

## All Hail 721

### Chapter 721 - 721: Recalling the Old Matters

Before he left, he glanced at Yu Youyao.

The little girl sat beside her aunt and lowered her head obediently, revealing a portion of her jade-like neck. As if sensing his gaze, she subconsciously looked up.

Caught off guard, their eyes met.

Yin Huaixi couldn't help but be stunned. He felt that this glance was as if lightning had touched the ground and flames had burst out. His heart skipped a beat, and he lowered his eyes slightly before leaving the house.

Yu Youyao was also stunned for a moment. Before Yin Huaixi left, he inadvertently glanced at her with a burning gaze. It was as if she had eaten a mouthful of sour plum fruit, and heat rushed to her face.

The room fell silent for a moment.

Only then did Old Madam Xie look at Yu Youyao. "Can we trust your cousin?"

Yu Youyao lowered her eyes and said obediently, "Cousin and I have always been close, and our relationship is much closer than any of my brothers and sisters at home."

A cousin was actually closer to her than her siblings in the residence?

Such a close relationship was clearly indulged by Old Madam Yu, or even deliberately done.

Madam Wang frowned and asked about Zhou Linghuai.

Yu Youyao knew that they were worried about Yin Huaixi, so she brought her grandmother and Eldest Aunt to the Jade Courtyard and showed them the brushes and ink she had used to practice calligraphy.

There was a full box, and every piece recorded her improvement.

She also took out the books she had studied, including the Four Books and

Five Classics, all kinds of history books, scriptures, and a thick stack of books.

Every annotation on each book was written by Yin Huaixi with time and effort.

She even took out a beautiful zither.

The longevity peach blossom seal.

There were all kinds of paintings.

Carvings.

Facts spoke louder than words. Whether Zhou Linghuai was good or bad for Yu Youyao was already obvious from all this. He was inferior even to her biological brothers.

“You two...” Old Madam Xie’s expression was a little complicated. She kept feeling that Zhou Linghuai’s attitude towards her granddaughter was a little off. It did not seem like an ordinary cousin relationship. “Have you always been so close?”

After all, he was an outsider. Was Old Madam Yu just going to watch and indulge him?

Yu Youyao nodded. “Grandmother asked me to learn more from Cousin. She said that Cousin is very capable. If I learn from him, I’ll benefit in the future.” These words were true, so Old Madam Xie couldn’t say anything else.

Her granddaughter and cousin had grown up together. If she were Old Madam Yu, she would probably turn a blind eye to it. As long as there were no mistakes in etiquette on the surface, she probably wouldn’t interfere.

In any case, etiquette was for outsiders to see.

Every family had a life behind closed doors.

The Xie Residence had bought a residence in the capital. They only stayed for lunch before leaving.

Yu Youyao returned to the mourning hall.

In the next few days, many families came over to pay their respects one after another. Yu Youyao and Yu Shanyan brought their younger siblings over in mourning clothes. The men and women knelt in front of their grandmother’s coffin. There were guests who came to pay their respects. If there were male guests, Yu Shanyan would bring his younger brothers to greet them, send them off, and kneel back in front of the coffin.

If it was a female guest, Yu Youyao would greet her.

After a few days, Yu Youyao’s waist was about to break.

In the blink of an eye, Old Madam Yu’s seventh day passed.

The Xie Residence visited again and looked for their old granduncle.

Old Madam Xie took the initiative to take out the guarantee that Old Madam Yu had personally written back then. There were also the signatures of a few elders of the Yu Clan.

“Your Yu Residence knows very well what happened to Roujia back then. It’s said that a husband and wife are indebted to each other for life. Before Roujia’s corpse turned cold, Yu Zongzheng couldn’t wait to move on, nor did he care about marriage and familial ties. During Roujia’s mourning period, he welcomed new people into the residence. Our family endured it.” As soon as these words were spoken, not only was Yu Zongzheng unable to raise his head, but even the elders of the Yu Clan were embarrassed.

It had only been three to four years since Xie Roujia had married into the Yu Residence, but she had passed away. No matter what, the Yu Residence was already in the wrong.

Later on, the matter of Yu Zongzheng remarrying Madam Yang during the mourning period was even hidden from the Xie family.

Although the Xie Residence could not interfere with Yu Zongzheng's remarriage, Xie Roujia was the first wife. He had to ask his deceased wife's family about his remarriage first. Only then would it be appropriate.

Therefore, this matter had blown up back then.

Initially, the Xie family endured Xie Roujia's early death for the sake of their granddaughter. Later, when they found out that Yu Zongzheng was about to remarry during the mourning period, they forced him to come over to give the Xie family an explanation.

The matter of remarriage had already been settled, and Madam Yang had yet to marry into the family.

Old Master Xie had caught the Yu Residence red-handed and wanted to bring his granddaughter back to Quanzhou.

As Old Madam Yu was in the wrong, she lost her confidence and could only ask the clan for help.

It was also the clan who had stepped in and argued with Old Master Xie. The Xie Residence lacked legitimacy and were worried that they would go overboard. If that happened, in the future, their granddaughter would face troubles in the residence and the clan. They had no choice but to give up on bringing Yu Youyao back to Quanzhou. However, they had also forced Old Madam Yu to write a guarantee that she had to treat Yu Youyao well.

There was a clear message in the guarantee letter. If the Yu Residence disobeyed it, Yu Youyao would be allowed to return to her mother's clan.

At that time, a few elders in the clan had all signed their names.

After 13 years, the Xie family's old matters were brought up again.

It was during Old Madam's funeral that she had taken out the guarantee that she had written back then.

The old clan master had a bad feeling.

Old Madam Xie mentioned her daughter and cried on the spot. "No matter how heartless the Yu Residence is, you've slapped our family one after another and trampled on our family's face. Our family has to endure it too. Roujia has already passed away. We still have to care about Roujia's daughter whom she risked her life to give birth to. We can't let this child stay here and be sidelined..."

The Old Madam did not care about her face and wailed on the spot. She cried until the Yu Residence and even the people from the Yu Clan were so angry that they could not say anything to refute.

Yu Zongzheng immediately felt that there were thorns on the chair for nothing. For a moment, he felt like he was sitting on pins and needles, and he did not even dare to raise his head.

It wasn't that he had a good temper, but that Old Madam Xie was still his mother-in-law in name and an elder. He had no right to interrupt when an elder was talking. Furthermore, if he spoke up openly, the Yu Residence would be labeled as unreasonable.

Madam Wang's eyes were red as she cried. "For Little Yaoyao, my sister-in-law donated 30% of her property to the Yu clan, and 20% of her property to the Yu Residence. Every quarter, the Xie Residence's Merchant ships come to Beijing, and all kinds of gifts are brought into your house by horse-drawn carriages. The ceremonial etiquette during the holidays has never been neglected. The channels and connections under the name of the Xie Residence are also used by the Yu Residence and the Yu clan. As long as it is convenient, our Xie Residence has gone to great lengths to treat your Yu Residence well to give little Yao'er a place to live and settle down."

These words were the truth.

Every time the Xie Residence gave a gift, they would leave a courtesy list. The clan had already helped Yu Youyao clean up Matriarch's belongings and placed everything in An Shou Hall.

Eldest Madam, the daughter-in-law of the patriarch's family, said quickly, "Grandmother, please don't be upset. We understand how you feel about your granddaughter. Let's talk about it calmly.."

#### Chapter 722 - 722: Returning to Her Mother's Clan

Old Madam Xie lowered her head and wiped her tears, not buying it.

The Clan Chief's wife felt embarrassed. In the scholarly, agricultural, and business world, business was the lowest in terms of hierarchy. For a businesswoman like Xie Roujia to be able to marry into the Yu Clan and become the first wife of a scholar, it was because her ancestors had offered incense and climbed up the social ladder.

It was true that there was Madam Xie's help, but their statuses were different, and their backgrounds were worlds apart. Even though the Yu Clan was polite, when facing the Xie Residence, they still carried a sense of superiority and aloofness.

After all, they were from an aristocratic family. They had embarrassed a merchant and the Xie family made it sound like their family had taken advantage of them. The members of the Yu Clan did not look too good.

The clan leader's wife said, "Over the years, the Matriarch has treated Yao Yao like a pearl. Eldest son also values this daughter very much. It is not for nothing that the clan received a donation of 30% of the Xie family's property, and it was also spent on calligraphy and painting, antiques, and rare books. We have never treated Yaoyao poorly. Whatever happens now will be continued in the future.'

Old Madam Xie had brought up old matters in the clan because she was worried that the Yu Clan would bully Yu Youyao after Old Madam Yu passed away. She wanted a guarantee.

Not to mention, Yu Youyao was the eldest daughter and the clan valued her very much. As she was given the title of County Head of Shaoyi, the clan did not dare to insult her.

Old Madam Xie sneered. "Who doesn't know how to say nice things?" At this point, she glared fiercely at Yu Zongzheng. "As soon as Matriarch fell sick, someone in your family caused trouble and wanted to tarnish Roujia's reputation. They said that Roujia had an affair with her second uncle in Quanzhou and wanted to question Yao Yao's background. Is this the style of your scholarly family? I've really learnt a lot."

As soon as these words were spoken, everyone was shocked.

Eldest Madam's expression looked very ugly. She talked to Nanny Liu about this before, and she mentioned this matter.

She found it ridiculous when she heard it.

Old Madam Yu was also the daughter of a first wife from a noble family and was well-mannered. If Madam Xie and Second Uncle were involved in an affair in Quanzhou, it was impossible for Eldest Son to marry Madam Xie.

It was clearly Madam Yang who was causing trouble and deliberately sowing discord.

Matriarch Liu had asked Nanny Liu to explain this matter to the clan because she hoped that the clan would step in to prevent another incident in the future. At that time, it would really be a disaster.

She had originally planned to wait for the Matriarch's funeral to be over before looking for Yu Zongzheng to talk.

Unexpectedly, the Xie family also knew.

Xie Zongzheng looked at Yu Youyao. Without thinking, he knew that the Xie family must have found out about this because his daughter was insensible and had gossiped in front of the Xie family.

He was also a little disappointed and quickly said, "This is just a misunderstanding..."

"I don't care if it's a misunderstanding. As long as there is such a thing, it's all over." Madam Xie sneered and interrupted him. "Don't look at our Little Yao'er that way. It concerns her mother's reputation and it is only right that our Xie family comes forward. If Yaoyao didn't mention this matter, it would be extremely unfilial. If trouble arises from this matter in the future, how can she face her mother's spirit in heaven?"

Yu Zongzheng was immediately speechless. His daughter was also raised by her maiden family. If there was a problem with her reputation, it was reasonable for her maiden family to step in.

Madam Xie suddenly raised her voice. "I want to ask you a question. Our daughter was a good girl. She came to your house and ended up in a tragedy. She cannot even have stability even after she dies. Is this the behavior of a scholarly family?!"

Everyone from the Yu Clan was embarrassed on the spot.

Madam Xie had married into the Yu Residence and given birth to Yu Zongzheng's eldest daughter. She had contributed to the family. Without any evidence, this was slander.

The Yu family was also an aristocratic family. No matter what happened, it was the Yu family that would be embarrassed. No wonder the Xie Residence was so aggressive today. Old lady started making a fuss as soon as the seventh day passed.

Old Master Xie put the cup heavily on the table. "Let's not waste time talking nonsense. Yu Zongzheng has no respect for his dead wife, and he has no love for the daughter left by his first wife. If he cared about any of them, why would we have such doubts? How can we believe that you will treat Yao Yao well in the future? Old Madam Yu has passed away. Who will take out the letter of guarantee she wrote back then?"

He paused and swept his sharp gaze across everyone from the Yu Clan.

"Is it Yu Zongzheng? Or is it your Yu Clan?"

The old clan elder kept quiet. It wasn't that he didn't want to speak, but that he couldn't.

This concerned Madam Xie's reputation. This was the wrongdoing of Yu Zongzheng.

Yu Youyao's background was almost questioned. This was also the Yu Residence's fault.

Fortunately, Madam Yang was divorced, so this matter was covered up.

If there was any gossip leaked, to put it lightly, Madam Xie's reputation would be ruined, Yu Youyao's reputation would be ruined, and the Xie Residence would be heavily implicated. Would the Yu Residence lose face?

What about Eldest Son and Second Son's future?

At the very least, the reputation of the clan would be ruined!

However, just because there was no news now and the consequences were unbearable did not mean that it had never happened, nor did it mean that the Xie family would not hold it against them.

Indeed, one had to marry a virtuous wife.

Back then, Yu Zongzheng had married Madam Yang. He had really caused a lot of trouble.

Seeing that no one in the Yu Clan had expressed their stance, Old Master Xie also said stubbornly, "I entered the capital this time partly to take Roujia's memorial tablet and return it to the Xie Residence, and partly to let Madam Xie's daughter return to her mother's clan."

The old clan elder frowned and had no choice but to say, "This matter is against the rules. Madam Xie is not a divorced woman. After marrying into the Yu Residence, she has to be filial to her elders, create a meritorious family, and be a good wife. How can her daughter return to her maiden family for no reason?"

"This matter is Zongzheng's fault. Be it apologizing, kowtowing to Roujia's memorial tablet, or writing a guarantee, we will definitely not reject what he should do. We will definitely satisfy the in-laws."

"Eldest Miss should stay in the residence, her biological mother is not a divorcée. Not only is she the daughter of the first wife, but she's also the eldest daughter. As long as her father's clan is still around, there's no reason for her to return to her mother's clan. Eldest Miss has grown up, and returning to her mother's clan will also damage her reputation."

“It’s not that our family isn’t reasonable. If the in-laws cherish their granddaughter so much, our Yu Residence will also agree to let Eldest Miss go to Quanzhou to stay for a few months every year to comfort her family.”

In the end, he added, “Eldest Miss’s grandmother has passed away, and there are no elders in the family to manage her future. The Yu Residence won’t make decisions on their own in the future. We will consult the Xie Residence before making any plans.”

These words were already very sincere.

The old clan master did not want to mention this and to show weakness to the Xie family which was a merchant family.

However, the Yu Clan was already completely in the wrong. Back then, the Xie family had only stopped because they cared about their granddaughter’s young age. Before Madam Xie died, she had entrusted her to Matriarch.

However, now that Old Madam Yu had passed away and the Yu Residence had gotten someone to go against them, the Xie Residence had a suitable excuse.

Yu Youyao was old and had even been conferred the title of County Head. If the Xie Residence made a fuss again, they would no longer have their previous scruples. At that time, the Xie Residence would have nothing to fear, but the Yu Clan would not be able to afford to lose face..

Chapter 723 - 723: Falling Out

It had to be said that every word of the Yu Clan rubbed the Xie Residence the wrong way.

If it weren’t for Old Madam Yu’s last words, as long as the Yu Clan didn’t let her go, the Xie Clan would still have to compromise because of Little Yao’er’s reputation and future.

The older the wiser.

Ever since they entered the house, it had always been the Xie Residence who had caused a commotion. The old master had not said anything at the start but as soon as he opened his mouth, he went straight to the point, making it difficult to refute.

If the Xie Residence caused another commotion, it would mean that they were pushing their luck and did not know what was good for them.

The Xie Residence would be unreasonable.

The Xie family would be in the wrong.

Old Master Xie refused immediately. “There’s no room for discussion on this matter. Otherwise, we’ll talk about it one by one. How did Roujia die back then? Why did Yu Zongzheng hurriedly welcome Madam Yang into the family? Is the Third Miss of the residence the daughter of a legitimate wife or a traitor? All these years, how many benefits has your Yu Residence received from us? We’re a merchant family anyway. We’re not afraid of losing face. On the other hand, can you bear the consequences of your actions?”

These words were a direct provocation.

However, if they really broke it down one by one, the Yu Residence would really laugh at them.

Everyone in the clan looked at each other, not knowing what to say for a moment. On the other hand, Yu Zongzheng was flustered and exasperated. He suddenly sat on a chair and stood up. He said angrily, "Don't go too far!"

A merchant dared to cause such a commotion.

They had given him face.

"Kneel down!" Old Master Xie did not stand on ceremony. He swung his cane at Yu Zongzheng's leg with all his might.

Yu Zongzheng wailed, and his knees went limp. With a thud, he knelt on the ground. For a moment, he looked embarrassed. He couldn't help but feel embarrassed and angry, and he was about to get up from the ground.

Old Master Xie held his cane and pressed it against his neck. "Are words not working? Do you think I can't order you around?"

Yu Zongzheng's back collapsed again. He was angry but did not dare to say anything.

The room suddenly fell silent.

The Yu Clan members couldn't say a word.

In-laws did not talk about status, but seniority. Old Master Xie was a generation higher than the elders. As they were in-laws, they had to bow to Old Master Xie as juniors. Otherwise, it would be rude and embarrassing for the Yu Clan.

Not to mention that Old Master Xie was Yu Zongzheng's grandfather-in-law. It was not their place to interfere in him teaching his grandson-in-law a lesson.

Yu Zongzheng lowered his head and gradually clenched his fists tightly. He hated the Xie family for embarrassing him on the spot.

Old Master Xie sneered. "Who allowed you to get up just now?"

Yu Zongzheng suddenly looked up, his eyes bloodshot, and the veins on his forehead bulged.

Old Master Xie saw his twisted expression and slapped him on the head.

"Kneel! "

Yu Zongzheng screamed and his head hit the ground with a thud, not daring to raise his head again.

After teaching Yu Zongzheng a lesson, Old Master Xie glanced at the old clan master. "Is this the upbringing and rules of your clan? It's really an eye-opener today."

The old clan master lost his face and looked at Yu Zongzheng sternly. He said angrily, "How can you interrupt when the elders are talking? Kneel properly."

Yu Zongzheng endured the humiliation and pain in his legs, but his heart felt uncomfortable.



Yu Youyao lowered her eyes. Yu Zongzheng, who was usually high and mighty, knelt on the ground like a vicious dog with its teeth pulled out.

The families valued filial piety. Now, filial piety was a big mountain that was pressing on her, and she could not get over it. It was like a heavy burden that she could not get rid of it at all times.

Due to the three subserviences and four virtues, the rules and regulations imposed on her by the world constrained and imprisoned her. She could not disobey them and felt suffocated at every moment. every moment.

What happened now was nothing much.

The old clan master's expression softened as he apologized to Old Master Xie. "Old Master, Zongzheng did something wrong. You're an elder. It's not too much to teach him a lesson.'

Old Master Xie snorted and said nothing.

The old clan master pretended not to hear him and continued, "Regarding the matter about Madam Xie's memorial tablet returning to the Xie family and Eldest Miss returning to her mother's clan, do you think we should discuss it further?"

After all, he was an elder of the Yu Clan, so Old Master Xie had to give him face. "If you are agreeable, the Xie family can let go of Roujia's humiliation. Roujia has already passed away for many years and public opinion will decide what is right and wrong. However, Little Yao'er's background was almost confused. The fault lies with the Yu Clan. With Old Madam Yu's guarantee back then and the signature of the elders as a guarantee, she has to return to her mother's clan. If the Yu Clan doesn't agree, we'll go to the government office to make a decision.'

He took a step back, but his attitude was still fearless.

The expressions of the Yu Clan members darkened.

Madam Wang chuckled. It was true that the older the wiser.

However, there was someone in the Xie Residence who was even shrewder than the old elder of the Yu Clan.

The old clan master also came to a realization.

At first, Old Madam Xie brought up the old matter, causing the Yu Clan to ignore her. Then, she threw a brick to attract the attention of the Yu Clan, causing them to tarnish Roujia's reputation. The Yu Clan would be embarrassed again.

Immediately after, Old Master struck while the iron was hot and suggested bringing Madam Xie's memorial tablet back to the Xie Residence. He also wanted Yu Youyao to return to her mother's clan.

The Yu Residence cared about their reputation, so it was naturally impossible for them to agree.

Old Master Xie also gave face to the Yu Clan and pretended to take a step back.

He gave up on bringing Madam Xie's memorial tablet back to the Xie Residence, but he definitely wanted to bring Yu Youyao back to her mother's clan.

Bringing up Madam Xie's memorial tablet was just a negotiating factor from the Xie family.

The Xie Clan also understood that letting Yu Youyao return to the Xie Clan was because they had Old Madam Yu's guarantee back then. The Yu Clan was in the wrong, so there was still room for negotiation.

However, Madam Xie was the first wife and she had to stand by her husband.

She would be a member of the Yu Clan in her life, and she would be a ghost of the Yu Clan in her death. It was impossible for her to return to the Xie Residence.

From the beginning to the end, the Xie family only had one goal.

They wanted Yu Youyao to return to the Xie Residence.

The Xie Clan did not have to pursue the matter. The Yu Clan had tarnished the Xie Clan's reputation when the Xie Clan was magnanimous. Now, the Xie Clan stood on the high ground of morality, and the Yu Clan was in the wrong.

Be it making peace or falling out.

The Yu Clan would be the ones at a disadvantage.

Once they angered the Xie family, at most, the Yu Clan would really become a laughing stock.

The old clan master looked at Yu Zongzheng with an ugly expression. Before Madam Yang died, she had instigated the Xie Clan's reputation. In the end, it had become a sharp weapon for the Xie Clan to deal with the Yu Clan.

If it weren't for the matter of tarnishing the reputation of the Xie Clan, the Yu Clan wouldn't be in such a passive position.

Eldest Son had been an official for decades. He was really scheming.

Not only had she lost face, but even the Yu Clan had lost face.

The atmosphere froze.

Fifth Old Madam couldn't help but look at Yu Youyao. 'Good child, the clan has also remembered your mother's contribution. Your mother's reputation is important. Although your father was in the wrong, it was also because of Madam Yang's instigation. Now that Madam Yang has been divorced, it can be considered as seeking justice for your mother. Your grandmother has just passed away, and the clan is focused on your grandmother's funeral. I originally planned to wait for your grandmother's funeral to be over before talking to your father and making this matter clear in case you and your mother suffer in vain. Don't have any resentment towards the clan because of

Chapter 724 - 724: Unfilial and Unrighteous

Fifth Old Madam had a kind expression and her voice was gentle and loving.

However, everyone present could tell that there was a heart-wrenching meaning behind her gentle words.

No matter how much trouble the Xie family caused, whether Yu Youyao returned to her mother's family or not depended on Yu Youyao's approval.

No matter how much the Xie Residence argued, it didn't matter.

Old Madam Xie was so angry that she opened her mouth to speak.

However, Old Master Xie knocked his cane on her hand and stopped her.

Old Madam Xie held back her words and looked at Old Master indignantly. Why hadn't Old Master asked her to defend Little Yao'er? Was he just going to watch helplessly as the Yu Clan forced Little Yao'er to express her stance?

Madam Wang also looked angry, but the elders did not say anything, so she did not have any room to speak.

Yu Youyao understood that he was forcing her to express her stance.

Whether she returned to her mother's clan or not depended on her wishes. As long as she did not agree, the Xie family would not be able to do it even if they caused a commotion.

Fifth Old Madam's words pushed all the blame to Madam Yang. Madam Yang was indeed the one who had been abandoned because of this matter. It could be considered as returning "justice" to her mother. In this matter, the Yu Clan had not let her and her daughter down.

Her grandmother doted on her. As a daughter of the Yu Clan, she really shouldn't have made a fuss about returning to her mother's clan before her grandmother's corpse turned cold. Otherwise, she would be ungrateful.

It was a blow to her.

She had also mentioned that after her grandmother's funeral, the clan would completely give her and her mother a clean reputation. This was like offering her a sweet date.

Immediately after, she expressed that all of this was just a misunderstanding and asked her not to have any resentment towards the clan because of this. This was a warning to her and forcing her to express her stance in public.

She was a daughter of the Yu Clan and had received the Yu Clan's upbringing. She had grown up with the Yu Clan's kindness and righteousness. If she resented the clan because of this and made a fuss about returning to her mother's clan, she would become an ingrate.

Yu Youyao's eyes turned red, and her palm-sized face was pale and haggard.

She looked at the Yu Clan members in a daze, then at her relatives in the Xie Residence. Finally, her expression darkened. She slowly lowered her head and knelt on the ground.

"Youyao from the Yu Clan has been raised by the Yu Clan since she was young. She has received the Yu Clan's kindness and filial piety. However..." At this point, she looked up and unknowingly, tears were already streaming down her face. "The other clan also dotes on me. I feel deeply touched."

The room was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop!

Fifth Old Madam's face turned red. She quickly picked up her tea and covered her face to drink it.

Whether she returned to her mother's clan or not was important, but the key was to see what the clan thought. If the clan did not agree, Yu Youyao would not be able to return to her mother's clan.

In the end, this matter was originally a conflict between the elders and had nothing to do with Yu Youyao, a junior.

The Yu Clan couldn't keep it together in front of the Xie Residence and had lost face. The Xie Residence had the upper hand in the matter of returning to their mothers. They were caught between a rock and a hard place, so they used Yu Youyao as a shield.

Their intentions were really sinister.

The Yu Clan had used upbringing and filial piety to force Yu Youyao to make a choice. Son, what did Yu Youyao think of her mother and her maternal family?

Both sides were family. The words "filial piety" and "righteousness" were targeted at the Yu Clan and the Xie Residence.

Yu Youyao's filial piety and righteousness to the Yu Clan meant that she was unfilial and unrighteous to the Xie Residence. Her seemingly loving and gentle words had actually already portrayed Yu Youyao as unfilial and unrighteous.

Yu Youyao slowly bowed and said softly, "Grandmother has passed away. Mother's reputation was almost tarnished, and my background was almost confused. Although Madam Yang instigated this matter and was divorced, Yu Youyao doesn't know what to do in the future in the residence. After Grandmother's funeral, I'll return back to the clan. From then on, I'll be devoted to Buddhism and not make things difficult for you because of me." Before she could finish speaking, she took out a pair of gold scissors from her sleeve and lifted the hair behind her head...

"Stop—" Old Madam Xie was shocked. She quickly pounced over and hugged Yu Youyao. She only had time to hear a clear crack as a bundle of hair fell to the ground.

"Little Yao'er!" Old Madam Xie shouted and snatched the golden scissors from Yu Youyao's hand. She hugged her and cried. "My Little Yao'er, your body, hair, and skin are inherited by your parents. As long as your parents are around, you shouldn't cut your hair. How can you be so heartless as to cut your hair just like that..." In ancient times, cutting hair was a serious crime of unfilial piety. It was obvious that her hair was her pride. How could this child cut it just like that? "My Little Yao'er, you're a good girl. How can you be forced to cut your hair and be a buddhist nun? Is there any justice in this world? Little Yao'er..."

Such a fierce action stunned everyone in the room.

The old clan master looked at the strand of hair on the ground and glared at Fifth Old Madam angrily. "Why are you implicating the younger generation in the matters of the elders? Have you gone senile due to old age? You're saying that the Yu Clan's maiden family was unfilial and forcing her to be a buddhist nun. What sort of elder are you?!"

Fifth Old Madam's mouth trembled and her face turned pale with fright.

Back then, Old Madam Yu had also silently hung a rope to the beam of the ancestral hall. It was only when the servants guarding the ancestral hall discovered it in time that she was saved.

She did not expect Yu Youyao to be so fierce at such a young age. Her grandmother's corpse had yet to turn cold, and a good girl was about to cut her hair and become a Buddhist nun. Where would the Yu Clan's face and reputation go?

Not to mention that Yu Youyao was even conferred the title of County Head. When the time came, the imperial family would definitely step in.

As an elder, the Yu Clan was unkind and wanted to force a girl in the family to be a Buddhist nun.

As a relative, the Yu Clan was heartless and did not care about blood ties at all.

The expressions of the Yu Clan members were solemn.

Old Madam Xie cried in grief and indignation. "Your Yu Clan is too much. If you have anything, come at our Xie Residence. Why are you forcing my granddaughter to do this? Old Madam Yu's corpse hasn't even turned cold, but you're already bullying her granddaughter. Aren't you afraid that Old Madam Yu won't die in peace? Aristocratic families and scholarly families are clearly a group of hypocrites who forget their righteousness when they see benefits..."

Yu Youyao sat on the ground in a daze, looking confused. She had expected that the return to her mother's family would not go smoothly, so she had prepared for the worst.

Once she was implicated by the Yu Clan, she would have no choice but to take the initiative.

She had to cut her hair sooner or later.

Otherwise, even if the Yu Clan agreed to return to her mother's clan, as a daughter of the Yu Clan, her father would continue to be raised by her father.

She had received thirteen years of kindness. Would she be able to abandon the Yu Clan and return to her mother's clan with a clear conscience?

Naturally, it was impossible.

Old Master Xie was furious. He suddenly stood up from his chair. "Since your Yu Clan is heartless, don't blame me for being unrighteous. Let's go to the government office..."

The Yu Clan members hurriedly went over to pull, stop, and persuade him.

The scene was in chaos.

At this moment, the Second Old Madam, who was busy with the funeral outside, entered the house. When she saw how chaotic the house was, she couldn't help but be shocked. "Old Master, Young Master Zhou is here. He's waiting outside. He said that Matriarch had written a letter before she died.."

Chapter 725 - 725: Going Crazy Because of Her

The old clan elder hurriedly said, “Young Master Zhou must have something to bring up that’s related to Eldest Miss for choosing to come over at this time. In-law, why don’t you sit down first and listen to what Matriarch has to say?” Old Master Xie snorted but did not refute.

This was something he had discussed with Zhou Linghuai long ago. The Xie family only cared about causing trouble with the Yu Clan. He came over at the right time and took out the letter that Old Madam Yu had instructed.

With Matriarch’s last words, everything would make sense.

Fifth Old Madam and the Clan Chief’s wife quickly went over to pull Old Madam Xie and Madam Wang back. They had said all they could, but Old Madam Xie hugged her granddaughter tightly and cried, refusing to let go. She did not leave.

The old clan elder also looked helpless. He glanced at Old Master Xie and could only say, “Invite Young Master Zhou in first.”

The Second Eldest Madam looked at her severed hair on the ground and her pupils constricted. She did not want to stay and get involved in this messy matter, so she quickly went out to call Zhou Linghuai in.

When Yin Huaixi entered the house, he immediately saw Yu Youyao, who was sitting paralyzed on the ground, and the black hair that was cut. His eyes were filled with emotions, but he stepped forward with a calm expression and greeted his elders respectfully. Then, he took out two letters.

One of them instructed her granddaughter to return to her mother’s family.

The other letter instructed “Zhou Linghuai” to take good care of her granddaughter.

When the Yu Clan read the letters, their expressions did not look too good.

Before Old Madam Yu passed away, she had entrusted her granddaughter to her weak cousin and did not mention Yu Zongzheng at all. This had already expressed her distrust and even disappointment in Yu Zongzheng.

Yu Zongzheng must have done something to cause a rift between the mother and son.

The old clan elder looked at Yu Zongzheng. “Take a look yourself!”

Yu Zongzheng, who was kneeling on the ground, felt as if he had been pardoned. He quickly got up from the ground and limped to his seat. He took the letter and read it word for word.

His mother had already made arrangements for Yu Youyao long ago. It had nothing to do with him at all.

The old clan master carefully recalled everything that had happened just now.

The Xie Residence’s uncharacteristically tough attitude forced Yu Youyao to cut her hair on the spot. In addition, there were Old Madam Yu’s letters before she died.

All of this had only one goal, and that was to let Yu Youyao return to her mother’s clan.

What had Eldest Son done to make Matriarch do whatever it took to let his beloved granddaughter return to her mother's clan before she died?!

At this point, it was no longer good for the clan to interfere.

The old clan elder lowered his eyes. He did not want to get involved in this mess anymore, in case he caused trouble. "You can discuss with your in-laws about what to do."

With that, he stood up and let the Clan Chief help him out of the house.

The others in the clan also left.

After a while, only the people from the Xie Residence, Yu Zongzheng, Yu

Youyao, and Yin Huaixi were left in the room.

Yu Zongzheng clenched his fists tightly.

His mother wanted Yu Youyao to return to her mother's clan. Logically speaking, he should follow his mother's last wish. However, since Yu Youyao was the first wife's eldest daughter, there was no reason for her to return to her mother's clan if her father was around.

A faint smile appeared on Yin Huaixi's lips. "Before Matriarch died, she also said that she wanted me to talk to Uncle alone, so I boldly ask Old Master to give us some space." Seeing that Old Master Xie was about to flare up, he quickly added, "Don't worry, after I'm done talking to Uncle, it will be time to settle the matter of Cousin returning to her mother's family."

Old Master Xie frowned slightly. He had also guessed that some secrets of the Yu Residence would be involved next. It was indeed inconvenient for the Xie Residence to be present.

Yin Huaixi looked at Yu Youyao and resisted the urge to pull her into his arms.

**"Be good and wait for me outside first."**

Yu Youyao nodded slightly and followed her grandmother and Eldest Aunt to the door. Suddenly, she turned around. "I'll wait for you outside."

The room suddenly fell silent!

Yin Huaixi gently walked in with his sheepskin boots. The soles of his boots made a sound on the green brick floor. He stood still and squatted in front of the black hair.

He knelt on one knee and reached out to pick it up. Holding the long strands of hair in his hand, he closed his eyes and could imagine how decisive the little girl was when she cut her hair..

People often had the courage to die, but they did not have the decisiveness to cut their hair.

This bundle of hair was meant to cut off her blood ties with the Yu Residence and the kindness that was given to her. Her determination was rarely seen in the world.

However, he only felt his heart ache.

In that nightmare, Yu Youyao was alone and helpless. Her reputation, which was damaged by the Third Prince in the Duke Rongs Residence, was only a disgrace to the family. She had already been

indirectly abandoned by the family. It was Old Madam Yu who had held on for her last breath and protected her granddaughter by asking her to marry Song Mingzhao.

With the family style of the Zhenguo Marquis Residence, even if she couldn't protect her granddaughter's wealth, they would at least take care of her.

Old Madam Yu did not expect that Yu Jianjia would pretend to be Yu Youyao and lie that she had saved Song Mingzhao.

After that, she destroyed the Xie family's reputation and confused Yu Youyao's background.

Why had the same plan succeeded in the nightmare?

In reality, no one believed it.

The reason was very cruel.

It was also very realistic.

In the nightmare, who would care about a discarded daughter who had been abandoned by her family and had no other family?

Yu Youyao was a victim of the Great Zhou Dynasty's decay.

In reality, Yu Youyao was the eldest daughter of the first wife of the Yu Clan, who was both virtuous and talented. She was the filial, pure, kind, and respectful County Head of Shaoyi. She could be said to be the model woman of the Yu Clan's current generation.

It was not an exaggeration to say that Yu Youyao's reputation shined brightly in the Yu Clan. All the children of the Yu Clan's generation would be valued. In the future, when she was matched with someone and got married, it would be a great help to the Clan.

How could the Yu Clan give up on her so easily?

Not to mention that all of this was just nonsense. Without evidence, even if Yu Youyao's background was questioned, the Yu Clan would think of ways to cover it up.

Yu Youyao had seen through the coldness of the family's decisions, so she cut her hair especially decisively.

Yin Huaixi placed the hair near his nose. The faint fragrance hit his heart and lingered there. It was deeply rooted in his bones. The more he couldn't get it, the more he crazily longed for it. At this moment, his emotions were strongly felt.

There was a beautiful lady in the boudoir, and he was going crazy because he couldn't be with her!

Yin Huaixi kept this bundle of hair in his hand and looked up at Yu Zongzheng. "In the past, after my legs were disabled, I had once learned a great capture technique called the Dragon Wrap Hand. It's a killing method that divides tendons and bones. It's easy to learn, but difficult to master. I've practiced hard for six years and have barely learned some of the essence.

Uncle, why don't you help me test its power?"

Yu Zongzheng looked inexplicably puzzled. Before he could react...



Yin Huaixi rushed forward like a bolt of lightning and kicked him to the ground. Yu Zongzheng was shocked and furious. He opened his mouth to call out to him, but realized that he couldn't make a sound at all..

## Chapter 726 - 726: Rage

The doors and windows in the room were closed, and there was a darkness that even sunlight couldn't brighten. His face was as white as jade, but lacked warmth. Instead, it was as cold and hard. Light and shadow intertwined and overlapped on his face. On his peerlessly bright face, his facial features were clear, deep, sharp and cold. His red lips seemed to be a red spider lily that bloomed in hell. He had a demonic charm that was bloody and dangerous.

Yu Zongzheng forgot that he couldn't make a sound. He subconsciously opened his mouth, wanting to escape.

"What is dividing the tendons and bones?" Yin Huaixi raised his leg and stepped on Yu Zongzheng's shoulder. He stepped on Yu Zongzheng, who was about to get up, and stepped on the ground again. "It controls the 18 joints in the entire body. It uses the cultivator's understanding of the human body's muscles and bones to quickly dismantle the enemy's joints when facing the enemy. First, it dismantles their bones, causing them to lose their mobility. Then, it divides their tendons and makes the enemy suffer!"

He almost gritted his teeth as the words rolled out of his tongue. It was as if he licked, chewed and crushed his prey.

As soon as he finished speaking, Yin Huaixi's hand was like lightning as he placed it on Yu Zongzheng's shoulder and pressed hard.

Yu Zongzheng's eyes widened. Due to the pain, his face instantly twisted. Strangely, his mouth opened wide, and his throat kept moving, but he did not make a sound.

"I'm angry for a beauty." A layer of ice formed in Yin Huaixi's dark eyes, but no one knew how intense and dangerous the undercurrent was under the ice.

How deeply these undercurrents collided. "Can you withstand this anger?!"

The room was silent. Only a bone-chilling crack could be heard from between the bones, surging with heart-wrenching despair.

After Yu Zongzheng's 18 joints were divided, his bones were adjusted with a special method over and over again.

Not long after, he seemed to have been fished out of the water. He was like a fish that had dried up after being placed under the sun. His face was pale as he lay on the ground, and his eyes were lifeless. He opened his mouth weakly and trembled like a pile of mud.

Yin Huaixi kicked him.

Yu Zongzheng was tortured until he was mentally unstable and did not react at all.

Yin Huaixi smiled faintly. "The Dragon Wrapp Hands is indeed a Daoist ultimate technique."

He bent down and picked up Yu Zongzhengs collar, throwing him into a chair. He pinched his face and poured the tea into his mouth.

After drinking a cup of tea, Yu Zongzheng shuddered and sobered up from the pain. He looked at Yin Huaixi in horror, and a gurgling sound came from his throat. He frantically checked his hands and feet and realized that they were intact. If it weren't for the lingering trace of pain between his bones, he would have suspected that everything he had experienced previously was just a nightmare.

"You're awake." Yin Huaixi took out a document and pushed it in front of Yu Zongzheng. "Sign the document obediently and I'll let you off."

Perhaps it was because the torture just now was too deeply rooted in his heart, but after Yu Zongzheng regained his senses, his mind was like a piece of scrap iron. He couldn't even think, and he instinctively obeyed Yin Huaixi's words.

He quickly picked up the document. Without even looking at it, his hands trembled as he frantically took out his personal seal from the pouch at his waist and stamped the document.

Yin Huaixi took the document and blew on the seal that was not yet dry. "Today, the Yu family has a good daughter called Youyao, and her mother from the Xie family is virtuous and kind. She has inherited the family upbringing since she was a child and received the kindness of her parents. Her nature is filial, virtuous, pure and quiet. She is kind, honest and courteous. She has fulfilled her responsibilities as a direct descendant, remembered the merits of her ancestors, and maintained filial piety. I should have fulfilled my responsibilities as a father and given her the love between father and daughter when her mother left her during her death. My last words are to allow her to return to her mother's family. I also feel that I owe a lot to my wife. Even if I am reluctant to let go, I am still willing to fulfill my mother's last wish. I will also fulfill my duty as a husband and fulfill the family relationship between her and my mother-in-law. After she returns to her mother's clan, she will fulfill her filial piety on behalf of her late mother, and will not disgrace the teachings of the Yu family."

Only then did Yu Zongzhengs dull mind completely sober up. His eyes widened. "Zhou Linghuai, I'm your uncle and an elder. How dare you..."

Yin Huaixi sneered. "You can announce to the public that the eldest daughter,

Yao Yao, had fallen ill from worry because of Grandmother's death. The Yu Residence is worried that she will stay in the Yu Residence for a long time and miss her too much. It'll be harmful to her health, so they allowed her to stay in the Xie Residence for a while. She'll continue to be a family member to comfort Grandmother and you hope that she can recover soon."

For the time being, it was only right for her to use her illness to stay in the Xie Residence for a while. He would not let others speculate and damage her reputation because she had returned to her mother's family.

When the capital was in chaos, it would no longer matter if she returned to the Yu Residence or not.

Even if she wanted to return to her mother's clan, things had to be fair and square.

Yu Zongzheng's body went limp, and his vision darkened. "Zhou Linghuai, this is the Yu Residence. It's not up to you to make the decision. Give me the document..."

Yin Huaixi clicked his tongue. "How does it feel to have your tendons and bones split?!"

Yu Zongzheng looked as if someone was strangling him, and a look of horror appeared on his face. His dismantled bones had already recovered, but the pain seeping out of the cracks of his bones was a reminder of what terrifying things he had experienced previously.

The feeling of having his tendons and bones broken was so painful that he wanted to die.

It hurt the body and tortured the mind. If Zhou Linghuai didn't know his limits, he would have completely collapsed.

Yin Huaixi said calmly, "Before Old Madam Yu passed away, she left a letter explaining that you were having an affair with Madam Yang. Yu Jianjia was an adulterous child. After Madam Xie died, you and Yu Youyao were related by blood. You're bound together for good or ill. I'm unwilling to use this letter to coerce you, but you have to be sensible, understand?"

Some relationships could not be cut off. Even if she returned to her mother's clan, Yu Youyao would still have to take on the surname of the Yu Clan and still be a daughter of the Yu Clan.

He only needed to hold the chess piece in his hand and let Yu Zongzheng court death step by step.

Yu Zongzheng's pupils constricted. "What do you mean?"

"Stupid." Yin Huaixi smiled mockingly. "I mean that I have something on you.

As long as I want to, I can ruin your reputation."

Yu Zongzheng held his breath and suddenly remembered what the Matriarch had said on the day she passed away. "Even if I die, I won't let you off!" So this was it.

Yin Huaixi slowly stood up and tidied his clothes. He said casually, "The Xie family will step in to discuss the rest with you one by one." His lips curled up slightly, and his red lips were terrifying. "In the future, you have to be more polite to the eldest daughter of the first wife. If she suffers, I will get back twice as much, no matter who made her suffer."

Yu Zongzheng's body went limp, and the dull pain in his bones evoked the memories of the excruciating pain just now. He instinctively felt fear and started trembling...

Yin Huaixi turned around and left the house. Without waiting for the people from the Xie Residence to ask, he respectfully handed the document that Yu Zongzheng had signed to Old Master Xie. "Fortunately, I didn't disappoint you.."

Chapter 727 - 727: It's the Best of Both Worlds

When the people from the Xie Residence saw the document, they couldn't help but smile.

It was done beautifully. Old Master Xie finally found "Zhou Linghuai" a little more pleasing to the eye. "No wonder Old Madam Yu entrusted Little Yao'er to you before she died."

Yin Huaixi was overjoyed, but on the surface, he said humbly, “Ever since I entered the Yu Residence, Cousin has taken good care of me. My legs only recovered because of the Lingxi Bug Liquid. I cherish my cousin.” He had just admitted his affection for his cousin and felt his heart burn. “It’s been many years. Now that Cousin needs help, I’ll naturally do my best to share her burden.’

The Lingxi Bug Liquid was one of the main ingredients for refining the Heaven Protection Pill.

Although it was not specified, they were not empty words.

When Old Master Xie heard these heartfelt words, he was even more satisfied with him. He patted his shoulder to show his approval.

If it weren’t for Little Yao’er, it would be impossible for Zhou Linghuai to obtain the Lingxi Bug Liquid. The relationship between the “cousins” was not superficial at all.

This kindness was the most genuine.

This was the reason why he approved of “Zhou Linghuai” as Little Yao’er’s “cousin.”

Yin Huaixi’s eyes flickered.

On the day the Xie Residence visited, he went over and greeted them, but he was actually testing the Xie Residence. After realizing that the Xie Residence was very wary of him, he knew that it was useless to curry favor with them.

After resolving the matter of Yu Youyao’s return to her mother’s family, the Xie family treated him differently.

Taking this opportunity, he used the Lingxi Bug Liquid as a catalyst to add on a layer of “kindness” regarding their relationship as cousins to further dispel the Xie family’s guard.

Yin Huaixi had achieved his goal and continued. “Yu Zongzheng has written a document and will not make a fuss about Cousin returning to her mother’s family for the time being. First, say that she’s sick and has to go to the Xie Residence to stay for a while. Then, we’ll take our time in the future. This way, we won’t damage Cousin’s reputation.”

No matter what the reason was, abandoning her father’s clan and joining her mother’s clan would still attract gossip and speculation from the world.

The Yu Clan had many enemies in the court. If anyone used this to cause trouble, it would definitely implicate Yu Youyao.

Old Master Xie’s expression turned solemn. “We’ll do as you say. I’ll talk to the Yu Clan again for the details. If she returns to her mother’s clan and her surname doesn’t change, she’ll still be a daughter of the Yu Clan. As long as she doesn’t make it public, outsiders won’t know. It won’t affect the Yu Clan much.’

“Every quarter, merchant ships enter the capital from the Xie Residence. In the future, it’s fine to let Little Yao’er travel between the two sides. Even if outsiders talk, the Yu Clan can just clarify it. I think they’ll agree.”

Yin Huaixi smiled. This was the biggest difference between the Xie Residence and the Yu Clan. They were actually thinking of Yu Youyao.

For the sake of Yu Youyao, the Xie family was unwilling to really fall out with the Yu Clan. For the sake of Yu Youyao's "filial piety" and "benefits", they were willing to take a step back. It was the best of both worlds. Yu Youyao did not have to be troubled on both sides.

The Yu Clan had always cared about benefits.

Now that their daughter would be raised by the Xie family, everything else was no different from usual. There was no reason for the Yu Clan to disagree. This was also Yin Huaixi's goal. "Old Master, you've thought it through." The Xie family was wary of him, so how could he trust them?

How could he be at ease and hand Yu Youyao over to the Xie family so easily?

The Xie Residence was testing his intentions towards Yu Youyao. Wasn't he also testing the sincerity of the Xie Residence towards Yu Youyao? At first, he didn't say anything explicitly. He just wanted to see what the Xie Residence would do.

After lunch, the Xie family looked for the Yu Clan and handed the document to the old clan elder.

The old clan elder sighed softly and looked at Yu Youyao. As usual, he asked her for her opinion. "Although there was a guarantee written by your grandmother back then and your father has agreed to her last wish, you're not young anymore. We still have to ask for your opinion."

Returning to her mother's clan was easy to talk about.

However, once she returned to her mother's clan, it meant that Yu Youyao would be removed from the Yu Clan's genealogy. She would change her surname and return to the Xie Clan's genealogy. From then on, she would be the daughter of the Xie Clan and would no longer have anything to do with the

Yu Clan.

What a pity.

Yu Youyao's eyes immediately turned red. She bit her lip lightly and said what she had discussed with the Xie family just now, "Youyao from the Yu Clan has been raised by the Yu Clan since she was young. She naturally doesn't dare to abandon their kindness. It's also because Grandmother's heart aches for me. She's worried that after she passes away, I won't be able to take care of myself in the residence, and I won't have any elders to raise and protect me. That's why she wanted me to return to my maternal family. I'm deeply touched. I was born a daughter of the Yu Clan and will die as a ghost of the Yu Clan."

As soon as these words were spoken, the expressions of everyone from the Xie Residence turned very ugly.

The Yu Clan members present were also very surprised.

After thinking for a moment, they understood what Yu Youyao meant. Her mother's reputation had almost been tarnished, and her background had almost been confused. However, the father-daughter relationship was real.

At the age of 13, she needed to be carefully raised by a “serious” elder. Not only was Yu Youyao the daughter of the first wife, but she had also been conferred the title of County Head of Shaoyi. The second wife was not qualified to raise her.

Yu Youyao was also the eldest daughter of a wife who passed away. Old

Madam Yu had a reputation for being kind and righteous. With Old Madam Yu’s upbringing, no one dared to say anything. Now that Old Madam Yu had passed away, they could not delay her upbringing.

After Old Madam Yu passed away, the person most qualified to raise Yu

Youyao was Madam Yao, who was an aunt. However, the bad thing was that Madam Xie was accused of having an affair with Second Uncle, so it was inevitable that it would be awkward.

From the looks of it, Yu Youyao had no choice but to return to her mother’s family.

As for Yu Youyao’s own thoughts...

She did not dare to disobey her grandmother’s last wish. She could not let down her grandmother’s love, and she could not forget the kindness of the family.

The dissatisfaction of the Yu Clan with Yu Youyao completely dissipated, and they couldn’t help but pity her.

The old clan master sighed softly. “Madam Yang is really a scourge!” He looked at Old Master Xie and saw that he did not look too good. He said, “Should we discuss this matter again? We can’t let this junior suffer because of the sins of the elders.”

All of this was discussed in private, so Old Master Xie naturally couldn’t ask for more,

He pretended to be unhappy and said, “Little Yao’er has received the upbringing of your Yu Clan. If she can’t bear to leave, then she’ll return to the clan. However, I have a condition.”

In the end, the outcome was that the matter of returning to her mother’s family would be kept quiet. Yu Youyao was still a daughter of the Yu Clan. With Yu Zongzhengs document, the Yu Clan could not interfere with Yu Youyao’s future.

30% of the Xie family’s assets would return to the clan forever.

They would not pursue the 20% of the assets that had been given to the residence.

Yu Youyao took the initiative to donate 10% of the assets under her name to the clan to help them renovate the ancestral hall and expand the clan school.

Repairing the temples and building schools were beneficial. To the aristocratic families, there was nothing better than this to bring glory to their ancestors and blessings to their descendants.

What reason did the Yu Clan have to disagree?

After the matter was discussed, the contract was signed. Both sides looked at it carefully and signed by pressing their fingerprints one by one. This matter was finally a win-win situation..

Chapter 728 - 728: Killing Someone Just Requires a Nod

The old clan master looked at Yu Youyao in relief. "Good child. You've been raised by the Yu Clan and remembered filial piety. As long as you take on the surname of the Yu Clan, you'll always be a daughter of the Yu Clan."

Since Yu Youyao cared about the dignity of the Yu Clan, it was obvious that she still sided with the Yu Clan.

Yu Youyao bowed respectfully to the old clan elder.

All of this was carefully planned by Yin Huaixi for her, and it was also the Xie family who argued for her. In the end, it fulfilled her filial piety.

After returning to the guest courtyard, Yu Youyao knelt down and kowtowed to the three of them. "This time, thank you Grandfather, Grandmother, and

Eldest Aunt for mediating the situation for me. Please accept Yao Yao's bow."

Madam Wang quickly got up and helped her up. "We're all family. We can't be outsiders. The ground is cold. Get up quickly."

Old Madam Xie also said, "Don't kneel for no reason. Our Xie family doesn't have so many rules. Come over quickly and sit beside Grandmother."

Yu Youyao quickly sat down beside her grandmother.

Old Master Xie stroked his short beard. "Your grandmother's funeral will last for 21 days. We can't stay in the capital for long. We plan to return to

Quanzhou the day after tomorrow. Jingliu will stay. After your grandmother's funeral, we'll send someone to PICK you up. At that time, you'll return to Quanzhou with your third cousin and Cousin Zhou."

Yu Youyao nodded in agreement.

Old Madam Xie instructed, "The people who need to be brought over have also been arranged in advance. Don't be flustered when the time comes. Your grandmother's seventh day is over, and there will be fewer people paying their respects later. Take care of yourself." As she spoke, her eyes turned red again.

"I see that you've lost a little more weight recently."

Yu Youyao quickly said, "Don't worry about me. I'll take good care of myself."

Thinking about how Old Madam Yu really doted on Little Yao'er, Old Madam

Xie became a little more concerned about her funeral. "The seventh day is over. What should we do next?"

Yu Youyao said, "Cousin stepped in and invited Master Hui Ji and Master Hui Ci from the Precious Peace Temple, as well as the Daoists from the Clear Void Temple outside the city to perform a ritual on the 14th day. The Buddhist teachings and Dao techniques take turns to happen during the day and night without stopping. We're still welcoming guests in the mourning hall during the day, and the uncles will take turns keeping watch at night."

Due to the fact that the court was not peaceful inside and out, it was not appropriate for the funeral to be too extravagant. This meant that the funeral period could be shortened, but the procedures had to be carried out as much as possible.

Inviting two wise monks from the Precious Peace Temple in a row was already very eye-catching. It was all because of Yin Huaixi.

The Daoist masters of the Clear Void Temple outside the city were not inferior to the two wise monks of the Precious Peace Temple. As the emperor cared about Daoism, the Daoist masters of the Clear Void Temple often entered the palace to preach to the emperor.

It was also because of Yin Huaixi.

Old Madam Xie sighed. "This cousin of yours is a capable person. He's efficient and handsome. He's better than everyone else in the Yu Residence."

Yu Youyao pursed her lips and chuckled. "Cousin has learned Confucianism, Buddhism, and Daoism at the same time. He has discussed karma with the masters of the Precious Peace Temple and the Daoists of the Clear Void Temple. He also knows about the Daoist principles of fate. This time, it can be considered as resolving the karma."

It wasn't until it was dark that the people from the Xie Residence bade farewell and left.

After a long day, Yu Youyao was so tired that she had no appetite. She only ate a few mouthfuls of the dinner prepared by the main kitchen before returning to the Jade Courtyard.

When a parent passed away, a child had to mourn for 27 months.

Every day, she ate simple tea and rice. She did not eat meat or drink alcohol. She did not sleep with any wives and concubines. She could not visit her relatives or friends or participate in banquets. She stopped all etiquette and music. She did not paste couplets on holidays or wear new clothes. Everything was simple.

The filial son who was mourning still needed to build a straw shed near his parents' grave and sleep on a straw mat. He could not be clean for three years. He could not trim his hair, fix his appearance and so on.

Yu Youyao was her granddaughter, so she didn't have to follow the rules so closely. However, she couldn't be careless with all the rules during mourning.

Therefore, everyone in the Jade Courtyard kept the brightly colored items, and some expensive furnishings were replaced.

Nanny Xu was worried that Yu Youyao's body wouldn't be able to take it, so she prepared a foot bath and let Yu Youyao soak her feet to relieve her fatigue.

Her feet were liberated from her shoes. As soon as they soaked in the hot medicinal bath, they immediately felt sore and swollen. It stimulated her feet all the way to her calves, as if there were countless ants biting them.

Xia Tao leaned over and said, "This afternoon, the government sent over the corpses of Hui Xiang and Old Madam Lai. They even looked for Eldest Master for questioning."



Yu Youyao was in a daze. After her grandmother passed away, she had been so focused on managing her grandmother's funeral that she had forgotten about the two of them. However, the outcome of the two of them was already decided, so there was nothing to think about.

They were destined to die, so why should she dirty her hands personally?

Seeing that Young Miss was listening, Xia Tao continued, "I heard that they encountered refugees after leaving the city. I don't know where they escaped from. After snatching their things, they saw that they were maidservants from wealthy families, so they simply killed them. Hui Xiang was... ruined."

She had seen Hui Xiang and Old Madam Lai's corpses with her own eyes. Hui Xiang was completely naked, and there was no good flesh on her body.

"Old Madam Lai's eyes were wide open and she didn't die in peace. Her corpse was hidden in the nearby mountains. It wasn't discovered until yesterday. After an autopsy in the government office and her identity was confirmed, she was only brought to the residence today."

Yu Youyao's eyes flickered. "I heard that on the day Old Madam Lai left the residence, Yu Jianjia rewarded her with a lot of things and even borrowed a carriage to send them off."

Xia Tao's eyes widened.

There had been a drought in the north for more than half a year, and there were many refugees outside the city. When the refugees couldn't live anymore, they would do some pilfering and philandering. There were also cases of them robbing passers-by's supplies.

After all, this was an important place in the capital. There were soldiers patrolling the suburbs, and small fights were common.

Old Madam Lai and Hui Xiang were a farmer's wife and a servant. They were not eye-catching and were not worth killing for. Only wealth would attract fierce refugees.

Yu Youyao changed the topic. "Where are Old Madam Lai and Hui Xiang placed?"

Xia Tao quickly said, "I was worried that they would offend Matriarch's funeral, so I placed them in the storeroom in the front courtyard first. I plan to drag the corpses to the mass grave at night."

Both of them died in an unseemly manner, especially Hui Xiang. She was really very dirty. Even if she was part of the residence, it was not easy to bury her here, so they could only be dragged to the mass grave.

Yu Youyao said calmly, "Hui Xiang has been serving Yu Jianjia since she was young. They have a deep relationship. Although Old Madam Lai doesn't serve in the residence, Yu Jianjia treats her very well. Get Old Madam Sun to arrange for her to bring Yu Jianjia to see Hui Xiang and Old Madam Lai for the last time. It can be considered the last meeting in their relationship between master and servant."

She could kill someone with a nod. She wondered what Yu Jianjia would think after seeing Hui Xiang and Old Madam Lai's miserable state.

After soaking for an incense stick, Yu Youyao felt much more relaxed.

Nanny Xu brought over some more food. “You can’t eat meat or fish during the mourning period. I’ve prepared light medicinal porridge that can nourish your mind..

Chapter 729 - 729: Gap

Yu Youyao picked up the small bowl. Just as she picked up the spoon, she paused. “Did Cousin send it over?”

Before Nanny Xu could answer, she saw Yin Huaixi lift the curtain and enter.

Yin Huaixi glanced at Nanny Xu.

Nanny Xu lowered her eyes and left the house with her head lowered. She also instructed Chun Xiao to guard outside and not allow outsiders to disturb her.

Yu Youyao quickly put down the small bowl and asked, “Why are you here? Have you eaten dinner?”

“I heard from Chun Xiao that you didn’t have much for dinner, so I came to visit you.” Yin Huaixi picked up the small bowl in front of her and stuffed it into her hand. “Eat more. I’ve already had dinner.”

Yu Youyao ate her porridge obediently.

Yin Huaixi supported his forehead and watched as she ate slowly and elegantly. No matter how he looked at it, it was pleasing to the eye.

Such good etiquette was the result of Nanny Xu’s meticulous training for more than three years.

His gaze was deep. Yu Youyao had difficulty eating under his gaze. She forced herself to finish the porridge before asking, “Why are you looking at me?”

“You’ve lost a lot of weight.” Yin Huaixi leaned closer to her and lifted her chin with one finger to study her carefully. “You’ve taken a lot of medicinal cuisine to nourish your mind, but you’re getting thinner and thinner?”

The first seven days of Old Madam Yu’s funeral had passed, and a lot of her sadness had dissipated, not to mention that Yu Youyao was not someone who was obsessed with sadness.

She was watched as she finished the medicinal cuisine that was sent over every two hours.

Yu Youyao was not used to being sized up by him like this. She tilted her head and avoided his finger. “Nanny Xu said that I became taller, so I look thin.” This time, she had indeed grown a little taller.

Did she grow taller or really lose weight? How could he not have such discernment?

Thinking of how many things had happened in the Yu Residence during this period of time, Yin Huaixi’s heart ached. ‘You didn’t discuss the haircut with me.’

Yu Youyao nodded. "I just wanted it to go more smoothly. The clan doesn't want to bear the bad reputation of forcing the eldest daughter of a legitimate branch to be a Buddhist nun. They'll restrain themselves in the future."

A large part of the reason why the old clan master did not want to get involved later was because she had threatened to cut her hair and become a nun, making the clan worried that she would cause trouble.

In addition to being a daughter of the Yu Clan, she had also been conferred the title of an imperial relative.

Yin Huaixi was silent for a long time before saying, "Whether it's a man or a woman, they can only trim their hair and not cut it. The only time they cut their hair in their lives is on the day of their wedding. On the day of the wedding, both men and women have to cut a bundle of their hair and tie them together. They have to place it in a sachet filled with red beans. It means that they have become husband and wife. They have to be loving and not doubt each other. They will not be separated like their hair. It's like their hearts are tied together. After the couple dies, the sachet will be buried together with them."

Long hair couldn't be cut. Hair could only be trimmed.

The Zhou wedding etiquette had to be done.

Although it was not popular in the Great Zhou Dynasty, there were still many loving couples who tied their bundles of hair together on the day of their wedding.

Therefore, when the bundle of hair was cut from her head, it hurt his heart.

The only time in her life when she cut her hair was not at a wedding, but under the pressure of her clansmen. Did this reflect his incompetence?!

Yu Youyao was stunned for a moment, feeling an indescribable feeling in her heart.

As if he also felt that these words were a little inappropriate, Yin Huaixi quickly changed the topic. "Prepare everything to leave the capital. When

Matriarch is buried, I'll send you to Quanzhou." He held Yu Youyao's soft hand. "Don't be afraid. Quanzhou is a port city. Trade is smooth, and it receives guests from all directions. It's more open-minded than the capital. There are also women doing business. You should be more at ease there."

Leaving the Yu Residence and leaving the capital was her dream.

However, on this day, she realized that the furthest place she had been in the past was in the Tongzhou clan. However, Tongzhou was less than a day's journey from the capital.

Now, she was going to Quanzhou, which was thousands of miles away.

It was a completely unfamiliar place.

After arriving in Quanzhou, she had to start over from scratch. Family ties, social connections, businesses, and so on.

Yin Huaixi seemed to know what she was thinking.

Yu Youyao nodded. "Most women are restricted their entire lives and are trapped in the backyard, not able to see the vastness of the world. I'm also lucky to have the chance to leave the Yu Residence and walk out of the capital to see the colorful scenery outside the courtyard of the deep residence."

For some reason, Yin Huaixi felt that her words were a little insincere. "Quanzhou has always been a place for business. The Xie family has a very high status in Quanzhou. You're the daughter of an official, and you've even been conferred the title of County Head of Shaoyi. With the protection of the Xie family, you can almost do whatever you want. Moreover, Quanzhou is very abundant in seafood and takes in all the delicacies in the world. There are lots of fresh seafood that can't be eaten in the capital. You should like it very much."

Yu Youyao was silent for a moment before saying, "I want to observe mourning for Grandmother for three years. For the next three years, I won't eat meat or drink fish, I won't interact with my neighbors, I won't participate in banquets, and I'll live in seclusion."

Logically speaking, a grandchild only needed to observe mourning for a year, but Yu Youyao had been raised by Old Madam Yu since she was young. It was only right for her to observe mourning for two more years and do her best for her grandmother.

The atmosphere suddenly fell silent.

An unfamiliar gap was felt between them.

Yin Huaixi pursed his lips and suddenly realized that although Yu Youyao was looking forward to returning to her mother's family, she wasn't that enthusiastic or happy.

She seemed to have many things on her mind.

This time, when he left the capital, he had missed too much of Yu Youyao's joy. After all, they were in different positions.

He was happy that he had obtained Old Madam Yu's token. Yu Youyao had also left the Yu Residence and was getting closer to him bit by bit.

However, she was sad that her grandmother had passed away. Her eyes were closed and she did not look happy.

Yu Youyao suddenly realized that her attitude was not right. She quickly said, "I just suddenly remembered that after my family member passes away, I can't leave for three years. After Grandmother's funeral, I'll have to leave the capital. I'm already very unfilial."

Yin Huaixi said, "Your grandmother left her last words and the clan agreed, so no one thinks that you're unfilial. If you feel uncomfortable, it's fine to copy a few more scriptures for your grandmother."

Yu Youyao nodded.

Yin Huaixi sighed softly and changed the topic. "After sending you to Quanzhou, I'll probably stay there for a while."

However, unlike the Xie Residence, they probably couldn't see each other all the time.

Yu Youyao suddenly looked up, and her tense heart suddenly relaxed. However, she continued to ask. "What should we do about the North? Harmon isn't the only leader in the North. Won't the other leaders invade the North to snatch supplies?"

Yin Huaixi could clearly feel that her attitude had changed. "Harmon is the strongest branch of the Northern Barbarians. The other tribes aren't enough to be afraid of. Yin Yi can handle it." At this point, he looked at the little girl's thin face and his heart ached. "I'm more worried about you being in Quanzhou for the first time and leaving you there alone."

She had suddenly lost her family and had to stay away from a place she had been familiar with since she was young.

He couldn't let go of the North but he certainly couldn't let go of her.

Yu Youyao was overjoyed and said softly, "I'll be fine. The Xie family is my external family.."

Chapter 730 - 730: She Can Only Be A Wife If They Are Married, If They Elope, She Can Only Be A Concubine

Thinking of the barrier that had suddenly appeared between them previously, Yin Huaixi couldn't take it anymore. For some reason, he pulled Yu Youyao into his arms. "Wait a little longer. When the time is right, I'll bring you to the

North legitimately. In the future..." He paused for a moment and said, "We won't be separated again!"

It wasn't that he didn't want to bring her to Youzhou.

It was not that he couldn't but he didn't dare to.

She can only be a wife if they are married, If they elope, she can only be a concubine. How could he bear to let her suffer like this?!

Fortunately, as long as she arrived in Quanzhou, he would have a way to reunite with her in Youzhou.

Yu Youyao suddenly felt relieved and nodded slightly. Worried that he wouldn't see it, she nodded again.

After the Xie Residence entered the capital, they watched as Yin Huaixi carefully planned for her. Although they felt relieved, they were not as happy as they had imagined.

She lost weight every day and night.

She tossed and turned, unable to eat.

Other than grieving for her grandmother's death, it was even more heartbreaking to part with her.

As a daughter of the Yu Clan, the only chance for her to leave the Yu Residence and Quanzhao was to return to her mother's clan and go to Quanzhou.

Once she went to Quanzhou, she and Yin Huaixi would also be separated. They would not be as close as they were now, and they might even drift apart.

However, she knew better!

Yin Huaixi had the ambition to take down the emperor, calm the nine prefectures and eliminate the schemes of the four seas. As long as she stayed in the Yu Residence, he would always be worried and restrained.

Therefore, she accepted all the arrangements.

Yin Huaixi's promise of "I won't leave you behind" finally became empty words.

On the other hand, Yu Youyao had her own pride and ambition. She shouldn't be his stumbling block.

Now, Yin Huaixi had told her that parting for now was for a better reunion.

She believed him and was willing to wait.

Yin Huaixi's heart ached. "I won't make you wait too long. After we reach Quanzhou, I'll definitely come and pick you up personally in three months at most."

Yu Youyao smiled. "Okay!"

The next day, Yu Youyao arrived at the mourning hall at dawn.

It was seven o'clock when the servants prepared breakfast in the side room. Yu Youyao ate a little.

Xia Tao came over and said, "Yesterday, at nine o'clock, Old Madam Sun brought Third Miss to the storeroom in the front courtyard. Old Madam Sun brought the case file from the government office for Third Miss to see. Third Miss didn't want to see it, so Old Madam Sun read it to her. Third Miss covered her ears and fled. Third Miss was quite frightened and had a high fever at night. Madam Zong invited a doctor overnight, but Third Miss kept having nightmares. She cried and shouted Hui Xiangs name."

On the case file sent over by the government office, the autopsy results were recorded. Hui Xiang had been violated until she died by a group of refugees.

The young miss who had been raised in seclusion had never seen such a dirty and terrifying scene.

How could she not be afraid?

Not to mention that Third Miss was the culprit.

Yu Youyao was not surprised. "Yu Jianjia's illness can only be treated and not cured. It's like a ten-thousand-foot-tall building that requires countless time, manpower, material resources, financial resources, and energy to build. However, the collapse will only take an instant. After recuperating for more than three years, I'm afraid all her previous efforts will be in vain. No matter what she does, she just can't stop committing sins!"

The clan's attitude towards Yu Jianjia was very cold. They knew that Yu

Jianjia's body was weak and she had a high fever, so they did not invite an

imperial physician overnight. Instead, they only invited a doctor.

Xia Tao agreed deeply. "Third Miss's fever hasn't subsided. Eldest Master invited Imperial Physician Hu into the residence early this morning to treat Third Miss. Imperial Physician Hu didn't

say anything else and only prescribed a new prescription before leaving. I've seen Third Miss's prescription. She requires strong medicine. I'm afraid it's not good." Yu Youyao nodded.

Yu Jianjia's mother had been divorced, and her biological brother had distanced himself from her. The only thing she had was Yu Zongzheng's remaining father-daughter relationship with her.

Yu Zongzheng doted on Yu Jianjia very much to begin with, and Yu Jianjia was used to pretending to be sick and weak. She retreated in order to advance and relied on her illness to act viciously.

Even if she became the daughter of a divorced wife, Yu Zongzheng would still pity her because of her "ill health."

Xia Tao added. "Eldest master is very concerned about Third Miss. Will he..."

Xia Tao didn't say much, but Yu Youyao understood what she meant. "It is not Yu Zongzheng who has the final say whether Yu Jianjia should stay or go. Madam Yang has been abandoned. Forget the fact that Yu Jianjia is a daughter of a concubine, she still has to bear the reputation of being unfilial. The clan will not let her stay in the capital."

The two of them finished talking.

The Clan Chief's wife came over with a smile. "Good child, you've been coming to the mourning hall to accompany your grandmother before dawn these past few days. You have to take care of your health."

It had only been seven days since the funeral, but Yu Youyao's figure was extremely thin. Her delicate oval face was getting slimmer and even her chin was sharper. She looked pitiful. When she walked, her figure was as thin as a willow branch. She was beautiful, but she always made people worry that when the wind blew, she might fall to the ground.

Yu Youyao's eyes turned red. "I feel like Grandmother is still by my side. If I don't stay in the mourning hall, I won't feel at ease."

Last night, she dreamed that her grandmother walked out of her coffin and held her hand with a smile, talking to her as if she were the same as before.

The Clan Chief's wife held her hand and felt sympathy for her.

The two of them chatted for a while before the chief's wife stuffed a booklet into Yu Youyao's hand. "You donated 10% of the assets under your name to help the clan repair the ancestral hall and establish the clan school. The clan didn't take advantage of you for nothing. The old clan master had a discussion with us yesterday and told us to pick some antiques left behind by our ancestors to compensate you. Take a closer look and see if there's anything else you need."

The Yu Clan was a clan that followed etiquette strictly. Since a clansman had contributed to the clan, they naturally had to return the favor. At the very least, on the surface, they could not take advantage of the clansmen.

The antiques left behind by the ancestors were meant for the future generations.

They couldn't sell them either, so they were appropriately used to compensate

Yu Youyao.

“Repairing the ancestral hall and establishing the clan has always been Grandmother’s wish. Grandmother has suddenly passed away, so there are many things that I haven’t had time to explain. As her granddaughter, it’s only right for me to do my best to fulfil Grandmother’s wishes. There’s no other reason. Since the clan has given me something, it shows the inseparable relationship between the clan and me. I will remember it in my heart.”

Yu Youyao was not surprised by this. When she was donating assets, she had known that although the Yu Clan valued profits, they also valued family voice and etiquette.

If those business assets were replaced with antiques that had been passed down for generations, she would not face a loss.

Madam Zong finally understood why Old Madam Yu doted on her granddaughter so much. She had a delicate heart and was very understanding.

Not only did she have her grandmother’s good reputation in the clan, but she also had good etiquette and was the pride of the clan. If news of this spread outside, it might even be a good thing.

Who wouldn’t like such a person?

The Clan Chief’s wife held Yu Youyao’s hand, and her smile became more sincere. “I heard that you like antique collections. There’s a set of wood-fired teacups in the clan that will be added to the book later.”

Yu Youyao was really surprised..