

All Hail 741

Chapter 741 - 741: Paying Double the Respect

When the Second Old Madam and the Clan Chiefs wife heard this, they were naturally very happy. “Good child, Brother Si is lucky to have you as his sister.”

Yu Shansi was neither a legitimate wife nor a concubine. Be it staying in the capital or returning to the clan, his days would not be easy. Yu Youyao had made such an arrangement. It was obvious that she was sincerely thinking for Yu Shansi.

Yu Shansi was a disciple of the Yu Clan, and his future also concerned the Yu Clan.

Yu Youyao had a good temperament but who knew what was wrong with Madam Yang and the jealousy Yu Jianjia had. If the two of them had stopped in time, it would not have come to this.

They were really vicious and stupid.

Yu Youyao shook her head and said, “In the future, if there’s a talented student in the clan, send me a letter. I’ll get Cousin to help arrange for him to enter the Chongshan Academy. If he’s really talented and outstanding, Mr. Xian Yun won’t mind accepting a few more.”

If someone respected them, they would double their respect for the other party. The Yu Clan was quite fair in dealing with people. It would at most take a few packets of incense medicine to recommend a few people. She believed that if someone in the Yu Clan was smart, they would understand that they should employ limited resources where they are needed most. Not everyone could catch Mr. Xian Yun’s eye.

The Second Old Madam and the Clan Chief’s wife were overjoyed.

The few of them had a heartfelt conversation and handed over all the things that needed to be dealt with to Chu Li. The matter of leaving the capital was also settled.

The merchant ship stopped on the shore.

Yu Youyao’s things were mixed with the merchant goods of the Xie Residence and loaded onto the merchant ship, in case there were too many things and others noticed something amiss.

Everything went smoothly.

Yu Youyao stood in the courtyard. The branches of the Parasol Tree were filled with yellow leaves. When the cold wind blew, the yellow leaves fell and covered the ground with fallen leaves.

Yin Huaixi had a waist-length cloak on his arm. Stepping on the fallen leaves on the ground, he came over and draped the cloak over her shoulders. “It’s windy outside again. Be careful not to catch a cold.”

Yu Youyao was holding a hand warmer. “This Parasol Tree was transplanted from the manor by my mother back then. My mother has passed away, and I’m leaving. I don’t know if I’ll return in the future. This tree...”

She felt a little reluctant.

This Parasol Tree carried her longing for her mother. After moving into the Jade Courtyard, she especially liked to stay under the Parasol Tree. It also carried too many beautiful memories between her and Yin Huaixi.

They played the zither under the tree, made tea and burned incense, played chess, took naps, read, practiced calligraphy, laughed, and played...

He was in every frame.

However, no matter how reluctant she was, she did not want to leave what her mother had left behind in the Yu Residence. "Let's cut it down!"

The Green Parasol Tree was not young anymore. It might not be able to grow in a new place.

Yin Huaixi was also reluctant. "I'll look for a few old farmers who are good at planting trees and see if I can break a few branches. I'll try to cut them off to plant new trees. Perhaps they can still be planted."

The predecessors planted trees and the future generations took advantage of the shade.

In the future, his descendants would be able to enjoy the shade under the tree.

Just thinking about it made her feel very happy.

Yu Youyao nodded. "There's no need to work so hard. It's fine if it doesn't work."

Yin Huaixi nodded. "What do you want to do with the wood of the Parasol Tree?"

Other than making musical instruments, the Parasol Tree was not a high-grade material for furniture because its wood was easily deformed.

Yu Youyao said, "Third Sister Song, Sixth Sister Qi, and Fifth Sister Tang all know how to play the zither. Let's give them a portion of the tree that's most suitable for making the zither. Keep the remaining wood for now. We'll talk about it when we need it in the future."

Seeing that she had no other arrangements for the Parasol Tree, Yin Huaixi felt that it was a pity that such good material was left there. He said, "It's not bad to make a small wooden box out of the Parasol Tree Wood. I'll make a few different makeup boxes for you. You can use them interchangeably. I will even make a few jewelry boxes for you. However, you might have to wait for a while."

Yu Youyao was pleasantly surprised. "I'm not in a hurry to use them. Make them at your own time."

Yin Huaixi nodded. "The wind is getting stronger and stronger outside. Let's go in."

Yu Youyao nodded and entered the house with Yin Huaixi.

Almost everything in the Jade Courtyard had been packed, and the room seemed a little empty. In order to show that its owner was only leaving for a while, some ordinary but exquisite things had been replaced in the Treasure Pavilion.

As it was Old Madam Yu's mourning period, everything had to be simple, so these things did not seem out of place.

In the future, this courtyard would most likely be empty.

Not to mention that she still had the surname of the Yu Clan and this courtyard had been built with the money of the first wife and the residence that Matriarch had personally given her. Just based on the fact that she was also conferred the title of County Head of Shaoyi, no one in the entire Yu Residence dared to snatch the residence of the County Head.

The clan would not sit back and do nothing.

The next day, Yu Youyao instructed Xia Tao to go to the Second Mansion to look for Madam Yao. She only said, "Our Eldest Miss will leave the capital tomorrow morning on the Xie family's merchant ship. She invites the young masters and young misses of the family to gather."

Madam Yao's face was cold, but she did not say anything.

Xia Tao stood respectfully and waited for Second Madam to respond.

Nanny Qian gave Madam a look. Seeing that Madam did not respond, she secretly tugged at her sleeve.

Even if Second Madam was dissatisfied with Eldest Miss, she shouldn't show it here.

The young masters and young misses of the Second Mansion treated Eldest Miss well. If Eldest Miss wanted to go to Quanzhou, they had to go over and have a chat because they were siblings.

Madam Yao finally came back to her senses and nodded coldly.

She said nothing else.

Xia Tao quickly told her the time before leaving respectfully.

As soon as Xia Tao left, Nanny Qian said, "Why do you have to compete with a dead person? Even if you knew back then that Master had someone else in his heart, such a good mannered man who could marry a princess was in front of you. Would you not marry him?"

Madam Yao held her breath. When a woman from a wealthy family got married, she not only chose her family background, character, and appearance, but also her future.

Before Yu Zongshen, her family had also taken a fancy to many people for her, but none of them could compare to him. Back then, when she was engaged to Yu Zongshen, it shattered the hearts of countless women.

Nanny Qian continued, "You think that Second Master doesn't care about you, but take a look at the entire capital. Which man doesn't have three wives and four concubines? There's still a bunch of concubines at home. Even if he has feelings for you today and is interested, how long can this relationship last? There are many families that dote on concubines and ignore their wives. Ms. Ye is a rare talented woman in the world. She's a dignified woman of a noble family, but she's reduced to being a female teacher in our family." Madam Yao's heart skipped a beat as she thought of her parents.

Her father had also taken in two beautiful concubines in his backyard. Although he did not dote on them more than his wife, her father was ultimately more concerned about the young and beautiful concubines.

Should she be glad that Yu Zongshen did not dote on other women more than his wife?

Even though he would only step into the backyard a few times in a month?

Nanny Qian sighed softly. "One will pay their dues and get what they deserve..

Which daughter-in-law hasn't endured it?"

Chapter 742 - 742: Farewell

"Take a look at the capital. Which daughter-in-law is like you? Not long after you married into the family, the family was divided into separate families. Your mother-in-law is with the eldest branch. As the second daughter-in-law, you don't have to wake up in the morning or set rules. You don't have to listen to your mother-in-law's instructions and without your sisters-in-law interfering, you're in charge of your own life. Even if Matriarch is sick, you don't have to treat her illness. Other than the fact that Master is a little cold, how can your days not be smooth?"

In her opinion, her days in the Yu Residence were simply like heaven.

How did Eldest Miss fall sick?

Wasn't it all because she was tired of attending to the funeral matters?

A good girl had lost so much weight that she looked like a bag of bones. When she stood in the wind, it was as if a gust of wind could blow her away. It was because they had split up that Madam did not suffer.

Madam Yao thought of her mother again.

Her grandmother was not a particularly harsh mother-in-law, but scholarly families valued rules. Every morning and night, they would serve tea and water. From time to time, they had to set rules. Not to say that they wanted to torture their daughters-in-law, but they did not want them to live comfortably. From time to time, they had to establish their authority.

She remembered how she called her daughter-in-law over from time to time and reprimanded her. She was either forcing her daughter-in-law to help her husband give birth to more children or take in concubines...

Her mother always asked her to endure everything because her mother had endured things for decades until her grandmother died. Only then would her life be better.

After she married into the Yu Residence, her mother kept feeling that she had fallen into paradise.

Nanny Qian said earnestly, "You're a blessed person. Eldest Young Master has a good future, and Second Young Master is also promising. Second Miss is smart and sharp, and your daughters are also outstanding. You are treated with great respect. Don't think about those things. Carefully raise your children. There's still a good future ahead. You can't let your days become affected because of a moment of anger. Look at Madam Yang's outcome." Madam Yao had a headache. "Let me think about it carefully."

These words were also reasonable, so she couldn't refute them. However, she still couldn't let go.

Nanny Qian did not say anything else.

This was a good day for Madam. If she lived too comfortably, it was easy for her to let one's imagination run wild. Although Master wasn't considerate, he was very thorough with the family and didn't let Madam worry too much. Master also cared about her children, so Madam wasn't too angry.

To put it bluntly, she was could still tolerate it.

Fortunately, Maste returned to the clan and would only return to the capital three years later because he was in mourning. In the future, he would explain from time to time. After such a long time, he would probably be able to figure his life out.

Xia Tao replied to Young Miss and hesitated for a moment before mentioning Second Madam's cold attitude.

Yu Youyao only nodded in understanding. "The small gathering place is in the corridor outside. As it's still the period to be filial, it's not appropriate to be too extravagant. Get someone to set up a charcoal stove. As you warm yourself by the fire, roast some mushrooms, sweet potatoes, chestnuts, and some vegetables. In addition, prepare some snacks, dried fruits, fruits, and so on.

Prepare more."

Xia Tao quickly responded.

Just as it was ten o'clock, Yu Shuangbai, Yu Lianyu, and Yu Fangfei ran over impatiently.

Ever since the side door between the Second Mansion and the First Mansion was blocked, every time Yu Shuangbai and the others came to the First Mansion, they would follow Madam Yao. They would not stay for long before returning to the Second Mansion. The sisters did not even have a chance to talk.

The sisters sat under the porch and spoke.

Yu Shuangbai held Yu Youyao's hand and asked with concern, "Previously, when I heard that you were sick, I originally planned to come and visit you, but Mother didn't let us come and bother you. She said that it had been very difficult for you to manage Grandmothers funeral and wanted you to have some peace." At this point, she puffed up her cheeks and was a little indignant. She made it sound like she was so insensible. "Are you feeling better?"

Actually, her mother only did not allow her to come over.

This was what Granny Qian said.

However, Nanny Qian's words were also her mother's.

Yu Youyao nodded. "She's much better. However, Imperial Physician Hu said that not only does she have to treat this illness, but she also has to recuperate well and replenish her lost essence, qi, and spirit. Otherwise, it'll affect her body badly."

Yu Lianyu looked worried. "During this period of time, Eldest Sister has suffered a lot. Previously, you almost fainted in the mourning hall. You can't be careless.'

That was three weeks after Grandmother's death. Eldest Sister had returned the sacrificial offerings to the women who had come to pay their respects. Her bent body did not straighten up immediately and she fell back. Fortunately, she was standing behind Eldest Sister who quickly helped her up.

Even so, Big Sister was dizzy and couldn't use much strength. It took her a while to recover.

However, it shocked the women present.

Yu Fangfei was a little reluctant. "The weather in Quanzhou is good. It's not as cold as in the north in winter, so it's very suitable for recuperation. After Big Sister goes to Quanzhou, you have to recuperate well and come back as soon as possible."

Ever since her grandmother fell sick, the two families had not interacted much, so it was inevitable that their relationship had become a little distant. At this moment, hearing their sincere concern, Yu Youyao felt a little uncomfortable. "When I reach Quanzhou, I'll write to you. Quanzhou is a city at the border of the Great Zhou Dynasty. It connects the north and south, and trade is very prosperous. If you need anything, to me and I'll send it to you."

At the mention of the prosperity of Quanzhou, the sadness of parting immediately dissipated.

The young misses chattered together, as if they had endless things to say.

At noon, Yin Huaixi, Yu Shanyan, Yu Shanxin, Yu Shanli, and Yu Shansi also arrived.

A group of people sat in a circle around a few charcoal stoves. The barbed wire was placed on the charcoal stoves. The servants stood at the side and helped hand over the food, also paying attention to their masters' safety.

Under the guidance of the kitchen maids, the young masters and young misses, who had never done any chores, roasted their own food.

The few of them had all learned how to read and write, so it was easy.

On the other hand, the few of them had made a lot of jokes.

There was laughter under the porch.

Due to Old Madam Yu's mourning period, this small gathering lasted for less than two hours before it ended.

Yu Youyao sat alone under the porch for a long time...

Yin Huaixi stood under the Parasol Tree and looked at her for a long time...

All good things must come to an end. No matter how bad the Yu Residence was, their sibling relationship in the past was sincere.

A long sigh sounded.

Chun Xiao knew that Young Miss was feeling a little down, so she said, "The young masters and young misses of the Second Mansion have prepared farewell gifts for you when they came."

Yu Youyao nodded, indicating that she understood. "By the way, have you prepared the gifts for Ms. Ye?"

Chun Xiao nodded. "It's already prepared."

Yu Youyao instructed Chun Xiao to bring the gifts and went to the school.

In the bamboo forest near the Xiaoxiang Courtyard, there was a layer of withered bamboo leaves. The straight bamboo stem faced the cold wind. It did not look desolate or sparse, but looked even more vigorous and green.

When Old Madam Su saw Yu Youyao coming over, she quickly led her into the house.

Ms. Ye was drinking tea..

Chapter 743 - 743: Farewell

Yu Youyao knelt respectfully and kowtowed to Ms. Ye seriously. "I've been taught and enlightened by you since I was young. I was mischievous and stupid but you didn't abandon me. You taught me carefully and patiently. I feel that I've received benefits that have impacted my entire life. Please accept my bow."

In the past, Yu Youyao had only treated her respectfully because Ms. Ye was her teacher. However, today, she was giving her a proper disciple's greeting. Ms. Ye was a little surprised.

Before she could react, Yu Youyao kowtowed again. "Tomorrow, I'll leave the capital on a merchant ship. I'm afraid I won't be able to show my respect to you in the future. Please accept my bow again."

Ms. Ye understood a little. It wasn't that she hadn't noticed the undercurrents in the Yu Residence recently.

After the side door of the First and Second Mansions was blocked, the side door of the Xiaoxiang Courtyard opened. The sisters of the Second Mansion went to school every day and came in directly from the side door of the Xiaoxiang Courtyard.

Before Old Madam Yu passed away, the Yu Residence had already prepared a generous gift and arranged for a carriage to send her home.

It wasn't until two days ago that they arranged for someone to invite her back respectfully.

Today, Yu Youyao was bidding farewell to her. She was probably going to Quanzhou and did not know when she would return.

Yu Youyao kowtowed again. "I will be leaving but I can't bear to part with you. I hope that you will live a long and healthy life in the future. Please accept my bow again."

After bowing three times and thanking her teacher, Ms. Ye quickly helped her up. "Get up quickly. The ground is very cold. You've just recovered a little, so you have to be careful."

The master and disciple sat in the room and chatted.

Yu Youyao suddenly said, "Ms. Ye, the court hasn't been peaceful in the past two years. Mr. Xian Yun has opened Chongshan Academy in Youzhou. Mr. Hu Shan will also go to Youzhou soon."

Back then, Mr. Hu Shan owed her grandfather a favor. When her grandmother was at her lowest, she never thought of using this favor. Instead, she used this favor to ask Mr. Hu Shan to enter the Yu Residence to teach her.

Mr. Hu Shan had been in the Yu Residence for seven to eight years.

Now that her grandmother had passed away, no matter how big a favor she owed, it was time to consider whether to stay or leave,

Ms. Ye was slightly stunned. She vaguely understood what Yu Youyao meant.

Indeed!

Yu Youyao changed the topic and said, "I also plan to start a women's school in Youzhou. I wonder if you're interested?"

It wasn't a sudden interest to start a women's school.

Instead, she had considered it for a long time.

It did not matter if a woman became an official or not. What was important was that studying more could broaden her horizons and breadth of mind. In this world, the restrictions and rules on women would be less strict. With a broader mind, there would be more paths to choose, and more ways to live.

She just hoped that a woman could use the power of knowledge to make her life better.

Ms. Ye's hands trembled. As a woman, she had felt the inferiority of women to men and suddenly understood what Yu Youyao was thinking.

This was a kind of like-minded agreement.

They both thought the same way.

After all, she was different from Yu Youyao. Compared to her, she had more scruples. "I signed a seven-year long contract with the Yu Residence. There's still a year left."

Yu Youyao was a little disappointed. This was Ms. Ye's excuse.

However, she could understand.

Ms. Ye was a divorcee. Even though she had become a female teacher, it was only limited to the inner residence. To start a women's school, she needed to really leave the inner residence.

Ms. Ye would also be criticized.

If Ms. Ye was alone, with her personality, she would definitely dare to let go.

But she wasn't.

She still had the huge Ye family behind her.

The largest literary family in the Great Zhou Dynasty.

To Ms. Ye, Madam Ye of Linjiang was the reason why she dared to become a female teacher after her divorce.

This was also her baggage.

Yu Youyao held Ms. Ye's hand and placed a letter in her hand. "This is a travel pass to Youzhou. It was personally signed by King Yue Fei. In the future, if there's a chance, Ms. Ye can use this travel pass to go to the Yue Fei's

Residence in the capital first. At that time, they will escort you to Youzhou." She did not want Ms. Ye to go to Youzhou just to run a female school.

Most importantly, the Great Zhou Dynasty was about to be in chaos. After all, the capital was a chaotic place. She was her teacher so she naturally did not want Ms. Ye to be in danger.

Nis. Ye took the letter and solemnly put it away. "Thank you!"

She was not a fool. This travel pass was undoubtedly her disciple's greatest guarantee in the capital. No matter what, Youzhou would always be a way out.

In the afternoon, Nanny Xu brought some servants who were willing to leave the capital with Yu Youyao and went to the ship to settle down first.

Tao Da's family included Chun Xiao and Old Madam Sun's family included Dong Mei. They were all children of the family. Old Madam Yu had long taught them well. The people she had arranged for Yu Youyao were all taking care of her, so they definitely had to follow her.

Qiu Xing and Xia Tao had signed death contracts. Their lives had nothing to do with their families, so they were willing to follow her.

Liu'er couldn't bear to part with Old Madam Ma and didn't want to leave. However, she had been filial to Old Madam Ma for the past few years. Out of consideration for their relationship, she persuaded her to leave with Yu Youyao.

On the other hand, Qin Xin, who did not have much of a presence in the Jade Courtyard, did not follow her because she was worried about her family.

Most of the people from the Jade Courtyard left.

The next morning, Xie Jingliu arrived at the Yu Residence,

Yu Youyao brought Yu Shansi to bid farewell to his elders and got into the Xie family's carriage, heading all the way to the dock.

Yin Huaixi rode his horse.

The large three-story ship stopped at the dock. Just as Yu Youyao was about to step onto the deck, she seemed to hear someone calling her.

Yu Youyao subconsciously turned around and saw Qi Sinian wearing a purple cloak with a fur collar that reached her waist. She was riding a horse and chasing after the dock. When she reached the dock, she jumped off the horse and waved at Yu Youyao before striding over.

Yu Youyao quickly went up to her.

Qi Sinian hugged Yu Youyao and patted her back hard. "Take care and take care."

These words expressed her reluctance to part.

Yu Youyao's eyes turned red as she nodded vigorously. "Take care too!"

Qi Sinian untied the bag on her back and stuffed it into Yu Youyao's hand. "Hurry up and leave. I also stole a horse from the stable at home. Remember to write to me in the future.'

Yu Youyao sniffed. "Okay!'

Qi Sinian turned around elegantly and waved at Yu Youyao. Only when Qi Sinian's back view disappeared from the dock did Yu Youyao calm down and go to the deck.

Yin Huaixi stood at the bow and reached out to her.

Yu Youyao smiled and placed her hand in her cousin's.

Yin Huaixi tightened his grip and pulled Yu Youyao onto the boat.

As soon as Yu Youyao boarded the ship, she felt the ship shake slightly. Her feet couldn't land on solid ground, and her body swayed as she fell into Yin

Huaixi's arms..

Chapter 744 - 744: Warship

Knowing that Yu Youyao had boarded the ship, Xie Jingliu quickly came out of the ship and saw the man and woman leaning against each other on the deck. He immediately narrowed his eyes and stared at "Zhou Linghuai". His eyes almost spewed fire as he placed his hand on his cousin's waist.

If he had only accidentally helped her up, how could he have hugged her for so long? His hand was on her waist, not to support her, but to hold her hand.

This dog, Zhou Linghuai, clearly had ill intentions towards his little cousin.

Xie Jingliu coughed hard, as if he was afraid that no one else could hear him.

Hearing the cough, Yu Youyao subconsciously took a step back, but this was her first time riding a ship. The ship swayed slightly, and her body couldn't help but tilt. She was on the verge of collapse.

Yin Huaixi sighed softly and pulled her into his arms. "This is your first time on a boat. You'll feel a little dizzy at first. Be careful."

Seeing that he was so brazen, Xie Jingliu was furious. There was still a handsome and carefree smile on his face, and he kept reminding himself to stay calm in his heart!

He couldn't be angry and scare her little cousin!

Only then did he barely maintain his smile.

"This is Cousin's first time taking a boat, so she definitely won't be used to it. The room has already been arranged. Why don't you go back to your room and rest for a while?" Xie Jingliu's expression paused for a moment. He looked at the arm around his little cousin's waist, but he was still smiling. "There are too many people at the pier. Young Master Zhou, can you let go of my cousin first?"

When his great-grandfather was around, he was an obedient grandson and would always follow behind and bow respectfully.

Now that his great-grandfather was gone, he became dishonest.

He actually dared to have such thoughts about his cousin.

Beauty would be the death of him.

There were no examples such marriages in the Xie Residence and the Yu Residence. He could not marry his cousin unless he was not a member of the Zhou family.

Yin Huaixi knew that he couldn't fool Xie Jingliu, nor did he plan to. It would take at least half a month to take a boat to Quanzhou. They were on the same boat and would see each other often. As time passed everything would be exposed.

Was Yin Huaixi that kind of person who couldn't see the light of day?

NO!

Yu Youyao blushed and came out of Yin Huaixi's arms. She explained softly, "This is the first time I'm on a boat. I-I'm not used to it. After I got on the boat, I kept feeling that my feet isn't on solid ground. My heart was feels very uneasy. Once the boat swayed slightly, I panicked."

Yin Huaixi was worried that she would lose her balance and fall, so he was still holding her arm.

Xie Jingliu raised his voice and shouted, "Bi Zhu!"

A young maidservant, who was about eleven or twelve years old and was wearing a green jacket dress, quickly walked out of the ship and bowed to Xie Jingliu. "Hello, Young Master!"

Xie Jingliu pointed at Bi Zhu and said, "Grandmother chose two maidservants for you. This is Bi Zhu, and the other one is called Cui Zhu. She should be cleaning up the room now." As if he was worried that she would misunderstand, he explained, "Grandmother knows that you don't lack anyone to serve you. It's just that this is the first time you've taken a boat and will stay on the water for half a month. Bi Zhu and Cui Zhu are both fishing girls. They've followed Father to the sea since they were young. To them, the boat is no different from flat land.'

It was also the first time the people in front of her had taken a boat, so it was inevitable that they would feel uncomfortable. It was best to send two people who were used to sailing on the water to serve her.

Yu Youyao was very touched. "Grandmother is so thoughtful."

Xie Jingliu smiled and instructed Bi Zhu, "Meet Young Miss. Then..." He narrowed his eyes and looked at the hand that was still holding his little cousin's arm. He gritted his teeth. "Help Young Miss back to her room to rest."

Bi Zhu agreed and respectfully stepped forward to bow to Yu Youyao before supporting her.

Yin Huaixi could only retract his arm.

Bi Zhu had the strength to steadily help Yu Youyao around the boat.

As soon as she left, Xie Jingliu sneered. He opened the fan in his hand with a whoosh, and a small blade popped out of the fan's arc, rushing towards the other party's face bluntly.

The fan attacked at lightning speed. Yin Huaixi turned around and raised his hand to block Xie Jingliu's wrist.

Xie Jingliu's wrist was agile as he avoided his grip.

The two of them exchanged blows. There was a tacit understanding between them. They did not use their fists and feet, only their martial arts.

In the blink of an eye, more than ten moves were exchanged.

The more Xie Jingliu fought, the more shocked he became. He had practiced this move since he was young, but how could a sickly young master like "Zhou Linghuai" have such powerful skills?

Dragon-entwining Hands was easy to learn but difficult to master. Anyone who could practice to this level had excellent foundation.

It was definitely not something that a weak scholar like Zhou Linghuai could learn.

At the thought of this, Xie Jingliu's heart sank. He closed his fan and took a step back. "Let's talk?"

Yin Huaixi nodded.

The two of them entered the ship one after another. Xie Jingliu led Yin Huaixi to the top floor. The cold wind howled angrily in the wind, and their clothes fluttered.

Xie Jingliu went straight to the point. "Three years ago, after I left the capital, I personally went to Youzhou. The young master of the Zhou family, who is in charge of Youzhou, is weak and lives in seclusion. His reputation isn't revealed, but as long as you have the intention, it's not impossible to find out about him. Niany people in the Zhou family know about him."

Back then, when he saw that Zhou Linghuai was close to his cousin, he felt worried.

After the matter in the capital was over, he personally made a trip over.

At that time, he did not doubt "Zhou Linghuai's" identity. He suspected that "Zhou Linghuai" had entered the capital for a purpose and wanted to test his character.

The news he had heard was probably similar to Zhou Linghuai in person, so he did not suspect anything else.

At that time, if he had been more meticulous and drawn a portrait of "Zhou Linghuai", he would have known if the person in front of him was a human or a ghost.

Xie Jingliu had taken the initiative with just one sentence, indicating that he knew a lot about "Zhou Linghuai." Don't even think about using "Zhou Linghuai" to fool him.

Yin Huaixi chuckled and took out the yellow jade ring from his pocket, throwing it to Xie Jingliu.

"So it's you." Xie Jingliu sneered. He reached out and grabbed the jade ring. Without even looking at it, he threw the jade ring back. "One person plays two roles. There aren't as many characters on a stage as you."

Yin Huaixi rubbed his nose.

Xie Jingliu's voice was very cold. "Does my cousin know your identity?" Yin Huaixi nodded. "I didn't hide it from her. She knew about it three years ago."

Thinking of the scene of his cousin leaning against Yin Huaixi's chest on the deck just now, Xie Jingliu's eyelids He had a bad feeling in his heart, as if his cousin was about to fly away.

Xie Jingliu couldn't smile anymore. He glanced at Yin Huaixi from the corner of his eye. "King Li of Zhou has already been rehabilitated. You've been conferred the title of King of the North by Yue Fei. Instead of guarding the

North, why are you still staying in the capital?"

He gritted his teeth and said the last few words, making him panic.

The dignified King of the North, Yue Fei, did not stay in the North. Instead, he stayed in the Yu Residence and coaxed his cousin. Everyone knew his intentions..

Chapter 745 - 745: Killing the Goose that Lays the Golden Eggs

Under Xie Jingliu's murderous gaze, Yin Huaixi's scalp went numb. He wasn't afraid of Xie Jingliu, but he was weak. His brother-in-law was born to cause trouble.

"Old Madam Yu gave me a token before she died." He immediately took out the token and handed it to Xie Jingliu.

This time, he didn't throw it out.

It wasn't that he wanted to project one's shortcomings on someone. If Xie Jingliu deliberately didn't accept it and the token shattered, it would be a waste.

Xie Jingliu's face darkened. No wonder Yin Huaixi dared to brazenly "disrespect"! his cousin in front of him. It turned out that he had the "golden token arrow" in his hand!

He reached out to take the token, and the two of them exchanged blows a few times. Yin Huaixi held the token tightly.

Xie Jingliu took a deep breath. "Let go!"

Not only did Yin Huaixi not let go, but he also said eloquently, "That won't do. What if you accidentally lose your grip and break the token?"

Xie Jingliu felt a lump in his throat. "Am I such a person?"

Yin Huaixi glanced at him from the corner of his eye. "One can never be too careful. It doesn't matter if you're such a person or not." Xie Jingliu took a deep breath and had to calm down.

He had to calm down.

H-how could he calm down? Before he could warm up to his cousin, she was already about to become someone else's.

He couldn't calm down.

Xie Jingliu was exasperated. "If you don't let go, how am I supposed to see it clearly? You said that this is a token, so it's really a token? You could have casually taken out an item and lied to me. If you say that this is a token, do I have to believe you? Do you think I'm a fool?"

To a family, a token had an important inheritance meaning. As long as they saw the token clearly and went to the Yu Residence to ask about it, they would know if it was real.

Yin Huaixi hesitated for a moment.

He actually dared to hesitate!! Xie Jingliu said angrily, "If you don't let go, I'll use more strength."

A jade object would shatter with a little force.

Yin Huaixi quickly said, "Open your hand. I'll put it in yours."

Xie Jingliu gritted his teeth in anger and opened his palm.

Only then did Yin Huaixi carefully place the token on Xie Jingliu's palm. He did not forget to instruct, "Be careful. Yao Yao also has the same token. This is a pair. Don't break it."

Xie Jingliu suspected that these words were really meant to provoke him!

At that moment, he really wanted to break this token. If he accidentally broke it, it wouldn't be a pair.

Therefore, Yin Huaixi's worry was not unreasonable.

Under Yin Huaixi's bright eyes, Xie Jingliu took a deep breath and gradually calmed down. He carefully examined the jade pendant. "This is a family heirloom of the Xie family. Auntie has carried it with her since she was young. It's carved from a piece of red and yellow Hetian jade. It's as red as blood, as beautiful as cinnabar, as yellow as pride, and as soft as fat. It's a rare piece in the world.'

The Jade Theory recorded the color of jade. "In this day and age, green and white are common, black is less common, and yellow is definitely rare." Red and yellow were colors that were definitely unique.

When Yin Huaixi heard this, he knew that Old Madam Yu was a reliable person. She had given him the "token" without any hesitation. Since the double fish round pendant was so important, his marriage with Yu Youyao was more than settled.

There was no need to worry if someone in the Xie family did not like this token. No one would accidentally shake their hands, not hold it well or accidentally drop it.

Xie Jingliu handed the token back to Yin Huaixi with a complicated expression. "Why didn't you mention this when Great-Grandfather entered the capital previously?"

Yin Huaixi said calmly, "It wasn't good to reveal my identity previously."

Xie Jingliu sneered. "So, you're sending my cousin to Quanzhou this time and confessing to my great-grandfather?"

Yin Huaixi lowered his eyes and rubbed the embroidered fish token in his hand. "In the previous dynasty, there was a silk merchant with the surname Shen. How similar is the current situation of the Xie Residence to him? Marquis or king, thousands of riders returned to Mang Mountain. When a cunning rabbit dies, its lackeys will be cooked. When all the birds are gone, a good bow will be hidden deep in the mountains."

Xie Jingliu pursed his lips and said nothing.

Yin Huaixi pointed at the ragged and disheveled laborers at the dock. “The drought is far more serious than the flood. It’s not even October, but it’s already winter in the north. The commoners will face a desperate situation of hunger and cold. The Imperial Court’s disaster relief is only a temporary relief. They’re lucky to survive the winter. What about next year?”

Xie Jingliu suddenly closed his eyes.

What about next year?

If the drought continued next year, where would the Imperial Court get the money to fund the disaster relief?

How were the commoners going to survive the situation of the farmers starving to death next year?

The root of everything was that the treasury was empty.

Yin Huaixi sighed softly. “In the previous dynasty, Zhejiang’s state policy of converting rice plantations into mulberry plantations blew up the embankments and flooded the fields, resulting in unbearable consequences.

There were also officials of the Imperial Court who joined forces with the local merchants to implement a political campaign selling farmland for food. It was actually buying and annexing the land of the commoners at a low price, angering the emperor. In order to appease the emperor and make up for the consequences, disaster relief and filling the deficit of the treasury became the top priority.”

Xie Jingliu slowly opened his eyes. “Regardless of whether he’s loyal or traitorous, only Merchant Shen has a huge sum of money to fill the deficit in the treasury.”

The Xie Residence was also sensible. In the end, it was the winds howl around the highest peaks. “The Xie Residence helped the Imperial Court open the sea ban. This is a merit, but in the emperor’s opinion, the Imperial Court’s

merchant ships rely on the Xie Residence to get rich, but the Xie Residence’s wealth doesn’t belong to the Imperial Court.”

Compared to the wealth of the country, business was already a source of trouble.

“In recent years, the pirates often plundered merchant ships at sea, and the Imperial Court suffered a lot. Previously, the pirates colluded and invaded the southeast coast wantonly. Ye Hanyuan temporarily stabilized the situation, but after this incident, it’s not so easy for maritime trade to return to its former prosperity.”

Yin Huaixi did not finish his sentence, but Xie Jingliu already understood.

The merchant ships of the Imperial Court relied on the Xie family to make a fortune. The Imperial Court obtained huge benefits, and the Xie family still had to pay a large sum of trade taxes to the Imperial Court. This was a win-win situation.

However, a goose that laid golden eggs could not lay eggs.

The Imperial Court had no choice but to kill the goose that laid the golden eggs.

Previously, it was because Yu Youyao had donated a million taels of silver to the Imperial Court that the dog emperor had temporarily looked at the corrupt officials in Zhejiang.

What about next year?

Yin Huaixi continued, "A few days after the dirty money from Zhejiang enters the treasury, it has to be used for disaster relief again. When the treasury runs out of money next year, they can only raid the Xie Residence to make up for the shortfall. The Xie Residence has so many merchant ships, so it's only logical that they belong to the Imperial Court. The business of maritime trade will be monopolized by the Imperial Court. Isn't that wonderful?"

Xie Jingliu said sarcastically, "The Xie family's ancestral teachings state that if one doesn't become an official in the world, wealth under the heavens should be obtained and used by the people. A few years ago, Great-Grandfather was already consolidating the family's business. Every year, he took the initiative to pay an additional 15% of the merchant tax to the Imperial Court. In the past few years, there have been natural and man-made disasters. The Xie family hasn't been idle either. They've used silver to hoard food for disaster relief.."

Chapter 746 - 746: Forced to Rebel

"The Imperial Court wants to raise money for disaster relief, and the Xie Residence is also the first to bear the brunt."

"Great-Grandfather took the initiative to contact the merchants in the north and south regions and persuade them to help the Imperial Court relieve the disaster."

"Without the help of my Xie family, how could that despicable person, Yu Zongzheng, have resolved the water problem in Zhejiang?"

Yin Huaixi smiled faintly. "Shen Jushang's final crime was to buy food privately to relieve the disaster under the guise of the Weaving Bureau. The merchants were in chaos and were severely punished." Shen Jushang was heartless as a businessman, so his death was not a pity. However, the Xie family was benevolent. If he had to die, he still had to die. "If Yu Zongshen was still in the cabinet, the Imperial Court would have restrained them. However, he is mourning in the clan now, and the cabinet is not peaceful."

The dog emperor had long cast his gaze on Quanzhou.

However, since he had caused trouble in Zhejiang, the dog emperor's anger was directed at the corrupt officials in Zhejiang.

Yu Zongshen had joined forces with the Qingliu of Zhejiang to reorganize the government wantonly and seize the dirty money. It also made the dog emperor feel that there were benefits so that the Xie family could be safe.

However, this was not a long-term solution.

Xie Jingliu laughed silently. His laughter was a little desolate. "The treasury has always been deficient. They either have designs on the commoners and want to plunder their wealth, or have

designs on the merchants. Today, there is a man-made disaster. If they have designs on the commoners, how can the Xie family protect themselves? Everything our Xie family does for the Imperial Court and the commoners isn't self-preservation, but self-destruction.'

Even if the Xie family lost all their wealth, would the Imperial Court believe it?

It was just that desire was difficult to satisfy.

Yin Huaixi continued, "The emperor's body is poisoned and he hasn't been to court for a few days. All the Daoists in the Heavenly Hall have been 'invited' into the Chenggan Palace. Concubine Lan of the Lanyi Palace will temporarily be in charge of the phoenix seal and manage all the matters in the palace."

He deliberately emphasized the word "invited".

The secrets revealed were so secretive that it was terrifying.

Xie Jingliu's expression suddenly turned solemn. Not to mention the Xie Residence, even the capital did not reveal any news from the palace. The emperor was obsessed with Dao techniques. Not to mention not going to court

for three to five days, he could even stay away for half a month or even three

to five months. Who would have thought that there was actually such a hidden turbulence?

Yin Huaixi sighed slightly. "The emperor won't be able to survive the new year. On the surface, Concubine Xu is imprisoned, but the Xu family is powerful.

Concubine Lan is in charge of the harem and is deeply trusted by the emperor.

The Empress of the Central Palace has been sick in the palace for a long time. The Fourth Prince is not lowly and is hiding his strength. The battle for the position of heir will cause a bloodbath in the palace."

Xie Jingliu understood the deeper meaning. "The Empress and the Fourth Prince..."

He suddenly understood the crux of the matter.

There wasn't a son in the Central Palace and the Fourth Prince's biological mother had died in childbirth. In the future, when the Fourth Prince ascended the throne, the current Empress Dowager would be the Empress Dowager.

This dynasty valued legitimate wife and elders.

The first wife was always prioritised.

The Ning Clan had been destroyed, but as long as the daughter of the Ning Clan was forever the first wife, the influence of the Ning Clan would never really disappear.

Madam Ning was the same as the Zhenguo Marquis Residence. They were both old nobles from the time of their great ancestors and had very powerful forces in the army. Looking at the old generals in the court, how many of them had been promoted by Duke Ning in the past?

While Concubine Lan and Imperial Concubine Xu were fighting to the death, the Empress of the Central Palace had already secretly gathered her strength.

Yin Huaixi nodded. "If I'm not wrong, the Zhenguo Marquis Residence is the descendant of the emperor. If they support the fourth prince's ascension, then the fourth prince will be legitimate. The second and third princes will become rebels. This suits the position of the Zhenguo Marquis Residence's royalists." He had heard Yu Youyao mention it before.

Yu Youyao would have married into the Zhenguo Marquis Residence at the age of 14 and died at the age of 17.

At that time, Song Mingzhao was already the Marquis of Zhenguo and had power over the court.

Thinking about it, Song Mingzhao was only in his early twenties. Even if the Zhenguo Marquis Residence supported a new emperor, it wouldn't be his turn to be in the limelight.

If Song Mingzhao had obtained a scholarly title in the earlier exam, he could have given his support to his chosen heir. Besides, they are descendents of the imperial family. With the wealth of the Xie family, it would have really been like a mantis chasing after a cicada but not knowing that an oriole is behind wanting to eat it. In the end, he would have won this battle for the throne.

The Xie Residence would have died in Song Mingzhao's hands.

All of this made sense.

There was a reason why he had such a guess.

If Song Mingzhao wanted to nurture Yu Youyao into a medicinal catalyst, he wouldn't be able to get past the Xie family.

Once there was news that Song Mingzhao was involved in shamanic matters, the Zhenguo Marquis Residence would be destroyed. Song Mingzhao would definitely not leave any future trouble for himself. Eliminating the Xie family was his first step.

Only by making Yu Youyao lose all her backing could she be at his mercy.

At the thought of this, Yin Huaixi frowned.

It was just an absurd nightmare. Why was he inexplicably concerned?

Every time he thought of what had happened to Yu Youyao in her nightmare, his heart would be filled with pain.

Xie Jingliu frowned. "The situation in the harem is actually already so serious. What about the vassal lords?"

HE was really sharp. Yin Huaixi smiled and said, "The capital is in chaos. It's time for the vassal lords to rebel. It's only logical to raise an army and start a proper war."

Xie Jingliu was a little shocked. "How can you be sure that the vassal lords will definitely rebel? Not to mention that the three camps of the capital have more than 100,000 elites guarding them, and 50,000 imperial guards surrounding the palace. The total number of troops in the capital is close to 300,000. This is the most elite army of the Great Zhou Dynasty. Moreover, you, King Yue Fei, are in the north. Can you really stand by and do nothing?"

All these years, why hadn't the vassal lords made a move?

On one hand, the capital's troops were strong, but on the other hand, they were afraid of the hundreds of thousands of You soldiers in the North.

The 500,000 You soldiers were summoned to the capital to coordinate with each other. They could advance and defend against external enemies, and they could retreat to help the capital. Therefore, before King Li of Zhou, the North did not have any vassal states. In order to prevent the North from becoming a problem, the Imperial Court often changed the generals guarding it.

The reason why the emperor was at ease with King Li of Zhou.

It was because in the past, King Li of Zhou was not important. His only use was his status as a prince. It was a natural deterrent to the generals guarding the North.

The reason why the emperor was at ease with Yin Huaixi now.

It was because Yin Huaixi's crippled leg made him weak and easy to control.

King Yue Fei was deeply indebted to the emperor. The vassal lords were crazy to rebel.

Yin Huaixi said casually, "If they don't rebel, we'll force them to rebel!"

Xie Jingliu held his breath. "What do you mean?"

Yin Huaixi smiled faintly. "Do you still remember that three years ago, the

King of Liang sent his heir into the capital without an edict?"

Xie Jingliu gasped. He was the one who had sent this news to the capital. How could he not remember? From that time, he knew that the King of Liang would rebel sooner or later.

In the past few years, the Xie family had already cut off all business dealings with the southern border. Some of the businesses under their name had also been transferred from Fujian and they focused on the northwest.

It was just in case.

Yin Huaixi chuckled. "Our emperor is suspicious by nature. He can't even tolerate his brothers who risked their lives for him.. Do you think he can tolerate a vassal lord overstepping the emperor's authority and letting King Liang off so easily? Do you think anyone had the ability to vouch for a vassal lord in front of the emperor at that time?"

Chapter 747 - 747: Must Get It

Without thinking, Xie Jingliu said, "Marquis of Weining!" After saying that, he added, "The former Imperial Consort Lu's maiden family, the Weining Marquis Residence, was later implicated in King Li of Zhou's case and was demoted to Ning Yuanbo. Not long ago, he was implicated in the case of fraud in the examination. His entire family was imprisoned. He's still locked up in the imperial prison. He hasn't been tried or convicted."

Yin Huaixi's smile faded slightly. "The court officials and the vassal lords colluded with each other. Their crimes were complicit. The Imperial Court punished them. Do you think King Liang will rebel or not?"

He had been keeping Ning Yuanbo's family around for this moment.

Xie Jingliu understood. “Now, not only is the Xie Residence facing a threat from the Imperial Court, but Quanzhou is the only way to enter the capital. Although it’s far from Liangzhou, it’s in sync. On the other hand, Quanzhou’s trade is prosperous and it’s a rich place in the southeast. If I were the King of Liang, I would definitely capture Quanzhou first and make preparations war.

When there are enough backup supplies, I can attack or retreat to defend.”

This news really caught the Xie family off guard. As the old saying went, one can never be too careful.

The Xie Residence had reacted to protect themselves, but they had never expected that the King of Liang would be forced to rebel.

If Yin Huaixi hadn’t reminded the Xie Residence, the Xie Residence would definitely suffer a calamity.

All of this was Yin Huaixi’s scheme, but the Xie family could not blame him. The King of Liang would rebel sooner or later. This was the calamity of the Xie family. Whether they would dodge the bullet or be consigned to eternal damnation, it had nothing to do with anyone.

Yin Huaixi smiled but said nothing.

Xie Jingliu’s gaze suddenly turned sharp. “It’s time for you to say that the vassal lords are rebelling. You, Yin Huaixi, are one of them. You’re forcing the Xie family to make a choice by placing the situation in front of me.”

The Xie family had no choice.

Yin Huaixi shook his head. “I won’t force the Xie family to make a choice.”

However, Xie Jingliu smiled sarcastically. “You sending my cousin to

Quanzhou is just a cover. Your real goal is to let the Xie family bring her to the North.” He sneered and finally realized that the person in front of him was the son of the famous King Li of Zhou, King Yue Fei. “You used a token to tie my cousin, and even the entire Xie family, to your side. Yin Huaixi, you’re really scheming.”

The cold wind on the top floor of the ship screamed, and the words that had just left his mouth were instantly swept away by the wind.

Yin Huaixi’s voice suddenly deepened. “The Xie family is indeed part of my plan, but...”

Xie Jingliu sneered. “Is this your goal for getting close to my cousin?” He grabbed Yin Huaixi’s lapel and glared at him. “Why did you implicate my cousin? She’s so innocent!”

He raised his fist and punched Yin Huaixi in the face.

Yin Huaixi took a step back, and blood flowed from the corner of his mouth.

was in the wrong for hiding my identity from the Xie family. I owe you this punch. If it weren’t for Yao Yao, would I care about the life and death of the Xie family? The dog emperor reorganized Zhejiang and confiscated a large sum of money. This sum of money is only enough for disaster relief. Do you think that the wealth of Zhejiang is nothing?”

Xie Jingliu said in a flash, “Ye Hanyuan didn’t go to Zhejiang to stabilize the situation in Zhejiang at all. Instead, he went to take a step forward and stir up the situation in Zhejiang. He took advantage of the chaos to control the entire

Jiangnan, Jiangbei, South Zhili, and Fujian. The Imperial Court worked hard to reorganize the government in Zhejiang to only receive a hard-earned sum of money. The most important thing fell into your hands!”

This way, the entire central and southern hinterland was in Yin Huaixi’s hands.

Was Yin Huaixi short of money?

Xie Jingliu gasped. “Yin Huaixi, you...”

Yin Huaixi stared at him and said word by word, ‘I must get it!’”

Xie Jingliu was furious.

However, Yin Huaixi did not look at him. “She has been living in the Yu Residence for more than three years. For more than a thousand days and nights, I was the one who accompanied her to grow up bit by bit. When she wasn’t doing well in her studies, I guided her in her studies. When her handwriting wasn’t good, I guided her in practicing her calligraphy. When she despised the role of household manager and was tired, I helped her come up with ideas. When she liked incense medicine, I gathered all the wonders in the world. When she was unhappy, I coaxed her to be happy. When she was happy, I was also the one who shared it with her...”

Xie Jingliu had mixed feelings. Yin Huaixi’s words only indicated one thing. He and his little cousin had long overstepped the boundaries of men and women, as well as etiquette and rules.

All of this was with Old Madam Yu’s tacit approval.

It was also under his little cousin’s tacit approval.

Yin Huaixi smiled. “My family was destroyed and I was a disabled person, struggling to live. However, I still remember that on the first day I entered the Yu Residence, she held my hand and asked me if my leg still hurt.”

Xie Jingliu was stunned when he heard this. Wasn’t this an ordinary sentence? Why did Yin Huaixi take it to heart on their first meeting?

This was a very ordinary sentence. Why did it leave such a strong impression the moment they met? Yin Huaixi also found it funny. “Ever since I became disabled, the people around me have kept quiet about my leg. No one has ever brazenly asked me if my leg hurts in front of me.”

At that time, it was as if a bolt of lightning had suddenly shot into his heart, causing it to go numb.

An unfamiliar emotion arose that did not feel good. Just as he was about to expel this strange feeling, he noticed that the little girl was squatting in front of him and raising her little neck to ask this question. Her eyes were bright like the stars in the sky, making him dizzy. For some reason, he answered her.

At that time, he did not think much of this scene.

However, later on, he couldn't help but recall the first time they had met. This little girl, who had been acknowledged by her family as having a

mischievous and stupid personality, was actually as pure as glass. She was also very good at observing appearances.

Even though it was the first time they had met, she had quietly helped him out three times.

Although it was meager, this pure kindness had given him a good impression.

This, he thought, was the fate between them.

Although Xie Jingliu couldn't feel the same way about Yin Huaixi, he was a talented person that Mr. Xian Yun had mentioned. There was an innate pride in his bones. Even if he fell into the mud and was covered in dirt, he didn't need anyone's sympathy or even pity.

The sympathy and pity of the world were too cheap.

It was superficial kindness.

Behind this superficial kindness, why didn't she have a "strange" and "different" gaze?

With her honest personality, even though Yin Huaixi was disabled, she could still treat him calmly and in fairness. This made her seem even more precious.

Yin Huaixi was smiling. "She was the one who helped me up from the mud bit by bit. She prepared medicinal cuisine every day to nourish my body. Every time I had a leg problem, she was the one who worked hard to study all kinds of incense recipes and medicinal oil to help me relieve the pain. She was also the one who asked the Xie family for help and found the main medicine to nourish my body..."

Every word and sentence was an inseparable entanglement between Yin

Huaixi and his cousin. Xie Jingliu did not want to admit it, but he had to admit that Yin Huaixi had done better than the Xie family in the past three years.

Yin Huaixi replaced the Xie family and did what they couldn't do.

He had sincerely protected his younger cousin for more than three years..

Chapter 748 - 748: Arriving in Quanzhou

Yin Huaixi rubbed the token in his hand. "We can't be separated anymore. I have to be with her eventually. Wherever she is, I'll be there. If the mortal world separates us, we'll break through the barrier of the world. If distance separates us, we'll cross mountains and rivers. The Xie family is just one of the obstacles to me. I'm not afraid of obstacles, but I'm afraid that her heart isn't dedicated to me.'

Xie Jingliu sneered. "You want to tell me that you're worried that my cousin will be loyal to the Xie family and not you after she goes to Quanzhou, so you asked Old Madam Yu for a token to shackle the marriage between the two of you?" He took a deep breath. "You should save these words for my great-grandfather after you go to Quanzhou!"

If Yin Huaixi was really sincere to his cousin, wasn't he most worried that it would be difficult to explain his status to his great- grandfather?

He analyzed that the Imperial Court was killing the goose that laid the golden eggs. Once the King of Liang rebelled, the Xie family would be annihilated. How could Yin Huaixi dare to joke in front of his great- grandfather when he was forcing the Xie Residence to make a decision?

He could even misunderstand that Yin Huaixi had deliberately approached his cousin with ulterior motives.

Could it be that her great- grandfather wouldn't think the same?

Yin Huaixi knew that there were some things that he shouldn't say. If he said too much, he would anger his great- grandfather, so he deliberately looked for him to say it. As a member of the Xie family, he was concerned about the survival of the Xie family. When he heard this, would he not discuss it with his family?

When he said it, the meaning was completely different from Yin Huaixi saying it himself.

After Yin Huaixi explained his identity and revealed the token, his great- grandfather would definitely ask him about Yin Huaixi's attitude towards his cousin. After all, in the entire Xie Residence, he was the only one who interacted with Yin Huaixi the most.

How would he answer then?

Should he mention what Yin Huaixi had said to him to his great- grandfather?

He was really stupid! Yin Huaixi was a real dog!

Yin Huaixi rubbed his nose. "Do you really think that my punch was for nothing?!"

Xie Jingliu's fists hardened, and he felt that his punch just now had been too light. "Dog!

Yin Huaixi pretended not to understand. "I've never hidden anything about me from Yao Yao. If Yao Yao finds out that you punched me just now, do you think her heart will ache..."

Xie Jingliu's fist itched. He really wanted to punch him in the face again. "What a real dog!"

Yin Huaixi added on. "When Old Madam Yu handed the token to me, she asked me not to tell Yao Yao about this for the time being. In the future, when Yao Yao and I are in love, we'll talk about marriage."

This time, Xie Jingliu really believed that Yin Huaixi was sincere to his little cousin. However, based on this alone, he felt that he was tired of living and was asking for a beating.

Yin Huaixi changed the topic. "If you don't agree, I can get Yao Yao to personally discuss it with Old Master Xie. A calamity is about to happen to the

Xie Residence, so Yao Yao definitely won't sit back and do nothing."

Xie Jingliu couldn't help but curse, "How dare you? You're really a dog. I don't think you should be called Yin Huaixi. You should just change your name to Dog Yin! "

If Yin Huaixi really wanted to implicate his little cousin, he wouldn't have specially looked for him to talk.

To be able to say this, he must be a real dog.

If you weren't my future third uncle, I would have offended you and beaten you to death. Of course, Yin Huaixi only dared to think about it in his heart. Xie Jingliu's expression was a little complicated. The open space on the top floor of the ship could be seen from afar. It was a majestic and strict palace wall.

He tilted his head and glanced at Yin Huaixi. Yin Huaixi lowered his head and rubbed the token in his hand with a very focused expression. He opened his mouth but swallowed the words that were about to come out.

Forget it!

There were some things that he shouldn't have said in the first place.

After going to Quanzhou, Yin Huaixi had to give his great-grandfather an explanation.

The room on the ship was very big. Considering that Yu Youyao was still in mourning, the decorations inside were elegant and comfortable. Cui Zhu was a little older, about 14 or 15 years old. She looked ordinary and very stable.

After seeing Yu Youyao, she explained eloquently, "Young Miss has been conferred the title of County Head. According to the rules, there are four maidservants in the house, six second-in-charge maidservants, and twelve young maidservants. There are a few people in the courtyard. When Young Miss goes to Quanzhou, the people in the house who serve her might also follow. Old Madam is also worried that Young Miss won't have enough people in front of her and will suffer.'

Yu Youyao nodded. "Auntie Xu in my house used to come from the palace. She was also the one who arranged the people serving me. Let Xia Tao take you to find her.'

Bi Zhu and Cui Zhu heaved a sigh of relief and left the room obediently.

Young Miss's attitude was gentle, and when she spoke, she spoke gently and unhurriedly. She should be an easy-going master.

Not long after, Auntie Xu came over. "Your grandmother has chosen an excellent person. She's a servant of the Xie family. She's been taught the rules and etiquette. She must have specially found a nanny from the palace."

"Cui Zhu is steady, so she'll stay by your side to serve you. There's a huge difference in customs and rules between Quanzhou and the capital. You have to have someone older and more steady to guide and take care of you."

"Cui Zhu is a little young, so she's temporarily arranged to be in the tea room. After arriving in Quanzhou, what you'll usually eat and drink will be different from the capital. With Cui Zhu around, it'll be safer."

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

Auntie Xu held her hand. "Your grandmother has thought it through. With these two maidservants around, you and the people around you can know a little about the situation in Quanzhou in advance. You won't be in the dark when you're there."

Yu Youyao ate some medicinal porridge. After another hour, the boat finally sailed.

Next, from time to time, Cui Zhu would mention some of Quanzhou's customs and favors. She also prepared some books for her to pass the time.

At first, Yu Youyao was a little seasick.

Fortunately, she had brought a doctor along on the ship and taken medicine.

In addition, Cui Zhu and Bi Zhu served her well. In about three to five days, Yu Youyao gradually adapted to life on the ship.

Xia Tao's seasickness was more serious, and she fell sick in less than two days.

With a doctor taking care of her, there was not much of a problem.

When the merchant ship arrived at the Quanzhou pier, it was already October 20th.

The weather in Quanzhou was warmer, and the weather in October was no different from autumn in the capital.

As she wanted to see her elders, Cui Zhu helped Yu Youyao wash up again. She changed into a light apricot-colored brocade skirt with a slanted top. Her entire outfit was covered with apricot-colored patterns.

Considering that this was the first time Yu Youyao had officially visited her elders, she had to show her filial piety. Her light apricot color was elegant and noble, so it wouldn't be rude.

After washing up, Cui Zhu helped Yu Youyao onto the deck. The salty sea breeze blew against her face. There were people coming and going on the pier, and it was bust[ling].

Yin Huaixi, who was waiting on the deck, saw Yu Youyao come out. "There are many boats parked at the pier. Your third cousin has to arrange for the loading and unloading. The Xie family has sent a carriage to pick you up. Your eldest uncle and four other cousins are all here. They're waiting at the pier."

Chapter 749: Xie Residence

The Xie Residence had more people than the Yu Residence, but their relationship was much simpler.

Her maternal grandfather, maternal grandfather, maternal grandmother, three uncles, three aunts, and five cousins were all from the same family and were very close.

Yu Youyao was stunned for a moment. She quickly said, "Get off the ship quickly, lest Eldest Uncle and the four cousins wait too long."

There were many people at the pier. Yin Huaixi led the way. A few maidservants and old maids surrounded Yu Youyao to prevent too many people from bumping into her.

Not long after, she saw the carriage with the Xie family's emblem parked in the open.

Yu Youyao saw someone waving at her. Immediately after, her eldest uncle led four young men and welcomed her excitedly.

The people from the Xie Residence were all good-looking. Eldest Uncle, Xie Xun, was in his forties and had a beautiful beard. He had an elegant and handsome aura. Third Cousin, Xie Jingliu, took after his eldest uncle.

Yu Youyao hurriedly stepped forward and bowed to her eldest uncle. "Hello, Eldest Uncle!"

It had been four to five years since Xie Xun had seen Yu Youyao. In the past, she used to be a pink and tender ball of glutinous rice, but now, she had grown into a graceful young lady. She looked very much like her younger sister, and he felt both nostalgic and gratified.

He reached out and patted his niece's small shoulder gently. He nodded. "We're all family. There's no need for such etiquette." With that, he pointed at his cousin, who was standing a step behind him. "You've never seen these cousins before..."

Eldest Uncle, Xie Xun, had two sons. Eldest Cousin, Xingzhou, and Third Cousin, Jingliu. Eldest Cousin was 26 years old and had already started a family. He had a little nephew who was four years old this year.

Her second uncle, Xie Liao, had a son. He was her cousin, Xie Linyuan. He was 23 years old this year and had just started a family. He did not have any children yet.

Third Uncle, Xie Tiao, also had two sons. Fourth Cousin, Xie Yanqing, and Fifth Cousin, Xie Yunze. Fourth Cousin and Third Cousin were all in their prime. Fifth Cousin had just turned 18 this year.

Yu Youyao bowed and greeted each of them.

Her cousins also returned the greetings one by one.

Xie Yunze was the youngest and had a lively personality. There were a few times when he wanted to get close to his petite and pleasant cousin and talk to her, but he was stopped by Xie Xingzhou.

After the etiquette ceremony, Eldest Cousin Xie Xingzhou stroked Yu Youyao's head. "The pier isn't a place to talk. Little Yao'er has been on the boat for more than half a month. I think it's been hard on her, so she'll return to the residence to settle down first."

Fourth Cousin, Xie Qingyan, tugged at Xie Yunze and quickly agreed. "Yes, yes. Great Grandfather, Second Grandfather, Grandmother, and all the Aunts are waiting for Little Yao'er at home."

There were all kinds of people at the pier. It was very noisy and they did not stay for long.

Her second cousin, Xie Linyuan, said gently, "Great-grandfather,

Grandfather, and Grandmother have been talking about you recently, hoping that you would come over sooner. When Grandmother heard that you had entered the harbor on a boat, she shouted that she wanted to come and pick you up. It took her some effort to persuade her to not come over. Auntie Xu, who's in front of you, has returned to the residence first with Xia Tao, who's seasick. The rest of the servants and luggage will be sent to the residence with the carriage."

Yu Youyao nodded. "Then let's go back to the residence first. It's been so long since we've seen each other. I also miss Great Grandfather, Grandfather,

Grandmother, and the others. I've never seen everyone before."

Her eyes were sparkling, and her tone was filled with joy and anticipation.

Every time a merchant ship from the Xie Residence entered the capital, a few aunts would prepare gifts for her.

She would also carefully prepare a gift in return. Although they had never interacted or even met, after reciprocating for a long time, she could more or less tell how they were like.

Xie Xun stayed at the dock.

On the way back to the Xie Residence, Yin Huaixi and the four brothers of the Xie family were in a carriage.

Yu Youyao brought Chun Xiao, Bi Zhu, Cui Zhu, and Liu'er into a carriage.

The carriage moved slowly. Chun Xiao rolled up the curtain. Yu Youyao saw people coming and going on the streets. It was a prosperous scene, It was even better than the capital.

In August, the Japanese invaded the southeast coast on a large scale but it did not affect Quanzhou. The people along the coast were stable and rich, and they were more open.

The kind of veiled hat that covered the entire body was popular in the Great Zhou Dynasty.

When the young misses went out, if they did not stay on the streets for a long time, they did not have to wear veiled hats to cover themselves. If they stayed for a long time, they would have to wear veiled hats. The gauze on the veiled hats only reached their shoulders.

Along the way, Yu Youyao saw many young misses in embroidered clothes and accessories strolling on the street with their servants. They did not even put on their veiled hats.

Cui Zhu explained, "Quanzhou accepts guests from all around the open. The atmosphere is very open. Women can also walk on the streets as they please. Although Miss is in mourning, it's not a problem for you to come out and walk around to familiarize yourself with the environment."

In the capital, she had to show filial piety. She could only live in a shabby house and rarely leave. Yu Youyao finally felt the restrictions on her body loosen.

The Xie Residence had lived in Quanzhou for generations. The Xie Residence occupied a huge area.

Her maternal grandfather lived in the main residence, and her uncles did not live together. They lived around the main residence like stars surrounding the moon. The residences were all interconnected, so it was very convenient for them to come and go.

If everyone did not live together, they would not cause trouble over trivialities. Naturally, their relationship was good.

After entering the residence, the Xie Residence prepared a soft sedan chair in front of the flower gate. Yu Youyao got into the soft sedan chair and went to the main house to greet her grandfather, grandmother, and Eldest Aunt.

Old Madam Xie's heart ached when she saw that her granddaughter had lost a lot of weight. "I heard that you were sick previously. Are you feeling better? You've been on the ship for so long. Are you seasick?"

Yu Youyao held her grandmother's hand. "I've already recovered. I'll be fine after recuperating carefully for a while. On the boat, Third Cousin also takes good care of me. The boat travels slowly. Every time it reaches a port, it will dock ashore and rest for a night before continuing to sail. I was a little uncomfortable at first, but I was used to it after staying on the boat for a long time."

Madam Wang smiled and said, "Most people will more or less feel seasick and uncomfortable the first time they take a boat. They need to experience it a few more times to get used to it. Although our Little Yao'er grew up in the capital, she has taken after our Xie family."

Old Master Xie also agreed. "Our Little Yao'er takes after the Xie family. Even when it comes to food, she prefers the taste of Quanzhou. She belongs to our family."

Yu Youyao looked like Mother Xiao, but her eyes were different. However, she had taken after Old Madam Xie and liked to eat seafood since she was young. This kind of similarity made the people from the Xie family, who originally doted on her very much, love her even more.

This was because in their hearts, Yu Youyao was not only their granddaughter, but also a family member.

After chatting warmly for a while, Old Master Xie said, "Your second and third uncles are all waiting in Old Master's house, Hurry over!"

Yu Youyao was stunned when she heard this. According to the rules, after she entered the Xie Residence, she should enter the main house first and visit her maternal grandfather, grandmother, and eldest aunt's family. Then, they would bring her to visit her maternal great grandfather. After that, it would be time to visit her second uncle's family and third uncle's family. From the looks of it, the etiquette would be very complicated..

Chapter 750: Family

In that case, it was indeed not good to delay any longer.

Yu Youyao quickly took the gift she had personally prepared from Chun Xiao and handed it over respectfully. "I made a headband for Grandmother..."

In the narrow box, there was a Ruyi-patterned Sichuan embroidery headband.

In the middle of the headband, there was a sapphire the size of a pigeon egg. It was as deep and bright as seawater.

Old Madam Xie smiled so widely that her eyes couldn't be seen. "Our Little Yao'er's embroidery skills are really good. I see that the Sichuan embroidery on it is a little different from usual. The Ruyi patterns don't look like they were embroidered. They seem to be embossed on it. At first glance, the Ruyi patterns on it seem to move."

Yu Youyao pursed her lips and chuckled. "The Sichuan embroidery is quick and realistic, vivid and three-dimensional. It uses a cross stitch, a spiral stitch, and a solid stitch. The needle technique is very special. A good friend taught it to me."

Tang Yunxi was good at embroidery and was very interested in double-sided embroidery, so she taught her some of her skills.

Tang Yunxi did not want to take advantage of her, so she wanted to teach her Sichuan embroidery.

Yu Youyao, who had just learnt double-sided embroidery, expressed that she did not want to learn it at all. However, in order to let Tang Yunxi learning without any psychological burden, she could only bite the bullet and learn it.

Auntie Xu was overjoyed.

Madam Wang also leaned over to take a look. "Look at the sapphire on it. Such a pure and flawless sapphire is rare in the Great Zhou Dynasty..."

The two of them gathered together and praised the headband endlessly.

This scene reminded Yu Youyao of the first time her grandmother had received the embroidery she had personally embroidered. She couldn't help but feel a little sad.

Old Master Xie felt a sour feeling in his heart. "We still have to go to Old Master's house later. You can stop for awhile. It's not the first time you've received a gift from Little Yao'er."

Old Madam Xie rolled her eyes at him and grinned.

Yu Youyao's heart sank. "Cousin brought the gems on it back from Youzhou. I still have many different colors in my house. If Grandmother and Eldest Aunt like them, I'll get someone to send some over later."

Old Madam Xie and Madam Wang were stunned for a moment before they realized that the "cousin" Yu Youyao was talking about was Zhou Linghuai, who had sent her to Quanzhou.

Old Madam Xie smiled. "This is a rare thing."

Yu Youyao took the headband and helped Old Madam Xie put it on. Old Madam Xie's face was filled with smiles.

Madam Wang also praised with a smile, "It's indigo and the headband is embroidered beautifully. No matter what, it suits her well. It's also suitable to wear a headband in this weather. Our Little Yao'er is really considerate."

Yu Youyao hurriedly took the shoes that she had given to her maternal grandfather. "I have a maidservant in front of me who has an ancestral shoemaking skill. She knows how to make a thousand-layer sole. Not only is it breathable and soft, but it also absorbs moisture and perspiration. I heard that Quanzhou is near the sea and the climate is wetter, so I made a pair of cotton shoes for my maternal grandfather with the special soles. You can wear them at home and your feet will feel more at ease."

There were no patterns on the black shoes, but the workmanship was very dense. There was even a layer of thin cow tendon soles on the thousand-layer soles.

Yu Youyao squatted on the ground and wanted to help him try on his shoes.

"Grandfather, try and see if it fits."

“I’ll do it myself.” How could Old Master Xie bear to let his granddaughter put on his shoes? He quickly took off his shoes and put on the cotton shoes that his granddaughter had personally made.

He usually wore cotton shoes at home.

One step of the shoes and he could tell the difference. Old Master Xie stood up and took a few steps. He immediately said, “These shoes are good. They’re better than what I used to wear...”

Now, it was Old Master Xie’s turn to be smug.

Yu Youyao took out another pair of shoes and a very exquisite fan with peony flowers embroidered on both sides. This was prepared for Eldest Uncle and Eldest Aunt.

Madam Wang did not have a daughter herself and had never enjoyed the gifts of a daughter. She was even more overjoyed when she held the fan.

The two sides of the two-sided peonies were different. One side was pink and white, looking elegant and refined, while the other side was purple and red, looking magnificent.

At first glance, she only felt that the double sided peony flowers were beautiful.

Madam Wang was overjoyed. “Little Yao’er, you’re too considerate. It’s too tiring to make needlework. You have to make less in the future...”

As a result, the family chatted a lot and wasted a lot of time before going to the main residence.

As Old Madam Xie walked, she even held her hand and said lovingly, “I’ll bring you over to meet them first. After that, you should go back and rest. You’re filial, so we won’t hold the welcome banquet. The family will gather for dinner tonight and get to know each other better.” At this point, she changed the topic. “Your second uncle’s wife is a straightforward person. Third aunt is gentle and easy to get along with...”

The old lady rambled on for a long time.

When she arrived at the main courtyard, her second uncle and third uncle’s family were already waiting in the hall.

Old Master Xie sat at the master seat. Yu Youyao respectfully kowtowed to her great-grandfather and handed over the cotton shoes she had personally made.

There were a total of two pairs.

One was azure, and the other was indigo.

Old Master Xie tried on the shoes on the spot and couldn’t bear to take them off. “Although this pair of shoes looks simple, it’s not easy to make a pair of shoes that not only fit your feet, but are also comfortable and wearable. If clothes are too big or small, we can still make do. However, shoes can’t be any bigger, but they can still be an inch smaller.”

In ordinary families, shoes were the only thing they never bought.

As long as there was any remaining cloth at home, they would use it to make shoes first.

After Old Master Xie finished speaking, he said, “A surname doesn’t mean anything. Since you’ve entered the Xie Residence, you’re a member of the Xie Residence. Don’t be an outsider in the future.’

Yu Youyao’s eyes turned red, and she quickly nodded in agreement.

What she had prepared for her second and third uncles were also shoes. Each of them had a pair. As she had made them herself, they were all the same. No one felt that she was not doing her best.

The only things that juniors could give their elders were shoes, socks, and waist seals. However, Yu Youyao was their niece, and socks were personal items. It was only right for his wife and daughter to make them. There were also many waist seals, so shoes were more suitable.

What she gave to her second aunt and third aunt were also double-sided embroidery fans.

Her second aunt, Madam Lin, liked camellias. Yu Youyao gave her a double-sided camellia fan. It was red and white, and looked extremely elegant.

Third Aunt, Madam Zheng, liked plum blossoms, so Yu Youyao gave her a double-sided plum blossom fan. One side was cinnabar colored, and the other was green. It symbolised strength in the face of challenges.

Her cousins were men, so it wasn’t appropriate for Yu Youyao to give them anything too personal. She gave each of them a hollowed-out silver incense ball. This was a small and exquisite incense ball that they could carry with them.

There were spices and incense pills in it. After burning it, the fragrance of smoke would waft out of the small hole.

The incense ball was not rare.

What was rare was the incense pills inside. As Quanzhou was near the sea and the climate was wet, Yu Youyao made incense pills that were moist and warm. Wearing them for a long time was light and nourishing. Something like that was hard to come by..