnished reputation and unpopularity pose to him?"

Sir Xian Yun didn't know what to say anymore. Everything Yin Huaixi had planned had never gone wrong.

Yin Huaixi continued, "Even the King of Liang didn't hesitate to send his heir to the capital in order to show his loyalty to the emperor. How could the Prince of Dongning not take this opportunity to show his loyalty?"

What the emperor cared about the most was the weight of the loyalty expressed by the vassal lords. To damage his reputation and morals- this sincerity was simply too much. The prince sent by the King of Liang just cannot be compared to King of Dongning's move.

Sir Xian Yun frowned. "This is a move that will hurt yourself over a hundred times before injuring a thousand enemies."

Yin Huaixi laughed. "You're exaggerating. Everyone says that King Zhou is cruel and depraved, but there's a Confucian disciple named Zigong who once said, 'The praises of a reputable person exceeds his good deeds; the evil deeds of a person will be exaggerated much worse than reality.' What do you think that means?"

Sir Xian Yun was stunned for a long time. "King Zhou's brutality is not as serious as the legends say. It's just that the winner is the king, and the loser is the bandit. Therefore, all the infamy in the world belongs to him."

He looked at Yin Huaixi with a complicated expression. Ever since he had met Yin Huaixi, he had often felt that his reputation as a "sage" and "virtuous" was undeserved.

Yin Huaixi said meaningfully, "History is written by victors. If you kill your brother and force your father, you can become an emperor for thousands of years. It's not a big deal to damage your reputation. If you're serious, you'll lose."

Sir Xian Yun was too lazy to talk about this annoying matter anymore. "The trial of the three divisions has also come to an end. After Li Qiguang and the remaining members of the clan have finished the trial, the emperor will issue an edict to clear King You's name. I think it won't be long before blood flows like a river in the capital. There will also be corpses everywhere on the way to Shangyang Castle's exile."

From last year's Fall Quarter Examinations until now, there had been storms in the capital. It was unknown when it would end.

Yin Huaixi ignored the topic and simply said, "In a while, the emperor will send Chang Ningbo to You Prefecture to prevent the Di Clan from causing trouble."

Sir Xian Yun was stunned. "Before escorting the Marquis of Changxing to the capital, the emperor had already sent generals who could fight well to You Prefecture. Why will he still send Chang Ningbo over?"

Only then did he realize that it was already the end of October. In the past, at this time, the Di people would come to the northern border city to burn, kill, and plunder.

Yin Huaixi lowered his eyes. "Chang Ningbo will be the deputy general during the battle in Shandong."

Sir Xian Yun immediately reacted. "The emperor has already decided to let you take over the title of the North Prince and guard You Prefecture. He will let Chang Ningbo, who is quite compatible with you, assist you in the battle. In that case, you don't need me to speak for you in front of the emperor."

Yin Huaixi's initial plan was to wait until the war in Shandong was over and the emperor was worried about the military power of You Prefecture. Then, he would arrange for someone to speak to the emperor and invite him into the palace to help Yin Huaixi.

Everyone in the world knew that Sir Xian Yun was as the wild clouds and wild cranes, who didn't participate in the imperial court and didn't participate in

politics. He was an old acquaintance of Yin Huaixi's, but there was no benefit involved.

In addition, he was known as a sage, and the emperor had always held him in high esteem. It was easier for his words to convince the emperor.

When the time came, the emperor would definitely listen to his opinion and hand You Prefecture over to Yin Huaixi. There was no need for that now.

Yin Huaixi nodded.

The reason why the emperor could make such a decision so quickly was all thanks to the little girl's "campaign" to gain favor. Although it disrupted his plan, it was not a big deal and saved him a lot of trouble.

Sir Xian Yun then said, "By the way, what do you think of Song Xiuwen's case?"

He hadn't expected that Yin Huaixi would have already extended his hand to

Jiangnan, which was surrounded by wolves. If Yin Huaixi wanted to touch

Jiangnan, it would be no different from poking into a wolf's den.

Yin Huaixi's goal was in the north, not in Jiangnan.

Yin Huaixi gave a half-smile. "Song Xiuwen's case isn't the main point. The main point is who should be in charge of the coastal war between Ningbo, Shaoxing, and Taizhou after Song Xiuwen's fall. Who should be in charge of the Zhejiang Provincial Military Commission and take over the position of general?"

This was real power.

Coincidentally, he was also very interested.

Sir Xian Yun asked curiously, "Who do you think is qualified to fill Song Xiuwen's gap?"

Yin Huaixi smiled. "No one else but Ye Hanyuan!"

After the dog emperor issued the edict to restore the temple of the King of Darkness, Ye Hanyuan was the first to receive credit. The emperor was exceptionally benevolent, so it was natural for him to fill in Song Xiuwen's shortcomings.

Sir Xian Yun shuddered and suddenly picked up his teacup. He raised his head and took a big gulp.

He needed to calm down.

The next day, Li Qiguang and the remnants of the Shandong clans were sentenced to be executed a month later.

The matter in Shandong had come to an end.

At this moment, "Zhou Linghuai", who was far away in "You Prefecture") finally returned.



Yu Youyao was overjoyed. She went to wait in front of the hanging flower door early in the morning. Only when she reached the center of the courtyard did Zhou Linghuai's carriage drive into the residence.

As soon as the carriage stopped, Yu Youyao hurriedly held up her dress and stepped onto the small stool to get into the carriage. She lifted the curtain and looked into the carriage.

Their eyes met, and Zhou Linghuai's gaze was deep.

"Cousin!" Yu Youyao's eyes turned red as she looked at her cousin sitting in the carriage.

His cousin was dressed in a black Kirin with golden patterns. It had been four months since they last met, and he seemed to have lost some weight but seemed to have grown taller..

Chapter 489: Cousin Is Back

Yu Youyao sized up her cousin seriously. She saw that his thin body was no longer as weak as before, but it looked sharp and dangerous.

His eyebrows were as sharp as a knife, exuding an intimidating aura. His eyes were as black as ink, like a vortex that could suck people in. However, the vastness of the universe and the stars were hidden in his eyes.

Yu Youyao choked. "Cousin, you're back!"

Her cousin was still the cousin in her heart. Although he had changed a lot, the moment she saw him, the familiar and intimate feeling in her heart would not lie.

Zhou Linghuai smiled. "Why are you crying when you see me? Do you not welcome me back?"

"No." Yu Youyao wiped her tears with her hand and said in a hoarse voice, "I'm crying tears of joy. I'm too happy. I haven't seen Cousin for so long. I..."

As she spoke, her tears could not help but flow out. There was a huge lump in her throat, and she could not even speak in the end. A soft whimper sounded in the closed carriage.

Zhou Linghuai looked at the young lady.

She clearly wanted to hold back her tears, but the tears seemed to not listen to her. They kept rushing out of her eyes. She clearly had a lot to say to him, but when they reached her mouth, they turned into soft, suppressed whimpers.

It had been four months since they last met, and the young lady's figure had grown a little. Her mouth was covered in bright red lipstick, pure and soft, charming and alluring.

He was a martial artist, so his sense of smell was naturally sharp.

As he got closer, he could smell it. That faint sweetness was like a freshly picked rose. Strands of fragrance lingered in his nose and lungs, tugging at his heartstrings.

Previously in Shandong, he had seen the Pingyin roses bloom beautifully, so he had sent a cart of them into the capital.

The young lady had liked it very much. In the letter, she mentioned that she used the Pingyin Rose as lipstick and applied it for him to see when he came back.

Indeed, her red lips were reminiscent of pear blossoms still wet with rain, and the freshly dewed crabapples. It was extremely beautiful.

Zhou Linghuai suddenly leaned forward and pulled the girl sitting in front of him into his arms. "Don't cry. I brought you a gift."

Her cousin's embrace was not tight, but it was so firm.

Yu Youyao stopped crying. "Did I cry because of the gift?! It's obvious that I haven't seen Cousin for too long and missed him. That's why I cried!" After saying that, she pushed him away and looked at him with red eyes. She asked hesitantly, "Cousin, did you miss me?"

The young lady's sleepy phoenix eyes made her look delicate.

However, her eyes were like peach blossoms. Her eye sockets were very shallow, and when her emotions rose, it was as if there was a peach blossom miasma around her eyes in a thin layer of red, which looked very fresh.

Zhou Linghuai chuckled. "The lipstick made from the Pingyin Rose is very beautiful."

Yu Youyao smiled through her tears. Although her cousin had given her a large cart of Pingyin roses,

However, after making all kinds of things, she did not make much lipstick) and usually could not bear to use it.

This morning, after she received news that her cousin had returned to the residence, she had specially applied lipstick made from the Pingyin Rose to welcome her cousin. Since her cousin still remembered this matter, he must have missed her.

Zhou Linghuai handed her a cup of tea.

Yu Youyao held the teacup with both hands and took small sips of water. Gradually, she calmed down. "Cousin has just returned to the residence and should go to An Shou Hall to visit Grandmother first. Let's go over quickly!"

After not seeing her cousin for so long, Yu Youyao had a lot to say to him, but now was not a good time.

Zhou Linghuai nodded. "Then let's go. It's not good to keep Grandaunt waiting either."

Yu Youyao was the first to get out of the carriage. Only then did Chang An get into the carriage and escorted Zhou Linghuai down.

The two of them went to An Shou Hall together.

Yu Youyao, who had been chattering non-stop the entire way, finally stopped and followed her cousin to pay their respects to their grandmother.

Zhou Linghuai had been gone for more than four months. Now that he was back, not only was Old Madam Yu happy, even Madam Yao brought her family to An Shou Hall to see them.

When Zhou Linghuai had just entered the residence, although Madam Yao did not look down on this nephew from You Prefecture, in the end he was only here to take advantage of the family's prestige, and she did not think much of him.

Due to his family's misfortunes and his childhood illnesses, she more or less felt pity for him. However, she treated him indifferently and had no intention of getting close to him.

It was not until Zhou Linghuai gave his brothers some pointers in school that she realized that this nephew from You Prefecture was not a simple person, and then she got closer to him.

Later on, Sir Xian Yun specially came to visit Zhou Linghuai.

Only then did she realize that he was not here to take advantage of the situation. It was clearly the Yu Residence who had burned good incense and welcomed a great Buddha into the house.

She was more than happy for Zhou Linghuai to stay in the residence.

After greeting the elders, Zhou Linghuai smiled. "I've made Grandmother worried these few months."

"We're family. It's good that you're back." Old Madam Yu was relieved that Zhou Linghuai had returned safely and could finally take the weight off her mind.

Upon closer inspection, she saw that Zhou Linghuai looked good; his face looked weary, but he was much more energetic than when he first entered the residence. How could he not be happy?

Madam Yao also smiled. "Yes, yes, yes. It's good that you're back. You've been gone for three to four months. The family misses you. Thinking that You Prefecture isn't peaceful either, I was also on tenterhooks. Now, you're finally back."

Zhou Linghuai nodded. "I had no choice but to worry my family when I went to You Prefecture this time." At this point, he changed the topic and smiled. "When I returned from You Prefecture, I brought some specialties from all over the Northern Region. The Northern Region produces silver fungus of high quality. It nourishes the blood and qi, the skin, and the face. I also brought gastrodia, an herb that circulates qi, and revives the blood. It's quite effective in treating head diseases..."

Old Madam Yu waved her hand. "Thank you." At this point, she changed the topic. "Have you settled the matters in You Prefecture? Did the Zhou clan make things difficult for you?"

It turned out that they had cut ties. With Zhou Linghuai's intelligence, no matter how many schemes the Zhou family had, they probably wouldn't fall on him.

Speaking of which, the Zhou Family was really short-sighted.

They saw that Zhou Linghuai's lineage was in dire straits, and he was young and sickly. Not only did they not help him, they actually schemed for his money, family business, and even exterminated him. They did not even care about the fact that they were from the same lineage and ended the matter.

It was better to bully the old man than the young man. Zhou Linghuai's talent was a loss to the Zhou family.

Zhou Linghuai shook his head. "After the third division's trial, the emperor

ordered people to go to You Prefecture at full speed. Those who were implicated in King You's case back then have all been cleared of their grievances. The Zhou family is the same. The emperor's

kindness is vast and mighty. He is grateful for the Zhou family's loyalty for generations. Still, in this rare occasion, he made an exception and allowed me to participate in the compilation of the Documentary Collection."

Old Madam Yu immediately sat up straight with a surprised expression. "Ever since the compilation of the 'Law and Order' was completed, the previous emperor had proposed the concept of the 'Collection of Documents'. This book is a collection of ancient books from the previous dynasties. It took several years to prepare the early stages.."

Chapter 490: Smiling in the Afterlife

"The late Emperor gathered all the books in the world and even gathered many ministers of the Hanlin Academy, as well as many old, retired ministers. Those who were quite famous among the people participated in the compilation. The late emperor even left the palace at one point to bow to the wise Sir Xian Yun and Sir Hu Shan, to invite them personally."

Sir Xian Yun was used to being free, so he naturally did not agree. However, he offered a lot of rare books and many of his own handwritten books.

Sir Hu Shan had read "Law and Order", and said his ability falls short of his desire to contribute.

After that, the matter was left unsettled.

When the late emperor passed away, the Documentary Scriptures had just been started, and it was on his mind even while he was on his deathbed. Therefore, after the current emperor ascended the throne, he still did not dare to neglect the compilation of the Documentary Scriptures.

The Documentary Scriptures were extremely vast. It contained the classics of a hundred schools of thought and was all-encompassing. More than a thousand people had participated in the compilation process, but it is still incomplete even after more than twenty years.

Yu Shanyan, who was at the side, also had a solemn expression.

She thought to herself, 'Cousin Zhou is really amazing!'

Although participation in the Documentary Scriptures was allowed by the emperor's vast and mighty grace, this grace would not have been bestowed if Cousin Zhou's own talent was not passable.

Zhou Linghuai nodded. "Grandaunt, you might not know this, but the Documentary Scriptures was originally Emperor Gaozu's idea. It's still somewhat related to the Yu clan."

Old Madam Yu stopped twirling her prayer beads. "How did you make this conclusion?"

Zhou Linghuai continued, "Duke Zhonglie admired the 'The Exploitation of the Works of Nature' and called it the first complete book of the dynasty. However, although it was vast, the author, Duke Song, was weak. Therefore, the contents of the 'The Exploitation of the Works of Nature' was limited. If he could gather the books of all the different schools of philosophy, it would be a blessing for all ages. Later on, many related books were written. Emperor Gaozu was grateful to

Duke Zhonglie and had the idea of compiling the schools of philosophy. That was why Emperor Gaozu took the initiative to restore the old books.”

It was not easy to compile an all-encompassing collection of documents.

It was imperative to restore the old scholarship.

Old Madam Yu sighed. “I didn’t know that there was such a history behind the Documentary Scriptures.

Zhou Linghuai continued, “As you know, the chronicles still show the benevolence and morality of the current dynasty. When Great Zhou was first established, it was not the time to publicize widely. Therefore, the

Documentary Scriptures was prepared from Emperor Gaozu until the previous emperor completely implemented it.”

The late emperor was benevolent, and the entire dynasty was convinced by his benevolence. The power of the Great Zhou Dynasty had also reached its peak. The vassal kings offered their loyalty, and the commoners recognised the ruler. All the civil and military officials submitted to the previous emperor.

If the documents are not compiled now, when would they be?

However, the previous emperor had been too benevolent. After the current emperor ascended the throne, he could not suppress the court officials. In just 20 years, he had completely ruined the previous emperor’s benevolent efforts.

How lamentable!

After sighing, Old Madam Yu said happily, “Good, this is simply great. After participating in the editing of the Documentary Scriptures, our Linghuai will also be able to become someone of great virtue like Sir Hushan and Sir Xian Yun, who will be admired and praised by the world. Even if he doesn’t take the imperial examination and enter the imperial court, his name will be recorded in history. If your grandmother and parents know about this in the afterlife, they will also be able to smile.”

When she thought of Yu Miaofu, she couldn’t help but feel a little sad and tears welled up in her eyes.

Yu Youyao hurriedly handed her a cup of tea. “Grandmother, Cousin has so much potential. You should be happy.”

When she found out that his cousin had received the task of compiling the

Documentary Scriptures, she knew that he would probably have to stay in the

Yu Residence for a long time with the identity of “Zhou Linghuai”.

Yu Youyao was happier than anything else.

Madam Yao couldn’t hide the smile on her face anymore. “Yaoyao is right. Every dynasty and every emperor advocates compiling books. The first, second, and third ranked scholars of the imperial examination also have to compile books when they enter Hanlin, but not just any books. Books like

the Documentary Scriptures cannot be touched if one has not been in Hanlin Academy for few years. Of course we should be happy about such a good thing.”

Ever since Zhou Linghuai entered the residence, all the troubles in the capital belonged to others, and the happy events were all theirs.

Ling Huai participated in the editing of the Documentary Scriptures, and the Yu Residence’s scholarly reputation soared.

Matriarch Yu hurriedly pressed a handkerchief to the corners of her eyes. She took the teacup and said, “When you’re old, you are more emotional. No matter if you’re happy or uncomfortable, you have to shed tears to feel better.”

Zhou Linghuai hurriedly said, “It’s just in name. I’ll go to the Teng Library every few days...”

Old Madam Yu hurriedly said, “This is already very impressive. You’re still young after all. After getting a nominal position and staying in the Teng Library for a few years, your reputation will be revealed. In the future, you can even participate in court affairs through the Teng Library.”

By that time, illness can no longer be an obstacle to Zhou Linghuai. Those with illnesses and disabilities cannot become officials. However, there were many of great talents and great virtues in the past dynasties who all made exceptions.

As far as she knew, the people who were participating nominally in the compilation were either outstanding officials of the Hanlin Academy or retired old officials and virtuous people.

To be able to make a name for himself among more than a thousand people was simply amazing.

The emperor must have secretly checked Zhou Linghuai’s character to make such a decision.

At the end of the day, it was Zhou Linghuai’s own ability that allowed him such an opportunity.

Madam Yao quickly asked, “When will the official document be released?”

Zhou Linghuai replied, “About in the next few days.”

Madam Yao’s face was filled with joy. “That’s great. When the palaces documents are released, we will hold a family banquet to celebrate.”

Old Madam Yu strongly agreed.

The family was overjoyed.

Zhou Linghuai held his teacup and lowered his eyes.

In the past, he had only borrowed the Yu Residence and usually guided a few juniors of the Yu Residence. It was fine, but if he wanted to stay for a long time, he had to have a proper job.

Otherwise, no matter how talented he was, he would always be trapped in the Inner Residence. There was nothing he could do, and dissatisfaction will only grow in his mind.

The young lady has a “proper” father, and now, a cousin who had some talent even though he was disabled. This provided a boost to her ego outside.

Compiling books in the Teng Library has nothing to do with the court, and there was no need to go there every day. As long as he was more careful, he wouldn’t have to worry about exposing his identity and bringing trouble to the Yu Residence.

The family chatted and laughed for a long time.

While her grandmother was drinking tea, Yu Youyao hurriedly said, "Cousin, you came all the way back from You Prefecture. You must be tired."

At the mention of this, Old Madam Yu reacted. "Look at my memory. I was so focused on talking to Linghuai that I actually forgot about this." At this point, she hurriedly looked at Zhou Linghuai. "It's been hard on you all the way back.

Go back and rest."

Madam Yao also hurriedly said, "I haven't seen Linghuai in a long time. I lost track of time after chatting with him. Yaoyao is still the most considerate and remembers Cousin's health." She looked at Zhou Linghuai. "Your health is more important. Don't tire yourself out."

Zhou Linghuai did not decline and thanked the elders for their kindness.

Yu Youyao couldn't sit still anymore. "I'll send Cousin back to Qingqu Courtyard.."