

All Hail 871

Chapter 871 - 871: You Can't Judge a Book By Its Cover

A team of guards quickly went up the mountain and guarded both sides of the mountain path. There was a sentry post every ten steps.

Old Madam Sun stepped forward with a smile. "Yesterday, the residence sent someone to the temple. Thousand-Man Commander Yin also sent someone to guard the Dragon Phoenix Temple. The Dragon Phoenix Temple isn't open to the public today."

Yin San had received the position of a thousand-man commander and was in charge of the Yu Garden's guards. He was in charge of Young Miss's safety and had sent someone to patrol the mountain in advance to guard it for her safety.

Only those invited by Young Miss or with her permission could go up the mountain and enter the temple.

Yu Youyao gently picked up her long skirt and went up the stone steps. "Let's go up!"

This mountain path was 500 meters long. The mountain path was winding and steep. Yin Shi led the way, and Chun Xiao helped Yu Youyao slowly up the mountain.

After walking for more than 15 minutes, they arrived at the mountainside.

The abbot was waiting at the door with the monks. When he saw Yu Youyao coming over, he clasped his hands together. "Amitabha. The Princess has arrived at our temple to pray for the people. Good job!"

Yu Youyao also placed her palms together in front of her chest and bowed back. "I'm really ashamed to disturb your temple's cultivation."

The abbot's eyebrows did not move as he only said, "Buddha welcomes fated people. How can it not be another round of cultivation? The Dragon Phoenix Temple is just a small temple in the mountains. If there's anything wrong, I hope the Princess can forgive me."

Yu Youyao quickly said, "You flatter me. Temples aren't big or small, and the Buddhist teachings aren't of high or low status. They're all places for monks to cultivate, and they're also places to worship the Buddhas of the various heavens. They also worship the same Bodhisattva. All living creatures are delivered from torment. Only the size of one's true intentions, not what is in front of them, matters. If one thinks that it is large, it will be boundlessly grand. If one thinks that it's small, it will be very small."

The abbot bowed deeply. "You are fated with Buddha. Amitabha!"

The Dragon Phoenix Temple had existed for a long time. After the war, it had been rebuilt and repaired a few times. Although the temple was small, it had an ancient aura.

The temple had prepared a room in the small courtyard, and Madam Huang was waiting at the entrance to receive them.

Madam Huang was wearing a blue jacket dress with a round collar and big sleeves. She had combed her hair into a bun and had a pure gold hairpin inserted diagonally at her temple.

However, she was tall and voluptuous, and her appearance was bright and imposing. Even though she was dressed plainly, it could not hide her beauty.

Seeing Yu Youyao come over, Madam Huang quickly stepped forward with a smile. "I ordered someone to tidy up the room again. Although it's a little simple, it's still considered appropriate."

Huang Wenxian was a trusted aide of King Yue Fei. After Yu Youyao came to Xiangping, Madam Huang was entrusted by her husband to take good care of her.

Therefore, Yu Youyao was also close to her. "Thank you, Madam."

Madam Huang was a straightforward person, so she immediately rebuked, "Why are you being so polite to me? As long as you don't mind me being nosy." At this point, her auspicious phoenix eyes observed Yu Youyao politely and immediately fixed her eyes. "Look at this aura. This is the first time I've seen it. As expected of a noble daughter raised by a noble family."

Just looking at it made Yu Youyao feel terrified. She did not know where to put her hands and feet, and she did not dare to look at Yu Youyao directly.

All the so-called aristocratic women in the North were inferior.

Yu Youyao shook her head. "Madam, you flatter me. I'm young and it's my first time in Xiangping. I don't know much about the local customs of Xiangping, and I have many inconveniences. It's all thanks to Madam's guidance recently."

There were many generals in the You army. Yin Huaixi had only asked Huang Wenxian and General An Yuan to come and receive her. It was obvious that these two people were people he trusted. Their families and characters were not bad. They were reliable people.

Madam Huang was generous and straightforward, and she treated everyone with sincerity. Yu Youyao also wanted to befriend her. The two of them chatted and laughed as they entered the small courtyard.

This was a house that had been vacated at the last minute. Although it was simple, it was clean and tidy because it had been cleaned in advance.

At this moment, General Ning Yuan's wife came over.

She was about the same age as Madam Huang, but Madam Ning was delicate and gentle. She formed a sharp contrast with General Ning Yuan's ruggedness.

General Ning Yuan was also the first to follow King Li of Zhou. His current achievements were also proposed by King Li of Zhou. Even his marriage was arranged by the princess back then.

General Ning Yuan and Madam Ning had known each other since they were young, and they had an extremely good relationship. They had raised two children and supported each other, which was why General Ning Yuan had his current achievements and status.

As King Li of Zhou set a precedent, there were no concubines at home.

Madam Ning smiled and said, "After entering the temple, we'll definitely have to go through a lot. The food we had in the morning isn't enough now. I'll go to the kitchen of the temple and prepare some snacks and soup. Have some first, lest you go hungry later."

As soon as she finished speaking, the maidservant behind her brought the wooden tray forward and placed the snacks she had prepared on the table.

There was a plate of pea cakes. She didn't know how it was made, but the color was orange and beautiful. Just looking at it was appetizing.

The other plate had golden balls the size of a glutinous rice ball. In addition, there was also a bowl of mushroom soup.

Madam Ning's culinary skills were not bad. During this period of time, she had sent some exquisite snacks to the Yu Garden.

Madam Huang smiled and said, "Princess, you're in luck. The eldest sister of the Ning family relied on her good culinary skills to teach General Ning Yuan a lesson."

When she heard this, she knew that they were also close.

Yu Youyao's smile deepened as she said gratefully, "What a coincidence. I woke up early in the morning and didn't have a good appetite. I only had some food for breakfast. I'm indeed a little hungry now. Thank you, Madam."

Madam Ning smiled gently.

Unexpectedly, as soon as she turned around, she rolled her eyes at Madam Huang. "Look, you're really shameless. You're saying this in front of an unmarried girl for no reason." When she spoke, her voice was gentle and soft. Even her words were mellow and moving. "Princess, you might not know this, but Military Advisor Huang is famous for being strict with his wife in our Xiangping City."

Yu Youyao was stunned again.

Madam Ning seemed to be different from what she had thought?! She had just turned around and said that she was embarrassed, but she had already said that!

It was said that women in the North did not care about trifles. She seemed to understand a little. If this were in the capital, Madam Huang and Madam Ning would not have said this in front of her.

However, this attitude did not seem to reflect the character of an elder at all. Instead, it was as if they were on the same level.

Madam Huang pinched her handkerchief and continued to smile. "The eldest sister of the Ning family is a hero among women. She can carry a crescent knife that weighs 80 kilograms with one hand and chase General Ning Yuan all over the city."

Yu Youyao was dumbfounded. Only then did she remember that Madam Ning's father and brother were both in the army, and her father was a hundred-man commander.

Was this fate?!

However, Madam Ning had thin arms and legs, and she exuded the delicate and gentle aura of a Jiangnan woman. No matter how she looked at it, she did not look like she would chase after someone with a big knife.

Or was it really true that one couldn't judge a book by its cover?

Chapter 872 - 872: Terrifying

She opened her mouth. "I'm sorry!"

"Pfft!" Madam Huang couldn't help but giggle. She felt that Princess Shaoyi was really a wonderful person!

Meanwhile, Madam Ning smiled gently, as if she was a little shy. "I can't compare myself to Sister Huang. As soon as Hedong's Lion's Roar is used, Military Advisor Huang will immediately kneel."

Yu Youyao turned to look at Madam Huang.

Mrs. Huang gently held up the pure gold hairpin on her bun and said, "Men are men. If you don't roar at them and scold them, they'll definitely be spoiled."

Yu Youyao kept feeling that she had heard something impressive.

Previously, there was King Li of Zhou who took the initiative to kneel on the washboard and couldn't even shout. Later, when Madam Huang shouted, Military Advisor Huang immediately knelt down. Meanwhile, Madam Ning chased General Ning Yuan all over the ground with an 80-pound saber in one hand.

She ate a piece of pea cake and it melted in her mouth. It was very sweet and was a little more delicate than what she usually ate. "It seems very impressive!"

If this were in the capital, would she understand it better?

Mrs. Huang smiled and said, "This has to start with King Li of Zhou. There's a thousand-man commander in the army who often beats his wife at home. When his wife really couldn't take it, she guarded the entrance of the King's Residence and complained to King Li of Zhou. King Li of Zhou slapped that person a hundred times in front of the entire army and even criticized him."

"The gist of it is that if a man has the strength, and doesn't use it on the enemy but on his wife, does he have any shame? With such a soldier, even I feel embarrassed. Do you have the strength but no place to use it? In the future, all of you will be given more training. As long as you don't die from it, train to death. Let's see if you still have the energy to cause trouble."

"What's the point of bullying women? Think about it. Why are you risking your lives on the battlefield? It's for our father, mother, wife, and children, as well as our relatives. We can even risk our lives for them. How can we bully them ourselves? If you don't treat your wife as a human, you might as well give her to the Di people and let them ruin her."

"Look at how sparsely populated the North is. There are more men than women. How many men can't even marry a wife? If you marry her, you'll already be living a happy life with a wife and children, yet you're still causing trouble. Aren't you hated?"

Mrs. Huang imitated King Li of Zhou's tone and learned these words. "This commander who hit his wife was so ashamed and became the public enemy of the army. All the soldiers in the army were

tortured every day because of him. They hated him so much that their teeth itched. The soldiers who didn't have a wife feel even more unbalanced. They were so distressed that they could make him die from distress. Meanwhile, the married soldiers who had wives looked down on him for hitting his wife."

Madam Ning also pursed her lips and smiled. "With King Li of Zhou in front, the men in the army behind all doted on their wives. Later, when Old Huang counted, heh, good fellow, the number of men in the army who were no longer single actually increased compared to previous years. All the men who were single were all looking forward to a wife to get married to. Isn't that tradition?"

Yu Youyao couldn't help but want to laugh. "This tradition is... quite good."

The power of an example was terrifying!

Madam Ning and Madam Huang could tell that Yu Youyao was very interested in military matters, so they also told her a lot of interesting things. Initially, they weren't too familiar with one another, nor did they understand one another's personalities. The three women, who had been keeping to themselves, became close immediately.

Yu Youyao had a big appetite. As she chatted, she ate a lot.

Madam Huang and Madam Ning looked at each other and smiled.

The You army was controlled by the nobles and their lives were not easy to begin with.

Huang Wenxian and General Ning Yuan's monthly salary were mostly used by them to support the families of the soldiers who had died in battle.

Therefore, they had no choice but to live a meticulous life.

They had lived in the North for a long time and had long heard that the wealthy families in the capital lived extravagant lives. There were at least a dozen dishes in one meal. However, the young ladies ate less than cats. They only touched each dish with their chopsticks. They ate only half a bowl of rice and left the other half. Whatever they couldn't finish was wasted.

At this moment, seeing that Yu Youyao did not have the bad habits of those young misses of aristocratic families, who ate and drank openly, the two of them heaved a sigh of relief.

Yes, their gaze confirmed that they were on the same path.

They chatted about the relationships between the various residences in Xiangping City.

After a while, Xia Tao came over to report, "Young Miss, Madam Ye is here to greet you."

Yu Youyao was a little surprised. As she was mourning and had just come to the North, she did not know many people, so she only invited the few madams who usually interacted with her in the You army and took good care of her.

She did not expect Lord Ye's wife to come too.

However, preventing an epidemic was still the government's own business. She was stepping in for the refugees and sharing the government's burden, so Lord Ye naturally had to support her greatly.

Yu Youyao put down her teacup and smoothed her wide sleeves. She smiled and said, "Please come in!"

Ye Xiaoci's first wife, who was also Ye Hanyuan's mother, came from the Yue family of the Linjiang Prefecture. The Yue family was a scholarly family in the Linjiang Prefecture, so their foundation could not be underestimated.

Great Madam Yue passed away a few years ago due to an illness. The current Madam Ye was the second wife, the legitimate daughter from a side branch of Madam Yue's maiden family. She was known as Little Madam Yue.

Lord Ye and Great Madam Yue had three legitimate sons. The eldest son, Ye Hanyuan, had left the family. It was said that the second and third sons of the first wife were both rare talents.

It had been ten years since Little Madam Yue had married Ye Xiaoci. She had yet to have any children, and she probably wouldn't have any in the future. It was terrifying to think about Ye Xiaoci's intentions for continuing to marry Little Madam Yue.

Little Madam Yue was about 20 years old. She was very beautiful, and her eyes were gentle.

Yu Youyao showed her status as a princess, but she did not show off her status. Little Madam Yue only greeted her politely. Yu Youyao returned the greeting and quickly invited Little Madam Yue to sit.

Little Madam Yue followed suit and sat beside Madam Ning.

As soon as she sat down, a maidservant came over to serve tea.

The jade laurel tea was fresh and spicy in her mouth, but the aftertaste was still fragrant and sweet. The weather was wet and cold. As soon as the cup of jade laurel tea entered her stomach, she felt that even her blood was warm.

After the tea, Little Madam Yue smiled and praised, "Indeed, only a long-standing family like the Yu Clan can raise a woman with both talent and virtue like the Princess."

There was no malice in Little Madam Yue's words. It was just that both sides had just finished greeting each other and had not even exchanged pleasantries. If she praised her eagerly, it would seem too deliberate. From this, it could be seen that Little Madam Yue was not someone who was good at socializing. Her smooth personality seemed to be a little distant from the ways of the world.

Little Madam Yue didn't know her personality and didn't have any dealings with her in the past, so it wasn't appropriate for her to praise Yu Youyao directly. Thus, she used the Yu family as an excuse.

This was the most common situation when people interacted with each other.

They would not rashly offend anyone.

Chapter 873 - 873: Honorable

In that case, it was inevitable that her praise would be a little lacking. It was fine to be polite to others, but it was a long way to go if she wanted to befriend someone.

Yu Youyao smiled. "Madam, you flatter me."

The Yu Clan was from the north, while the Ye Clan was from the south. They were the two great clans of power in the north and the south. Since ancient times, there was a saying that the Yu was in the north, while the Ye was in the south. At the end of the previous dynasty, the reputation of the Yu Clan had once overshadowed the Ye Clan and became the number one power in the previous dynasty.

Unfortunately, their success was due to Duke Zhonglie, but their failure was also due to him.

In this dynasty, although the Yu Clan was favored by the Imperial Court, every disciple who rose to an important position in the court was placed in an important position, but were not used to their full potential. As a result, the Yu Clan gradually declined.

This lasted for hundreds of years.

In terms of family history, the Ye and Yu clans were on par. However, in terms of foundation, the Yu Clan naturally could not compare to the Ye Clan, which had many talents and subordinates in the court.

Therefore, anyone could praise Yu Youyao using the Yu family.

Only the Ye family could not.

She wouldn't think too much about it, but it might not be the case for someone else.

When Little Madam Yu mentioned the Yu family, if Yu Youyao replied, she would definitely have to be humble. She would bring up the Ye family and reply humbly with praise.

If they were of the same status, humble words would be modest and polite. However, if they were not of the same status, humility would turn into self-depreciation, and their relationship would be split into levels.

From Little Madam Yue's standpoint, wasn't it obvious that Yu Youyao would be embarrassing her?

She had to clearly tell Little Madam Yue that she had said something wrong just now!

As expected, when Little Madam Yue heard that Yu Youyao had thanked her and had nothing else to say, she couldn't help but be stunned for a moment. She immediately reacted and her face turned pale, feeling a little awkward.

The etiquette between people was often very subtle. It took into account the family background, identity, and status of both sides.

Fortunately, Yu Youyao quickly changed the topic and smiled. "I learned from Ms. Ye in the past. I was taught by her for many years and treated her as my mentor. Speaking of which, I have some affinity with the Ye family."

Little Madam Yue suddenly heaved a sigh of relief. "All these years, it's all thanks to your residence taking good care of Lady Qiu that she can live a more peaceful life."

No matter how talented this woman was, others inevitably pointed fingers at her.

It was also because there were few people in the Yu Residence that Old Madam Yu had the reputation of being a chaste woman. Old Madam Yu had taken a fancy to Lady Qiu, and even the others had to think highly of her.

Little Madam Yue changed the topic and smiled. "A few days ago, Lady Qiu sent a letter to my Master. In her letter, she mentioned that the princess was her favorite disciple and asked my master to take care of her more."

In her letter, Lady Qiu praised Princess Shaoyi.

Master did not say anything else.

However, just from the fact that he had held this letter and pondered for a full half an hour, she knew that he had seen a lot of other things from it.

Master had been in the prefecture capital of Liaodong for many years and had never interfered in the conflict between the nobles and vassal lords. However, after Princess Shaoyi came to Xiangping, Master's attitude had clearly changed.

Not only was the Xie family tactful, but more importantly, Princess Shaoyi's words and actions were in line with the interests of the government. It was true that she was part of the vassal lords.

However, who in this world would be enemies with a truly smart, visionary, and magnanimous person?

Yu Youyao was very touched and quickly asked, "After I came to Xiangping, I sent a peace letter and some specialties of Xiangping to Ms. Ye. I haven't received a reply from Ms. Ye. I wonder how Ms. Ye is doing."

After leaving the capital, she would send a peace letter to her relatives and teachers every time she went to a place. She would also send some local goods. This had also become a tradition.

After coming to Xiangping, other than settling down in the Yu Garden, she had also been dealing with these trivial matters.

It had only stopped over the past few days.

Little Madam Yue smiled. "Lady Qiu is quite good. Due to the Princess's kindness and her mentor's reputation in the capital, she's even better than before. Countless people have come to ask for calligraphy pieces and guidance."

Yu Youyao was a little relieved. She had arranged for someone to take care of Ms. Ye in the capital. In the future, if the capital was in chaos and Ms. Ye was willing to come to the North, she had also arranged for someone to escort her.

After chatting about Ms. Ye, they chatted about the rest and became much closer.

After that, a few madams came over to greet them one after another.

Not long after, the living room was filled with people.

Yu Youyao said politely, "I've grown up in the capital since I was young. The etiquette and rules in the capital are different from those in the North. I'm new here and don't know much about the local customs in the North. I came to the North this time at the invitation of King Yue Fei. All of you are also family members of King Yue Fei's officials. You're older and more knowledgeable than me. Please forgive me if I'm negligent."

All the madams present quickly expressed that they didn't deserve it.

Before seeing Princess Shaoyi, they might have had some thoughts of examining and testing her because she was young.

Princess Shao Yi was wearing a large black sleeved shirt and a purple ceremonial robe. The color and patterns used were all based on the rules of the imperial family. Ordinary mingfu often used patterns based on their grade, such as the long-tailed pheasant pattern, peacock pattern, magpie pattern, and so on. However, Princess Shaoyi used the seven-tailed phoenix, which hung on her shoulder, revealing a noble aura.

No one dared to really underestimate her as a thirteen-year-old girl.

At this moment, Princess Shaoyi had taken the initiative to express her goodwill. How could they not agree?

The atmosphere immediately became lively.

The topic of discussion among the madams of the various families was definitely the prevention of the epidemic that Princess Shaoyi was concerned about. Someone had suggested that they wanted to raise donations. The money obtained from the donations would be used to buy spices and medicinal herbs related to the epidemic. They would be handed over to Princess Shaoyi's incense shop to make the incense medicine needed to avoid the epidemic.

This suggestion received strong support from all the madams present.

Next, they had to discuss how to arrange the donation, who would be in charge, and how much money each family would contribute...

For a moment, a few madams looked troubled.

Yu Youyao also knew that all the madams present were all subordinates of King Yue Fei. They also relied on the Imperial Court's compensation and lived a relatively poor life.

At the very least, in her opinion, other than a few madams who looked more exquisite, most of the people present, including Madam Huang and Madam Ning, had worn their old clothes many times.

It was not difficult to guess that this was already the best outfit they had. They would most likely rotate among several outfits when they went outside.

Yu Youyao narrowed her eyes slightly, feeling a little bitter.

If this were in the capital, even the family of an ordinary seventh-grade official would not be so shabby.

"Let Madam Huang and General Ning Yuan take the lead in the donation. How much we donate is voluntary. It's already very rare for everyone to have such intentions."

Everyone couldn't help but heave a sigh of relief, and a sincere smile appeared on their faces.

It was obvious that they really wanted to donate. However, it was not easy for everyone, so it was inevitable that it would be a little difficult.

Chapter 874 - 874: Warning

Madam Huang also said, “Then let’s do as you say. We’ll also tell you the truth and tell you everything. The salary of the soldiers in the North is a level higher than other places, but the men in the family care about their relationship as colleagues and their righteousness. They give up most of their salary to help the families of the martyrs. We women have to live a meticulous life at home. We don’t have much money, so we can only do our best with you.”

Yu Youyao smiled. “We’re doing our best.”

The atmosphere relaxed.

Madam Ning smiled gently. “The Princess wants to develop the silkworm industry vigorously in the three provinces of Liaodong. Many new silkworm farms have been opened in the Liaodong area, and the new silkworm farms give priority to the soldiers in the army. Now that we’ve also bought private assets, our lives will naturally be better in the future.”

“Isn’t that so? In the past, how could we have the chance to do such a good thing? We benefited from the Princess and His Highness.”

“His Highness also allowed the soldiers in the army to receive their pay in advance. The soldiers in the army have all bought their own businesses. Some with better backgrounds bought a business by themselves, while the others with poorer families bought a business together. It’s obvious that there’s hope.”

“But it’s all thanks to you...”

“...”

However, Yu Youyao knew that in the early years, the North couldn’t even give out money. The money in the accounts was prioritized for compensating the families of the martyrs.

It was also after King Li of Zhou’s case that the Imperial Court had shown mercy to the You soldiers. The Ministry of Revenue and the Ministry of War had sold everything they had and raided many families of the land-owning class before they could repay the military salary that they had owed over the years.

It looked like a lot.

However, Yu Youyao also knew that over the years, the You army had owed a lot of pension money. This was a huge expenditure. In addition, the armor, horses, and swords of the You army were also seriously damaged and needed to be replaced.

Once this large sum of money was settled, they were strapped for money.

As the reputation of the Graceful Heart Hall spread throughout the Great Zhou Dynasty, it also became a gathering place for the wealthy to do good deeds. In the past few years, the Graceful Heart Hall had spread throughout the north and south of the country. Yu Youyao’s good reputation first spread from the Graceful Heart Hall.

Every year, Yu Youyao would donate a large sum of money to the Graceful Heart Hall in the name of the “Graceful Heart Escort Business”.

The Graceful Heart Hall had used their name as a charity hall to buy a large number of supplies. All the governments knew that the Graceful Heart Hall had used their status as a charity hall that was

recognized by the palace to buy some controlled supplies like cotton and medicinal herbs. It was beyond the rules. However, as long as it wasn't too much, the government would turn a blind eye.

After that, in the name of the Graceful Heart Hall, they would donate a large number of resources to the You army. To the outside world, they would say that the donations they had collected had not been used up to support the border soldiers.

Nurturing soldiers was too expensive.

Raising an elite army was even more of a bottomless pit.

At this moment, Xia Tao came over. "Princess, Madam Bai has brought a few madams from Xiangping City to the Dragon Phoenix Temple. She wants to enter the temple to burn an incense stick and pray for the refugees. She's at the foot of the mountain now."

The living room immediately fell silent.

All the madams had different expressions.

Yu Youyao asked calmly, "They want to enter the temple to pray for the refugees. Why did they choose today? Why did they come uninvited?"

The Bai family was a wealthy family in the Liaodong area. Not only did Madam Bai come herself, but she also joined forces with the families of the other wealthy families. She even specially chose the day when Yu Youyao was present to pray for the refugees.

Who was Yu Youyao?

The Yu Garden guards had already sealed the mountain gate. How could they come as they pleased?

Xia Tao replied in a low voice, "They said that they've heard a lot about the Princess's kindness. Although they're lowly, they still have the intention to follow suit. They want to pay their respects to Buddha behind the Princess so that they can bask in your Buddhist nature. They don't mean to offend you."

Madam Yao's eyes flashed.

From the bottom of her heart, these words were interesting.

Yu Youyao's grade was that of a first-grade Saint Venerable Princess, and she was titled Shaoyi. The word "Yi" meant great kindness and virtue, and it had the meaning of praise. What she did would be from her kindness and virtue. Therefore, the word "Yi" meant that whatever Yu Youyao did as Princess Shaoyi would come from her benevolence.

It was obvious what she was thinking.

The Bai Residence's reaction was within Yu Youyao's expectations. The Xie Residence had already made it clear that they wanted to take the lead and teach the Yue Fei Residence a lesson.

Preventing the epidemic was just a suitable opportunity.

The Bai Residence was in Xiangping, so the Bai Residence could be the first to know and react and make a decision.

From afar, some news had passed through thousands of people. The content of the news was different from before. They still needed to spend time confirming it further. They could not make such a decision.

Yu Youyao chuckled. "In that case, please come in. Send them another message. My maternal family, the Xie family, has an ancestral teaching. All the talents in the world should be taken from the people and used on them. Seventy percent of one's wealth should benefit the region, while 30% belongs to them. If you don't earn unrighteous money, you can't do anything unrighteous. This is the way of business. I've been taught by my maternal ancestors and have always admired these businessmen and nobles who are dedicated to good."

Madam Huang smiled.

The others present also chimed in.

"No wonder the Xie family donated most of their assets as soon as they made a move. They didn't even blink. It turns out that there's such an ancestral teaching in the family. The Xie family is indeed righteous."

"The reputation of the Xie family as a benevolent merchant is indeed well-deserved."

"I heard that the princess's grandmother, Old Madam Yu, believes in Buddhism. The Princess has been raised by her grandmother since she was young, and she also has a righteous and kind-hearted maternal family like the Xie family. No wonder the princess also has a Bodhisattva heart..."

"..."

No one present was a fool. How could they not tell that Princess Shaoyi was using the Xie Residence to teach the families of the nobles led by the Bai Residence a lesson?

There was no lack of smart people in this world. As soon as the Xie family made a move, they used most of their assets to warn the nobles. Anyone who understood the situation should express something.

Madam Huang held Madam Yao's hand and spoke intimately.

The other madams also joined in the fun. Madam Yao was also a generous and straightforward person, so she quickly chatted with the other madams.

Xia Tao left the small courtyard and personally went down the mountain to tell Madam Bai and the others what Yu Youyao had said.

Madam Bai quickly bowed and thanked her.

Princess Shaoyi's maternal family, the Xie Residence, had attacked them and warned them that since they wanted to "be kind", they had to imitate the Xie Residence and be "really kind."

Princess Shaoyi had also made it clear that her maternal family, the Xie family, was a merchant. She had been taught by her maternal family and was not prejudiced against merchants and nobles, so she was willing to help.

She admired benevolent merchants like the Xie family. If they could be “wholeheartedly kind”, she would naturally be kind to them.

Since the Bai Residence had decided to donate to King Yue Fei, they had already prepared for the worst.

They had originally planned to spend money to buy their lives, so they were naturally not afraid of this sentence. They were most worried that if they lost the money, it would not be good.

Chapter 875 - 875: Fate

Princess Shaoyi’s words were both benevolent and powerful, and her attitude was clearly expressed. This also made Madam Bai feel relieved.

In order to increase her bargaining chips, she had convinced the nobles in the Liaodong area who were on good terms with the Bai family to come over and “surrender.”

The few madams who had come with Madam Bai couldn’t help but heave a sigh of relief. They all said, “Princess Shaoyi’s reputation for being kind is indeed well-deserved.”

Xia Tao greeted the commander of the guards guarding the mountain.

Only then were Madam Bai and the others allowed to go up the mountain.

Yu Youyao brought all the madams to the treasure hall to pay their respects to Buddha and recite the Diamond Sutra. The abbot lit the first incense stick of today and handed it to Yu Youyao.

Yu Youyao offered the incense and added some incense money.

All the madams also lit incense one after another.

Madam Bai and the others hung behind and waited. They saw Princess Shaoyi wearing a large black sleeve and a purple robe. The crown on her head was inlaid with gold and jade, and her head was covered in pearls. There were pendants hanging around her.

She exuded a noble and dignified aura from head to toe. Just one look at her gave off a dignified aura that made people admire her sincerely.

As expected of a “noble lady”.

Even when she walked, the exquisite and generous jade pendant was still sparkling. It moved slowly, making it look beautiful and generous.

She was completely different from others. When others walked, the hairpins and earrings on their body swayed with their steps. Not only was there no sense of beauty, but they also looked frivolous and heavy.

Madam Huang, Madam Bai, and the others finally saw what it meant to be a true noble lady of an aristocratic family.

After that, they went to pay their respects to the Medicine Buddha.

The abbot took a step forward. “Amitabha. There’s an eminent monk from the Precious Peace Temple in the capital who wants to teach the Sutra of the Medicine Buddha in the meditation room. Princess, do you want to move forward?”

Yu Youyao's gaze flickered. "He's Zen Master Hui Ji of the Precious Peace Temple."

"That's right!" The abbot nodded.

She did not expect Master Hui Ji to also come to the North. Yu Youyao turned to Madam Huang and the others behind her and said, "I'm going to the meditation room to listen to the meditation. Do you want to go together?"

Mrs. Huang smiled and said, "I heard that Master Hui Ji is one of the Six Wise Monks of the Precious Peace Temple. His Buddhist teachings are very profound. It's rare for him to hear an eminent monk preach scriptures, so I naturally can't miss it."

The others chimed in.

Yu Youyao clasped her hands together and said to the abbot, "Thank you for leading the way."

The meditation room was built against the mountain. The group left the temple hall and walked up a mountain path. Yu Youyao led Madam Huang and the others into the meditation room.

Madam Bai and the others consciously stayed in the small courtyard outside the meditation room. A monk had prepared meditation cushions, and they sat on it obediently.

There was a Buddhist shrine in the meditation hall. A young gray-robed monk sat cross-legged on a meditation cushion, twirling his prayer beads in his hand, looking dignified.

Who else could it be but "Cousin Zhou"?!

However, ever since she reunited with "Cousin Zhou" at the Precious Peace Temple, she had severed her mortal ties with him. From then on, there was no longer "Zhou Linghuai" in the world, only Master Hui Ji from the Precious Peace Temple.

Yu Youyao clasped her hands together and bowed. "It's been a long time. How have you been?"

"Amitabha. Everything has a law. It's born from fate and harmony. It doesn't happen for no reason." Master Hui Ji opened his eyes and looked at her steadily. He only said, "Please help yourself."

Yu Youyao understood.

What was fate?

It was because of Zhou Linghuai and Xiangping City.

It was also because of Zhou Linghuai and Yin Huaixi.

It was also because of Zhou Linghuai and Yu Youyao.

That was why she and Master Hui Ji were fated today!

There were desks and meditation cushions in the meditation room. Yu Youyao sat alone at one desk. As for Madam Huang and the others, two people would sit at one desk. There were five desks, which were just enough.

Master Hui Ji explained the “The Sutra on the Original Vows and Merits of the Medicine Master Lapis Lazuli Light Tathagata”.

First, he explained the title of the scripture.

“[Medicine Master] is the general name of Buddha. Physically, the Medicine Master treats the suffering of all living beings, and psychologically, the Medicine Master treats the greed, anger, and obsession of all living beings. The body of the Medicine Master is accompanied by the two heads of Bodhisattva, namely the Lapis Lazuli Light. With thousands of Lapis Lazuli Lights, the Medicine Master can see through the indefiniteness and the light of merit.”

“Tathagata talks about fate. Things come and go as they are. All living beings are equal and there’s no difference. In other words, cause, fate, and effect are the Great Vows. All men fear the effect, while the Bodhisattva fears the cause. If evil karma is created in the ‘cause’, they have to bear the bitter ‘effect’. This scripture describes how to do good deeds. Through the merit of doing good deeds, one can obtain the reward they want.”

Master Hui Ji was indeed worthy of being called the Six Wise Monks of the Precious Peace Temple. The “Sutra of the Medicine Buddha” was obscure and profound. However, he explained the meaning of the scripture questions in a simple manner. He also explained the 12 Great Vows, as well as the cause and effect of fate.

Even those who did not know much about Buddhism were mesmerized and understood.

There was a brush, ink, pieces of paper, and inkstone on the desk. Yu Youyao listened to the meditation while copying the scriptures. By the time Master Hui Ji finished teaching a scripture, Yu Youyao had already copied a thick stack of scriptures.

Yu Youyao bade farewell to Master Hui Ji and consecrated the copied meditation scriptures to the temple.

The goal of this trip had been achieved.

Yu Youyao said, “Madams, please help yourself. I’m going to the treasure hall to pray for my grandmother and my mother. At the same time, I’ll light a lamp for my grandmother.”

As a result, everyone praised Yu Youyao for her filial piety.

The Dragon Phoenix Temple was a small temple. In the entourage, Old Madam Sun arranged for a kitchen maid to bring ingredients, some exquisite snacks, fruits, and so on. Then, she borrowed the kitchen in the temple and made a few simple vegetarian dishes. They were delicious.

After lunch, everyone continued chatting about the topics that they had not finished previously.

The details of the donation were also finalized.

It wasn’t until early afternoon that the group left the mountain. Yu Youyao bade farewell to Madam Huang and the others before getting into the carriage and returning to the city.

At this moment, there was a commotion outside.

Yu Youyao listened and seemed to hear someone crying out for justice. Just as she was about to lift the curtain and look out of the window, the carriage suddenly stopped.

Yu Youyao frowned and turned to instruct Xia Tao, "Go out and take a look. What happened outside?"

Xia Tao quickly agreed and lifted the curtain to leave.

The commotion outside became louder and louder. Yu Youyao heard a woman cry out in grievance.

The commoners had publicly stopped the Princess's carriage and caused such a huge commotion. No matter how one looked at it, it was not simple. At this moment, many commoners must have already gathered around the carriage.

After a while, Xia Tao returned to the carriage with a solemn expression. "There's a woman outside. She's kneeling in the middle of the street and blocking your carriage, wanting to complain. From what this woman said, it seems that a man has died in the family. She suspects that there's a problem with the medicine caught by the pharmacy and went to the government office to complain. She's certain that the owner of the pharmacy has spent money to bribe the government office. She's asking you to uphold justice."

Yu Youyao's eyebrows twitched. She suddenly remembered that the largest medicinal herb merchant in Xiangping City was the Bai Residence.

Chapter 876 - 876: Han Family

Madam Bai went to the Precious Peace Temple early this morning. On the way back, they bumped into Madam Zhang's complaint.

She was complaining about the pharmacy.

Yu Youyao's expression turned cold. "Go and tell Old Madam Sun to..."

Seeing Young Miss's serious expression, Xia Tao knew that this matter was not simple. She listened carefully to Young Miss's instructions and hurriedly got out of the car to look for Old Madam Sun to convey Young Miss's intentions.

There was a restaurant facing the street. At this moment, in a private room on the second floor, a young man in his early twenties was wearing a navy blue python robe. He stood at the window and played with the emerald jade ring in his hand as he looked down at the carriage parked in the middle of the street. There were four wheels and four horses. There were curtains hanging around, so no one could see the situation in the carriage.

He Zhixian was the county magistrate of Xiangping County. He stepped forward obsequiously. "Sixth Young Master Han, are you satisfied with my arrangements?"

The ancestors of the Han family were once the first batch of scholars to take the imperial examination after Emperor Gaozu established the country. They were the first ministers of the Great Zhou Dynasty.

Then, Emperor Gaozu issued a series of state policies along the northwest border.

The successful implementation of the national policy often required the strong push of the local families. Due to the difference in culture between the north and south, it caused the south to have outstanding talents, and the north to have fewer talents.

Among the outstanding ones, the Han family, who had just become scholars, was noticed by Emperor Gaozu.

Emperor Gaozu had promoted the Han family a lot and valued them very much.

The unknown Han family gradually developed into the number one noble family in Shaanxi.

Although their foundation was not as strong as the Yu Clan's, the power of the Han Clan in the court could not be underestimated. After the Grand Secretary, Yu Zongshen, went into mourning, the two second-in-charge of the cabinet now included the court officials of the Han Clan.

This was the reason why the Han family was not afraid of vassal lords.

The Sixth Young Master Han in front of him was from the direct line of descent of the Han family and had passed the imperial examination a few years ago. He had originally planned to shock the world during the examination by grace last year. Unexpectedly, during the previous exam, he was first implicated in a fraud case and the Marquis of Ningyuan's Residence sent him to jail.

After that, because of King Li of Zhou's case, the emperor was very dissatisfied with the noble families in the north. He also wanted to warn the land-owning class in the north. There were very few spots for the imperial examination in the Shanxi, Shaanxi, and Zhejiang areas. Almost all of them were replaced by candidates from the two lakes.

As a result, Sixth Young Master Han fell off the list.

Sixth Young Master Han looked elegant. He looked at Princess Shaoyi's carriage downstairs with a faint smile. "Is Madam Zhang, who caused trouble, reliable?"

He had planned this scheme. In order to prevent anyone from noticing anything amiss, he had not interfered the entire time. He had left everything to Lord He to arrange himself and had not even asked.

He was more or less a little worried.

He Zhixian chuckled. "Sixth Young Master, don't worry. We're all in the same boat. Naturally, we have to arrange such matters carefully. Nothing can go wrong."

Sixth Young Master Han glanced at him and said in an inexplicable tone, "Oh, is that so?"

Were they all in the same boat?

Was a mere seventh-grade official worthy?

She really didn't know what she was capable of after giving her respect.

He Zhixian did not know what he was thinking. He thought that Sixth Young Master Han was just worried, so he quickly said, "Madam Zhang is famous for having a hard life. After her previous husband died in battle, the Imperial Court owed the army money, and the You army only gave her a small compensation. She has always been resentful about this."

He knew a little about this.

It wasn't that the You army didn't want to give them more compensation, but that they didn't have enough money to begin with. Then, they invaded wantonly, and no one cared about this matter. Then, King Li of Zhou died...

"Later, when she couldn't live anymore, Madam Zhang brought two sons and a daughter and remarried to a farmer. The farmer's wife died, leaving behind two daughters. Their father was paralyzed on the bed, and their mother's back wasn't good, so she couldn't do heavy work. The entire family relied on a man's skills to repair the house. Now that a man had died, the entire family seemed to have collapsed. They were risking their lives. They weren't afraid of anyone. It wasn't easy to send them away."

She couldn't even live anymore, so how could she stop?

Sixth Young Master Han smiled faintly. "Madam Zhang is even related to the You army. It's really amazing that you can think of this."

He Zhixian quickly leaned forward to take credit. "I've asked about Princess Shaoyi's actions after she arrived in the North. I realized that the businesses under her name are all prioritized to recruit the families of martyrs, orphans, and finally ordinary orphans and widows. From this, it can be seen that she has great kindness towards such people, and it's very easy for her to be soft-hearted and kind to them."

Everyone had weaknesses. No matter how strong a person was, as long as they grasped the weaknesses in human nature and made good use of them, they would be vulnerable.

Furthermore, Princess Shaoyi was a woman.

Women all had long hair and were short-sighted. They were also very soft-hearted. With Princess Shaoyi's current status, it was fine even if she stood up for an ordinary commoner.

How could she have thought that there would be so many undercurrents and traps behind a commoner's complaint?

Just a simple action was enough to consign someone to eternal damnation.

Sixth Young Master Han smiled. "Everyone in the world knows that Princess Shaoyi is kind and benevolent. She's a living Bodhisattva. Open your eyes and take a closer look. If this living Bodhisattva sees a commoner's wife stopping her on the street and crying out for justice, will she be kind and stand up for a commoner's wife?"

Was Princess Shaoyi a living Bodhisattva? What they heard might be false, but what they saw was true.

Ever since Princess Shaoyi had arrived in the North, he had been secretly preparing for this show. It was only now that the show began.

He Zhixian hurriedly said, "Sixth Young Master, you're wise. If Princess Shaoyi doesn't care about Madam Zhang's complaint in public, I'm afraid her reputation as a living Bodhisattva will be greatly reduced. After all, the world is stupid and often only trusts what they see. If Princess Shaoyi is involved in this matter, it can't get any better."

His eyes narrowed, and his voice revealed a hint of insidiousness.

Sixth Young Master Han continued, "Women are not allowed to interfere in politics. Princess Shaoyi is openly using her status to interfere in the matters of the county office. That's interfering with the rules of the court. It's lawless and overstepping the law. Lord He can legitimately ignore the Imperial Court and report her openly. It's not a small matter for a woman to interfere in politics. It's impossible for the Imperial Court to let her off easily."

Now that the royalists in the court were powerful, Princess Shaoyi's words and actions were bad. It was also the best opportunity for the Han party to attack and annihilate the royalists.

He Zhixian smiled and said, "Sixth Young Master is right. Princess Shaoyi is also involved with Yue Fei, the King of the North. Although the emperor trusts Yue Fei, he has never forgotten that Yue Fei is also a vassal king with a large army. He still needs to use the land-owning class to restrain Yue Fei. At that time, as long as the Han family joins forces with the court officials to report, Princess Shaoyi will stir up the court and cause chaos in the country. She will be instigated by Yue Fei, the King of the North. It will be difficult for King Yue Fei to take care of himself."

Chapter 877 - 877: Living Bodhisattva

The Han Clan was powerful, and the court was filled with henchmen. There was also a resourceful second-in-charge in the cabinet. At that time, everyone would be talking about it. With the Imperial Court's suspicion of the vassal lords, Princess Shaoyi and King Yue Fei would not have a good time. If they handled it well, even the Yu Clan would be implicated.

Sixth Young Master Han sighed softly. "Princess Shaoyi has used the Xie Residence to attack the nobles. She wants to deal with the aristocratic families by using their spear to attack their shield. The aristocratic families have cooperated with the land-owning class for many years, and some of them are constantly involved. Look at Madam Bai today, as well as the families of many nobles in Liaodong. They all rushed to Princess Shaoyi. You know how brilliant Princess Shaoyi's plan is. She has grasped human nature perfectly."

If Princess Shaoyi succeeded and the nobles donated to King Yue Fei, it was inevitable that the land-owning class would be implicated and suffer heavy losses.

His words revealed his admiration for Princess Shaoyi. However, his tone seemed frivolous and slow, revealing disdain and mockery.

Indeed!

Sixth Young Master Han sneered and changed the topic. As he shook his head, he revealed a regretful expression. "Tsk, ts, ts. What a pity. So what if she's the eldest daughter of the first wife who was carefully raised by the aristocratic family? In the end, she's an ignorant woman raised in her own room. She's underestimated the Han Clan. The Bai Residence has something on the Han Clan and wants to use it as a bargaining chip to submit to King Yue Fei. However, the Han Clan also has something on the Bai Residence and has the upper hand..."

Madam Zhang's complaint seemed to be directed at the Bai Residence, but it was actually an act with a hidden motive.

Princess Shaoyi was already caught between a rock and a hard place.

He Zhixian hurriedly said, "If Princess Shaoyi ignores Madam Zhang's complaint, it's equivalent to not caring about the Bai Residence's life and death. The Bai Residence will naturally know that if

they join King Yue Fei and decide that he can't save their lives, they will have to turn around and beg the Han Clan. They won't dare to help King Yue Fei deal with the Han Clan. As for the other disloyal nobles, they will naturally behave when they see this situation."

The matter of the Xie Residence donating money caused an uproar. In just two days, it had already spread in the Liaodong area, and the nobles everywhere were also tempted.

"If she deals with this matter, it's inevitable that we'll be accused of interfering with the court and causing chaos in the country. Princess Shaoyi's plan to control the nobles and deal with the land-owning class has already been foiled. Your move is too brilliant."

Sixth Young Master Han smiled smugly. "If it weren't for the fact that Princess Shaoyi had come to help King Yue Fei promote the planting of sweet potatoes in the North to ease the disaster in the North and even the Great Zhou Dynasty, it would have had a lot to do with the national policies issued by the Imperial Court. A mere Princess is still a little dignified in the capital. In the North, even if she's a golden phoenix, I guarantee that she won't be able to return."

He Zhixian's body trembled, and he quickly lowered his head, not daring to speak.

The case of King Li of Zhou and the tragic scene of blood flowing like a river in the North were still vivid in his mind.

The emperor did not pursue the matter to the end. It was the emperor who still wanted to use the land-owning class of the North to continue restraining the vassal lords. It was the land-owning class who was very powerful in the court. It was also because the land-owning class was deeply rooted in the North that if they moved rashly, there would inevitably be chaos in the North.

At that time, the Marquis of Changxing was escorted into the capital. It was the period around autumn and winter, and the Northern Barbarians were eyeing them covetously. However, the North was supported by the generals of the cavalry, and they urgently needed to stabilize the situation in the North as soon as possible.

Although Princess Shaoyi was the daughter of an external minister, she had been conferred the title of a member of the imperial family. Her status was very noble, and she was deeply indebted to the emperor. She was also valued by the Empress Dowager. She was also the eldest daughter of the first wife of the Yu family in the capital. She represented the imperial court and had the interests of the royalists behind her. With the support of the Yu family, if anything happened to her in the North, she would directly stir up a hornet's nest. It would provoke the dignity of the royal family and the dignity of the imperial family.

If Princess Shaoyi encountered an accident, it would be a public provocation to the imperial power. The Imperial Court would not let it go easily, and the nobles of the North would become the target of public criticism.

Touching her was no different from courting death.

... .

At this moment, the Yu Garden guards were already holding their knives horizontally in front of them. They blocked the surroundings of the carriage and surrounded it tightly. A few guards surrounded Madam Zhang, who had a dirty head and ragged clothes. The saber at her waist had already been unsheathed. The bright blade was aimed at Madam Zhang's head, throat, and heart. They guaranteed that if Madam Zhang did anything abnormal, she would be instantly killed.

There were already many people gathered around, pointing and discussing this scene.

Madam Zhang was not afraid at all. She knelt on the ground and cried miserably. "I have grievances. Princess Shaoyi, please uphold justice for me. You're a living Bodhisattva. I'll kowtow to you..."

Old Madam Sun stepped forward with a dark expression. "You have a grievance. What's the logic of stopping the Princess halfway?"

"The Princess isn't the county magistrate. Do you expect her to avenge you?"

"There are national laws and court rules. The concubines in the harem can't do political work yet. The Princess is a woman. Wouldn't that mess up the court rules?"

"The daughter of an external minister has been conferred the title of Princess. It's the grace of the royal family and she has received the emperor's grace. Naturally, she has to follow the rules. How can she use her status to disrupt the law of the country?"

"The Princess has a noble status. You were rude to her during her journey. It's not an exaggeration to punish you for offending your superior."

These words made the surrounding commoners feel sad.

Madam Zhang cried even more miserably. "My first husband went to the battlefield with King Li of Zhou died in battle. My second husband was a carpenter and often helped the You army do some carpentry work. Didn't they say that Princess Shaoyi was a living Bodhisattva? I just want justice. Please help me..."

Then, Madam Zhang cried at the top of her lungs. She cried that her husband had died for no reason, that her life was so bitter, that the men in her family had died, that her in-laws were not in good health, and that her children were all a little older. They would not be able to live in the future.

Her performance was excellent, mixed with the sorrow of reality, making all the commoners present empathize. For a moment, tears welled up in their eyes and they were filled with sorrow.

Madam Zhang's sorrow was the current situation of most of the commoners in the North. It also reflected the blood and tears that most of the soldiers' families experienced.

Even Yu Youyao's eyes couldn't help but turn red. She instructed Chun Xiao in a low voice, "Invite Madam Zhang over to talk."

Chun Xiao alighted from the carriage, opened the door, and lifted the heavy curtain, leaving only a thin gauze curtain to cover it. Everyone could only see a woman wearing a pearl jade crown sitting

upright behind the gauze curtain. Although they couldn't see her appearance clearly, the woman was dressed in a black robe that instantly intimidated the commoners present.

The commoners did not understand etiquette. When they heard that Princess Shaoyi was a legitimate princess, they immediately knelt on the ground in fear. They deeply realized that although Princess Shaoyi was known for being kind, she was also a noble daughter.

She was noble and dignified.

She was not someone they could discuss and gossip about.

Chapter 878: Diverting Trouble

Chun Xiao stepped forward and walked up to Madam Zhang. She bent down and said to her, "Auntie, Princess Shaoyi invites you forward to talk."

Madam Zhang suddenly raised her head and grabbed Chun Xiao's hand with an excited expression. "Is the Princess willing to help me?"

Chun Xiao's eyelids twitched, and she had a bad feeling. She quickly said, "Don't be anxious. If there's anything you want to say, talk to the Princess after you see her..."

Unexpectedly! Before she could finish speaking!

Madam Zhang's face was already filled with sorrow and joy. She quickly knelt on the ground and kowtowed to Princess Shaoyi in the carriage without any explanation. In just a few moments, her forehead was bleeding. "Thank you for your kindness, Princess. May Princess Shaoyi live for a thousand years..."

Chun Xiao frowned slightly. Young Miss had not made it clear that she wanted to manage Madam Zhang's matters. It was just that because Madam Zhang's family was involved with the You army and they were in public, it was not appropriate for her to ignore them. That was why she had suggested meeting Madam Zhang. Unexpectedly, Madam Zhang did not know the big picture and actually deliberately shouted, as if the Princess really wanted to help her.

Wasn't this clearly setting a trap for Young Miss and forcing her?

Indeed!

A low discussion came from the crowd. Everyone was talking about Princess Shaoyi's kindness. She couldn't bear to see the commoners suffer and be wronged. She was simply a living Bodhisattva.

"The Princess is from a large family in the Yu Clan. She has inherited the benevolence and filial piety of her ancestors and has the aura of a loyal Duke..."

"Old Madam Yu believes in Buddhism and has always been known as a virtuous person. The Imperial Court has bestowed a memorial arch for her good virtues and to complement her integrity. Princess Shaoyi has been raised by the Old Madam since she was young. Just like her Grandmother, she has the heart of the Bodhisattva..."

“That’s right, that’s right. Princess Shaoyi has opened a charity hall since she was young and takes in lonely people. She often gives porridge and rice to help the commoners. Previously, when there was a water disaster in Zhejiang, Princess Shaoyi donated a million taels of silver to help the Imperial Court help the refugees...”

“Princess Shaoyi donated a sum of money in her Grandmother’s name to relief the drought in the North...”

“She even donated a batch of medicinal herbs before the new year...”

“The sweet potatoes eased the drought in the North...”

“Everyone says that Princess Shaoyi is kind and benevolent. She hates to see the commoners suffer and suffer. Seeing her today, she really lives up to her reputation...”

“...”

Everyone discussed this matter at once. From the Yu Clan’s ancestral virtue, to Old Madam Yu’s kindness, to Yu Youyi’s kindness, everything was meticulous.

In just a moment, Yu Youyao’s “kind” image had reached a new height.

In the end, she even labeled Yu Youyao as someone who couldn’t bear to see the people “suffering” and experiencing “injustice”. She wanted “justice for the people”.

Yu Youyao listened for a while and could tell what was going on.

The commoners did not understand etiquette. In their opinion, Princess Shaoyi was from a large family. Not only was she noble, but she was also powerful. It was easy for her to help an ordinary farmer.

This mentality was actually very easy to use.

Madam Zhang, who had a bitter life, had been arranged to put on this show and deliberately publicized it wantonly. The Yu Clan’s ancestors were virtuous, her grandmother was kind, and Princess Shaoyi’s reputation as a “living Bodhisattva” instigated the surrounding commoners to join in the commotion, making the commoners think that she had already agreed to help Madam Zhang.

In public, in front of everyone, Madam Zhang used the commoners to “coerce” Yu Youyao into interfering in her matters.

If Yu Youyao agreed to help, it would undoubtedly be because the Yu Clan’s ancestors were virtuous, her grandmother was kind, and her reputation was well-deserved.

If Yu Youyao refused, the Yu Clan, her grandmother, and herself would have an undeserved reputation.

A person could not be good for a thousand days, and flowers could not be red for a hundred days. When someone had a good reputation, others would be jealous of them. When someone was doted

on, they would be slandered. Princess Shaoyi was so good, so how could she resist? Seeing was believing.

What a good scheme!

The land-owning class wanted to take her down a notch. Yu Youyao's lips curled up slightly, and her eyes turned cold.

At this moment, Chun Xiao had already led Madam Zhang forward.

Madam Zhang's body trembled. Just now, she had only wanted to make the matter worse. Princess Shaoyi would definitely help her because of her "good reputation." However, now that she was in front of the Princess, even through the gauze curtain, she could see the indistinct figure inside. The figure was sitting high up in the air, examining her arrogantly.

That innate nobility and dignity pressed down on her until she felt ashamed. From the bottom of her heart, she felt terrified. Immediately, her legs went limp and she knelt on the ground with a thud. Her mouth trembled as she said, "Greetings, greetings, Princess Shaoyi. May Princess Shaoyi live for a thousand years."

Yu Youyao said calmly, "I heard you crying out for justice just now. You seem to be related to the You army, right?"

Madam Zhang quickly replied, "My first husband who joined the army died in battle a few years ago. I couldn't live anymore, so I remarried..."

Yu Youyao interrupted her and sighed. "Your late first husband sacrificed his life for the country. It's all for the sake of the country, but it's a pity for a woman like you." At this point, she changed the topic and asked, "I remember that the Great Zhou Dynasty's law clearly stipulates that anyone who dies in battle will be rewarded by their family according to their contributions. Hasn't the compensation of the Imperial Court been distributed to you?"

Madam Zhang was a little stunned. She subconsciously said, "My late husband fought alongside King Li of Zhou and made a lot of contributions. According to the rules, he had to be given 57 taels of silver as compensation. At that time, he was only given 5 taels of silver. He was owed 52 taels of silver. He was told that they would make up for it after the war ended, but later..."

When Sixth Young Master Han, who was standing in the private room on the second floor, heard this, he felt that something was amiss and couldn't help but frown.

Yu Youyao was stunned for a moment. After a while, she asked, "When did your late husband die in battle?"

Madam Zhang subconsciously replied, "Seven years ago, at the end of autumn..."

"No wonder." Yu Youyao sighed softly. "Not long after the war at the end of autumn, the Di people invaded the North wantonly and almost caused the North to collapse with a delaying tactic. As the land-owning class did not want to support the battle and planned to escape privately, it caused a lack of supplies and insufficient food. As a result, the You army suffered heavy casualties in the North and the war failed repeatedly."

At the mention of this, it was inevitable that she would mention King Li of Zhou's death.

Sixth Young Master Han finally knew what was wrong.

Princess Shaoyi was trying to divert the trouble.

Why had Madam Zhang remarried?

It was because she couldn't live anymore.

Why couldn't she live anymore?

Indeed!

Yu Youyao changed the topic and said, "In order to escape punishment, the nobles of the North colluded with one another and accused King Li of Zhou of rebellion. Then, King Li of Zhou's family died tragically, and only the heavily injured heir on the battlefield could escape. From then on, the Marquis of Changxing was in charge of the You army. Some of the names and accounts of the original You army were also damaged and lost for various reasons. It was hard on you families of martyrs. The compensation that should have belonged to you and should have been taken care of by the You army was left unsettled in the end. If not for that, why would you not be able to live?"

Sixth Young Master Han's expression immediately turned ashen.

What a good move to divert the trouble!

Chapter 879: Backfire

No matter what, it was still related to King Li of Zhou's death. If King Li of Zhou was still alive and had given Madam Zhang a compensation, no matter how much the You army took care of them, why would Madam Zhang not be able to live well?

Sixth Young Master Han glared at Lord He. "You found a good person!"

He could just find an ordinary woman with a bitter life. Why go so far as to specially find someone related to the You army? She would give Princess Shaoyi a chance to make a fuss for no reason.

In true aristocratic families, there was no such thing as favoring boys over girls. Men and daughters were all raised the same. The things they studied includes the six arts of rites, music, archery, charioteering, reading and writing, and arithmetic. They were taught the Four Books and Five Classics, the Three Principles and Five Commons, the Annotations to the Four Books, and so on, which were compulsory for the imperial examination. They even had to study all kinds of women's books and studies to be proficient in women's skills.

She had been nurtured since she was young. She was not inferior to the men in the family at all.

Sixth Young Master Han scoffed at Princess Shaoyi, who was a woman but did not know her place and interfered in men's matters. However, he did not dare to underestimate her.

He also knew very well that when smart people fought, a slight discrepancy might lead to a serious error.

Lord He also complained inwardly. "I was also worried that Princess Shaoyi wouldn't fall for it if I found an ordinary woman. You don't know this, but every family in the North has someone who has joined the army and is related to the You army. It can also stir up the hearts of the people. Who knew that Princess Shaoyi actually..." Didn't follow the plan?!

Was it better now?

Wouldn't that be self-defeating?

Sixth Young Master Han's expression darkened. "Madam Zhang is an ignorant and vulgar woman. When she suddenly saw Princess Shaoyi's imposing aura, she was intimidated and led away by Princess Shaoyi." He took a deep breath and looked at He Zhixian. "Madam Zhang stopped Princess Shaoyi's carriage to seek justice for her husband. Princess Shaoyi avoided the main point and only mentioned Madam Zhang's ex-husband. Do you need me to teach you what to do?"

Lord He was shocked and quickly called a servant over. "Tell the people we've arranged earlier to report this to Madam Zhang."

The servant quietly left the inn and blended into the crowd.

Not long after, someone in the crowd shouted.

"Madam Zhang stopped your carriage to avenge her husband. Princess, why don't you ask about the details of Madam Zhang's grievance?"

As soon as these words were spoken, someone else chimed in.

"That's right. Why didn't the Princess ask about Madam Zhang's grievances?"

"Madam Zhang's ex-husband has died in battle for many years, and Madam Zhang has already remarried. Why is the Princess always talking about Madam Zhang's ex-husband?"

"Princess, are you deliberately avoiding the main point? Don't you want to uphold justice for Madam Zhang?"

"..."

In the crowd, there were people who chimed in at once. Soon, many people joined in.

Yu Youyao tilted her head to look at Yin Shi and asked in a low voice, "Who was the first to take the lead? Did you hear clearly?"

Yin Shi nodded. "By listening to the sound, we can almost determine the location of the person who led the trouble. We only need to lock down the location to determine the target."

Yu Youyao nodded and instructed casually, "Arrest them!"

Yin Shi suddenly jumped onto the roof of the car, and her gaze instantly swept across it. In just a moment, she flew into the crowd and grabbed the shoulder of a gray-clothed man. Under the burly man's frightened gaze, she picked up the man, who weighed 170 to 180 kilograms, with one hand and suddenly smashed it into the middle of the street.

With a bang, the burly man fell heavily to the ground.

"Ah ah ah—" A shrill scream like a pig being slaughtered sounded.

The guards on both sides of the carriage drew their knives and aimed them at the burly man.

Seeing this, Sixth Young Master Han's face turned ashen. "Why did Princess Shaoyi arrest him on the streets? She's doing this in public. Isn't she afraid of damaging her reputation?"

Beads of sweat appeared on He Zhixian's forehead.

The people below exclaimed in shock.

Yu Youyao said calmly, "There's no need to panic. Just stand where you are. The guards beside me are under Yue Fei's command. The You army doesn't kill innocent people. They only capture those with ulterior motives."

Yin San raised his voice and repeated Yu Youyao's words.

The commoners did not dare to run around anymore, but they were still frightened and uneasy.

In a flash, Yin Shi captured people one after another and threw them into the middle of the street. In the blink of an eye, she had captured 17 to 18 people.

Seventeen to eighteen people lay on the ground and wailed.

"Princess, please spare us. We're all good people..."

"Why are you arresting us..."

"Is there any justice? Can the Princess be unreasonable and arrest people at will?"

"Everyone, come and take a look. Princess Shaoyi is arresting people on the streets..."

"..."

When the commoners below saw this scene, they also felt that Princess Shaoyi was casually arresting people, so they couldn't help but feel a little angry.

Yu Youyao instructed calmly, "Shut their mouths."

Immediately, dozens of guards tied their mouths with cloth.

Finally, it quietened down. Yu Youyao raised her voice and asked, "Does anyone know these people? If you can step forward and identify them, each of you will be rewarded with five taels of silver."

Instantly, there was a moment of silence.

Not long after, an old man stood up and pointed at one of them. He said resentfully, "I know him. He's a hooligan in our village. He idles around all day and doesn't do anything serious. He only pilfers, eats, solicits, and gambles. My daughter was ruined by this beast and drowned in the river..."

If there was a first person, there would be a second, a third...

Not long after, they had identified all the 17 or 18 people present. They were actually all hooligans.

Those who spread rumors like this, gathered a crowd to cause trouble, and sowed discord were not good people. They were scattered in the crowd and no one knew them.

Once they were arrested, they would be exposed in public.

Xiangping City was not prosperous. Most of the people who came and went daily were from nearby villages and towns. With so many people around, it was only right for them to be recognized.

He Zhixian was already so shocked that his expression changed. "Sixth Young Master, what, what should we do now? Princess Shaoyi has caught all the people we've planted."

Sixth Young Master Han glanced at him. "Let me correct you. Princess Shaoyi captured all the people that you had planted. It wasn't us. Today's show was also arranged by you. I didn't interfere from the beginning to the end."

He deliberately emphasized the words "you" and "I", his tone revealing a cold warning.

He Zhixian's face immediately turned pale. He lowered his head timidly, but he did not dare to say anything.

Sixth Young Master Han remembered that he still needed He Zhixian to step in for the rest of the plan. He changed the topic and comforted him, "Don't worry too much. You didn't personally find these people. Princess Shaoyi can't find you, so what's the point of capturing a few hooligans? At most, they'll be paid to work for others and instigate the commoners to say something to praise Princess Shaoyi. It won't implicate you."

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He Zhixian immediately calmed down and calmed down a little. "Sixth Young Master is right. However, these people have been captured. How should our next plan be implemented?"

Without these people helping to encourage others, wouldn't Madam Zhang be at Princess Shaoyi's mercy?

Sixth Young Master Han frowned. "Our plan is already half successful. Next, it depends on Princess Shaoyi's reaction."

On the streets, Madam Zhang had publicly stopped Princess Shaoyi's carriage to avenge her husband. Princess Shaoyi had caught the people they had planted and controlled the situation. However, she could not avoid the main point and go through the motions in this matter.

Yu Youyao's voice sounded through the gauze curtain. "You disregarded the rules of respect and etiquette and openly criticized our county in public. You're disrespectful. If you didn't mean it, our county can also be magnanimous. However, you're infamous and have angered everyone. We can't let you off easily."

As soon as she finished speaking!

The hooligans who were lying on the ground were already scared out of their wits. They quickly knelt on the ground and cried, begging for mercy.

"We're innocent. We're just being paid to do things for others..."

"Yes, yes, yes. Someone instigated us to instigate the commoners when Madam Zhang was seeking justice. The Princess had no choice but to interfere in Madam Zhang's grievances in public because everyone was watching..."

“Princess, please spare us. We know our mistakes. We’ll definitely change our ways in the future and be good people...”

“...”

These people were afraid of death. Before they could be scared that much, they were so frightened that they peed their pants. They revealed everything they knew on the spot and did not dare to hide anything.

At this point, how could Sixth Young Master Han not understand that by first diverting the trouble and deliberately mentioning King Li of Zhou’s death to Madam Zhang, Princess Shaoyi was inviting him into her trap?

The aristocratic families were secretive about King Li of Zhou’s death, so they would definitely react.

He had indeed fallen for it.

When he hurriedly ordered the person He Zhixian had planted in advance to implicate Madam Zhang in the matter of pleading guilty, he had already unknowingly fallen into Princess Shaoyi’s trap.

Princess Shaoyi had captured the people who had been planted in advance and seemed to be in control of the situation.

These hooligans were all shameless people. They felt that they had not gone too far. When they were captured, they were all fearless. Princess Shaoyi had a “holy kindness” and reputation, so it was not appropriate for them to be punished on the spot.

Therefore, what was really brilliant was that Princess Shaoyi had asked others to publicly identify these people’s unbearable and evil actions. These people had angered everyone.

It made sense for Princess Shaoyi to deal with them.

When these hooligans realized their situation, how could they dare to be stubborn?

Princess Shaoyi had schemed against the human heart and human nature perfectly. She had instantly turned the situation around. The matter of Madam Zhang’s complaint had changed from purely acknowledging her husband’s injustice to something else.

Their plan was ruined.

Indeed!

Yu Youyao looked at Madam Zhang and asked gently, “You publicly stopped the carriage of our county to seek justice for your husband. Did someone instigate you too?”

Madam Zhang was already so frightened that her face turned ashen. “My husband just caught an ordinary cold. How could a bowl of medicine take his life? I went to the medicinal shop to argue, but they refused to admit it and insisted that I was extorting them. They chased me out and complained to the government office. The government office asked me to show evidence before they were willing to accept it. My in-laws fell sick one after another because of my husband’s death and wanted money to treat their illnesses. There were still five children at home who were waiting

to eat. I was at my wits' end, so I heard that the Princess was from a famous family and valued her family's reputation. She was a living Bodhisattva and couldn't bear to see the commoners suffer and suffer. Moreover, it just so happened that the Princess was going to the Dragon Phoenix Temple today. If I could stop the Princess's carriage and plead guilty in public, the Princess might be able to stand up for me..."

Yu Youyao was silent for a moment before sighing softly. "Get up. No matter what, you're innocent. Since you've begged me, I can't ignore it."

Madam Zhang quickly kowtowed. "Thank you for your kindness, Princess."

Then, Xia Tao helped her up.

Yu Youyao called Old Madam Sun forward and instructed, "Bring a few people home with this auntie first. Bring her in-laws and children to the Yu Garden and find a doctor with brilliant medical skills to treat them. Without a man in the family to support the family, their future won't be easy. Give them a few suitable jobs from the businesses under my name to support the family."

Madam Zhang did not dare to mention avenging her husband anymore. Not only had the Princess hired someone to treat her in-laws, but she had also arranged work for their family. She was already very grateful.

Yu Youyao also knew that Madam Zhang had publicly stopped her carriage to avenge her husband.

Although she had eliminated this matter and avoided the main point, and no one dared to mention it, it was not such a small favor that she could be slipshod with.

Hence, she changed the topic and comforted her. "Your first husband sacrificed his life for the country for the greater good. Although you married again, you're raising the orphan of a martyr. Your second husband has been working for the You army for many years. He has worked hard even if he hasn't contributed much. I'll make the decision to invite Military Advisor Huang, who's under King Yue Fei, over. At that time, you'll tell Military Advisor Huang about your situation in detail. Naturally, he'll stand up for you."

When Madam Zhang heard this, she was naturally excited. She knelt in front of the carriage with a thud and kowtowed a few more times. "Thank you for your grace, Princess..."

This way, this matter was handled clearly.

The commoners deeply felt that Princess Shaoyi was kind and benevolent, so they all sighed.

Meanwhile, Sixth Young Master Han, who was upstairs, felt that they had a strong start but a weak finish.

Everything was going according to plan, and there were no mistakes. However, it was like a punch hitting cotton. They used all their strength, but it was in vain. A good overt plan had turned into a farce.

As he wished, Princess Shaoyi interfered in Madam Zhang's complaint.

However, this interference was different from what they had expected.

Princess Shaoyi had deliberately mentioned the compensation. The compensation involved the You army, so it was impossible for King Yue Fei to sit back and do nothing. Once King Yue Fei was involved, the aristocratic families would fall into a passive situation.

Was this considered trying to steal a chicken only to end up losing the rice?

The curtain was lowered again, blocking the shadowy figure in the carriage as it clattered on.

If it weren't for the fact that they were at their wits' end, how would the commoners dare to stop the noble's carriage?

Madam Zhang's ex-husband had only died a few years ago. If she received the pension money, the army would usually take care of her. Although her days were a little tough, she would not be at her wits' end.

The North was bitterly cold, and the soldiers' salary and pensions were higher than those in other areas. According to the length of time they had joined the army, the wars they had participated in, and the size of their military contributions, they would receive at least eight or ten taels of silver, or at most a hundred taels.

As long as they didn't spend their money without generating any income, pension money was equivalent to a huge sum of money to ordinary people.

She had heard from Yin Huaixi that the army prioritized the distribution of pension money to martyrs. For this, King Li of Zhou and the Princess Consort did not hesitate to sell their assets. Then, when King Li of Zhou was still alive, there would be no long-term arrears of pension money.