

## All Hail 821

Chapter 821 - 821: Very, Very Good-looking

Yin Huaixi was silent, but when he saw Yu Youyao looking at him expectantly, he still supported her firmly. "It's quite good. It's called Snow Mountain. It belongs to you."

The snow mountain horse belonged to the Northern Barbarians.

Snow Mountain only belonged to Yu Youyao.

Actually, this name seemed to be not bad.

Yu Youyao had obtained a good horse and used a good name that she thought was not bad but was actually lazy. When she thought of the scene of Yin Huaixi getting on the horse and galloping away, she suddenly felt a sense of heroism.

She raised her foot and stepped on the pedal, holding the saddle with both hands. Her figure was flexible to begin with, and she was not weak. With a little strength from her legs, she flipped herself onto the horse and was a little nimble.

Yin Huaixi had taught her the posture of riding a horse previously. Yu Youyao sat on the horse's back and pushed her feet hard against the pedal. Her body leaned forward slightly and she braced her legs against the horse's stomach. Soon, she adjusted her posture and looked down at Yin Huaixi. She smiled brightly. "Am I riding in the right posture?"

"That's right." Yin Huaixi stepped forward to hold the reins of the horse. "I'll hold the horse first and bring you around a few times. Get used to the feeling of riding a horse first."

He patted the horse's abdomen lightly. The horse snorted and beat its hooves, then slowly walked around the flat area of the canyon.

The pony wasn't that tall and its height was just right. The back of the horse was a little wider. Yu Youyao was a beginner. The saddle was made of wood. It was covered with soft skin and filled with fluff. Moreover, the front and the back of the saddle was raised. The low part in the middle was very suitable for riding. If she sat for a long time, it wouldn't grind her thighs.

Yin Huaixi said, "The wooden saddle is softer. After you get used to riding, the jade saddle is more suitable for running and you won't be so tired."

Jade would be polished into small beads. Then, the small jade pieces were inlaid in the saddle. When a person sat on them, although the saddle was not soft, it relieved the fatigue of a long run. The jade was delicate and smooth, and would not hurt their hips.

His horse was equipped with a jade saddle.

Previously, Yu Youyao wasn't used to sitting there, so he changed the saddle to a wood saddle this time.

After walking around the canyon for about 15 minutes, Yu Youyao had gradually adapted to riding a horse. Her body naturally relaxed and she was no longer as nervous as before.

Yin Huaixi handed the reins to Yu Youyao and let her ride on her own.

After riding for a while, Yin Huaixi suddenly patted the horse's stomach.

The horse neighed and suddenly spread its hooves, beginning to jog.

"Ah..." Yu Youyao exclaimed, and her face immediately turned pale. Her body subconsciously leaned back and she pulled the reins hard. The wide-skinned reins were so tight that her palms felt hot and painful.

However, not only did the horse not stop, but it also ran faster and faster. She shouted in panic, "Snow Mountain, don't run. Stop quickly. Snow Mountain, don't run..."

"Hey, hey, slow down, Snow Mountain. Don't run..."

"Nineteenth Brother, you, quickly stop Snow Mountain..."

"..."

Yin Huaixi clenched his fists and held them to his lips as he laughed softly for a while. He raised his voice and said, "Lean forward slightly. Don't lean back. Don't stare at the horse's head. You have to look at the road in front of you. Kick the horse's stomach hard with your legs and step on the pedal hard. At this speed, you won't be thrown off. Don't pull the reins desperately. If there's an obstacle on the left, pull the reins hard to the right so that the horse can avoid the obstacle. Also, don't be nervous..."

After sitting on a horse a few times, Yu Youyao had some experience. In addition, Yin Huaixi was still present. Although she was a little afraid, she did not lose her mind. Snow Mountain did not run very quickly. When she heard Yin Huaixi's words, she tried to adjust her sitting posture.

At first, Yin Huaixi was very calm. He thought to himself that at this speed, no matter how Yu Youyao rode, she wouldn't fall off the horse. With him watching from the side, if she fell, he could catch Yu Youyao before she fell.

Soon, he was slapped in the face.

In fact, riding a horse had nothing to do with the speed of the horse or its safety. It had to do with the person on the horse.

No matter how experienced one was, the words "concern makes one confused" were simply everywhere and seeped into one's heart.

Therefore, every time Yin Huaixi heard Yu Youyao's exclamation, he subconsciously held his breath. When he heard her shout, his back subconsciously tensed up.

He watched as she tugged at the reins of the horse, left and right. The horse charged wildly in the canyon, and he was even more terrified.

His gaze was even better as he stared at her without blinking. He wished he could fly forward immediately and carry her off the horse. Then, he would say to her, "Let's stop learning. I don't

want to teach you how to ride a horse anymore. No matter where I go in the future, I'll bring you along..."

Another long period of chaos passed. After Yu Youyao struggled for about two moments, she finally felt something.

However, Yin Huaixi felt as if his body had also been emptied. His head was dizzy, his eyes were blank, his ears were ringing, his legs felt weak, and there was a lingering chill on his back.

In a daze, he realized that his inner clothes had been wet a few times.

At this moment, a large rock appeared in front of her. Yu Youyao had been riding for so long, but she had never encountered it before. She was immediately shocked by such a big roadblock. In panic, she tugged at the reins of the horse. She pulled one of the reins to the left and the other to the right. It was chaotic. Not only did the horse not stop, but it also rushed forward.

Yu Youyao cried out in shock, "Nineteenth Brother, I've pulled the reins of the horse. Why is Snow Mountain still rushing forward? Ah, ah, I bumped into it. Nineteenth Brother, help..."

The leather reins were tough. Yu Youyao tightened them. When they were still a distance away from the stone, the front hooves of Snow Mountain suddenly raised and its body leaned back. The tightened reins suddenly loosened.

Yu Youyao's body was unstable. Her body tilted and she fell off the horse.

Yin Huaixi was stunned. His body reacted faster than his head. He rolled forward and hugged Yu Youyao as a cushion.

He had planned it perfectly.

Yu Youyao happened to land in his arms. He protected Yu Youyao's head with one hand and her waist with the other, protecting her tightly in his arms. He rolled twice on the ground to cushion Yu Youyao's fall, in case she was injured.

The arms protecting her behind her head and back blocked the hardness of the ground for her, preventing her from being injured at all.

Yu Youyao's pale face was tense as she closed her eyes tightly. Her eyelashes couldn't help but tremble in fear. Perhaps because she was shocked, her thin figure trembled in his arms.

After a long while, the pain she had expected did not come. Yu Youyao's eyelashes trembled slightly, and she slowly opened her eyes. What she saw was a section of Yin Huaixi's neck.

His skin was very fair. It was different from the pearl-like fairness of a woman. It was a cold white like bone stone, giving off a cold and tenacious feeling. His Adam's apple protruded from his neck and slid up and down, showing her the difference in the structure of men's and women's bodies.

It just looked very good.

Chapter 822 - 822: Little Princess Consort

Yu Youyao's face turned red. Only then did she realize that Yin Huaixi had caught her and protected her in his arms, not letting her suffer any injuries.

Moreover, she was actually lying on Yin Huaixi.

“Were you frightened?” Yin Huaixi patted her back gently and comforted her.  
“Don’t be afraid. You’re fine now.”

He lay flat on the ground and rested his chin on the top of Yu Youyao’s head. If he lowered his head slightly, he could kiss the top of her fragrant head. She had used rose dew. Perhaps because she had been riding the horse for a while, her body was sweating. The fragrance of the dew immediately spread. When he leaned closer to smell it, it was as if threads wrapped around his nose and refreshed him.

His throat rolled, and his mouth felt a little dry. He quickly asked her, “Are you injured?”

“I’m fine.” Yu Youyao was embarrassed and anxious. As she quickly got up from him, she asked, “You were focused on protecting me just now. Are you alright?”

Yin Huaixi was filled with warmth and fragrance as he suddenly left. He felt a little lost. “I’m a martial artist. My skin is thick, and I’m resistant to falls and beatings. What can happen?”

Yu Youyao was a little worried. “Since you’re fine, why aren’t you getting up from the ground?”

It was hard for Yin Huaixi to say. Teaching her how to ride a horse was simply more tiring than riding a horse for an entire day.

He was simply physically and mentally exhausted.

He could only say, “I’m looking at the scenery.”

This answer seemed careless when she heard it. Yu Youyao imitated Yin Huaixi and lay on the grass. She looked at the clouds in the sky and the mountains in the distance of the canyon. She suddenly felt that lying down and looking at the scenery did not seem bad.

Yin Huaixi was stunned for a moment. He tilted his head to look at her lying beside him. From a palm’s distance, he could even smell the fragrance of roses from her side.

The sky was a blanket and the ground was a bed. She was beside him. Could this be considered “sharing a bed”?

Even Yin Huaixi’s ears turned red. He cleared his throat. “Cough, this is your first time learning how to ride a horse. How does it feel?”

Yu Youyao was used to talking to others. When she saw him talking, she tilted her head to look at him. “It’s quite good. I’m just a little afraid and nervous, but I’m not used to it. I’m always worried that I’ll fall off the horse.” She suddenly thought of how Yin Huaixi had cushioned her fall from the horse just now and smiled. “But after falling once, I’m suddenly not afraid anymore.”

Only the unknown was scary.

After falling once, she was suddenly not so afraid.

Besides, someone would catch her before she fell to prevent her from being injured.

Yin Huaixi looked at her and felt guilty under her bright eyes. He quickly turned to look at the sky. “After overcoming your fear and nervousness, you’ll be able to learn how to ride a horse after

practicing a few more times. You've learned quite quickly." He quickly got up from the ground. "Let's strike while the iron is hot and practice more."

Yu Youyao was too embarrassed to say that she was a little tired after riding for an hour, especially her hands. They hurt a little because she was holding the reins tightly.

However, how could she not suffer when learning?

Yu Youyao did not argue. This time, it was a little smoother than last time. She pulled the reins of the horse herself and rode around the canyon. Yin Huaixi patted the horse's stomach and the horse began to jog. Yu Youyao was not as nervous as before. She just had to ensure that she did not fall from the horse's back and did not pull the reins randomly.

After practicing for an hour, Yu Youyao could already ride a horse and jog on the flat road.

When they returned to the Puming Zen Temple, the sun had already set.

When Old Madam Xie saw her granddaughter, although she looked a little tired, she was in a good mood. Old Madam Xie knew that she was having a good time today, so she did not say anything.

The next day, Old Madam Xie and Madam Wang accompanied Yu Youyao up the mountain.

Yu Youyao did not want to give up halfway. She wanted to continue learning how to ride a horse.

Yin Huaixi knew that she had practiced riding a horse for too long yesterday and her muscles and bones were a little sore. He only let her practice for an hour and did not let her continue.

After staying in the Puming Zen Temple for three days, Yu Youyao was already riding a horse well. Yin Huaixi did not have to worry about her falling off the horse in a panic.

After returning to the courier station, he heard that the four families had joined forces with the local rich families to take turns setting up porridge stalls to help the refugees. Lord Li had mobilized the government's manpower to help the You army in the refugee camp and had already begun to move the refugees.

Yu Youyao finally felt relieved.

Liancheng was one of the first areas in the three provinces of Liaodong to implement the "national policy". It had a certain pioneer and representative role in settling the refugees in the North and promoting the "national policy".

At the same time, it also decided on the related work and arrangements for the second and third batches.

Therefore, Yin Huaixi valued it very much.

He had come to Liancheng in the name of patrolling and inspecting. He had also taken on the job of settling the refugees, so he couldn't stay in Liancheng forever.

Even the counties and districts near Liancheng, such as the areas in Dandong, Anshan, and the Liaodong Mountains that had suffered light disasters and were rich in resources, were suitable for raising silkworms. He had to personally patrol and inspect them. Furthermore, he had to personally participate in the relevant matters of assisting the local government, gentry, and rich families to settle the refugees.

With Liancheng's example, the national policy issued by the Imperial Court, and King Yue Fei's prestige in the North, everything went very smoothly.

Yu Youyao did not stay idle in Liancheng.

After the national policy was issued, more and more businessmen came over to look for business opportunities.

All the merchants knew that Princess Shaoyi and King Yue Fei advocated the resettlement of refugees and the introduction of foreign merchants. They had also brought a large number of supplies to help the refugees and explore the way.

At the same time, they also accumulated connections and reputation in the three provinces of Liaodong and accumulated some capital for the future. They would express their goodwill to Princess Shaoyi and King Yue Fei in passing.

The merchants had brought sincerity over, greatly alleviating the lack of supplies in the North. Yin Huaixi also returned the favor and sent a trusted military advisor from his army to contact the merchants.

Yu Youyao had originally thought that she would see a refined middle-aged scholar, but when Yin Shi led him into the house, Yu Youyao was immediately stunned.

This person had a square face and a beard. He was stocky and tall. He was wearing a greenish-gray outfit. He did not look like a strategist, but like a general who was going into battle to kill the enemy. His entire body exuded boldness and ruggedness.

As soon as he entered the house, he strode forward and slammed one knee to the ground with a bang. He lowered his head and cupped his hands. In a loud and clear voice, he said, "I'm Huang Wenxian. Greetings..." The words "Little Consort" almost rushed out of his throat. They rolled in his throat, but he swallowed them and changed them to "Princess."

Yu Youyao couldn't help but look at his knee. She felt pain for his knee. She really didn't expect Huang Wenxian to be like this.

She also knew that this was the etiquette of a soldier in the army to show respect to a person.

Yin Huaixi had at least a hundred retainers, aides, strategists, and military advisors. However, those who could be sent out by Yin Huaixi were definitely the most capable and trusted people.

Therefore, although she was surprised, Yu Youyao's reaction was not slow. She quickly stood up and walked to Huang Wenxian. She bent down and raised her hand, making a polite gesture. "Military Advisor Huang, please get up quickly..."

Chapter 823 - 823: Development in the North

Huang Wenxian hurriedly said, "I'm a low-leveled general in Your Highness's army. My etiquette can't be abolished."

Besides, was he kneeling for the princess?

She was clearly the future Little Princess Consort!

The military advisor had a high position and did not have any real power, but he had a scholarly status. He had the privilege of not kneeling when he saw an official. After Huang Wenxian saw her, he could directly cup his hands and bow. There was no need to be like a general.

Yu Youyao had always been respectful to others. “Military Advisor Huang is an elder in the army. He has assisted King Ding and King Yue Fei in guarding the North for many years and has worked hard. He’s a member of the Yue Fei’s Residence, so he’s naturally a guest of mine.”

Huang Wenxian was also a straightforward person. Seeing that she was not putting on airs, he heaved a sigh of relief. “I’m bold, so I’ll accept it respectfully.”

The two of them sat down.

Huang Wenzhu calculated for Yu Youyao. “Silk, tea, salt, and porcelain are the main industries of the Great Zhou Dynasty, especially silk. They’re also deeply loved by the overseas countries. Every year, 300,000 pieces of silk can be sold through maritime trade. One ordinary piece of silk can be bought for five taels of silver in the Great Zhou Dynasty and 20 taels of silver overseas, not to mention those more exquisite silk...”

He clicked his tongue and calculated everything. From Jiangnan to Yungui, he counted how many looms there were in Henan, how much silk could be produced every season, and how much each piece of silk cost.

In the end, he concluded, “There are about 300,000 looms in the area of Jiangnan, Yungui, and Henan in Shandong. If they weave silk day and night, they can produce about 500,000 pieces of silk every year. The profits of silk from the Great Zhou Dynasty every year can reach more than ten million taels.”

Yu Youyao knew that the profits of silk were high, but she had never calculated this account in detail. “This is almost the entire year of the Great Zhou Dynasty’s expenses. The profits of salt, tea, and porcelain should be no less than the profits of silk. In addition, there are other miscellaneous taxes. Why isn’t the treasury able to cover the deficit every year?”

Huang Wenxian smiled. “Apart from the high risk of maritime trade, there are often Japanese pirates and pirates hijacking ships. The remaining profits have been stripped by the officials below layer by layer. In the end, only about 30% of them can really enter the treasury.”

The Zhejiang capital had colluded with the pirates. The hijacked merchant ships were equivalent to the share that the Zhejiang capital had paid as “tribute” to the pirates.

Yu Youyao gasped. “How greedy.”

Huang Wenxian agreed deeply and continued, “Chinese oak silkworms eat a lot. Overly raising silkworms will destroy the forest environment. Considering that we have to keep developing, we have to control the number of Chinese oak silkworms we raise. This way, the production of silk is actually very limited. However, the temperature along the coast is suitable. I suggest that we import high-quality mulberry trees from Zhejiang and plant them in places that are not suitable for farming.”

Huang Wenxian was from Liaodong and knew Liaodong very well. He had also been to Zhejiang in the past and understood the terrain and environment of Zhejiang. Only with evidence did he dare to say this.

“Domestic silkworms don’t eat much and need to be raised at home. The mulberry tree grows quickly and can grow in almost three to five years. Not only can it greatly increase the production of silk in the Liaodong area, but it also gives the forest a certain amount of space to grow. Only good trees can produce the best quality silk.”

Yu Youyao was a little impressed by Huang Wen. This person was really smart and always kept track of the accounts in his heart, so she was not in a hurry to talk.

Indeed!

Huang Wenxian changed the topic and continued, “At the current scale of silk raising in the Liaodong area, a total of 50,000 looms can be set up. They can produce nearly 100,000 pieces of silk every year. The silk is better than mulberry silk, and the price is almost double. The profits are very considerable.”

The Great Zhou Dynasty still focused on mulberry silk.

There was even less production of wild silk. It was usually used for armor making and some high-end silk for the upper echelons. Ordinary people could not touch it.

Therefore, the profits of Chinese oak silkworms were higher than those of domestic silkworms.

It wasn’t that domestic silkworms were inferior to Chinese oak silkworms.

There were also many expensive silkworms among the domestic silkworms, such as the snow silkworm and the amber silkworm. The silk they produced was precious. There were less than a hundred pieces of them every year, and almost all of them entered the palace.

Yu Youyao was deep in thought. The domestic silkworms could be very useful along the coast of Liaodong.

Huang Wenxian said, “When the silkworm industry in Liaodong develops, we can add another 50,000 looms. When the domestic silkworms develop to a large scale, we can add another 50,000 looms. According to the growth speed of the mulberry trees, in at most five years, the number of looms in Liaodong will reach at least 150,000.”

After taking in the refugees, the Liaodong area did not lack people and had a lot of potential for development.

Yu Youyao was a little surprised. “The silk produced in Zhejiang already accounts for half of the country’s total production. If the scale of silk breeding in Liaodong can develop, it can be comparable to Zhejiang.”

She had not calculated this previously.

Huang Wenxian nodded. “The drought is a disaster, but it’s also an opportunity. By using the national policy, we can develop the silk industry wantonly. The silk production, weaving, printing,



dyeing, cutting, embroidery, and other activities related to the silk industry can almost drive the entire North. Silk is a military necessity and has a high demand. Silk can be sold to overseas countries and exchanged for the unique items of other countries, as well as food, spices, medicinal herbs, and so on.”

Yu Youyao noticed that Huang Wenxian advocated selling the Great Zhou Dynasty’s silk to other countries in exchange for their resources. This way, they could avoid the situation of developing silkworms wantonly, causing food production to decrease and supplies to be scarce.

It also put an end to excessive commercialization in the North, causing business to be more important than the people, and the people to be cheaper than business. As a result, the merchants would bully the people, and their productivity and food production would decrease.

He was indeed far-sighted.

He had also considered all the questions she had been worried about previously.

Huang Wenxian continued, “The production of sweet potatoes is high and cheap. With just a few fields, we can harvest a large amount of food. With self-sufficiency, we can vigorously develop the silkworm industry. There’s a lot of potential.”

If Princess Shaoyi couldn’t grow sweet potatoes, then the first thing the North had to guarantee was food production. However, the North was vast and sparsely populated, and the food production was low, so they needed to mobilize most people to farm to ensure that the food produced could support the local people and even military supplies. Then, they wouldn’t have anyone to raise silkworms and develop business.

To put it bluntly, the development of the North was based on sweet potatoes.

Including accepting refugees, settling them down, implementing national policies, and even later crossing swords with the nobles, sweet potatoes were the confidence of the You army.

Huang Wenxian’s words encompassed the future development of the North.

Yu Youyao had an idea. “According to you, if we want to introduce foreign merchants into the Liaodong area, we have to prioritize businesses related to silk and food production, right?”

Most of the foreign merchants were here for her and Yin Huaixi. Many merchants had brought a large number of supplies over to contact the government. They had even sent “filial piety” to her and Yin Huaixi through the government. The Imperial Court had issued a national policy, and a large number of supplies had rushed to the North. The government did not dare to make decisions on their own and needed her and Yin Huaixi to be thorough.

However, the development of the North was not clear, so the merchants had to be careful when expressing their goodwill.

Neither she nor Yin Huaixi could do something like taking advantage of others for nothing.

Chapter 824 - 824: Troubles

Huang Wenxian said, “Yes and no. Population is a prerequisite for development. The more people there are in the North, the more resources will be consumed. To merchants, this is a business opportunity.”

He paused for a moment and said, "There are two trade routes in the North that export output, the Ancient Tea Horse Road and the Silk Road. The huge profits made the merchants everywhere rack their brains and bet their assets. They also want to get involved. It's also necessary to introduce merchants with deep financial resources and wide channels. This is a great opportunity to restrain or even weaken the nobles."

Businessmen who dared to interfere in the Ancient Tea Horse Road and the Silk Road were already prepared to compete with the nobles.

Previously, because the merchant guild was too powerful, they could not interfere. Now that the Imperial Court had issued a national policy, they had come over with supplies under the banner of "relief to the refugees" and "implementation of the national policy." First of all, Princess Shaoyi and King Yue Fei had to owe them a favor. It was equivalent to finding a strong backer for themselves.

Their good reputation among the refugees formed their reputation and basic connections. It was enough for them to open up the situation in the North under the pressure of the merchant guild.

Yu Youyao nodded. "It seems that the Imperial Court's issuance of the 'national policy' has completely opened up the situation of the North's stagnation and welcomed a new opportunity for development."

Huang Wenxian agreed deeply and said, "However, there are pros and cons to vigorously developing the economy. We have to ensure that the interests of the foreign merchants are the same as the development of the Yue Fei's Residence and the North. Then, we have to have a certain amount of initiative. We can't hand the initiative over to the foreign merchants. If the foreign merchants collude with the local nobles, it will only become worse."

For example, King Yue Fei had left the best silkworm farm to the Little Princess Consort and let her monopolize a million acres of forest. She had joined forces with the local retail investors, foreign merchants, and local nobles. All three sides had formed a good competition, as well as checks and balances for their own interests. Once either side wanted to break this situation, they would not be able to get past her.

Including the main silkworm areas in Liancheng, Dandong, and the Liaodong Mountain Range, she was involved in almost everything.

She had become the person in charge of the overall situation, representing the interests of King Yue Fei and the North.

Yu Youyao nodded. "You've thought it through."

Huang Wenxian changed the topic. "I heard that the Xie Residence has a lot of businesses. The Xie family will definitely contribute to the future development of the North, so I'll have to trouble you to introduce me."

As the military advisor under King Yue Fei and with his scholarly status, he did not need Yu Youyao to introduce him to the people from the Xie Residence. He could directly send someone to put up an invitation, and the Xie Residence had to obediently bring along a generous gift and personally visit him respectfully.

It was obvious that he had given Yu Youyao enough respect.

Yu Youyao understood what he meant. Wanting to take the initiative in the business field and cooperate with the Xie Residence, who had deep financial resources and huge channels, was the best choice.

Huang Wenxian was here for the Xie Residence, so she smiled and said, "It's not a big deal. My Eldest Uncle is staying at the courier station. I'll get someone to inform him and ask him to come over directly."

Huang Wenxian kept saying that he was a low-level general, but the military advisor's status in the army was extraordinary and he directly received orders from the first general in the army. He treated the Xie Residence politely, but the Xie Residence still had to respect the rules.

"Thank you, Princess." Although Huang Wenxian was a scholar, he had been to the battlefield and did not care much about etiquette.

He had also specially learned that the Xie Residence was open-minded and decent. They were compatible with his temperament, so he naturally had to treat them differently.

The Xie Residence had deep financial resources and a huge channel, and they also had a relationship with the Little Princess Consort. These were all powerful bargaining chips for them to divide the interests of the nobles and weaken their power. They were also the cornerstone of the development of the North.

From the looks of it, the importance of the Xie Residence to the North was self-evident. It was only right for them to treat them politely.

Compared to superficial etiquette, Huang Wenxian valued practicality more.

However, he enjoyed the Little Princess Consort's generous behavior.

Yu Youyao smiled and nodded. She turned around and instructed Xia Tao to invite someone over.

Looking at the overall situation, it was naturally very beneficial to bring in foreign merchants. In the short term, the large number of supplies brought by foreign merchants could basically resolve the dilemma of the North's lack of supplies.

At the same time, it would also stimulate the local nobles to work together to settle the refugees.

However, there were also many drawbacks in the long run.

The biggest drawback was that the nobles in the North were still powerful. Once foreign merchants gained a foothold in the North, it was almost inevitable that they would want to seek greater development.

Huang Wenxian wanted to control the situation in the North from the beginning and support the Xie Residence so that he could control a portion of the resources, connections, and channels in the North.

The nobles, foreign merchants, and the Xie Residence formed a balance.

From the looks of it, the nobles still had the greatest power in the balance of power among the three sides. However, if external merchants and the Xie Residence joined, it would definitely divide the interests of the nobles and weaken their power.

It was inevitable that the power of the merchants and the Xie Residence would increase.

In the early stages, the Xie Residence and foreign merchants had common interests and enemies. They were natural allies.

Behind the Xie Residence were Princess Shaoyi and King Yue Fei. They had the absolute initiative between foreign merchants and were undoubtedly the leaders.

Yin Huaixi only needed to support the Xie Residence and let them join forces with external merchants to deal with the nobles. He would wait for the right time to root out some of the nobles who had done all kinds of bad things.

It wasn't that Yin Huaixi had used the Xie Residence.

If the Xie Residence wanted to gain a foothold in the North and seek development, they would already be on the opposite side of the nobles. There was a business path and an official path. The interests of the Xie Residence and the Yue Fei's Residence were the same.

Not long after, Xie Xun arrived.

Yu Youyao smiled and introduced, "Eldest Uncle, this is Military Advisor Huang, under King Yue Fei."

Xie Xun hurriedly stepped forward and was about to bow. Huang Wenxian quickly stood up and strode forward to hold Xie Xun's hand. "Master Xie, there's no need to be so polite. Please sit."

Xie Xun was stunned for a moment before looking at Yu Youyao.

Yu Youyao quickly smiled and said, "Military Advisor Huang has assisted in the war in the North for many years, but he doesn't care about trifles. Eldest Uncle, you don't have to be too reserved."

Huang Wenxian was too polite to her Eldest Uncle. His tone was filled with respect, so he did not accept his bow.

Her eyes flashed as she recalled the scene of Huang Wenxian kneeling on the ground with a bang the moment he saw her. How could she not understand? Huang Wenxian probably knew that she and Yin Huaixi were "engaged" and treated her as the future princess consort. Even her maternal family treated her seriously.

Huang Wenxian also agreed. "Princess, you're right."

Only then did Xie Xun's expression relax. He said politely, "Thank you for your kindness, Military Advisor Huang. I'll be bold."

Then, he sat down beside Huang Wenhua and the servants quickly served tea.

After Xie Xun finished his tea.

Huang Wenxian went straight to the point. "Master Xie, you also know that many foreign merchants have come to the three provinces of Liaodong recently. Logically speaking, this matter shouldn't be handled by His Highness."

At this point, Huang Wenxian sighed awkwardly.

Xie Xun's eyes flickered, and he continued tactfully, "Your Highness, it's already very difficult for you to guard the North and deter the foreign races. Now that the Imperial Court has issued a national policy and the North has taken in a large number of refugees, the safety of the entire North depends on you alone. Only when the North is stable can you be at ease and resist the foreign races. This is righteousness."

Huang Wenxian's first sentence was to test the Xie Residence.

How much Xie Xun said and what he meant determined how much Huang Wenxian would say in the subsequent conversation. How much sincerity would he show? How much clarity would he speak with?

If the Xie Residence expressed their respect and support for King Yue Fei, and sincerely handed the topic back to Huang Wenxian, it would mean that they had accepted Huang Wenxian's test.

In the subsequent negotiations, Huang Wenxian would also repay the same sincerity.

If the Xie Residence was vague, Huang Wenxian would also hold back in the subsequent negotiations, and his attitude towards the Xie Residence would change a little.

If the Xie Residence did not accept the test, Huang Wenxian would understand the Xie Residence's refusal.

Next, Huang Wenxian only spoke a little, such as the situation in the North, King Yue Fei's difficulties, and the hardships of the commoners. It was to comfort the Xie Residence and make them think twice.

At the negotiation table, the more important the plan was, the less easy it was to reveal it. The first step of confrontation was to test the other party's sincerity and attitude.

Indeed!

Huang Wenxian was very satisfied with the Xie Residence's straightforwardness. He immediately revealed a worried expression. "This concerns the livelihood of tens of thousands of people. Your Highness doesn't dare to be negligent at all, so it's inevitable that you'll be more concerned about this matter. However, how can we, the soldiers, understand business?"

After expressing his sincerity, Huang Wenxian handed the topic back to the Xie Residence. Only by exchanging words could they continue talking.

Xie Xun's heart was as clear as a mirror, and he was in no hurry to talk.

Yu Youyao had learned a lot about business, so she knew everything.

In contrast, it was a little funny to hear this. She wondered who had been calculating the accounts just now. He was even smarter than her, a businessman.

However, she was happy to see that Huang Wenxian wanted to praise the Xie Residence.

“I’ve long heard that the Xie Residence of Quanzhou is famous for being benevolent merchants. In the early years, they helped the Imperial Court lift the sea ban. Not long ago, they donated to the Imperial Court to help the refugees. Furthermore, back then, the Northern Barbarians invaded on a large scale. As the war was tense, the Xie Residence also donated a batch of food and medicine to the You army. Now that the Xie Residence can come to the North, it’s also a blessing for the North. The Xie Residence is an expert in doing business, so I want to consult Master Xie and ask for his opinion.”

During the war, the rations were doubled. Just relying on King Yue Fei, who was still the heir at that time, to gather rations in Youzhou City could only temporarily resolve the urgent situation.

Not long after the heir escorted the rations to the battlefield, the Xie Residence sent a batch of food and medicine over by sea, laying the foundation for the subsequent recovery of the city.

However, not long after, King Li of Zhou was summoned into the capital and handed over the war in the North to the Marquis of Weining. Later, when King Li of Zhou was accused of rebellion, no one mentioned this matter anymore.

In the past, as the military advisor under King Li of Zhou, Huang Wenxian had always remembered this. His seriousness towards the Xie Residence was not entirely because of the Little Princess Consort.

Xie Xun hurriedly said, “Military Advisor Huang, you’re being too serious. The Xie Residence is ashamed. As long as it’s related to business, the Xie Residence will definitely tell you everything we know.”

At this point, the situation had been resolved. Yu Youyao stood up. “In that case, you guys chat first. I won’t disturb you anymore.”

She was in no hurry to leave just now because she was worried that it would be difficult to start a conversation since it was the first time her Eldest Uncle and Huang Wenxian had met, so she planned to matchmake them.

However, since Huang Wenxian could swallow his pride, there was nothing to worry about.

As for the content of their conversation, it wasn’t difficult to guess.

Firstly, the Xie Residence was a “royal family” in Minyue. Since ancient times, the royal family had held many unknown secrets. This was also a kind of inheritance.

The Yue people were the first to occupy the Shaoxing area of Zhejiang. Later, they moved to Langya, which was located in Shandong. These two places were both coastal areas, so the Yue people were good at water, boat control, and shipbuilding. This was one of the foundations of the Xie Residence.

Zhejiang and Shandong had a tradition of raising silkworms since ancient times, and they were also good at reeling silk. Therefore, the Xie Residence was also good at making silk armor.

The cooperation between the Xie Residence and the You army was nothing different.

First, the nobles of the North had control of the Ancient Tea Horse Road, the Silk Road in the northwest, and the land and trade routes in various areas of Shanxi. The You army was guarding the Liaodong area, and the merchant guild's power had limited development in Liaodong.

Shanxi, Shaanxi, and Ningxia were not by the sea, and maritime trade was restricted. This was the shortcoming of the nobles. It also divided the interests of the nobles, suppressed them, and reduced the breakthrough point of their power.

The You army would trade at sea and provide support to the Xie Residence. At that time, the salt, tea, silk, porcelain, spices, and so on produced in the North could all be sold overseas through the Xie Residence's merchant ships.

Second, there was the matter of making silk armor.

The military supplies of the You army were all handled by the Imperial Court. It was like restraining the hands and feet of the You army, causing them to be controlled by the Imperial Court. This was also the case for the local government and even the nobles. They became wild beasts locked in cages and waiting to be fed.

When going into battle to kill the enemy, armor was the most important. The production of armor was too technical, and almost all of it was in the hands of the Imperial Court.

It wasn't impossible to refine ironware in private.

However, one's craftsmanship was definitely not as good as the craftsmanship of the Imperial Court. They had gathered all the capable craftsmen in the world. After generations of continuous research and innovation, they had summarized their experience.

On the battlefield, if there was a slight difference, one would accumulate great losses.

For example, the Di people were good at riding. The armory had made a saber that could effectively restrain the enemy and allow them to charge while riding a horse.

It was very difficult to fight on horseback, so they had invented the Tang saber and the zhanmadao. They were used in battle on horses. The Tang saber was longer and was used in a head-on battle. The zhanmadao was a short weapon and was used to catch the enemy off guard. The sabers were of different lengths and completed each other.

The Japanese pirates had caused trouble along the southeast coast. As most Japanese people were short, they used miaodaos to fight. The miaodaos were as slender as rice seedlings and had the characteristics of knives and spears.

The types of weapons did not change much, but the craftsmanship had improved over the generations.

Now, weapons were no longer just forged from iron ore. Not only did they have more powerful steel making techniques, but they could also use other ores to increase the lethality of the weapons.

These craftsmanship skills were all in the hands of the Imperial Court.

It was the same for making silk armor.

...

As soon as Yu Youyao returned to her room, she smelled a faint fragrance.

Her eyes lit up and she quickly walked to the windowsill. The entrance of the small courtyard was facing the north, and the light was excellent. Over the past few days, the spring light in Liancheng had been bright and beautiful, and the cinnabar orchids that had been transplanted into the flower pot had already bloomed.

After Yin Huaixi modified the wild orchids growing in the mountains, they were carefully raised in a flower pot for a while, revealing an elegant aura.

They looked strong, hard, and upright. The leaves were elegant, soft, and beautiful. The small plant was intertwined and beautiful.

## Chapter 826: A Hundred Responses

There were four flowers. The flowers were larger than ordinary orchids, and their color was splendid, resembling morning star lilies. They contrasted with the elegant orchid leaves, revealing a gentle and graceful posture.

They were really beautiful.

As soon as she approached the flowers, she felt that the fragrance of the flowers was cold, elegant, and refreshing.

Nanny Xu praised, "The cinnabar orchid is a spring sword orchid. Spring sword orchids are divided into two kinds, namely 'soaking rod' and 'iron rod' orchids. For example, this one is a 'iron rod' orchid. It's a top-grade orchid and is the best among all the orchids. Pure red cinnabar orchids are very rare. A few years ago, Peng City offered a red cinnabar orchid as a tribute. The Empress Dowager seemed to have obtained a treasure. From then on, the red cinnabar orchid in Peng City was listed as a holy orchid. It was matched with the purple and red cold cinnabar orchid of Yunnan."

There were many types of orchids, and there were differences. For those who didn't know about orchids, it was very difficult to differentiate between orchids.

The Great Zhou Dynasty valued red, and the cinnabar orchid was also more expensive.

Yu Youyao smiled. "I don't know much about orchids. I thought that the cinnabar orchid was already a rare famous item. I didn't expect it to be so famous."

She did not have many expectations for what Yin Huaixi would give her. What was rare was his sincerity.

Perhaps because she was used to seeing good things since she was young, ordinary things did not catch her eye. Yin Huaixi was also like the Xie Residence and her grandmother. No matter what he gave her, he would choose the best gift.

The better the item, the more effort one would have to spend. It also meant that the more sincere the sender was, the happier the recipient would be.

Nanny Xu also said, "Orchids are of different varieties and quality. There are many differences in the stems and flower colors of the same species. They can't be generalized."



The fragrance of the cinnabar orchid was elegant and cold. It smelled really good. Yu Youyao was overjoyed, so she found a travelogue and ordered someone to set up a couch by the window. She leaned against the couch and read.

Chun Xiao brought over some snacks.

Wild roses had a stronger fragrance. Yu Youyao made some flower paste and peeled dry flowers. The flower paste was made into a flower cake, and the outer skin was made of layers of crispy skin, making the cake salty and sweet. The crispy skin was fragrant and golden. With a crack, she bit open the crispy skin on the outside. The flower paste was bright and rich, and the sweet taste filled her mouth.

The dried flowers were grounded into powder. Then, glutinous rice powder was added to make rose cakes. Rose patterns were added to the pink flower cakes that were fragrant. They melted in one's mouth and did not stick to one's teeth.

Yu Youyao felt that the cake was delicious, so she instructed Chun Xiao to send some of the prepared flower cakes to Old Madam Xie and Madam Wang's house for the elders to try.

The picked roses were only made into a small amount of flower paste and dried flowers, which were kept for making snacks. The rest were made into incense medicine.

The flower paste was made with green fruit oil (olive oil) and rose petals. The green fruit oil was refreshing and moisturizing, and it was not greasy. Meanwhile, the flower paste made was extremely effective.

Moreover, the green fruit oil tasted refreshing. It could be matched with any type of cosmetics.

However, rose dew needed the essence from steaming a large number of petals.

Most of the roses that Yu Youyao had picked had been steamed. In the end, she only obtained a palm-sized bottle of flower dew. After using the flower dew to make lipstick and cosmetics, she used half of the flower dew.

However, it was indeed useful.

As there was too little, she couldn't bear to use it. Every day, after bathing, she would add two drops of rose dew into the green fruit oil to nourish her skin and apply it evenly all over her body.

After using it, not only did she feel refreshed, but she also had a faint rose fragrance. Even the next day, the fragrance lasted for a long time.

The next day, the two stewards in the silkworm manor brought over the name list for her to take a look.

There were seven thick books, and each of them recorded a list of retail investors who were willing to cooperate. The basic situation, such as the size, location, silk production, and species of silkworms under their names, was also recorded.

There were nine types of trees that were suitable for raising silkworms, and there were also more than ten types of silkworms. Each tree produced different silk.

Among them, the most expensive was the Japanese silkworm.

The cocoon of the Japanese silkworm did not need to be dyed. It had a natural sparkling green color and a unique luster. When woven into silk, it would have a beautiful color. It was “tribute silk” that was rarely seen among the commoners.

However, a small number of Japanese silkworms were also in the hands of the nobles, so the retail investors naturally couldn’t raise them.

The gray-clothed Steward Zhang said, “As soon as the news spread, even the retail investors in the city moved when they heard it. They came looking for us themselves. After the Imperial Court issued the national policy, even some retail investors in the surrounding silkworm-raising areas came looking for them.”

Other than Liancheng, these lists also included Dandong, Xiuyan, Anshan, Xiangping, Fengcheng, and other places. These areas were almost the main sources of silkworm production in the three provinces of Liaodong.

From this, it was obvious that the retail investors had had enough of the oppression by the nobles.

Princess Shaoyi also received many responses in the North.

Steward Qian, who was dressed in blue, also said, “Don’t underestimate these retail investors. The nobles control the silk industry. They buy at a low price and sell at a high price. In order to make a living, the retail investors can only spend more effort to think about silk raising techniques and increase the production and quality of silk. High-quality silk can bring high profits to the nobles, and the price is also higher. Therefore, almost all of these retail investors are good at raising silk. They have unknown methods of raising silk. It’s ridiculous. The high-quality silk in Liaodong isn’t from a big family that raises silk, but from these retail investors.”

Yu Youyao nodded. “Those retail investors who can survive the oppression of the nobles naturally have their own strengths.” She flipped through a few lists and roughly read through them. She roughly understood the current situation of the retail investors in the three provinces of Liaodong. “Take my seal and go to the government tomorrow to sign a contract. Just get the retail investors on the list who are willing to cooperate to stamp their fingerprints. With a contract, it can also reassure people. This matter is basically officially settled.”

The contract was only a way to show that everyone was helping one another, and that they had the attitude of advancing and retreating together.

With Yu Youyao taking the lead, she guaranteed that as long as the quality of the silk produced by the retail investors passed the test, no matter how much it was, it would be collected at the market price of the Great Zhou Dynasty’s silk.

The retail investors would also guarantee that they would not harm Yu Youyao and other retail interests.

It had no substantive effect.

However, a contract linked the interests of the retail investors in form.

Steward Zhang and Steward Qian quickly agreed. After Young Miss was conferred the title of princess, she had a seal that represented her status as a princess. It was used on some important contracts, and she usually used her own seal.

It was obvious how much Young Miss valued this matter, so they naturally did not dare to be careless.

Yu Youyao continued, "In my name, go to the Moon Pavilion and book the entire place for a day. You'll step in and invite the stewards on the list to gather at the Moon Pavilion three days later to get to know each other and build relationships. You'll integrate the connections and channels of the various retail investors, who will exchange their experience in raising silkworms."

This kind of exchange meeting, which was conducted in her name, could be considered to have expressed her attitude towards joining forces with the retail investors. There was no need for her to personally step in. If the stewards under her name personally held and presided over it, it would be enough to give those retail investors respect.

Chapter 827: Contract

"As long as there's interaction, there will definitely be gains. This way, everyone won't have to hide, and their horizons will be broadened. In the future, the silk business channels of the three provinces of Liaodong will spread throughout the entire Great Zhou Dynasty, and even overseas countries. How to increase the production and quality of silk and let everyone earn money together is the serious thing."

Everyone had a rich business of raising silkworms, and they also had unknown methods. If their methods could be combined, it would form an outstanding Silkworm Scripture.

The refugees were all newbies. Although they had learned the technique of raising silkworms, they were not experienced enough. With a comparable method of raising silkworms, they could make up for their lack of experience.

This had a huge impact on the silkworm industry in the three provinces of Liaodong.

The silkworm raising techniques that the nobles had mastered were slightly inferior to the individual investors to begin with. After exchanging experience, the overall quality of the individual investors' silkworm raising had increased, and the impact on the nobles was fatal.

Other than Princess Shaoyi, probably no one else had the confidence. Hearing this, Steward Zhang couldn't help but say, "Do you want to choose a few refugees who have learned the silkworm raising technique well to participate?"

Steward Qian also said, "The original intention of the princess joining forces with retail investors who raised silkworms was to find a source of livelihood for the refugees. If the refugees want to rely on raising silkworms to take root in the three provinces of Liaodong, they also need the help of the retail investors."

Yu Youyao smiled. "We'll do as you say. You're also the one who arranged for the refugees to be taught silkworm raising skills. You'll have to discuss and decide how to choose these people."

Steward Zhang and Steward Qian agreed.

A group of refugees who were the best at learning the silkworm raising techniques had already moved to Fuzhen and Lianzhen. With the help of the local silkworm farmers, they began to gather and breed eggs.

Yin Huaixi had also arranged for more than a hundred soldiers who had retired from the army to bring their families and raise silkworms with the refugees.

Most of these soldiers were natives of Liaodong. They could be used as a bridge between the refugees and the local people to prevent the local people from bullying the refugees and causing unnecessary conflict.

Most of the soldiers had retired from the army because of injuries and illnesses, but they had been to the battlefield and were a deterrent to the refugees. At the same time, they could also deal with the wild beasts in the mountains and be a guarantee for the safety of the refugees.

When the other refugees migrated over one after another, Yu Youyao would arrange for the refugees to collect the young silkworms and let them grow.

On Liancheng's side, everything was carried out in an orderly manner because of Yu Youyao.

Meanwhile, the contract was also going very smoothly.

Steward Zhang had invited Lord Li and Military Advisor Huang, who represented the Yue Fei's Residence, as witnesses. The retail investors had also elected three people as representatives to establish the contents of the contract.

Then, Steward Zhang took Princess Shaoyi's seal and stamped it.

Everyone present was very excited.

There were six copies of the contract. One copy was kept in the government office. As for the remaining copies, Princess Shaoyi and the Yue Fei King's Residence each had one copy. The three representatives of the retail investors also had one copy each.

After the contract was signed, Steward Qian announced the matter of booking the Moon Pavilion. "Take this opportunity to get to know each other and interact. From now on, we'll be in the same boat. The princess has said that as long as there's interaction, there will be gains. We have to broaden our horizons. In the future, the business channels of our silk industry will be the entire Great Zhou and even the overseas countries. It's more important to increase the production and quality of silk and earn money together. We can't hide."

His words made everyone present clap excitedly.

Those who could be chosen as representatives were naturally not stupid. Just these words alone could tell how ambitious and important Princess Shaoyi was to the silkworm industry in Liaodong.

This was also because they valued and affirmed them. The three retail representatives were extremely excited and quickly expressed their stance.

"Steward Qian, don't worry. We'll definitely convey the princess's instructions to the other retail investors."

“We retail investors have been bullied by the local nobles for generations. The princess is benevolent. She is willing to stand up for us retail investors and give us a way out. The princess is our benefactor. Since it’s the princess’s wish, we naturally obey.”

“We’re exchanging our precious skills and experiences, and we’re also learning from the precious skills and experiences of others. How can we hide something that benefits both sides?”

“...”

Lord Li watched this scene quietly and felt that Princess Shaoyi’s methods were brilliant.

An exchange meeting would completely integrate the retail investors who were to be in a state of disunity. It would integrate the manpower, the hearts of the people, and the resources controlled by the retail investors.

The retail investors followed Princess Shaoyi’s lead. Princess Shaoyi’s status and influence in the silkworm industry in the three provinces of Liaodong had been preliminarily confirmed.

Two days later, it was time for the entire Moon Pavilion to be booked.

At dawn, Steward Qian brought the three people who had been chosen from the refugees and were the best at raising silkworms into the city.

Among the three of them, one was a middle-aged woman in her forties with a weathered face. Others called her Auntie Mei. The other was a young man in his twenties who looked very ordinary. His name was Yu An.

There was also a thirteen or fourteen-year-old girl with a delicate and thin appearance. Her large almond-shaped eyes were embedded in her thin face, and they were very bright.

This girl’s name was Hong’er. She had escaped from the wilderness with her parents and siblings. Her father had starved to death on the way, and her younger sister did not survive.

Her mother had brought her and her brother to Liancheng.

It was not easy for orphans and a widow to survive. Her mother could only bring her brother and follow the team organized by King Yue Fei to the nearby mountains to pick some wild vegetables and fruits.

King Yue Fei did not raise refugees for nothing and arranged all kinds of work.

Only families with orphans and widows were allowed to participate in the harvesting. There was also a limit to the number of people. They took turns to go to the nearby mountains. There was a harvest every three days, and each family could only participate once every three days. Excessive harvesting was not allowed.

In addition, there were more than a hundred types of tasks, such as washing, clam digging, fishing, stone-cutting, wasteland reclamation, and planting trees.

Those who were literate, knowledgeable in mathematics, and proficient in craftsmanship would have to be registered with the military administration. They would have separate arrangements, and their treatment would be better.

Liancheng wanted to develop the silkworm industry. In particular, those who were proficient in silk, weaving, embroidery, and dyeing were all chosen in advance and arranged to be taught better skills.

Young girls who had difficulties at home were also chosen to learn these skills.

It was also because of this that Hong'er understood the importance of having a skill in a specialized area. When King Yue Fei sent silkworm farmers over to teach the other refugees who did not have a skill to learn the technique of raising silkworms, she was overjoyed and quickly signed up.

Hong'er wanted to use her silkworm raising technique to bring her mother and brother to take root in Liancheng.

She was smart and had learned how to raise silkworms well. When nine types of leaves were placed together, she could tell them apart at a glance. She knew the possible pathological changes that could occur to silkworms, prevention techniques, and so on like the back of her hand.

The reason why she did not move to Fuzhen or Lianzhen to breed eggs with the first batch of refugees was because Steward Qian had asked her to help teach the other refugees how to raise silkworms.

Hong'er felt that she was already very lucky to be treated differently by Steward Qian.

She did not expect that Steward Qian and Steward Zhang would choose her to enter the city to participate in a private silkworm exchange gathering held in the name of Princess Shaoyi.

She was very excited.

Chapter 828 - 828: Kowtow

This morning, as soon as it was four o'clock, Hong'er got up and changed into the clean cotton clothes that Steward Qian had prepared for her.

Along the way, Steward Qian explained a lot more. "When you reach the Moon Pavilion, listen to the experiences of the other retail investors in raising silkworms. If you have any questions, you can ask on the spot. The silkworm farmers who taught you the technique of raising silkworms will also be there..."

Those who could be chosen by Steward Qian were all generous and straightforward people even if they had not seen much of the world. There was no need to worry about them being timid.

When Hong'er thought about how Princess Shaoyi was in the city, her heart skipped a beat. She looked at Steward Qian, who was walking in front of her, and hesitated for a long time. Finally, she couldn't help but say, "Steward Qian, is the Princess still in the courier station?"

They did not expect Hong'er to be so bold as to inquire about Princess Shaoyi's whereabouts. Auntie Mei and Yu An were also shocked and broke out in a cold sweat.

Steward Qian's tone immediately became a little stricter. "Do your own thing and don't ask about the Princess."

Hong'er was shocked, and her hands and feet immediately turned cold. She quickly said, "I— I didn't mean to offend the Princess. I— I just wanted to go to the entrance of the courier station and kowtow to the Princess."

She stammered as she explained, kneeling on the ground with a thud. "In October of last year, our family fled to the outskirts of the capital and were so hungry that we were about to die. It was— It was the steward of the Rogue Manor who pulled a few carts of sweet potatoes to help the passing refugees. We heard that the Rogue Manor was the residence of the princess. At the end of last year, my younger brother fell seriously ill. It was the princess's medicinal herbs that saved his life. It was also the lord of Shao County who arranged for us to raise silkworms..."

At this point, tears streamed down her face.

Auntie Mei and Yu An felt the same way and also knelt on the ground.

"We commoners can't repay the Princess's kindness in our lives. I only want to kowtow to her at the entrance of the courier station and wish her a long life. Steward Qian, please agree!"

"Please agree..."

"..."

The three of them knelt on the ground and begged bitterly. Steward Qian sighed slightly. "The Princess is kind-hearted and has always been kind to others. She doesn't care about this. All of you, get up!"

The three of them refused to get up and insisted on kowtowing to their benefactor.

Seeing their sincerity, Steward Qian couldn't bear to refuse. He could only say, "Let's make it clear first. We'll kowtow outside the courier station."

The three of them were overjoyed and quickly agreed.

After Yin Huaixi went to Dandong, he still had to go to other areas to settle the refugees and would not return to Liancheng.

He had arranged for Huang Wenxian to come over. Other than liaising with foreign merchants and discussing cooperation with the Xie family, the most important thing was to escort Yu Youyao to Xiangping City.

After the matters in Liancheng were over, Yu Youyao made arrangements to leave.

At this moment, Xia Tao rushed in. "Young Miss, Steward Qian is bringing the three refugees who have been chosen to enter the city to kowtow to you outside the courier station."

Yu Youyao frowned. "I don't care about this."

Xia Tao also said, "Steward Qian has also explained, but they've all received Young Miss's kindness and insisted on coming over to kowtow to you. Steward Qian saw that they were also sincere, so he brought them over."

Yu Youyao slowly put down her teacup and said nothing.

Xia Tao knew that Young Miss was very concerned about the refugees, so she asked, “Do you want to summon them?”

Yu Youyao gently fiddled with the agarwood prayer beads on her wrist. When an elder passed away, their filial descendants had to often wear the items of their elders when they were alive to show their sorrow and filial piety.

After a while, she finally said, “There’s no need to summon them. It’s not appropriate.”

Xia Tao was deep in thought. Young Miss was right. It wasn’t that it wasn’t suitable. Why wasn’t it suitable?

In the entire Great Zhou Dynasty, almost all of the tens of millions of refugees had received relief from Young Miss.

Young Miss was also kind-hearted when she helped the refugees. She did not ask anyone to be grateful to her. It was their own business for the refugees to remember her kindness.

She was originally just an ordinary person. In the future, living a peaceful life would be the best repayment to Young Miss.

“It’s still their respect after all.” Yu Youyao wouldn’t ignore it. She pondered for a moment and instructed, “I remember that a few days ago, the four families of the city sent over generous gifts, including two pieces of tussar silk. Go and cut three pieces of material. Do as I say...”

Hong’er and the other two knelt respectfully at the entrance of the courier station and bowed three times.

Although the courier station was built in a quieter place and was heavily guarded, no one usually dared to stroll around. However, as it was a courier station of the Imperial Court, the guests and merchants who came to Liancheng would first come to the vicinity of the courier station to rest after entering the city.

Therefore, many people still saw the commotion outside the courier station.

They were also a little confused.

At this moment, a woman dressed very well led an old woman with a wooden tray out of the courier station. She exuded an aura.

Steward Qian hurriedly stepped forward. “Miss Xia Tao, does Young Miss have any instructions?”

Hong’er and the others were stunned for a moment before they reacted. The “Young Miss” that Steward Qian was talking about was Princess Shaoyi.

They had only wanted to kowtow to the princess a few times, but they did not expect to alarm her. For a moment, they were a little terrified.

Xia Tao smiled. “When the princess found out that Steward Qian had brought someone over to greet her, she asked me to...” She glanced at Chun Xiao and the other two, who were kneeling respectfully on the ground. “She asked me to pass on a few words.”



Steward Qian heaved a sigh of relief.

Hong'er and the other two were in fear and trepidation. They quickly knelt on the ground again, not even daring to say anything.

In their opinion, Steward Qian was already a dignified person, but he was still so polite to Miss Xia Tao. It was obvious that she was someone who served the princess.

The princess had specially sent someone to pass on a message. She was flattering them.

Xia Tao's smile deepened. "Get up and talk!"

Hong'er and the other two quickly stood up.

Xia Tao gestured for the old woman standing behind her to step forward and gently pick up the wild silk in the wooden tray. "Do you know what kind of silk this is? The silk that's spat out, the silk that has been formed, or the silk that has been woven?"

Hong'er was stunned for a moment before she quickly looked at the tray.

The silk was the size of a handkerchief and had a lustrous green color, as if it was worn by a noble. The sparkling emerald was elegant and luxurious, almost dazzling them.

The silkworm farmers who had taught them how to raise silkworms would show them the cocoons formed by each type of silk. They would explain the characteristics of the silk so that they could distinguish them.

Hong'er thought that the princess was testing her, but after thinking about it, she couldn't think of what kind of silk it was. She could only try her best to recognize it.

After a while, she was so anxious that she was sweating profusely.

Auntie Mei and Yu An's faces also turned pale, and their bodies trembled.

Uneasiness and fear spread silently.

Chapter 829 - 829: Local Emperor

These words were not empty words, but the meaning behind the last sentence was huge.

First, Lord Li flattered Princess Shaoyi. Then, right on the heels of that, he expressed his loyalty to her, saying that he would do his best to settle the matters related to the refugees in the name of her "kindness".

The word "tactful" was vividly reflected by him.

However, if one thought that that was all he meant, they would be very wrong.

This was the opposite. Lord Li had spared no effort to arrange for the refugees because of her kindness and benevolence. Therefore, he did not have the ability to transfer more people to suppress the bandits.

If one thought that he was pushing the responsibility of not being able to suppress the bandits to her, they would be very wrong.

Lord Li kept saying that it was all because of her kindness and benevolence. In that case, all the credit for arranging for the refugees belonged to her, the princess.

As the county magistrate, he only did as the princess wanted.

Lord Li was no longer taking credit. As a princess who had all the benefits, shouldn't she give some benefits too?

For example, helping him resolve the problem of the bandits?

From the beginning, she had been labeled as kind and benevolent. Could she bear to watch coldly and ignore it?

Lord Li was indeed worthy of the saying that he who understood the times was a wise man.

His words were tricky and complicated. Those who understood his words naturally understood. Even those who did not understand would be flattered, and they would feel comfortable. No one would be offended.

It was no wonder that he had been an official in Liancheng for many years and was no longer controlled by the four families.

Yu Youyao smiled. "If you have anything to say, just say it!"

Lord Li's eyes darted around and he quickly said, "The Princess wants to develop the silkworm business in Liancheng, but such a nest of bandits is entrenched in the area of Anshan and robbing pedestrians and merchants. It has a bad impact on Liancheng, as well as some surrounding silkworm-raising areas like Dandong and Xiuyan. If we let these bandits cause trouble, I think they will become more and more rampant. No matter how serious it is, it will affect the Princess's grand plan to develop the silkworm business."

The arrangement of the refugees was done for her, and the bandits would be eliminated for her. Every word and sentence was for her sake. It made one quite speechless.

However, if one carefully pried open his words and crushed them, it was indeed true. No one could find fault with his words.

Yu Youyao felt that Lord Li was a wonderful person.

Lord Li looked worried. "The princess is about to go to Xiangping City. Even if there's a mountain between the city and Xiangping, you have to pass by the foot of the mountain. What if these bandits don't have eyes and offend the Princess?"

His words were definitely not sensationalist.

If those bandits were really afraid of Princess Shaoyi, they wouldn't have come out to commit crimes repeatedly as soon as King Yue Fei left and Princess Shaoyi was still in Liancheng.

King Yue Fei had set up a refugee camp in Liancheng and even arranged for the refugees to settle down. Those bandits would rather become bandits. It was obvious that they were a group of outlaws who wanted to rebel against the Imperial Court. If they went crazy, it was not impossible for them to attack the princess.

"I've made Lord Li worry."

On the day she came to Liancheng, Yu Youyao had heard Yin Huaixi mention that the bandits in the Anshan area were fierce. Otherwise, Yin Huaixi wouldn't have arranged for Huang Wenxian to receive her. He had even asked the You army, who was originally guarding the refugee camp, to return with them.

Lord Li was slapped in the face and looked ashamed. "The suppression of bandits was originally a matter of the government, but because the government couldn't spare any manpower to suppress the bandits for the time being, they were afraid that they would delay the princess's matters and were worried about your safety. They were anxious, so they looked for the princess to ask for an idea."

Yu Youyao smiled. He might not really be asking for an idea. It was also true that he wanted her to use King Yue Fei's men to resolve the problem of the bandits.

However, if Lord Li said it explicitly, wouldn't he become a subordinate who was teaching her, a dignified princess, how to do things?!

It would make people unhappy for no reason.

Moreover, Lord Li was not a fool. The vassal lords guarded a territory to resist external enemies. Furthermore, because they had a large number of troops, they received a lot of suspicion and envy. Without the decree of the Imperial Court, they could not activate troops internally.

Therefore, it was not proper to ask King Yue Fei to send troops.

Even though the suppression of bandits was related to internal and external matters and the national policies issued by the Imperial Court, if they were not careful, they would still be exposed.

He had to mention the matter of suppressing the bandits, but Lord Li did not dare to say it clearly. He could only beat around the bush and tell her, wanting her to interfere in this matter.

Generally speaking, when there was a small-scale problem with bandits, the local government would send troops to eliminate them. If there was a large-scale bandit problem, the Imperial Court would send troops.

Without a decree from the Imperial Court, it was the government's own business to send someone over to suppress the bandits.

At this moment, there were already more than a hundred cases accumulated in the government office. If he continued to let them be, these suppressed cases involving human lives would become evidence of his "incompetence" in managing the place.

When the human lives cases blew up, the Imperial Court would definitely pursue it. At that time, he would be demoted at best, and he would be fired and investigated at worst.

This was one of the reasons.

Secondly, if he did not make this clear now, when Princess Shaoyi's plan to develop the silkworm industry was obstructed in the future, he would not be able to explain this to King Yue Fei and Princess Shaoyi.

After all, the development of the silkworm industry also concerned the survival of 200,000 refugees.

Lord Li's words were indeed right. Every word made sense. It seemed like if she did not interfere in this matter, she would be letting down her reputation as Princess Shaoyi.

Yu Youyao smiled faintly. "I'm just a woman. What idea can I have? I'm afraid Lord Li has found the wrong person."

Lord Li had a bitter expression. "You're a living Bodhisattva who saves people from hardship. I might as well tell you the truth. There are only a few people in the government office. Even if I gather all of them, I won't be able to gather enough people to suppress the bandits, let alone those bandits. Those bandits' hands are all fugitives who have lost their lives. The soldiers in the government office are fine with the ordinary people in the residence, but if they go to suppress the bandits, their legs might go limp as soon as they see blood. I had no choice but to beg you."

These words were true. Those bandits were very troublesome. Lord Li was fighting to suppress the bandits. Perhaps there was some indescribable inside story?

However!

Yu Youyao smiled. "That's a little over the top. Liancheng is one of the gates of the capital and belongs to a large county. There are more than a hundred officials who enjoy the silver from the Imperial Court and serve the county office. There can be more than a thousand bailiffs in the government office. Below each bailiff, there are three to seven runners. Although they don't work in the government office, they're hired."

Even though a seventh-grade county official did not have a high official position, he had a lot of power.

He encouraged and supervised farming, and fairly judged lawsuits. If there was a prohibition, he would announce it.

He was in charge of all matters related to household registration, taxes and corvée, money, and recruitment.

To put it bluntly, he was simply a local emperor.

In ordinary small counties, there were about 20 to 30 officials, and there were only hundreds, a hundred, or even dozens of bailiffs.

Not only was the geographical location of a large county like Liancheng very special, but it was also a connection to overseas countries. There were thousands of bailiffs and runners.

Chapter 830 - 830: Bandit Violence

Xia Tao was not angry that they could not answer. She only smiled and stepped forward. She held Hong'er's hand and stuffed this small piece of silk into her hand.

In her hand, the silk was as thin as a cicada's wings. It was warm and smooth, and as light as nothing. A thought flashed through Hong'er's mind. Her voice trembled as she said dryly, "It's made of tussar silk. It's made of silk from Japanese silkworms and feeds on beech and oak leaves. It's suitable for warmer temperatures and semi-wet areas. It can also adapt to the cold climate. It doesn't need to be dyed to maintain a natural green color. It has a very good luster, and it's

extremely resistant and resilient. It's a precious item of the silkworm genus, and its production is especially rare."

The silkworm farmers had told them about every silkworm and had also taken samples to distinguish them one by one. Only tussar silk was too rare and precious for ordinary people. They had only regretfully introduced the situation and characteristics. As she had never seen it before, she could not distinguish it for a moment.

After touching it, the light and smooth feeling was better than any silk she had touched before.

"That's right." Xia Tao nodded affirmatively. Then, she said, "The four families of Liancheng gave the tussar silk to the princess. There are only two pieces in total. The princess has always been reluctant to use it. The princess asked me to cut a few pieces for you. I hope that one day, I can wear clothes made of the silk you personally raised."

She gave the other two pieces of silk to the other two.

The three of them held the silk in their hands and were extremely excited. With a thud, they knelt on the ground again. "I understand the Princess's kindness and good intentions. I'll definitely raise the silkworms in the future and not let you down."

When Steward Qian saw this scene, his heart surged.

He had carefully chosen these three people. They were very talented in raising silkworms.

The silkworm farmers who had taught them said that if nothing unexpected happened, they would also become leaders of this batch of refugees who raised silkworms in the future. It would also affect the silkworm business in the three provinces of Liaodong.

The princess never underestimated anyone and gave them the respect and dignity they deserved. Therefore, she cut the silk to give them the highest recognition and encourage them with the highest goal.

Every move, word, and action of a virtuous person could often affect a person's life.

Hong'er and the other two left the courier station with tears in their eyes.

At this moment, Yu Youyao might or might not have expected this!

In the near future, the silkworm industry in the three provinces of Liaodong would surpass places like Jiangnan and Henan and become the largest silkworm industry in the country.

Tussar silk was no longer a rare tribute silk. Some high-ranking officials and nobles could still wear it. In addition to the tussar silk, Hong'er and the other two had also nurtured new silkworms and created new silk varieties...

When the pedestrians and merchants near the courier station saw this scene, they all understood what had happened and admired Princess Shaoyi's magnanimity.

Some people who had maliciously speculated about Princess Shaoyi felt even more ashamed.

They were just ordinary people to begin with. It was already their greatest blessing to be proficient in a skill and live a peaceful life. How could they accept too much from nobility?

It had to be known that the moon begins to wane the moment it becomes full.

Too much was as bad as not having enough.

There were thousands of refugees outside the city. If the princess saw the three of them, would the others also want to come over and kowtow?

Should the princess see them or not?

If she saw some people and didn't see others, what would the other refugees think?

It was not a matter of scarcity, but of inequality.

It seemed as if the tussar silk was given to the three of them, but the three of them alone could not raise the Japanese silkworms. Instead, they represented thousands of refugees who were going to raise the silkworm.

This tussar silk was also given to those people.

She had already seen how big the world was, but she still pitied the greenery.

Someone couldn't help but sigh. "Princess Shaoyi is indeed worthy of being called Princess Shaoyi. She's benevolent and kind, and follows her heart and virtue. Her breadth of mind is indeed not something ordinary people can compare to."

Everyone present joined in to sigh.

... .

The supplies that had been brought from Quanzhou had already been transported to Xiangping City in batches. Although there were not many things to bring, it was still troublesome to pack.

Knowing that Princess Shaoyi was going to Xiangping City, Lord Li quickly came to the courier station. "When do you plan to set off?"

The migration and resettlement of the refugees went very smoothly. The You army guarding outside the city would also leave Quanzhou with Princess Shaoyi, and the relevant matters would be taken over by the government.

Therefore, Lord Li was also extremely busy.

However, seeing that there were fewer and fewer refugees outside the city, the four families, who had always been high up in the air in front of him in the past, also became much more obedient. The huge rock in Lord Li's heart was finally settled.

Yu Youyao only said, "In the next few days."

Lord Li looked troubled. "There's a large group of bandits entrenched in the area of Anshan. They go down the mountain to become citizens and go up the mountain to become bandits. They specialize in plundering the pedestrians and merchants who come and go. Previously, the government had sent people over a few times to persuade them to surrender, but to no avail.

Furthermore, because a large number of refugees were gathered outside the city, they also needed people to maintain public order. The government was also busy.”

At this point, he sighed sadly.

“Ever since King Yue Fei came to Liancheng, those bandits have been afraid of King Yue Fei’s might for a while. However, as soon as King Yue Fei left, they began to snatch, kill, and plunder again. In particular, there have been more merchants coming and going from Liancheng recently, so many people have been harmed. There are already hundreds of cases suppressed by the government.”

Yu Youyao said thoughtfully, “I heard that this group of bandits has gathered in the area of Anshan since last winter. In just three to four months, they’ve already committed hundreds of crimes. Not only did they plunder property, but they also harmed lives. It seems that they’re not ordinary bandits.”

Lord Li waited for a while, but did not hear anything else. He quietly glanced at Princess Shaoyi and saw that her expression was normal, as if she was only chatting with him.

He could only continue, “Isn’t that so? These past few days, the government has been arranging the migration and resettlement of the refugees. Everyone in the government office has been transferred out, and we’re seriously short of manpower.”

In the end, Yu Youyao said calmly, “Lord Li, you’ve worked hard.”

The migration and resettlement of the refugees were all handled by the government. With so many refugees, the government indeed needed to send more people.

Lord Li was a little disappointed, but he sighed sadly and said, “The refugees will only be completely settled in early March at the earliest. At that time, the government can’t relax. Two hundred thousand refugees will settle down in Liancheng, and we still need to send a large number of people to patrol the vicinity of the town to maintain the security of this place to prevent the refugees from causing chaos.”

At this point, he changed the topic and smiled at Yu Youyao obsequiously. “The Princess is kind and benevolent. She has found a way for the refugees to live. Although I’m not talented, I’m still an official. Naturally, I have to do my best to help the Princess and help the refugees take root in Liancheng. It’s not in vain that I’ve read sage books for ten years to serve the Imperial Court and benefit the people.”

Yu Youyao was amused.

The meaning behind Lord Li’s words was nothing more than that everyone in the government office had been sent to settle the refugees. They couldn’t spare any manpower or time and energy to suppress the bandits.