

All Hail 731

Chapter 731 - 731: Worried Sick

In terms of kiln craftsmanship, kiln-dried porcelain was difficult to obtain. According to the Book of Longevity, porcelain made by wood kiln was the most expensive. It was rare in the world. It was as clear as the sky, as bright as a mirror, as thin as paper, and produces a sound loud as a chime.

The color of the cover was not only fresh green, but the quality is shiny and thin.

This ancient wood kiln porcelain had been lost for countless generations and had never been seen in the world. It was called the “legendary” porcelain. Even if a piece of porcelain was passed down through the generations, it would still be sought after.

She did not expect that the Yu Clan had a kiln artifact and was willing to give such a rare item to her.

As expected of a family that had been existing for hundreds of years.

They would always have some hidden heritage.

As the two of them were talking, a maidservant came over to report, “Imperial Physician Hu is here. He’s waiting for Young Miss in the Ting Lan Courtyard.

Young Master asked me to invite you over.”

Yu Youyao was stunned for a moment. Xia Tao was the fastest to speak. She quickly asked, “Hasn’t Imperial Physician Hu already left the residence after treating Third Miss?”

The maidservant replied, “It’s because Young Master was worried about Eldest Miss’ health. After he heard that Imperial Physician Hu had entered the residence to treat Third Miss, he chased after him on a horse to get him back.”

The Clan Chief’s wife’s eyes flickered.

She knew that Yu Zongzheng had invited an imperial physician into the residence.

Third Miss had a high fever and was not feeling well. However, Eldest Miss was exhausted from her grandmother’s funeral, and she was becoming more and more haggard. The imperial physician was called to the residence. It wouldn’t have made a difference if he tended to one or two patients. However, Yu Zongzheng did not even think about his eldest daughter at home.

Yu Youyao was the eldest daughter of the first wife, so she should be his priority.

Not to mention that Yu Youyao had been in charge of Old Madam’s funeral, so she should be the most important.

As a father, he was not even as considerate as her cousin.

Madam Zong could finally understand why Old Madam Yu had left such ridiculous last words for her granddaughter to return to her mother’s clan before she died.

At this moment, Yin Huaixi was sitting in the pavilion and talking to Imperial Physician Hu.

Imperial Physician Hu understood Eldest Miss Yu's situation from him and said, "She's eaten a lot of medicinal cuisine to nourish the mind, but her body is still getting thinner. She can't open her eyes fully and her mood is bad. This is already a symptom of accumulated depression. If one accumulates too much depression and doesn't eat enough nourishment, it will cause the body to lose weight continuously."

Yin Huaixi's eyes darkened. "Is it serious?"

Imperial Physician Hu did not speak rashly. "We'll only know if it's serious after seeing Eldest Miss Yu."

Just as Yin Huaixi was about to ask again, he saw Zongzong's wife and Yu Youyao coming over together.

After greeting her, Chun Xiao took out a white handkerchief and gently covered Yu Youyao's wrist, allowing Imperial Physician Hu to take her pulse.

A moment later, Imperial Physician Hu finished taking her pulse. "Eldest Miss has been overworked for a long time, causing her Qi and blood to be deficient. She still hasn't recuperated from the last time she fell sick. Furthermore, because her family has passed away, she's sad and depressed. She has been too worried, causing her Qi and blood to be unstable. Her liver is stagnant, and her heart and spleen are weak. She doesn't have an appetite, so I'll prescribe a few pills for her first. I'll make a trip again in a few days."

He needed to make another trip. It was obvious that this illness could not be taken lightly.

Yu Youyao said gratefully, "Thank you, Imperial Physician Hu."

Yin Huaixi quickly went out with Imperial Physician Hu to prescribe a prescription and asked some more taboo questions.

Imperial Physician Hu said, "Eldest Miss Yu's illness is caused by overwork. She can't continue to work too hard or worry. She has to relax and recuperate in peace. Even if she doesn't take any medicine, she can improve in three to five days. But about the Matriarch..." He shook his head and skipped this topic. "She needs to be supplemented with medicinal stones. Medicinal stones can treat the symptoms but not the root cause. Eldest Miss's situation is a little serious. If she doesn't resolve it, I'm afraid she'll suffer."

He knew the situation in the Yu Residence.

Ever since Old Madam Yu's sudden illness, her health had not been good. He often entered the residence to take Old Madam Yu's pulse. He also knew that it was Eldest Miss Yu who attended to her illness day and night and even had to manage the family matters. It went on for a few months. Even a person made of iron would not be able to not take it.

Old Madam Yu had suddenly passed away. Eldest Miss Yu's body was already exhausted. Under great sorrow, it was already considered good that she did not collapse. Fortunately, Eldest Miss Yu was still able to support her body and continue to manage Old Madam's funeral at such a young age.

Madam Zong held her hand and sighed. "Child, you're not feeling well. Why are you still holding on and not saying anything? You even help manage your Grandmother's funeral with us elders during this period."

When a person was about to die, their words and actions were also kind. It was no wonder that Matriarch did not forget to plan for her granddaughter before she died.

Yu Youyao lowered her head. "Grandmother doted on me so much so I have to manage her funeral carefully. It's also my way of fulfilling our relationship in this life."

The Clan Chief's wife understood and said, "We elders all see it. Your grandmother didn't dote on you for nothing. The funeral will go on for another seven days. For the remaining days, you only have to go to the mourning hall to welcome the guests every day. With us elders around, the funeral will definitely be appropriate. Rest more and your grandmother will be able to leave in peace."

Yu Youyao nodded. "Thank you, Aunt."

The two of them chatted intimately for a while before the Clan Chief's wife went to the mourning hall.

Yin Huaixi personally sent Imperial Physician Hu off and returned to the pavilion.

Chun Xiao consciously left and guarded the path that the pavilion had to pass.

When he was leaving residence, Imperial Physician Hu reminded, "Such an illness can't be treated lightly. When Old Madam Yu was young, it was precisely after her body became exhausted that she accumulated pain in her heart. As time passed, she became sick with worry without recuperation. As time passed, the sickness accumulated in her body, causing her to suffer and lose her life."

Yin Huaixi's heart ached and he was angry. When the harsh words were about to come out of his mouth, they turned into self-blame. "It's my fault for being negligent. I should have asked the imperial physician to take your pulse and give you medicine earlier. You wouldn't have suffered for so long for no reason."

Yu Youyao shook her head. "After Grandmother passed away, there were many things in the main family that needed you to step in and manage. There was too much to do. It's my fault. Previously, I fell sick a little because I was too tired. After taking medicine, I recovered in two to three days so I thought that I was fine and didn't care."

A large part of the reason why Yin Huaixi was so busy was to share her burden and not let her tire herself out.

During this period of time, she had indeed been feeling exhausted. The people around her had always advised her to rest more. She had also been eating the medicinal cuisine to nourish her body so she thought that she was fine. In addition, there were no elders in charge of the residence. She was previously busy with the Mid-Autumn Festival and was worried about her grandmother's health, so she did not listen.

Yin Huaixi's heart ached. "You heard what Imperial Physician Hu said. You have to be more careful in the future. Don't make me worry."

Yu Youyao nodded.

Yin Huaixi suddenly said, "The gift I prepared for you in Youzhou was sent to the residence two days ago. However, Matriarch suddenly passed away, so I didn't have the chance to give it to you."

Yu Youyao's eyes lit up. "What is it?"

Yin Huaixi smiled. "There's a lot of things. Most of them were obtained from Harmon. They are all rare in the Great Zhou Dynasty. I'll get someone to send them to the Jade Courtyard later. Take a look yourself.."

Chapter 732 - 732: Extremely Precious

Yu Youyao was overjoyed and quickly said, "Thank you, Cousin."

Yin Huaixi was stunned for a moment before he suddenly reacted.

Ever since he returned from Youzhou, Yu Youyao rarely called him Cousin anymore. When she did, it was as if they had returned to the days of being "brothers and sisters".

For a moment, he actually felt a little uncomfortable.

After obtaining the Matriarch's token, his greatest doubt was not being a "relative" as part of the Xie Residence, but Yu Youyao herself.

For a long time, they had been addressing each other as cousins. He had deliberately blurred the boundaries between "cousins" and crossed the barrier of etiquette.

However, Yu Youyao was still young and very ignorant about the matters between men and women.

He was always worried that he would frighten her by being too rash.

He was even more worried that she wouldn't be able to accept the change of love from "family" to "romance".

Therefore, he had been suppressing his feelings for her. He planned to deal with his elders first. In the future, when they are in his territory in the North, he would not have to worry about any variables.

Seeing that he was looking at her without saying anything, Yu Youyao raised her eyebrows and asked, "What's wrong?"

Seeing the joy in her eyes, Yin Huaixi smiled. "If I had known that a gift could please you and make you smile, I wouldn't have waited until today."

No matter what, as long as she was happy.

Yu Youyao pouted. "Let's not talk about it for now. There are many guests who came to pay their respects in the morning. I'll return to the mourning hall first. Cousin, remember to deliver the formalities to the Jade Courtyard."

Yin Huaixi looked helpless. "Got it."

Yu Youyao returned to the mourning hall. After a while, a maidservant came over to report, "The Daoist master of the Clear Void Temple is here. Young Master Zhou and the men have gone out to welcome him."

Soon, everyone in the residence entered the mourning hall with a group of Daoists in green Daoist robes.

When they entered the house, they would salute first, then serve tea. This was the most basic way to treat guests.

After exchanging pleasantries, Daoist Xu Ming, who was in the lead, couldn't help but take a few more glances at Yu Youyao.

The Clan Chief, who was accompanying her, noticed this and couldn't help but ask, "That's the eldest daughter of the residence. Daoist priest, do you have any thoughts?"

Daoist Xu Ming retracted his gaze and only said, "This woman is indescribably noble."

The Clan Chief was stunned for a moment. He suppressed the shock and passion in his heart and quickly asked, "May I know why you say that?"

It was said that Grandmaster Hui Neng was good at physical inspection, and he had been guided by an expert from a Daoist school. Daoism emphasized the five arts of mountain, medicine, destiny, divination, and physical inspection. In terms of physical inspection, Daoism was second to none. This is especially so for Daoist Xu Ming, who had gained enlightenment in the Clear Void Temple.

Daoist Priest Yu Ming shook his head. "Indescribable!"

With that, he took a teacup and drank his tea. The top quality Biluochun tea was fresh and mellow, showing the sincerity of the Yu Clan in treating guests. The granddaughter of the Yu Clan was destined to be a powerful figure. Her words and actions would lead the flow of the world.

This was a secret that could not be revealed.

It was naturally indescribable.

Their orthodox Daoism has always paid attention to hiding in times of prosperity and emerging in times of chaos, which is completely different from the Buddhists who hide in times of chaos and enjoy the peak of incense. Otherwise, why would he personally make a trip to the Yu Residence?!

The Clan Chief felt regretful, but Daoist Xu Ming's secretive attitude was too obvious, so he couldn't ask. However, the words "noble" still made him ponder.

Yu Zongzheng was now in power in the court. Not only was Yu Youyao the daughter of the legitimate wife, but she had also been conferred the title of County Head of Shaoyi. Until now, Matriarch Yu had yet to arrange a marriage for her. Perhaps the palace had other arrangements. After all, since ancient times, the daughters of foreign ministers who held the title of relatives had basically all married into the royal family.

Be it the royal family or the relatives who had gained power, they could all be considered "noble".

After the Clan Chief received the Daoist priest, he quickly looked for the elder to mention this matter.

The old clan elder pondered for a long time. "I remember that Matriarch once looked for Grandmaster Hui Neng of the Precious Peace Temple to read her fortune, and he said something similar."

When Yu Youyao was young, she had almost lost her reputation as a criminal. Naturally, the clan had to ask about such a big matter. At that time, he felt that although Grandmaster Hui Neng's reading was pretty good, Yu Youyao did not have a strong personality so he did not pay much attention to it.

The Clan Chief quickly asked, "What do you think we should do?"

After all, he still felt a little indignant that his good daughter will return to the Xie family. Now that he knew that she was also an important person, he couldn't help but feel angry.

The old clan elder frowned. "So what? In the end, she's a daughter of the Yu Clan. She has the surname of the Yu Clan. We can treat her the way she usually is treated in the future. As long as she's not treated badly, it's better than anything else. You're the head of a sect. Do you still need me to teach you how to treat your clansmen?!"

"Only by managing your personal fief can the daughters in the family have a good way out. When they marry next time, they can stand tall in their husbands' families and help the clan."

"You have to understand one thing clearly. The paternal side of the family supports the daughter who gets married. It's the same no matter where she is married. Even if she is an Empress Consort, her family must be strong to gain power in the palace. Don't put the cart before the horse."

After being taught a lesson, the Clan Chief did not dare to think too much about it. "Old Master is right."

The Daoists sat around the coffin and prayed for Matriarch.

Just as Yu Youyao knelt in front of the spirit, she heard a servant outside call out, "The Zhenguo Marquis Residence has arrived!"

Not long after, the Zongzong brought the Marquis of Zhenguo, Song

Mingzhao, and the men from the other three branches of the residence into the mourning hall to pay respects to Old Madam Yu and offer incense.

Yu Zongzheng quickly stood up to greet her.

The Marquis of Zhen sighed softly and patted Yu Zongzheng's shoulder. "My condolences!"

Song Mingzhao subconsciously looked at Yu Youyao. She was wearing a filial outfit and looked very haggard. Her slender figure had grown a lot. It had been a few months since he had seen her, and she was so thin that she looked like she could be blown away by a gust of wind.

Song Mingzhao couldn't help but say, "My condolences."

Yu Youyao was stunned for a moment. She took a step forward and bowed. "Thank you! t

When Song Mingzhao heard her slightly hoarse voice, he felt as if someone had sandpapered his heart. He felt terrible.

Song Mingzhao said, "Grandmother Yu's death has passed seven days. The funeral still needs to be carried out for another seven days. From today onwards, I'll come to the Yu Residence every day to help."

On the first seven days after the death of a relative, the family mourned for their deceased relative. In these seven days, they could grieve as much as they needed.

During the next seven days, the family had to reorganize their emotions and prepare for the departure of the deceased. Close relatives and friends would all come over to help.

Yu Youyao was not surprised. "Thank you, Heir Song."

Her polite attitude made Song Mingzhao's heart ache. He could only say, "You, take care of yourself. Only then can Grandmother Yu leave in peace." Yu Youyao only agreed in a low voice.

After sending off the male guest, the women of the Zhenguo Marquis Residence also came over..

Chapter 733 - 733: Lamenting

Yu Mengxiang was also with him.

On the second day after Old Madam's death, Yu Mengxiang returned to the Yu Residence to help with her first wife's funeral. However, she was a daughter who had married out, so she couldn't stay at her maiden home for dinner or overnight. Every day, she left early and returned late.

As soon as Old Madam Song arrived in front of Old Madam Yu's altar, she knelt on the meditation cushion and wailed, "My old sister, why did you leave just like that? You've been working hard for your children for most of your life, but in the end, you haven't enjoyed your son's blessings or seen your granddaughters success. Tell me, what did you gain? Your husband was a wicked rascal. He died early and reincarnated a long time ago, leaving you widowed and your children orphaned. The future of Yu Residence depended on you, a widow. The family was built on your sweat and tears, and all the hard work you put in during your lifetime..."

Yu Zongshen lowered his head. Ever since Old Madam Yu passed away, he had been guarding the altar every day and did not care about anything.

Even when the clan looked for him to discuss something, he only said, "It's up to you. I'm on break from my duties. I shouldn't be involved."

For the first three years of their lives, children stayed by their parents' sides and had to be protected by them. As such, they should show respect for three years after their parents are gone to repay them.

After pretending to be a filial son, a virtuous husband, and a strict father for more than ten years, he had grown into what his mother wanted him to be like. This was a form of repayment.

He had become the Grand Secretary and shone brightly, letting his mother see the prosperity of the Yu Clan. This was enough to offset the efforts of his widowed mother.

He repaid all her kindness and sacrifices.

Yu Zongzheng was already feeling guilty because of Old Madam's death. When he heard Old Madam Song's sarcastic words, even his straight back couldn't help but collapse, and he cowered a little.

Yu Youyao's eyes also turned red. The reason why Yu Zongzheng and Yu Zongshen could have their current achievements was partly because of her biological mother's money, but most importantly, it was because of her grandmother's good reputation.

Be it a divorced woman or a remarried woman, their reputation was ultimately not good. They would also be looked down on and bring shame to the family.

On the contrary, widows who kept their chastity for their husbands would be respected by the world. They were seen as morally upright, and their children were virtuous. No matter where they went, they would be valued.

Even the Imperial Court was willing to put him in an important position.

The Marquis of Zhenguo's wife quickly went over to help Old Madam Song up. The Clan Chief's wife also leaned over to persuade her.

Old Madam Song refused to get up and cried in front of Old Madam Yu.

Every word and sentence was filled with Old Madam Yu's past bitterness from the day she entered the Yu Clan. Behind those glory, there was unknown helplessness and hardship.

It was simply heartbreaking.

Thinking about it, it made sense. In this world where husbands were the most important, how could a widow who had lost her husband have a good life? No one had said anything about it in the past because it was hard to say.

Now that she was gone, what could they not say?

No matter how much the people in the house tried to persuade her, they failed.

In the end, it was the Second Old Madam who came over. Her eyes couldn't help but turn red as she said, "Madam and our Matriarch have been together for a lifetime. Now that her old sister has left, it's only human nature for her to feel terrible. Just let her be. It's better for her to say the things that she's been holding back for a lifetime."

Old Madam Song lamented for the time it takes to burn two incense sticks. Later on, even her voice became hoarse. As she cried, she pulled Yu Youyao into her arms. "My good granddaughter, your grandmother has only been gone for a few days, but you've already lost weight. In the future, without your grandmother to dote on you, how are you going to live? What a sin. What a good granddaughter. How can your grandmother be so heartless? She closed her eyes and kicked her legs, then she was gone..."

Yu Youyao was 13 years old, which was the age when she should be engaged. Her engagement was delayed because of Precious Peace. However, this did not stop Old Madam Yu from secretly searching and preparing.

She had raised her granddaughter for more than ten years, but her marriage had yet to be arranged. How could Old Madam Yu be at ease?

She did not believe it!

“Grandmother Song, I miss Grandmother so much...” Yu Youyao sobbed. Her forced toughness completely collapsed in Grandmother Song’s arms.

In the mourning hall, there was another round of sobbing.

The Zhenguo Marquis Residence was worried about Old Madam Song’s health and tried their best to persuade her to leave the mourning hall.

Song Wanhui held Yu Youyao’s hand. “You look so pale. Are you sick? When we entered the residence, we saw your family sending Imperial Physician Hu out.”

No matter who came to pay their respects, they had to arrange for them to rest for ten minutes first. Males and females had to enter the mourning hall separately in order to prevent too many people coming in at once and losing their etiquette.

After their family entered the residence, they waited for the Daoist priest to settle down before inviting them to the mourning hall.

Yu Youyao’s voice was hoarse. “Imperial Physician Hu only said that I’ve been too tired and depressed. He prescribed medicine and asked me to recuperate more in the future. I’ll be fine.”

Song Wanhui looked at her. Her fair hands were so thin that their joints were cracked. “No wonder you’ve lost so much weight. A dead person can’t be revived. Don’t be too sad. You have to take care of your health.”

In the past, Yu Youyao had also been thin. Her body was soft and she looked delicate. However, when she lost weight, she looked weak and sickly.

Yu Youyao nodded.

Seeing that her eyes were swollen, her face was pale, and she looked haggard, Song Wanhui did not know how to persuade her. “I wanted to write to you, but my mother wouldn’t let me. She said that Grandmother Yu has passed away, and your family already has enough to do. She asked me not to cause trouble.”

Yu Youyao said, “The family has been quite busy these past few days. Although there’s the clan’s help, there are many things that still need the family to step

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Although Madam Yao was also a daughter-in-law, the two families were separated. Old Madam Yu was in the main family so the funeral was mainly organized by the Niain Mansion, with the Second Mansion as support.

There were no elders in the Main Mansion. Not only was she the daughter of the first wife, but she was also her grandmother’s most beloved granddaughter, so she had to step forward.

Next, the Qi Residence also came over.

Just like Old Madam Song, Matriarch Qi knelt in front of Old Madam Yu’s spirit, crying and wailing. After a long time, she was finally persuaded to enter the house.

In the end!

As soon as Matriarch Qi and Old Madam Song met, they hugged each other and cried until they couldn't get up. It was useless for the daughters-in-law and granddaughters in the house to go over and persuade them.

They knew best how much pain and suffering Old Madam Yu had suffered in her life.

There was a lot of trouble in front of a widow's door. No matter what she did, there would be people criticizing her.

During the first decade Old Master Yu was gone, as a young daughter-in-law, Old Madam Yu couldn't even go out. She couldn't participate in the banquet in the capital.

Even if she went to the temple, she had to find someone to accompany her.

She had to take on the responsibilities of being the "man" of the house and also the wife. However, as a widow, she could not directly do the things that men could. She could only think of ways to scheme and be thorough.

Not everyone was born with a knack for scheming. It was just that they were forced by life to scheme..

Chapter 734 - 734: Obedient

At 4pm., the Clan Chief's wife remembered Yu Youyao's health and came over to persuade her to go back and rest early.

At this moment, the sun was about to set, so no one would come over to pay their respects.

Yu Youyao wouldn't ignore the elder's concern, so she could only return to the Jade Courtyard.

Seeing that she had returned, Nanny Xu heaved a sigh of relief. "Xia Tao took the prescription from Imperial Physician Hu and went out to get some medicine. There's some brewed in the small kitchen. I've prepared a medicinal cuisine to nourish your body according to Imperial Physician Hu. Finish the medicine first and soak your feet. Then, you can have dinner."

It was always important that the Yu Clan could take care of Yu Youyao a little. Otherwise, if this continued, how could she live?

This girl had a strong personality. They had long advised her to take care of her health, but she refused to listen.

Under normal circumstances, she could still be more restrained.

However, Old Madam Yu was sick earlier. Yu Youyao wanted to accompany her grandmother more and tend to her illness by the bed. She could only persuade her, but she couldn't stop her. Since she couldn't persuade her anymore, she could only prepare more food to nourish her.

After Old Madam Yu passed away, there were no elders in the family to handle things. She could neither persuade nor stop her.

Yu Youyao was also concerned that the people around her would worry about her. Even if she felt a little uncomfortable, she would endure it as much as she could.

She endured it. Although she did not break, her body was still suffering.

Yu Youyao threw herself into Nanny Xu's arms and wheedled, "Auntie, don't be angry with me. It's also because I'm usually in good health that I'm negligent and won't listen to your advice. I know I'm in the wrong. I'll definitely be obedient in the future."

"You..." Nanny Xu was both angry and amused. She tapped her forehead and rebuked, "As long as you take your medicine well in the future and don't cause trouble, I'll be grateful."

This girl had never been afraid of taking medicine in the past.

Now, she had to be coaxed to take her medicine.

She knew how to wheedle and pretend to be obedient, making one's heart ache.

Yu Youyao pursed her lips and reluctantly agreed.

Seeing her unwilling expression, Nanny Xu was speechless. She had agreed well now, but she would probably change her mind when it was time to take her medicine.

Yu Youyao returned to her room to change into light clothes.

Chun Xiao brought the medicine over.

Yu Youyao leaned over to smell it. Even her nose was wrinkled, and her mouth was curled up with disdain. "Auntie, is this medicine very bitter?"

Nanny Xu stopped smiling and said stiffly, "Good medicine is bitter. You promised me previously that you would take it."

Yu Youyao said self-righteously, "But Auntie, you didn't say that this medicine was so bitter!"

Nanny Xu's face turned stiff. She said angrily, "Aren't I saying it now?!" Yu Youyao's eyes darted around. "Then can I drink later?"

Nanny Xu was so angry that she almost laughed. "If you don't drink this medicine while it's hot, it'll turn cold later. Not only will it be more bitter, but the medicinal effect will also be weaker. Moreover, the effect of drinking the medicine on an empty stomach will be better."

Seeing Nanny Xu's serious expression, Yu Youyao did not dare to act too much.

She picked up the bowl and brought it to her lips to take a small sip. Immediately, her face wrinkled. She quickly put down the bowl and shook her head.

Nanny Xu picked up the medicine and could only feed her personally. "Alright, stop pretending. I'll feed you, alright?! You're already so old, but you still have to be fed. Aren't you ashamed?"

Yu Youyao smiled slyly and quickly sat up. She said happily, "The medicine that Auntie personally fed me isn't bitter at all."

Nanny Xu rolled her eyes at her. She didn't know where this obedient child came from.

She only knew how to pretend to be obedient!

After drinking the medicine, Yu Youyao soaked her feet. Then, Nanny Xu brought over dinner.

There was spinach soup, honey-stained pumpkin, and porridge made with lotus seeds, mulberries, honey cake, and so on. In addition, there was also almond and fresh sheep's milk soup with a layer of oil floating on it.

Yu Youyao pointed. "What is this?"

Nanny Xu said, "It's liver oil steamed from the liver of a shark. According to the Medicine Scripture, it can clear one's mind and relieve one's depression. It tastes a little fishy. In the future, have a bowl of almond mutton milk liver oil for dinner every day."

Yu Youyao picked it up and ate some. Her mouth was filled with fishy oil with a unique sweet fragrance. It was not greasy, and the taste was actually not bad.

Yu Youyao had a good appetite for dinner.

Nanny Xu finally felt a little relieved.

After dinner, Yu Youyao finally thought of something. "By the way, has the gift Cousin said he wanted to give me been sent over?"

No wonder she was in a much better mood. Nanny Xu smiled. "A big box arrived. It's in the side room. You have to take your time to look through."

After seeing it, she would probably be even happier.

Finally, there was someone who could treat her.

Yu Youyao quickly picked up her dress and went to the side room. As expected, there was a large lacquered wooden box inside. The lock was open. Yu Youyao opened the copper piece and lifted the lid of the box. She saw a few more boxes of different sizes neatly placed inside.

She took the most exquisite small box with many gems, gold, and jade embedded on it and opened it to take a look.

There was an exquisite and small curved dagger inside. The outer sheath was filled with gems, gold, and jade. Seeing that it was expensive and extraordinary, Yu Youyao picked up the dagger. The handle was neither long nor short, just enough for her to hold it in one hand. She slowly pulled out the outer sheath, revealing the bright body of the dagger. The blade was curved like a moon, and it reflected the light brightly.

"Good dagger!" Yu Youyao exclaimed. She quickly pulled out a strand of her hair and placed it under the blade. With a gentle blow, her hair broke. Her eyes widened in shock. "Is this what they mean by the legendary hair hanging test?" She quickly called out to Chun Xiao, "Hurry up and get me a piece of iron. I'll see if it can still cut iron like mud."

Chun Xiao quickly went to look for Liu'er.

Chun Mei and Liu'er were sorting out everything in Young Miss's house.

Liu'er did not know where to search but she actually found a piece of metal.

Yu Youyao held the dagger and tried to cut the iron piece, but she was disappointed.

At this moment, Chun Xiao's voice came from the room. "Hello, Young Master."

Before Yu Youyao could react, Yin Huaixi had already entered the house and asked her, "What are you doing?"

Yu Youyao showed him the iron piece. "I'll try to see if this dagger can cut through iron like mud. The result isn't great, but it's already pretty good to pass the hair hanging test."

Yin Huaixi was amused when he heard this. He took the metal piece, then took the dagger from her hand and gently cut the metal piece!

Yu Youyao's eyes widened as she looked at the metal piece that had been cut off. She looked incredulous. "If you can cut iron like mud, why can't I?"

She had used all her strength just now.

It definitely wasn't because she wasn't strong enough.

Yin Huaixi laughed and pinched the tip of her nose. "Steel is made of tempered iron. Steel and iron are essentially the same. Ordinary people naturally can't cut iron like mud. I used my internal Qi just now."

"I see." Yu Youyao was enlightened, then happy. "This dagger is very beautiful, and it's so powerful. Did you get it from the Northern Barbarians?"

It was more common to see straight daggers in the Great Zhou Dynasty while curved ones are hard to find..

Chapter 735 - 735: Trembling Inside

The Northern Barbarians were good at riding, and they wielded curved blades.

Their curved blades were specially used for charging on horses. At one time, they were successful on the battlefield. Later, the Great Zhou Dynasty invented the Zhanmadao, which was used to restrain the enemy's curved swords. Finally, they had a certain advantage on the battlefield.

Yin Huaixi said, "I obtained it from Harmon. Compared to the Great Zhou Dynasty, there are many types of weapons. The Northern Barbarians are better at using curved daggers. This dagger is the 'sincerity' that he sent over after I fought and won against him. It's the best weapon of their race. The Northern Barbarians reward martial arts experts. The strength of the weapons they wear is also a symbol of their strength. The best weapon is in the hands of the bravest warrior. The dagger that Harmon offered me represents respect. "

Yu Youyao stared at him. "You even fought with Harmon? When did this happen? Why haven't I heard Yin Qi mention it? Are you hiding something from me?"

Realizing that he had misspoken again, Yin Huaixi felt suffocated. "Before making the deal with Harmon, the two main generals will fight to test each other's strength before deciding how to proceed with the subsequent deal. I didn't ask Yin Qi to tell you because I was afraid that you would be worried."

When Yu Youyao heard this, she understood that Yin Huaixi had taken the initiative and gained the upper hand in this transaction. It must be related to this battle.

She thought about it for a moment, then thought of a question. “Are you hurt?”

Yin Huaixi shut his mouth and said nothing.

Yu Youyao rolled her eyes at him. “Don’t think you can get away with pretending to be mute. If you weren’t injured, why would you be afraid that I’d worry? Do you think I’m a fool?”

“No, no.” Yin Huaixi quickly said, “My arm was injured but it’s fine already.

Harmon lost an arm, and he’s in a worse state than me.’

“I’m asking about you. Who cares if Harmon’s injuries are serious or tragic? Don’t think about anything else.” Yu Youyao glared at him, and even her tone was angry. “Was your injury bad?”

Yin Huaixi subconsciously wanted to say that it wasn’t serious.

Yu Youyao glared at him again, making him retract the words that were about to come out of his mouth. Yin Huaixi gulped and really became mute.

However, it angered Yu Youyao. “You don’t want to lie to me. You just want to hide it from me, right? If it was just a small injury, why would you be afraid that I would worry? In the exchange between the two armies, Harmon lost an arm. Although you didn’t fight with your lives, you definitely fought with your bodies at stake, right?”

Yin Huaixi lowered his head. “It was a little bad, but I’ve recovered now.”

“I didn’t ask you to make excuses.” Yu Youyao was furious, but she glared at him. “Roll up your sleeves. Let me see where you’re injured.”

Yin Huaixi obediently rolled up his left sleeve. His skin was fair, and the muscles on his arm were smooth. His thin muscles covered his firm arm, making him look very strong.

Yu Youyao immediately saw an abrupt scar on his arm. It ran from his shoulder to his elbow. The wound had already healed, and the scabs on it had just fallen off. The color of the wound was faint, and it was even a little pink. It did not look scary. However, at first glance, such a thick and long scar made her heart skip a beat.

She took a deep breath, and her eyes welled up with tears. “Does it hurt?”

Yin Huaixi was originally a little smug. It was not in vain that he had insisted on applying the scar removal medicine for a long time after his injuries recovered. The originally hideous wound did not look that scary.

At this moment, Yu Youyao’s eyes turned red. He was a little flustered. “I’m fine now.”

Yu Youyao sniffed and held back her tears. She knew that swords had no eyes on the battlefield. There will be many such situations in the future.

Her fingers trembled slightly, and her fingers couldn’t help but cover the new scar on Yin Huaixi’s elbow. “Did you hurt your muscles and bones? Although an injury like this seems to have healed, because the wound is too deep, the damaged flesh inside hasn’t completely recovered. If you don’t nourish it, as time passes, it will cause hidden injuries. You know that almost every soldier who has

been through hundreds of battles and has been on the battlefield for a long time has hidden injuries. When they were young, they gave their lives to the country to protect the country. When they became old, they fell sick and handed their illnesses and pains to their families.”

On the battlefield, injuries were inevitable.

She wouldn't make requests for him to stop. To Yin Huaixi, it wouldn't be concern, but a burden. On the battlefield, Yin Huaixi had to be responsible for the thousands of soldiers under him.

He shouldn't have to answer to her.

She was only using this method to tell Yin Huaixi to take care of his body and not get injured easily. Even if he was injured, he couldn't ignore it just because his injuries weren't fatal.

If he was injured, he should treat it well. He shouldn't leave the internal injuries in his body, let alone bring the root of the illness to his family.

Yin Huaixi lowered his head. The little girl's sharp fingers were as smooth and fair as suet jade, gently rubbing the new tender flesh on his elbow with a slight itch.

It was as if when the wound had just scabbed over, there was a layer of hard blood on the outside, but the flesh inside was slightly itchy. He couldn't scratch it. The itch entered his flesh and rushed into his heart.

It made his heart itch uncontrollably. “I didn't hurt my muscles and bones. During this period of time, I've been applying medicine. I've also taken one of the Essence Nourishing Pills you made every day before bed as you instructed.”

The Essence Nourishing Pill had the effect of strengthening the foundation and nurturing the essence. After taking it for a long time, it had the effect of strengthening the body and extending one's life. It was called the “Small Heaven Protection Pill.”

Yu Youyao was a little relieved. “I made some blood nourishing pills earlier. Take some back and eat them. Take one every morning for three months. If you don't feel any discomfort, you can continue taking them. It won't conflict with the medicinal properties of the Essence Nourishing Pill.” He must have lost a lot of blood after suffering such a serious injury.

Yin Huaixi naturally listened to her. “I'll listen to you.”

Yu Youyao's lips curled up as her fingers moved away from Yin Huaixi's arm.

“In the future, don't hide it from me when you're injured. Although I can't help much, I can still treat your injuries, brew medicine, prepare incense, medicinal cuisine, nourishment, and so on to help you recover and fight on the battlefield again.”

Yin Huaixi said gently, “I've underestimated you.”

Yu Youyao stroked the pink new flesh with her fingers. “I know that you're afraid that I'll worry. Actually, more than worried, it's...” When the words reached her lips, she suddenly sensed that something was amiss. She quickly lowered her eyes and swallowed them. “But I know that every injury you suffer is your pride and glory as King Yue Fei. I should be proud of you.”

Yin Huaixi suddenly held her hand and asked, “What is it?”

Yu Youyao looked up in a panic and glanced at him. She only felt that in his eyes, there was a dazzling galaxy that no one dared to look at directly. She quickly lowered her head. “No, nothing..”

Chapter 736 - 736: Shun Enbo Residence

Yin Huaixi emphasized and continued to ask, “What is it?”

Yu Youyao lowered her head again, almost not daring to look at him.

Yin Huaixi pressed her to his chest. “Listen to my heartbeat and tell me what it is. Don’t lie to me, let alone be silent and hide it from me.’

Yin Huaixi’s heart was beating as fast as hers.

Yu Youyao suddenly understood. She whispered, “Rather than worrying, my heart aches for you to be injured.”

Yin Huaixi smiled. The little girl’s face was red. She lowered her head, not daring to look at him. He stopped forcing her, and placed the curved dagger in the sheath in her palm. “Keep this dagger by your side to protect yourself. The Northern Barbarians also produce some good medicinal herbs and spices, as well as strange stones and precious jade. I’ve picked out some.”

Yu Youyao was indeed very interested. She quickly squatted in front of the big wooden box and opened the boxes of different sizes.

In addition to Desert Broomrape, there was also Pimei Ginseng and a very expensive desert ageless medicine called “Yang Seal”. It replenishes yin and yang, moistens dryness and nourishes tendons, and is warm in nature. Moreover, it’s very rare in the Great Zhou Dynasty.

Therefore, it could be said to be difficult to find even if one had a thousand gold coins.

When Yin Huaixi saw this small box of “Yang Seal”, his eyes flickered. It was hard not to let his imagination run wild with the name of this medicinal herb. Its effect was also as famous as its name. It was the “women holy medicine” that men dreamed of. The most precious thing was that it did not have any side effects.

He had paid a lot of price to exchange some from Harmon. Part of it was for Yu Youyao to nourish her body, and the other part was kept by him.

It would always be useful in the future.

In addition, there were most of all kinds of gems, agate, and strange stones. The colors were pure and bright, and they were plump and bright. They were placed in boxes that shone with treasure light.

Even though Yu Youyao did not lack these, it was still an eye-opener.

Seeing that she liked it, Yin Huaixi said, “The Northern Barbarians produce all kinds of gems and agate. The quality is better than that of the Great Zhou Dynasty, which is why it is rare.”

However, in fact, the gems and agate of the Northern Barbarians were not rare in the Di Clan.

The Di people also knew that the Great Zhou Dynasty cherished this. However, the Di Clan and the Great Zhou Dynasty did not have a trade market, so the things did not have a price.

There were also some traveling merchants who took the risk to trade with the Di people, but they were all in private. Even if there were great things, they could not be circulated if they had to be hidden.

After the first transaction ended, with a good start for each other, Harmon generously gave him a large box of gemstones.

He had also sent expensive medicinal herbs and supplements from the Great Zhou Dynasty to help Harmon recuperate.

He had chosen the best of them.

Yu Youyao took out a pigeon blood ruby. This ruby was the size of a pigeon egg. Even though it had yet to be polished, it was already rosy and bright. It was extremely pure.

She raised the ruby high and realized that the inside of the gem seemed to be filled with red juice that was as red as blood. The sunlight penetrated and burned as passionately as a flame, as if it had a life of its own.

She picked up another pure sapphire. Inside the sapphire was like a deep sea, exuberant with vitality.

This was the first time Yu Youyao had seen such a quality gem. She couldn't help but exclaim, "Our Great Zhou Dynasty doesn't have such a lively, rich, and pure gem. If one day, the Zhou and Di countries can open a mutual market, the Northern Barbarians will use the rare gems and agate of the Great Zhou Dynasty to exchange for the tea leaves, silk, salt, and food they need. Both sides will take what they want, and there won't be a war."

Yin Huaixi chuckled. "There's already a good start. It might be possible in the future.'

It was impossible to establish an open market in the Great Zhou Dynasty.

Back then, when the dog Emperor attacked the North and was completely wiped out, it was a great humiliation to him. He hated the Northern Barbarians to the core. How could he make peace with the Northern Barbarians and trade?!

In addition, the Northern Barbarians advocated martial strength and were very warlike to begin with. If they wanted to reach an agreement with the Northern Barbarians, they had to conquer them and beat them until they submitted.

Also, the various branches of the Northern Barbarians were separated. There were many people who hated the Han. Just bloody conquest was not enough. They had to unify the various tribes of the Northern Barbarians.

Looking at Yu Youyao's sparkling eyes, Yin Huaixi's eyes flashed with exuberant ambition.

Yu Youyao was distracted by the food Yin Huaixi had brought back from the Northern Barbarians and did not see it.

On the third day after the first seven days, the Tang Residence visited.

After the case of cheating in the examination, Eldest Master Tang did not manage to return to the Hanlin Academy. With the help of the Yue family, he entered the Zhan Residence and did fewer things. He was a fourth-grade official and maintained his dignity, but he was no longer as glorious as before. Tang Yunxi was engaged and was about to get married when she reached adulthood.

She was engaged to the second son of the first wife of the Feng family, the emissary of the imperial court. It was Eldest Madam Tang who had entrusted her maiden family to arrange a marriage. She had heard that it was a good marriage. As long as the Imperial Court reopened the imperial examination and received Second Young Master's scholarly title, the two families would prepare to get married. It had almost been one year since the engagement.

Hence, Tang Yunxi was embroidering her dowry at home and it wasn't appropriate for her to go out.

Tang Yunxi did not come over. Instead, she wrote a letter to Yu Youyao and asked First Madam Tang to bring it over.

Yu Youyao took the letter gratefully and bowed to Eldest Madam Tang.

First Madam Tang held her hand. "Good child, my condolences. Don't tire yourself out."

Yu Youyao was so tired that she fell sick and worried, but she still forced herself to stay strong and help manage the Matriarch's funeral. Her pure filial piety made people sigh with emotion.

After leaving the mourning hall of the Tang Residence, Yu Youyao went to the side room and opened Tang Yunxi's letter.

The letter was mostly filled with comforting words. It also mentioned that Second Young Master Feng was very concerned about the engagement and often visited her in the residence. Jewelry, food and other items were all handed over to her through her elders.

Yu Youyao was sincerely happy for her.

Tang Yunxi was petite and beautiful. In the past two years, she had also gained many virtuous reputations.

The Feng family's ancestors had passed down a Sichuan embroidery painting. As time passed, one part of the embroidery painting was damaged. The Feng family had found many embroiderers who said that the needlework on it was special and couldn't be repaired.

When Tang Yunxi was attending the small banquet held by the Feng

Residence, she had seen this embroidery painting in Matriarch Feng's house.

Seeing that the embroidery painting was damaged, she couldn't help but ask a few more questions.

As a result, the Feng family was overjoyed and asked Tang Yunxi to repair it.

Coincidentally, at this moment, Second Young Master Feng had come over to greet her. When he saw the scene in the house, it wasn't appropriate for him to enter rashly. Hence, he kept waiting outside and saw Tang Yunxi.

The two of them formed a relationship because of this.

No matter what happened in the future, at least for now, the two of them were interested in one another.

Not long after, a maidservant came over to report, “Someone from the Jinling Residence is here.’

Yu Youyao was stunned for a moment before she realized which family it was.

Old Madam Yu’s surname was Jiang, and she was from the Shun Enbo Residence in Jinling. Old Madam Yu’s father was the second son of the first wife of the Shun Enbo Residence. The eldest son had inherited the title of nobility. Second Master Jiang had taken the path of the imperial examination and passed it. As his ranking was relatively high, he had chosen a hall and entered the Hanlin Academy. After becoming a scholar, he stayed in the capital to become an official..

Chapter 737 - 737: Burial

For a moment, the Shun Enbo Residence was in the limelight.

However, good times were rare.

Not long after Old Madam Yu married into the Yu Residence, her father was implicated with a banned poem by his colleague. The entire family was sentenced to exile, and the family did not survive the bitter cold of the place of exile.

Everything in Shun Enbo Residence had been confiscated. Other people were not implicated.

Anyone would know that Second Master Jiang was a top scholar.and the

“Minister” of Hanlin. He was only punished because he had been implicated.

At that time, if the Jiang Residence had cared about their relationship and taken care of Second Master Jiangs family in the place of exile, the Imperial Court would not have pursued the matter.

Second Master Jiang would stay in the place of exile for two to three years and write a book praising the merits of the Emperor. He would then go to the Imperial Court. Since Shun Enbo was a family of old nobility, even if his title was taken away, he still had connections in the court.

If the Jiang family had arranged everything, Second Master Jiangs family would definitely be able to return, and they might even be reinstated. Generally speaking, those who had been punished for exile and were reinstated would be placed in an important position by the Imperial Court.

However, there were no ifs in this world.

Old Madam Yu no longer had any contact with her maiden family.

If a widowed woman had the help of her maiden family, her life wouldn’t be too difficult. However, the Jiang family didn’t care about her sister-in-law, so Old Madam Yu’s life was extremely bitter.

In a woman’s life, there was nothing more tragic than losing her mother at birth, her father at an early age, and her husband in her prime.

Old Madam Yu suffered all three.

The people from the Jiang family were Old Madam Yu's seventh cousin and nephew. Old Master Jiang was not even 50 years old, but his white hair at the temples showed his old age. He was helped into the mourning hall by his son.

Looking at his sister's memorial tablet in a daze, he couldn't help but cry. "When Sister Heng was at home, she was the closest to me. I was young at that time, so Sister Heng often brought me along to play..."

Old Madam Yu's name was Heng Wu.

Her name was taken from a type of vanilla. It was resistant to cold, thin, drought, and very tenacious.

Jiang Hengwu had also grown into a tenacious person as her parents had expected. Even after experiencing all the hardships of the world, he still stood proudly.

His son advised him with red eyes, "Father, you're ten years younger than Old Aunt. When our family was in trouble, you were too young..."

Even though they had managed to contact each other after that, they had been separated for many years and were no longer the same as before.

Old Aunt was a strong and stubborn person. After experiencing the ruthlessness of the family, losing her mother, her father, her brother, and her husband, her heart was like cold water.

The old aunt hated her maiden family for being heartless to her family and was unwilling to interact with them anymore.

His father was also young and rash. He had written a few letters but did not receive a reply, so he was also stifled.

Their relationship, which was already distant, was completely ruined after

Old Master Jiang was crying in front of Sister Heng's mourning hall. His face was covered in snot and tears. This scene was really lamentable.

Fifth Granduncle came over to persuade him. "The grudges between people will be resolved if they die. Matriarch in heaven will definitely understand you. The juniors are all watching. Don't cry..."

After a long time, he finally managed to persuade Old Master Jiang.

Old Master Jiang looked at Yu Youyao and said kindly, "You're Sister Heng's most beloved eldest granddaughter, Youyao, right?" He sized up Yu Youyao and nodded. "Good child, your grandmother has passed away. If you have any difficulties in the future, send a letter to the Jiang Residence in Jinling. Our family won't refuse anything we can help with."

He was taking care of Yu Youyao on behalf of Old Madam Yu.

The Clan Chief looked at Yu Youyao strangely. After the Emperor ascended the throne, he had pardoned the world and some guilty officials who had been implicated. This was all customary.

Old Madam Yu's father and brother were also among them.

However, as Old Madam Yu's father and brother had already passed away, it was inevitable that the Imperial Court would be kind to their families.

After all, it was an old aristocratic family with a foundation. The Jiang Residence in Jinling had shaken off the reputation of being an “offender”. All these years, there was a faint sign of recovery, and the current head of the Jiang Residence was Seventh Old Master Jiang.

As expected of someone born with a noble life!

The Jiang Residence, which she had not interacted with for decades, had sent themselves to her as her backer.

Yu Youyao had also heard her grandmother talk about her maiden family in the past. She did not say much, but had mentioned this “Seventh Brother” a lot. Every time she brought it up, her tone revealed some regret.

It wasn’t that her grandmother was unwilling to forgive her “Seventh Brother”, but that her maiden family had hurt her too much. She had watched coldly from the side when she was in her most difficult, bitter, and desperate moments. This was a thorn in her heart.

The most taboo thing between relatives was estrangement. Once a estrangement arose, even if they forced themselves to interact, it would hurt others and themselves in the future. It was better for them to be well and remember each other’s best times.

“Thank you, Granduncle.” Yu Youyao was also very respectful to Old Master

Jiang. “Grandmother often mentioned Granduncle. She missed you very much. She often said that although you guys can’t renew your relationship as siblings, she still hopes that you were well. She would think of you.”

When Old Master Jiang heard this, he knew that this was what his proud and strong Sister Heng had said. He couldn’t help but cry on the spot. He stared blankly at Sister Hengs memorial altar for a long time.

It turned out that Sister Heng had never blamed him.

Back then, if he had shamelessly written a few more letters to Sister Heng or visited her in the capital even if he had to risk his family’s punishment, wouldn’t they not have drifted apart?

In the end, he had done too little.

Sister Heng had too many scruples.

They were worried about each other, but neither of them was willing to take another step.

It resulted in today.

Old Master Jiang stayed in the Yu Residence for four days. Only after the seven days were up did he leave for Jinling.

Before leaving, he left his son in the capital and asked him to wear mourning clothes for Old Madam Yue After burying her, he returned to Jinling.

This way, he could be considered to have fulfilled his relationship with Sister Heng.

After the matter at the Jiang Residence was over, it was soon September.

Her grandmother passed away at 9pm on the night of August 13th.

The funeral lasted for three weeks.

On the fourth of September, the banquet was held at night. The palace sent over a memorial banner, which was meant to show off its integrity, loyalty, and virtue.

The Yu Clan closed the residence to thank them, and all the guests knelt down.

Ever since then, in addition to Duke Zhonglie, the Yu Clan had another monument. It was meant for glory, honour and also to serve as a warning.

The Yu Clan was completely revived.

On the fifth of September, Fu Ling returned to the clan.

On the sixth of September, she left the clan for a funeral.

After her grandmother's burial, Yu Youyao stayed in the clan for five days. It wasn't until after her grandmother's funeral that she returned to the residence with Yin Huaixi.

In the blink of an eye, her grandmother had passed away for a month.

After returning to the residence, Yu Youyao began to make arrangements to leave.

Nanny Yue came over to look for her and mentioned the sweet potatoes in the manor. "The ones planted with ridges have more than two to three times more output than the ones planted with roots. There can be at most seven potatoes on each vine, and at least three to four of them. The largest is the size of a melon. Moreover, the texture is better, and the juice is sweet and crisp."

Yu Youyao was very excited.. "How's the production of the batch that was planted in June and July?"

Chapter 738 - 738: Collapsing from Sickness

The batch of sweet potatoes planted around the Dragon Boat Festival was small in amount so there was not much to harvest.

When the vines were planted around the Dragon Boat Festival, it was around June and July. Only then were they planted on a large scale in all parts of the country. This was the largest batch planted.

Nanny Yue looked overjoyed. "The old farmers in the manor who know how to farm said that sweet potatoes are cheap. They can be planted and harvested at almost any time. You can still harvest them in November at the latest." The old farmer in the manor had had such a guess before, but it had not been confirmed. Yu Youyao was still worried.

Now that her guess was confirmed, the huge stone in her heart was finally released.

Nanny Yue was also excited. "The earliest batch of sweet potatoes in our village was planted at the end of February. When the harvest came, the old farmer said that this batch was planted early and ripened early. They were harvested a month later. The August harvest is the most suitable."

“For those planted before and after the Dragon Boat Festival, now is the best time to harvest them. Moreover, this batch has the highest production. It should be the best time to plant it.”

“However, the old farmers in the manor also said that the temperature differences cause the time for the sweet potatoes to ripen to be a little different. In the second half of the year in the north, the weather is dry and cold, and the time for the sweet potatoes to ripen is around August or September.”

“The temperature in the south is suitable. May and June are the best times to plant sweet potatoes, and October is the ripening period for sweet potatoes. There’s definitely no need to worry about harvesting sweet potatoes in Zhejiang.’!

Yu Youyao was very happy. “The production of sweet potatoes is high and they can fill stomachs. From February to October every year, the planting period is almost half a year. Moreover, it’s a cheap job. If we can promote planting of sweet potatoes throughout the country, most of the commoners will be able to fill their stomachs.’

Nanny Yue smiled. “The sweet potatoes have already been widely planted in the north and south regions. The range of planting sweet potatoes will definitely increase next year. In less than two years, the entire country will be able to plant them.”

Eldest Miss had relied on her own strength to turn the tide and resolve the famine problem of some of the refugees in Zhejiang during the flood and drought in the north.

In the future, when the range of planting of sweet potatoes expands, all the people in the world would also benefit from the sweet potatoes’ resistance to dry soil, low nourishment, poor conditions, indiscriminate areas and poor climate. The planting of sweet potatoes was cheap and could be done at a large scale. They would also fill stomachs and taste good.

At that time, Young Miss’s hard work would benefit generations to come.

Yu Youyao also smiled. “That’s great! With green vines all over the fields, there will be no famine in the world, and millions of people will be happy.”

If it were anyone else, they might think that Young Miss was spouting nonsense, but Nanny Yue knew that this was Young Miss’s wish, and she had been working hard for this wish.

She collected crops from all over the country and tested them.

As long as crops were planted in an area, that area would have one more crop, and the commoners’ families would have one more crop.

This was a matter of setting the foundation to benefit future generations.

Nanny Yue changed the topic. “Everything in the manor has been arranged. When do you plan to return to Quanzhou?”

Yu Youyao looked a little down. "At the very least, I have to wait until the fifth week after Grandmothers passing. That day, Grandmother will definitely be on the Lookout Platform, waiting to see me one last time."

On the fifth week, before the sun rose, the family of the Yu Residence set up a table at the main door for food. The family knelt around the table and cried.

This was the fifth week after Old Madam Yu's death. On this day, the deceased would walk onto the Lookout Platform and look at their descendants for the last time. After that, they would really be separated by heaven and earth.

After the fifth week of Old Madam Yu's death, it was late September.

The north wind howled through the night, and it was winter the next day.

The weather suddenly changed. Yu Youyao, who had just recuperated a little, suddenly fell sick.

Everyone in the capital knew that Eldest Miss Yu had fallen sick early in the morning. It was just that she had been busy managing Old Madam Yu's funeral and forced herself to stay awake. Now that Old Madam Yu was buried, Eldest Miss Yu's body had been stretched to the limit and she had fallen sick.

The next day, the current emperor praised in the royal court, "Old Madam Yu is loyal and devoted. County Head of Shaoyi did not let her down. She is filial and kind."

Yu Zongzheng knelt and thanked her.

When the Empress Dowager in the palace found out that Yu Youyao was sick, she sent Auntie Shen to personally send over a lot of expensive medicinal herbs and supplements.

It was only September, but Yu Youyao was already wearing a weasel fur cloak. As soon as she entered the house, she took off the cloak on her body. Her face was pale and she looked sickly. The plain white clothes made her look thin and weak.

It was obvious that she had suffered a lot.

Auntie Shen held her hand and said a few words of concern before conveying the Empress Dowager's words. "The Empress Dowager praises the County Head of Shaoyi for being pure and filial. She wants you to take care of yourself."

Yu Youyao knelt on the ground and thanked her. She used all the assets that her grandmother had given to her as donations to the Imperial Court for the delayed drought.

There were more than 300,000 taels of silver.

Auntie Shen did not expect this. For a moment, she was stunned, not knowing if she should accept it.

Yu Youyao dragged her sickly body and knelt down to hold the box high. "Grandmother has always been worried about the drought in the north, but she left too suddenly and didn't have time to explain many things. She has worshiped Bodhisattva for most of her life. Buddhists often say that the law of cause and effect in the world has its own prajna. This can be considered to have fulfilled her karma with Bodhisattva and resolved one of her worries."

At this point, Auntie Shen had no choice but to answer. She only said, "The Imperial Court has received news that a crop called a sweet potato has been planted on a large scale in the north. This crop is edible, and the production is very high. The harvest in August and September has greatly alleviated the famine in the north. The Imperial Court is currently gathering food and medicine to prepare for disaster relief."

She still did not say when the disaster relief would happen.

Many refugees were gathered outside the capital, let alone elsewhere.

It seemed that some remote and poor areas were already filled with hunger.

Yu Youyao lowered her eyes, but there was cold mockery in them. She did not mention that she was the one who had promoted the planting of the sweet potatoes. At the moment, the Imperial Court had only received news. As for the details, they would have to wait until the disaster relief officials arrived in the north to investigate the key role of the sweet potatoes in the drought and trace their source before going to the Imperial Court.

Only then would the Imperial Court react.

However, this was not the reason why the Imperial Court had repeatedly delayed disaster relief.

Originally, the drought in the north was handled by the Cabinet Grand Secretary, Yu Zongshen. The Ministry of Revenue had also been making preparations. However, because her grandmother had passed away, Yu Zongshen was mourning at home. All the matters in the cabinet were coordinated by a few Deputy Assistants. The more people in charge, the more voices there would be. With different opinions, there would be more matters to cover.

The cabinet was fighting openly and secretly. There were few people who were truly willing to serve the people. Yu Zongshen's departure gave the court officials a chance to take over. The disaster relief that was originally scheduled for the end of August was repeatedly delayed.

It was also because most of the most remote and poor areas in the north were under King Yue Fei's rule. The 500,000 You soldiers guarding the North were a deterrent and intimidating..

Chapter 739: Deep Thoughts

Two years ago, when King Li of Zhou was around, blood flowed like a river in the north. That was why the north was still stable until now. Small commotions were inevitable, but there were no riots like in Zhejiang.

However, didn't those powerful ministers who were fighting for power know that for every incense stick, hour, two hours, or even a day that was delayed, countless commoners would die from famine and cold?

They definitely knew.

They just didn't care.

After sending Auntie Shen off, Yu Youyao returned to the Jade Courtyard tiredly.

Nanny Xu quickly brought over the hot medicine.

After drinking the medicine, Yu Youyao felt much warmer.

Not long after, Yin Huaixi heard the news and came over. “You’ve become bold. You even dare to test the Imperial Court openly.”

Yu Youyao hugged the furnace. Her body was warm, and she was a little sleepy. “It’s not just to test the Imperial Court. Grandmother left most of the private assets under her name to me. She also went to the government office to sign a contract. However, these businesses have been operating for decades. On the surface, they’re separated from the Yu Residence, but their interests are constantly intertwined. Since I’m determined to return to my mother’s family, I’ll take the opportunity to cut off all the interests at once to prevent any trouble in the future.”

After her grandmother passed away, she instructed Zhou Yonghe to start handling this matter.

Yin Huaixi nodded. Seeing that she was not in good spirits, his heart ached. After a few months, Yu Youyao was both physically and mentally exhausted. In the end, she had hurt her body.

Therefore, she was caught off guard by the winter cold and contracted an illness. She still had to go to Quanzhou and stay away from the troubles in the capital to slowly recover.

Yu Youyao sighed softly. “Grandmother has also been worried about the drought in the north. Donating a little in her name can be considered as doing her part and accumulating good karma. Before Grandmother died, she did not mention the Yu Residence or the clan. However, I know that she must still have some concerns in her heart. By donating her assets, the Yu Residence and the clan will benefit. It can be considered a form of comfort.’

She had also helped the clan repair the ancestral hall and expand the clan school with this consideration.

Yin Huaixi held her hand. Her hand was still warm, but her palm was moist. This was a symptom of fatigue. “When Old Madam was alive, she spent most of her life planning for the Yu Residence and the clan. After she died, she even found a monument for the clan and gave benefits to the clansmen. She’s probably most worried about you. She hopes that the businesses under her name can give you a better future.”

Yu Youyao shook her head. “Grandmother prepared a batch of dowry for me, a total of 264 pieces.”

Although it was better to have more dowry when marrying off a daughter, there were still certain rules.

264 pieces was definitely beyond the rules.

However, a family that doted on their daughter would carry some things into her husband’s house a day in advance. It was commonly known as a pre-wedding custom. No matter how many items there were, the remaining things would follow their daughter into her husband’s house,

Yin Huaixi suddenly felt that it was time for him to prepare the betrothal gifts early!

Yu Youyao did not know what he was thinking and continued, “Just one bed frame is already priceless. It’s made of the best agarwood. The best water agarwood does not sink into water. It takes more than a hundred years or even longer to make it. Therefore, it’s very rare. Most of it is used for medicine. From the moment I was born, Grandmother began to gather the wood for the agarwood bit by bit. She found the most skilled craftsman in the capital. It took more than ten years, but it isn’t completely finished yet.”

At the current rate of completion, it would probably take another year or two and be finished just after she reached adulthood.

It was obvious how much effort she had put in.

Yin Huaixi understood now. When a wealthy family married off their daughter, only the especially doted on sisters in the family would marry with a bed related item. The materials used for the bed were also very particular. If it wasn't good material, it wouldn't be presentable. The best ones were boxwood and agarwood. Sandalwood, rosewood, and so on were slightly inferior.

Not every family could afford to do so.

Not to mention that it was made of agarwood.

The bed style of the Great Zhou Dynasty consisted of a couch, a Luohan bed, an alcove bed, and so on. Among them, the main bed was large, and the craftsmanship was the most complicated.

It was a bed, and it was also a beautiful small house. It was also called an "eight-step bed." It was as big as eight steps in the bedroom.

It would take at least three to five years for the bed to be completed, and at most ten years. The best beds would take more than ten years.

Everything was because of Old Madam Yu's love!

Yin Huaixi sighed softly. No wonder. Old Madam Yu had been gone for more than a month, but Yu Youyao still couldn't let go. She often dreamed of her grandmother, so even her body had suffered. Even though she had taken medicine, her recovery was slow.

Yu Youyao said, "These were brought into the Jade Courtyard in the name of the dowry. Be it the Yu Residence or the clan, there's no reason to use Eldest Miss's dowry. After obtaining so many benefits, it's inevitable that they will be greedy."

Yin Huaixi nodded. "Although that's the case, there are still many people in the world who are unpredictable. After obtaining a temporary benefit, there will be endless trouble in the future."

For example, Old Madam Yu.

Back then, Yu Zongshen had received the Xie family's full help and activated the sea ban. When Old Madam Yu saw that the Xie family had received a commendation from the Imperial Court and was rich, she became greedy and overstepped herself.

Yu Youyao seemed to have telepathy with him. She also thought of what her grandmother had done back then. "When dealing with people, you have to know when to stop. Don't push your luck. If you get something, you have to give something. If you just take and not give, it's inevitable that you'll lose your composure. The gains won't make up for the losses."

At this point, she felt that it wasn't appropriate to talk about this topic anymore, so she changed the topic. "Now that I want to return to my mother's clan, it's better to avoid trouble. Although the Yu Clan values benefits, they're still an etiquette clan. It's good to part on good terms and to show that I value our relationship and dignity. If I go to the Xie Residence and have a large clan like the Yu Residence behind me, I think anyone has to consider carefully before targeting me."

Yin Huaixi tightened his grip on Yu Youyao's hand. "You took the opportunity to test the Imperial Court's disaster relief. I think there should be a conclusion soon. Take good care of yourself next."

The Imperial Court definitely had to send disaster relief, but when and how was a problem.

Yu Youyao cared about the commoners. As a woman, she publicly donated disaster relief in the name of her grandmother's loyalty. This was equivalent to public criticism of the current disaster relief efforts.

Yu Youyao nodded. Perhaps it was because she had just drunk the medicine, but she was a little sleepy.

Yin Huaixi changed the topic. "Chang An came over with a box of fresh chestnuts and Chun Xiao made a charcoal fire outside. I'll cook chestnuts for you."

Yu Youyao's interest was piqued, and she forced herself to perk up. "Coincidentally, two days ago, when Nanny Yue entered the residence, she sent over a few boxes of sweet potatoes. Let's roast them together." No matter what was made, the sweet potatoes tasted good.

When roasted, they were especially sweet.

Yu Youyao liked it very much, but Nanny Xu felt that the sweet potatoes were too filling and did not allow her to eat too much.

The two of them went to the side room of the outer room. Although it was winter in the north, the snow had yet to fall, and it was not the coldest time..

Chapter 740: End of the Capital's Matters

There was a charcoal fire in the house, and it was warm. Not only had they prepared chestnuts, but they had also prepared some specialties that Yin Huaixi had brought back from the North.

Of course, Yin Huaixi had brought a lot of the specialties of the Northern Barbarians.

However, she could not eat meat or fish during mourning.

In addition, the Northern Barbarians also had many mushrooms. The rarest ones were the Monkey Head Mushrooms. They were known as "vegetarian meat." When roasted, they also had a different taste.

After taking the medicine for a while, Yu Youyao's mouth felt bitter. In addition, her diet was light and nourishing, so she didn't have much of an appetite. After trying different food today, her appetite improved a lot. One was in charge of roasting, and the other was in charge of eating.

Unknowingly, Yu Youyao had eaten a lot.

Three days later, Yu Youyao's righteous donation to the disaster relief caused another donation trend in the court.

This trend of "disaster relief donations" had also completely pushed the cabinet's situation to the top.

There was an urgent cabinet meeting.

After confirming the disaster relief date, at the beginning of October, funds were allocated to the various government offices in the north and they were ordered to do their best to provide disaster relief.

Yu Zongzheng did not get his wish and became an imperial censor to go to the north for disaster relief. The reason was because someone from the Imperial Court said, “When your biological mother passes away, a filial son won’t leave the house for three years!”

The court officials started a discussion.

Although Yu Zongshen was mourning at home and was considered a “filial son”. During the mourning period, all the rules should be observed carefully to show filial piety.

Yu Zongzheng couldn’t refute. If he did, he would be unfilial.

Although Yu Zongshen stayed home, Yu Zongzheng was no longer like a fish in water in the royal court. It was only at this moment that he vaguely understood the reason why he had a smooth path in officialdom all these years. He had Madam Xie’s money to support his interpersonal connections, and Yu Zongshen in the cabinet to take care of him.

The matter in the capital was over!

Far away in the Xie Residence in Quanzhou, when they found out that Yu Youyao was sick, they specially sent a merchant ship into the capital to bring her to Quanzhou to stay for a while.

Old Madam had just passed away not long ago. The family was worried that Yu Youyao would miss her and it would be difficult for her to recover, so they agreed.

The clan did not object and only said, “It’s human nature for her maternal family to be involved in the mourning of her Grandmother. It’s only right.”

With the support of the Yu Residence and the Yu Clan, some of the etiquette matters were considered thorough.

Others would no longer criticize her with the usual custom of staying at home for three years after a family member passed away. Rituals were started because of human relationships anyway.

After Old Madam Yu passed away, although there was a Second Mansion in the clan to help with the funeral, everyone understood that the two branches of the Yu Residence had split up long ago. Old Madam Yu had returned to the eldest branch, so the first branch should be in charge of the funeral. The Second Mansion would be the support, and the clan would only help out. It was only right for the first branch to step in to manage the funeral.

Yu Youyao was a thirteen-year-old girl who had supported her grandmother’s funeral.

The funeral only lasted for three weeks, but be it seven weeks, or the rituals, banquets, and nights, they were all glorious. There were no mistakes, and she was better than many daughters-in-law.

No one would say that she was unfilial.

Filial piety was the most important trait. Since she showed filial piety, the world would not be harsh on her.

Now that she had donated to the drought in the north, she was also benevolent.

On September 28th, the Xie family's merchant ship entered the capital.

The Second Old Madam and the Clan Chief's wife, who had a good relationship with Yu Youyao, had specially rushed over from the clan to help Yu Youyao manage all the matters related to leaving the capital.

Not only that, but they had also brought along a bunch of things that the clan had given her. They had added 30 0/0 more to the original foundation, and the value of her items had also increased a lot.

Just by doing this, Yu Youyao knew that the "300,000 taels" had not been donated in vain.

The Second Old Madam and the Clan Chief's wife represented the Yu Clan and valued and treated her seriously. No matter where she went, this importance and caution would accompany her wherever she went.

In order for her to go to Quanzhou, the Yu Clan prevented her from being exposed. This was also to protect her.

After spending almost a month together, it was enough to get close.

Clan Chief's wife held Yu Youyao's hand. Seeing that she seemed to have lost a little more weight, she felt a little upset. "It's only been a few days since I last saw you. Why have you lost weight again? Your father is too outrageous. He's busy with the court all day and doesn't even care about his sick daughter at home. You've suffered."

She did not avoid the servants while saying this in the hall.

Clan Chief's wife was a direct descendant of the eldest branch, so her status in the clan was very high. Even if Yu Zongzheng came to her, he had to respectfully call her "Sister-in-law."

It wasn't too much for her to complain.

At first glance, it sounded like she was just concerned.

However, after thinking about it for a while, she realized that something had happened.

It was as if Yu Youyao was seriously ill and did not have any relatives to take good care of her at home. They could not bear to see her eldest sister suffer, so they asked her to go to Quanzhou to recuperate.

It could be said that she had been thorough about her going to Quanzhou to recuperate.

Outsiders could also understand.

However, these words were inappropriate for others to say. Only the wife of the Clan Chief, who was on the Clan Chief's side, sounded the most convincing.

The Second Old Madam also sighed. "We all know that you're filial. Your grandmother has passed away, and you feel terrible. You've been sick for so long, but your health hasn't improved. Imperial Physician Hu has long instructed that you can't be careless with this illness. You have to be careful not to worry too much or work hard and tire yourself out. You have to recuperate. Since you can't recuperate well in the capital, you have to recuperate carefully when you reach Quanzhou."

“You’re still young. You can’t lose your health. That’s how your grandmother lost her health. The clan has always felt sorry for your grandmother. You can’t force yourself like your grandmother. When you reach Quanzhou, write more letters to the clan.’

These words emphasized the Clan Chief’s wife’s words.

The clan felt that they owed Old Madam Yu. They couldn’t let Yu Youyao be like her grandmother and lose her health for the family, so they asked her to go to Quanzhou to recuperate.

Logically speaking, Yu Youyao was most suitable to go to Quanzhou.

Even Yu Youyao couldn’t help but feel a little touched when she heard this. “Grandmother and Aunt, don’t worry. After I arrive in Quanzhou, I’ll send a letter to the clan to report my safety. There’s still someone in the capital to take care of that for me.’

The Second Old Madam and the Clan Chief’s wife quickly agreed.

Yu Youyao continued, “Before Grandmother died, she was most worried about

Fourth Brother. This time, when I leave the capital, I plan to bring Fourth Brother to experience Quanzhou. It’s better to travel ten thousand miles than to just read. This way, he can broaden his horizons and broaden his mind. It’s beneficial to his studies.’

“After stopping in Quanzhou for a while, Cousin will return to Youzhou. At that time, Cousin will bring Fourth Brother to Youzhou. Not long ago, Mr. Xian Yun opened Chongshan Academy in Youzhou. Cousin and Mr. Xian Yun are old friends. He will recommend Fourth Brother to study in the Chongshan Academy. Fourth Brother will return to the capital after his studies are successful.’

Yu Shansi was not talented, but he was not bad either.

The most important thing was to be willing to work hard.

If he fell behind in his studies, he could not catch up. Instead, he chose to strengthen his foundation. After establishing a solid foundation, coupled with Yin Huaixi’s notes, he improved in his studies..