

All Hail 921

Chapter 921 - 921: Accusation

The land-owning class had done their illegal smuggling very secretly. Even King Li of Zhou had spent a lot of effort on it back then, but in the end, it was left unsettled.

However, who was Yin Huaixi?!

He had sent the Hidden Dragon Army to disguise themselves as bandits in the area of Shanxi. They occupied the mountains and specially plundered the goods of the nobles. They also cooperated with other bandits and further participated in smuggling and plundering.

In the beginning, King Li of Zhou could not agree with his son's behavior.

In the end, Yin Huaixi still knew his old father well. In order not to be nagged at by his old father, he also said for his old father's sake, "It's better for villains to fight each other for profit than to dig graves."

King Li of Zhou was shocked. It was simply no small matter. Could it be that this kid was not in the business of stealing from others, but was in the business of digging graves and robbing tombs?!

How could that do?!

Why was the North called the ancient capital of the 13 dynasties?

As the saying went, the scholars of Jiangnan were the generals of the north, and the emperor was buried in the yellow soil of Shaanxi!

In history, in order to make up for the lack of salary, Cao Cao had established the ranks of grave robbers, tomb raiders, and so on. They specialized in tomb

Those who disobeyed were treated as traitors.

From then on, there were endless "gold raiders" in every dynasty.

However, could one do such a wicked thing as digging graves?!

Fighting other villains for profit was better than a living person going to a dead person's tomb. King Li of Zhou sighed as he helplessly accepted reality.

Sigh, it was all because they were poor!

His son had used these scams to make a killing. Not only did he earn a lot of money, he was also involved in the Shanxi and the Shaanxi area. He would exchange horses, fur, and various rare gems of the Great Zhou Dynasty with the Di people in the huge smuggling business. Then, he accumulated a batch of wealth to support 300,000 You soldiers. If King Li of Zhou found out about this, he probably wouldn't even be able to hold down the coffin board.

At the same time, the smuggling that the nobles thought was secret was exposed in Yin Huaixi's eyes.

Yin Huaixi had evidence of the nobles colluding with the enemy to betray the country, but he restrained himself from making a move. He was waiting for a suitable time to nail the soldiers to death.

Three days later, Ye Xiaoci arrived in Xi'an. After receiving Yin Huaixi's evidence, he set up an office in Xi'an County. On the same day, he sent an official letter to the Han Clan and summoned them to the court for trial.

At the same time, it was said Sixth Young Master Han had colluded with Steward Mu to murder a commoner, Liu Dagen, and frame the Bai Residence, the owner of the People's Relief Hall.

He instigated Liu Dagen's widow to stop Princess Shaoyi's carriage on the street and plead for her husband.

He had also bribed some local hooligans in Xiangping City many times to maliciously spread rumors about Princess Shaoyi, slandering and harming her reputation.

He tried to frame Princess Shaoyi by taking her actions out of context and preventing the spread of sweet potatoes to alleviate the drought, causing riots and epidemics in the refugee camps.

He skimmed on the national policy and looked down on the court.

He colluded with mountain bandits and was suspected of more than 20 cases of illegal smuggling of salt, cloth, horses, tea, and so on.

He dealt with the Di people for profit and colluded with the enemy, betraying the country.

He forged the groundless crime of King Li of Zhou "collaborating with the enemy to betray the country."

He exploited the commoners and robbed the people.

He occupied the fields of others by force.

There were more than a dozen crimes. In less than half a day, the news had spread throughout Xi'an City.

Immediately, the entire city was in an uproar.

Many people realized that once the implementation of the national policy failed, what would happen to the more than a million refugees? What unbearable consequences would the North, who had been attacked by the refugees, bear? Furthermore, would King Yue Fei, who was responsible for taking in the refugees, settling them down, and implementing the national policy, be punished?

King Yue Fei's sudden order for the entire territory to be under martial law suddenly had a more reasonable explanation.

At the same time, the government's four notices also spread throughout the various government offices in Shanxi and Shaanxi. At this moment, someone realized that there were already local people who had succeeded in trying to grow sweet potatoes.

As soon as they asked around, they found out that in order to promote the planting of sweet potatoes, Princess Shaoyi had bought farmsteads in all areas of the North. After breeding them, she distributed them to the nearby commoners for free.

Although Shanxi, Gansu, Ningxia, and the other areas had suffered more damage, the sweet potatoes were resistant to drought. There were still some cols and plains beside mountains and water where sweet potatoes could be planted.

As soon as the news spread, the name of Princess Shaoyi's good deed spread widely.

As the culprit who had slandered Princess Shaoyi, the Han Clan was criticized by everyone.

All the scholars and calligraphers in the world jointly signed a petition to the Imperial Court. The commoners spontaneously wrote a joint petition and submitted it to the Imperial Court.

At this moment, Ye Xiaoci and Princess Shaoyi's memorials were also sent into the capital one after another.

Princess Shaoyi did not mention much about being framed by the Han Clan. She only mentioned the benefits of breeding sweet potatoes. The first and second batches of sweet potato vines had already been distributed free of charge to the refugees. Preparations for the locust plague were also being carried out. She mentioned all the measures related to preventing the epidemic in the refugee camp.

It was also mentioned that there were already a few areas in the Shanxi, Shaanxi, Gansu, and Ningxia areas where sweet potatoes had been successfully planted. It was expected that as long as the sweet potatoes grew to the thickness of a finger, the local situation would be relieved.

This news was undoubtedly exciting.

Princess Shaoyi had proved to everyone in the world that it was feasible to implement a strategy to accommodate refugees and resettle them in the Liaodong area. Moreover, she had already achieved good results.

The Imperial Court's implementation of a national policy was a major national policy that would benefit the current era.

The court officials praised Princess Shaoyi for her magnanimity.

In order to express their support for the national policy, the Imperial Court immediately collected a sum of money and food in the areas of Jingzhao, Hebei, and Jin County and sent it to the refugee camps in Longcheng.

However, less than two days later!

Ye Xiaoci's memorial exploded in the royal court. It said that the Han Clan had framed Princess Shaoyi, targeting the Empress Dowager and even the Empress behind the royalists.

The royalists immediately couldn't take it anymore. They fought with Elder Han in the royal court until their faces turned red and their spit flew everywhere.

The entire hall was like a market.

However, Princess Shaoyi had promoted the planting of sweet potatoes previously. Her generosity was like a resounding slap to the faces of the court officials led by Elder Han. They could only refuse to admit that all of this was done by the Han Clan. They felt that there must be some misunderstanding or that someone had framed the Han Clan.

Ye Xiaoci explained in the memorial that Princess Shaoyi had joined forces with the Xie Residence to resolve the predicament of the nobles skimping on the national policy, causing a lack of supplies in the refugee camps. She had further promoted national policy. She had also actively prepared medicinal herbs to prevent the epidemic and vigorously promoted the planting of sweet potatoes. Ye Xiaoci had brazenly asked the Imperial Court for credit for Princess Shaoyi.

In the memorial submitted by Princess Shaoyi, she had only mentioned a few words about what she had done. She had no intention of taking credit from the Imperial Court.

However, as a local official, Ye Xiaoci could not lie to the higher-ups and lower-ups. He avoided the main point and explained everything clearly.

It was as if the successful implementation of the national policy was all thanks to Princess Shaoyi and the Xie family..

Chapter 922 - 922: Pulling the Bridge After Crossing the River

This also made the Han Clan's excuses useless.

At the same time, these words of defense completely became excuses under the combined efforts of tens of thousands of scholars and people in the North.

Everyone's eyes were bright.

It was also a fact that the Han Clan had angered everyone.

The Empress Dowager, who was lying sickly on the bed, could not lie down anymore.

The next morning, she asked Auntie Shen to help her up to the golden hall. "How's the truth of the case? Lord Ye is still investigating. Before the case is completely investigated, Elder Han and all the descendants of the Han family in the court should return to the residence to rest well. Don't cause any unnecessary disputes in the court, lest it delays the court matters."

Elder Han was naturally unconvinced and immediately knelt down. "The Empress Dowager's actions are really biased..."

Elder Yu immediately couldn't help but scold him, "The Han Clan is a famous family in Xi'an. You can be said to be the model of the noble families in the North."

Elder Han acutely felt that this was probably not a good thing, but it was also the truth. He couldn't say no and brace himself to deal with it.

Indeed!

"However." Elder Yu changed the topic and his words became sharp.

"Previously, there were nobles from the North who joined forces to forge groundless crimes and harmed King Li of Zhou's residence. Later, there were nobles from the North who reverted to their old ways, slandered Princess Shaoyi, and framed King Yue Fei. The nobles of the North looked down on the rules of the court, provoked the dignity of the royal family, ignored the royal family, and deceived the emperor. It was treason. This is also the truth."

These words directly poked at Elder Han's lungs. "Elder Yu, don't speak nonsense. In King Li of Zhou's case, all the people involved have already..."

Lord Qi interrupted him. "I think that Elder Yu is right. Since the Han Clan prides themselves on being the number one family in Shaanxi, they represent all the aristocratic families in Shaanxi. In Liu Dagen's case, Princess Shaoyi and Yue Fei were the ones who were affected. This is a serious matter. The Han Clan is not qualified to continue participating in the court affairs until they are cleared of suspicion." The court officials chimed in.

Elder Han and the others knelt on the ground with a thud. "Empress Dowager, the Han Clan has been loyal to the emperor for generations. We definitely have no disrespect for the Imperial Court and the royal family..."

"Shut up." The Empress Dowager shouted sternly, "Princess Shaoyi's visit to the North was unanimously facilitated by me and the court officials. You, the nobles of the North, wantonly publicized that Princess Shaoyi was lawless and caused chaos. Are you going to charge me with the crime of having a harem to manage politics and cause chaos?"

Although Elder Han was dissatisfied with the royalists and had used Princess Shaoyi's reputation to succeed in the court, he only dared to be dissatisfied in his heart and immediately did not dare to say anything else.

"More than ten areas in the North have all suffered from drought. More than 20 million people have been affected, and four to five million people have fled the wilderness. However, less than two million people have really escaped to Liaodong alive. Longcheng is the gateway to the three places in the capital. Currently, more than a million refugees are gathered, and there's only one gate between them and the capital." The Empress Dowager's voice was indifferent. "As long as the refugees can't be settled, can everyone here rest easy?"

Elder Han's heart was in his throat. The Empress Dowager's meaning was obvious. The commoners were suffering, but the nobles of the North did not want to donate to the refugees and were still busy fighting.

What about the lives of the commoners?

Where was the Imperial Court's law?

Where was the Great Zhou?

The Empress Dowager asked in a low voice, "May I ask, why did the Imperial Court issue a national policy to settle the refugees in Liaodong back then?" No one in the court dared to answer.

The Empress Dowager did not care and only said, "Firstly, the refugees have surged into the capital wantonly and gathered outside the city. They have already seriously threatened the stability of the capital."

“Secondly, the area around Liaodong is closer to the affected north. The refugees fled to Liaodong, so there’s still a way out.”

“Thirdly, the land of Liaodong is vast and sparsely populated. It can accommodate millions of refugees. The 300,000 You soldiers can also intimidate the refugees to prevent them from gathering and rioting.

“Fourthly, the Liaodong area is not affected by the drought. Princess Shaoyi has grown high-yielding sweet potatoes that can be widely planted in Liaodong. In the long term, the refugees can recuperate there.”

“Fifthly, there’s a trade route in the North. The resources in the hands of the nobles can help the refugees.”

A rapid cough came from the tent. The Empress Dowager did not hide it.

Hearing this, it seemed like she wouldn’t be able to stop coughing for a while. There were also shadowy figures serving behind the tent. The court officials had different thoughts and each had their own ulterior motives.

After coughing for a while, she gradually lowered her voice. The Empress Dowager’s hoarse voice sounded again. “At that time, when we proposed to issue a national policy in the North and settle the refugees in Liaodong, all the ministers present agreed with both hands. This was not the result of my arbitrary decision, nor was it the outcome of the harem’s political affairs.”

The area affected was the North, and the capital was the capital of the Great Zhou Dynasty. It was a place where nobles gathered under the emperor’s rule. It was the most prosperous place in the entire Great Zhou Dynasty.

In the eyes of the commoners, even the food between the fingers of the people in the capital was enough for them to live. If the commoners suffered a disaster and did not run to the capital, where else could they run to?

If they had not issued a national policy at that time, there would only have been more and more refugees in the suburbs of the capital. Closing the city gate was only a temporary plan. If the Imperial Court had continued to do nothing and did not think of a way to settle the refugees, the Great Zhou Dynasty would have erupted and the consequences would have been unimaginable.

At that time, in the entire northern area of the Great Zhou Dynasty, only the Liaodong area was still willing to accept refugees and set up refugee camps. Only then did the court officials think of this method to divert the trouble.

The Empress Dowager paused for a moment and continued, “Now that more than a million refugees have arrived in Liaodong, the refugees are everywhere. The situation of the frequent riots has been resolved. All of you are stable and have a peace of mind. Do you want to burn the bridge after crossing the river and quit your job to shirk your responsibilities? Do you want to completely give this hot potato to King Yue Fei?”

These words were so straightforward that no one could refute them.

The reason why Elder Han and the other northern nobles dared to brush off the national policy was because it was the responsibility of King Yue Fei and the local government if anything happened in the camp.

Even if King Yue Fei did not want to be interrogated by the Imperial Court, he would settle the matter of the refugees.

Of course, even if something happened, what about the 300,000 You soldiers? It wasn't to the extent that they couldn't suppress a group of mobs. The mobs couldn't threaten them anyway.

After that, it would be even better if King Yue Fei was questioned by the Imperial Court.

Otherwise, if King Yue Fei took in refugees, his reputation in the Great Zhou would rise. At that time, his status as a vassal lord would not be restricted.

Instead, the nobles in the North would be restricted.

Compared to the vassal lords, the nobles were much less of a threat to the Imperial Court.

The Imperial Court would not really do anything to the nobles.

At most, when the matter of the nobles skimping on the national policy was exposed, they would push a group of young nobles out to take the blame..

Chapter 923 - 923: Contempt of the Imperial Court

It wasn't like they hadn't done such a thing before, right? King Li of Zhou's case was cleared, and it caused a huge commotion. In the end, didn't it calm down just like that?!

It happened again. They were familiar with it.

"The Shanxi and Shaanxi areas are also more seriously affected areas." The Empress Dowager glanced at Elder Han and her tone became very cold.

"However, the local nobles did not assist the government to help the local refugees. Most of the local refugees fled to Liaodong. The Imperial Court can't take out money to help the refugees. If the nobles did their best, it's not appropriate for the Imperial Court to ask anything."

Elder Han had a bad feeling.

Indeed!

The Empress Dowager suddenly grabbed the teacup and used all her strength to smash it at Elder Han's feet. Then, behind the curtain, there was another series of suppressed and painful coughs.

The court officials lowered their heads and were silent.

After a while, the Empress Dowager continued, "Accommodating and settling the refugees is also part of the national policy. Since Elder Han has agreed, it means that the nobles of the North have also agreed to help the government and King Yue Fei implement the national policy. Now, may I ask how much food and supplies the Han Clan has donated to the refugee camp after the national policy was issued?"

Elder Han was speechless and did not dare to say anything.

The Empress Dowager's voice became even more hoarse. "You don't dare to speak, but everything donated by the nobles of the North to the camp is recorded by the government. You can't fool them even if you want to." As she spoke, she threw a booklet out from behind the curtain and it fell to the ground with a bang. "Your Han Clan is the number one noble clan in Shaanxi. You didn't want to set an example and skimmed on the national policy. You're disregarding the rules of the court and the dignity of the royal family."

The court officials looked at Elder Han's dejected face and felt the Empress Dowager's monstrous anger.

In every dynasty, the Imperial Court had implemented national policies for the sake of the country. It represented the might of the Imperial Court. If the country was conquered, the first thing they needed was the support and cooperation of the local nobles.

Since the nobles of the North, led by Elder Han, had agreed to follow the national policy, they should do their part and use their local influence to cooperate with the Imperial Court.

The words of looking down on the court and ignoring the dignity of the royal family immediately made Elder Han's expression change in shock. "Empress Dowager, please calm down. My Han family has been loyal to the Imperial

Court for generations. There must be some misunderstanding..."

He kept saying that it was a misunderstanding. Not only was the Empress Dowager sick of it, but even the court officials looked over.

"I know very well if it's a misunderstanding or not. Don't use such light and light words to brush me off." The Empress Dowager did not fall for his tricks. "If something happens in the camp, Princess Shaoyi's reputation will be ruined. King Yue Fei will be questioned by the Imperial Court, and I won't be able to absolve myself of the blame. Should you jump out and attack the royal family to take the opportunity to take over?"

Behind the curtain, there was another violent cough. The Empress Dowager had spoken bluntly and did not hide it at all. The court officials broke out in a cold sweat.

Elder Han and the others even felt a chill run down their spines. Even their teeth cracked.

However, the Empress Dowager was not finished. "Should you, the nobles of the North, jump out again and give a large number of supplies to the refugees, using the refugees to benefit yourselves and make the refugees feel grateful for you? If King Yue Fei's reputation is damaged and he is questioned by the Imperial Court, the best outcome is that he will continue to be restrained by the nobles, and the nobles will naturally continue to control the North."

As expected of the winner of the last palace battle. The Empress Dowager had completely seen through this matter. The nobles were targeting her, and there was a deeper layer of benefits behind this.

The few northern court officials led by Elder Han knelt on the ground and cried out for justice.

The Empress Dowager sneered. "Don't cry out for injustice. The nobles of the North have done so much. To put it bluntly, it's because they're worried that King Yue Fei has implemented a national policy in the North and is even more famous than before. They're worried that they won't be able to suppress King Yue Fei and will be suppressed by him in the future. They won't be able to continue being your local emperor! "

The refugees were everywhere, and the Shanxi and the Shaanxi areas had the most riots. Therefore, the Imperial Court issued a national policy, and the nobles of the North agreed with it with both hands. However, as soon as the threat of the refugees was resolved, the nobles couldn't sit still anymore. Worried that King Yue Fei would threaten them, they planned to use this matter to suppress him.

The court officials knew very well how King Li of Zhou had died back then.

Once King Yue Fei took control of the North, how could the nobles survive?

The words "local emperor" made the atmosphere in the royal court drop to the freezing point. The court officials lowered their heads and did not even dare to breathe loudly.

Elder Han and the others were even more shocked.

"This. Is. Simply. Wishful. Thinking." The Empress Dowager's voice was hoarse as she enunciated word by word, "I'm a descendant of the Imperial Family and have the orthodox bloodline of the royal family. How can I allow you to be unruly and young? When a tiger falls to the ground, dogs will bark at each other!"

Elder Han's body went limp, and his vision darkened as he fell straight to the hall.

Before he fainted, he thought to himself, "It's over, it's over." The Han Clan was finished.

They had originally thought that since King Yue Fei had successfully implemented the national policy and his reputation had become greater than before, he would already be considered to have contributed more than his master. The Han Clan had taken the initiative to use the matter of national policy to suppress King Yue Fei. This was a result that the Imperial Court, the emperor, and even the Empress Dowager were willing to see.

This was nothing.

Previously, when King Li of Zhou was guarding the North, they had also done the same. It was impossible that the Imperial Court did not know anything and had even been indulgent about it.

It was fine as long as they couldn't find any actual evidence.

If a scapegoat fell, there would still be thousands of other scapegoats.

What were they afraid of?!

However, this time, the northern land-owning class led by Elder Han had never expected that Ye Xiaoci would interfere and even openly catch the

land-owning class red-handed.

At this moment, Elder Han could not understand why. Although the Ye family of Linjiang was from the royal faction, their stance was more neutral. As a local official, Ye Xiaoci had not been involved for many years. The vassal lords and nobles were competing.

Why was it different this time?

Next, the Empress Dowager sent five decrees in a row.

First, she rewarded Princess Shaoyi for her kindness and kindness, and ordered someone to give her a reward.

Second, she ordered Youzhou Governor Ye Xiaoci to investigate the case involving the Han Clan and not let it go private.

Third, King Yue Fei was specially ordered to help the government office investigate the case involving the Han Clan. This case was not to be tolerated.

Fourth, it was emphasized again that the nobles of the North should cooperate with the government and King Yue Fei to implement the national policy. Anyone who was perfunctory would be treated with contempt for the court and cause chaos.

Fifth, under Elder Han's lead, all the descendants of the Han family who were officials in the court were locked in the residence from today onwards. They would be dealt with after investigating the case involving the Han family. In an instant, it went from "go home and rest well" to being "locked."

This was not a big difference.

Therefore, some people could sense the Empress Dowager's determination to "overthrow the Han Clan". The Han Clan immediately became the target of public criticism.

When the news reached the harem, Imperial Concubine Xu, who was behind the Han Clan, gritted her teeth. She hated Yu Youyao, who was the instigator of all this..

Chapter 924 - 924: Taking Advantage

During this period of time, the Second Prince had been working with the court officials to deal with government affairs and had received the praise of many ministers. Even the Fourth Prince, who had a low status, had begun to participate in the court and befriend the ministers.

Meanwhile, they had the advantage from the beginning, but they had repeatedly suffered under that little b*tch, Yu Youyao. Even their original advantage had been weakened.

After thinking about it, Imperial Concubine Xu felt that she couldn't continue to sit still and wait for death, so she quickly drove to the Jingren Palace where the Third Prince, Yin Huairui, lived.

Ever since the Flower Festival in Duke Rong's Residence, the emperor had ordered to seal the palace gate of the Jingren Palace and lock the Third Prince in the palace, not allowing him to take half a step out. After that, the Third Prince had been living in seclusion in the palace.

Now that the emperor was busy refining pills and did not leave the palace, Concubine Xu and the Xu Residence had already given bribes. The ban on the Jingren Palace only existed in name.

However!

As soon as Imperial Concubine Xu stepped into the main hall of the Jingren Palace, the sound of laughter, fighting, and cursing could be heard.

The Third Prince was only wearing a white undershirt. The belt was loosely tied around his waist, revealing a large part of his chest. He looked unrestrained. The palace maids were only wearing a tube top and chiffon. Their clothes were not covering their bodies, and they were playing hide-and-seek with the Third Prince.

After taking the Hanshi powder, the Third Prince's body felt hot. He grabbed a palace maid like a hungry tiger pouncing on a wolf and couldn't wait to hug her...

When the other palace maids saw that someone had received a blessing, they also gathered around...

The unbearable scene made Imperial Concubine Xu furious. She raised her voice and said, "Someone, drag these b*tches out and beat them to death..."

When the palace maids heard Imperial Concubine Xu's voice, they were so frightened that they knelt on the ground with a thud. Their bodies also trembled, and they quickly cried for mercy.

The eunuchs rushed into the house and dragged the palace maids away one by one.

The Third Prince quickly pulled up his pants.

Seeing that he had made a fool of himself, Imperial Concubine Xu looked as if she expected better from him. Her gaze swept across the eunuchs kneeling on the ground and she said angrily, "What are you waiting for? Hurry up and wash the Third Prince..."

Only then did the eunuchs panic and crawl up to help the Third Prince change...

Imperial Concubine Xu was furious, but there was nothing she could do.

After Rui'er was imprisoned, his days in the palace were boring. For some reason, he imitated his father and secretly refined medicinal pills in his palace.

Even she did not know that Jingren Palace had been sealed.

When she found out, Rui'er had been addicted to the Hanshi powder for a long time. She had thought of countless ways, but he couldn't stop taking the powder. What was even more ridiculous was that not only would the Hanshi powder change people's temperament, but they would also become even more ridiculous among women. He had even visited any palace maid in the palace who was slightly beautiful. He had even caused the ridiculous matter of more than ten women serving him at night.

She had no choice but to use the matter of the emperor sealing off the Jingren Palace to cover it up. It was not appropriate for the others in the palace to spy on the Jingren Palace, so this matter had never been made public.

The Third Prince followed the emperor's decree and never left the palace. He stayed in the palace to reflect on his mistakes and accumulated some good reputation for him in the court.

However, compared to the Second and Fourth Princes, who were both outstanding in the court, he was still inferior.

Imperial Concubine Xu was indignant. The Second and Fourth Princes had gained power in the court, and now that the Han Clan was being suppressed by the royal family, it was not appropriate for Rui'er to continue "restricted" in the palace.

After the court session ended, Elder Ye and Elder Yu left the palace together.

Elder Ye sighed. "The Ye family of Linjiang has lasted until now and has also experienced a rise and fall. We can't put all the eggs in one basket. More descendants of the Ye family will be sent to work elsewhere. If they can make some political achievements locally and be transferred back to the capital, that will be because of their own ability."

Elder Yu put his hands in his sleeves and said calmly, "That's good!"

However, he did not say why.

The Ye family, which had always been neutral, suddenly cooperated with King Yue Fei. On the surface, all of this was the result of the changes in the situation after the Imperial Court issued the national policy.

However, only Madam Ye knew how many political games were involved.

Elder Ye turned to look at Elder Yu. "The Ye Clan of Linjiang can be considered a pawn of the Yu Clan in this matter. Don't you have anything to say?"

At this point, Princess Shaoyi had gained both fame and fortune and had obtained all the benefits.

Meanwhile, Ye Xiaoci was busy "overthrowing the Han family". The entire Ye family of Linjiang was implicated and was forced to change from a neutral faction to a radical faction, becoming the main force to deal with the Han family of Xi'an.

Anyone with discerning eyes could tell that the Han family of Xi'an was a deep-rooted noble family in the North. If someone wanted to "overthrow the Han family", they first had to obtain the support of the Imperial Court.

King Yue Fei cleverly used Princess Shaoyi's identity to obtain the support of the royal faction.

Princess Shao Yi also beat him at his own game. She used King Yue Fei's reputation to strengthen the reputation of the royal faction. The cooperation of the two of them would benefit the Imperial Court and the country. It was a

win-win situation.

One declined while the other flourished!

While King Yue Fei gained power, the nobles on the other side couldn't sit still anymore. For a moment, they used all their tricks, but how could they win? Princess Shaoyi and King Yue Fei had joined forces to set up a trap.

The state government office was sandwiched in between. Now that King Yue Fei was powerful and the balance was broken, it was time for the Ye family to make a choice that was beneficial to them.

From the perspective of the overall situation, the Ye family had no choice.

Elder Yu glanced at him from the corner of his eye. “Don’t talk nonsense with me. We’ve been officials in the court for decades, so it’s not to the extent that we can’t see the situation clearly. Look at the entire court. There are demons dancing wildly. In the future, the future of the Great Zhou Dynasty will still depend on King Yue Fei! The Ye Clan is just taking advantage of the situation!”

He who understood the times was a wise man. The current situation was no longer the same as before. The Weining Marquis Residence was like the sun in the sky. The Ye family had no choice but to watch coldly as the nobles fought with the vassal lords, not daring to get involved.

Elder Ye shut his mouth.

It was precisely because the nobles of the North had seen through this that they took advantage of the Empress Dowager’s serious illness to jump up and down happily so that they could make plans for themselves in advance.

After all, they were old enemies who had fought for many years. Old Yu did not give up any chance to retort. “Both our families are families that have been passing down their inheritance from the previous dynasty. Don’t we know each other?”

At this point, he glanced sideways at Elder Ye.

“Can the Ye family really watch helplessly as the nobles brush off the national policy and cause trouble for the more than a million refugees in the camp? No matter if it’s an epidemic or a riot, how many people will die or be implicated? Do you feel guilty, let alone Ye Xiaoci? As the governor of Youzhou, he’s a parent official. How can he ignore the lives of the commoners?!”

At the end of the day, it was still the actions of the nobles who had violated the bottom line of the Ye family. If the Ye family still had a trace of benevolence, they couldn’t just watch the tragedy happen.

Elder Ye took a deep breath. “You’re right. This drought has been going on for almost three years. The Great Zhou Dynasty has suffered a calamity, and the grassland has suffered even more. The Di people aren’t good at farming, and they’re even more lacking in supplies. Ever since the end of autumn last year, the large and small battles at the border haven’t stopped. Chang Ningbo is guarding the army, and the Great General of the Cavalry is in charge of the war. While King Yue Fei coordinates the situation, he has to personally manage the relevant matters of national policy..”

Chapter 925 - 925: Vomiting Blood

Anyone could tell that it was not easy for King Yue Fei. Even the Imperial Court had temporarily put down their doubts and fears about the vassal lords and issued a national policy in the North to appease the refugees.

At this moment, if the Ye family continued to drag him down, all their years of studying would have been in vain.

“The Northern Barbarians must know a little about the situation in the North. If the refugees cause trouble and the Di people start a war with the Great Zhou at this time, I’m afraid King Yue Fei won’t be able to attend to other affairs.”

Elder Ye's expression was very serious. "If the Ye family doesn't do anything, I'm afraid they'll become sinners for thousands of years and suffer eternal infamy. It's better to choose the lesser of the two evils."

It was impossible for the Han Clan not to know this, but the Han Clan also had no choice. King Li of Zhou's death was an irreconcilable hatred between the Han Clan and King Yue Fei.

Once King Yue Fei gained power, the Han Clan would not have a good ending.

Of the two bad outcomes, they chose the less harmful one.

Compared to their own interests, what was the righteousness of their country?

Elder Yu also sighed. "The nobles of the North are too outrageous."

All of them had been in power for a long time and had become politicians who only cared about themselves.

They had also forgotten that cultivating themselves, managing one's family, running a country, and bringing peace to the world were the original intentions of scholars.

They blindly guessed what the emperor was thinking, but they didn't even look at opportunities.

The Imperial Court's failure to provide disaster relief had already damaged the dignity of the Imperial Court.

The Imperial Court was carrying out the national policy with great fanfare. Everyone in the world was watching Liaodong, and everyone was paying attention to the implementation of the national policy. Whether the Imperial Court could regain its dignity depended on whether the implementation of the national policy of the North could go smoothly.

If something happened in the refugee camp, it would reflect the inaction of the Imperial Court.

It was no wonder that the Empress Dowager was so angry.

Elder Ye did not want to say such vexing words anymore. "Tell me, the current situation is really worrying. Take Quanzhou for example. There are Japanese pirates every other day, and it's still under martial law. We can't even get news clearly. It's really worrying!"

Rome wasn't built in a day. Ye Hanyuan had always led the defense of the southeast coast, but his foundation in the navy was too shallow. In a short period of time, he couldn't control the navy and let them be used by him.

Pirates had colluded with the Japanese pirates and caused trouble along the southeast coast. Even within the Zhejiang capital, there were people who had colluded with pirates and Japanese pirates.

Ye Hanyuan had no one to use, and he only had two troops of navy soldiers he had trained. For a moment, he was a little busy, and the navy soldiers below him were even more exhausted.

So far, he could only barely control the situation along the southeast coast.

It was also because of this that there were Japanese pirates in Quanzhou from time to time. It seemed reasonable for Quanzhou to be under martial law and for the city to be locked down.

However, Elder Yu and Elder Ye were both old court officials. From the situation along the southeast coast, they acutely sensed an ominous feeling.

However, Quanzhou was Concubine Lan's money bag, so others naturally couldn't reach in.

Elder Yu shook his head. "Previously, the Marquis of Zhen proposed to send an inspector to patrol the defense of the southeast coast to understand the exact situation in Quanzhou, but he was strongly opposed by Concubine Lan's family. In the end, it was left unsettled."

At the mention of this, the two of them looked at each other and shook their heads helplessly.

Song Mingzhao had been placed in Dehua, which was in Quanzhou. It was obvious that the Marquis of Zhen had sensed that something was amiss in Quanzhou through some unknown family channels, so he had made this suggestion.

However, because the information was not detailed and could not be used as evidence, it was not convincing, so it could not be said explicitly.

He was also worried that if he rashly revealed the true situation of the news, it would expose Song Mingzhao, causing him, who was far away in Quanzhou, to be in danger.

It was also because of this that the Marquis of Zhen's suggestion was criticized by others for being "selfish." They felt that the Marquis of Zhen was using his official position for personal gain and using the resources of the Imperial Court to inquire about the heir.

Now, the entire court was worried about the drought in the north. The entire country was worried about the national policies, and the Imperial Court did not have the energy to engage in other matters.

Quanzhou was not the only city in the southeast coast that was sealed off and under martial law. Quanzhou was the most prosperous area in the southeast coast. It was normal for the Japanese pirates to target Quanzhou. Lord Ye could temporarily control the situation in the southeast coast. When he completely controlled the navy, the situation would definitely improve.

What was the use of sending an inspector?

Would the inspector exterminate the pirates, or could they help Lord Ye reorganize the navy and train a strong navy?

After the inspection, Lord Ye still had to divert a portion of his energy to cooperate with the inspector to patrol and maintain coastal defense. Did they think that the southeast coast was not chaotic enough to cause trouble for Lord Ye?

These words were extremely sharp.

Even the censors of the Imperial Court could not refute. There were priorities. The defense of the southeast coast was indeed not critical at the moment.

From time to time, news of victory came from the navy led by Ye Hanyuan.

As soon as she returned to the Longevity Palace, the Empress Dowager's forced spirits immediately withered. She covered her mouth with a handkerchief and leaned against the soft couch, coughing violently.

As Auntie Shen instructed the eunuch to invite the imperial physician, she took out some pear paste and added water. "The spring air is dry. Princess Shaoyi has prepared some pear paste and sent it to the capital with the memorial presented to the Imperial Court to show filial piety to you. After the Imperial Physician's examination, it was sent to the Longevity Palace. The pear paste stops coughing. Try it and see if it's effective."

As she spoke, she reached out and took the handkerchief from the Empress Dowager's hand.

Suddenly, a shocking bright red color on the white handkerchief made Auntie

Shen's expression change. She knelt on the ground with a thud. "Empress Dowager..."

"Cough, cough..." The Empress Dowager's face was sallow. She coughed and reprimanded in a hoarse voice, "Why are you panicking? How dare you?!"

Auntie Shen calmed down a little and said in a trembling voice, "I—I'll get someone to invite Imperial Physician Shi into the palace..."

"It's about time." The Empress Dowager had a dispensable attitude and only said, "It's rare for a person to reach 70 years old. I'm not even 70 years old. I've lived a long life compared to most people,"

Auntie Shen knelt on the ground and immediately sobbed.

The Empress Dowager sighed softly. "During this period of time, I often dreamed of the previous emperor." She looked stunned, as if she had recalled deeply. "The previous emperor accused me of not saving Xinger."

Auntie Shen lowered her head and cried silently.

The emperor was suspicious by nature. Although he treated King Li of Zhou quite well because of the Empress Dowager, he still had a grudge against him because the Empress Dowager treated him well.

Back then, King Li of Zhou had become a vassal lord because the Empress

Dowager had secretly facilitated it. She had originally hoped that King Li of Zhou could stay away from the troublesome places in the capital and avoid the emperor's suspicion.

Liaodong was relatively close to the capital, so the Empress Dowager could still take care of King Li of Zhou.

Although the border was a little bitterly cold, King Li of Zhou and the Princess Consort received a lot of salary. The Empress Dowager had also helped to buy many businesses, which was enough for the couple to squander their days.

The generals guarding the North were also from the royalist faction, so they would take care of them.

However, she never expected...

The next year, at the beginning of spring, King Li of Zhou personally went to the battlefield, causing the You army's reputation to rise greatly. Reports of success came from the border..

Chapter 926 - 926: Dealing with the Funeral

At that time, the Empress Dowager was sitting in the temple hall in a daze. "In terms of judgment, I'm not as good as the previous emperor."

Back then, the Marquis of Weining and the Marquis of Changxing were connected. They were both generals who controlled the military power and were also like the sun in the sky. Even the Empress Dowager had to avoid them.

"King You" was summoned back to the capital.

The Empress Dowager had originally planned to personally step in to protect "King You", but she had never expected that she would only receive bad news about "King You's residence" and "King You".

After that, King Li of Zhou's "suicide" was almost an established fact, and it completely disappointed the Empress Dowager.

The Empress Dowager seemed to be talking in her sleep. "I've watched Xinger grow up since I was young. In terms of imperial power, although I have my own selfish motives, I've always treated him as my own son." Towards the end, even her voice was hoarse, and there were tears in the corners of her eyes. "If I had known earlier, Xing'er wouldn't have ended up like this. Back then, I . . .

The rest of the sentence was almost inaudible.

However, Auntie Shen had served the Empress Dowager for decades. How could she not understand?

The Empress Dowager had long regretted it.

There was silence in the room for a while. Then, the Empress Dowager sighed slowly. "Over the past few days, I've often thought of Concubine Hui." A smile appeared on her lips again. "Peach blossoms are floating things. I'm afraid it's inauspicious to plant peach blossoms in the palace. However, Concubine Hui is a farm girl and doesn't care about this. She planted a courtyard of peach blossoms in Chengqian Palace. A concubine complained to the emperor. The emperor felt that it was inappropriate, so he asked Concubine Hui."

Auntie Shen also thought of this.

The previous emperor doted on Concubine Hui very much and even issued a decree to let her live in the Chenggan Palace. It was the closest palace to the Emperor's palace.

"I still remember that Concubine Hui said that peach blossoms are good things. In spring, they can be admired, used to brew wine, and used to make food. They can also be used to make rouge powder. In summer, people eat peaches, and in autumn, people harvest rubber. In winter, people drink peach blossom wine. There's no such thing as inauspicious."

As a noble lady of an official's family, she had been raised in her own room since she was young. When she was a little older, she had been appointed to the current emperor, who was still a prince.

After that, the palace sent over a nanny. Not only would the nanny take care of her daily life, but the nanny would also keep an eye on her words and actions and teach her the palace rules and etiquette.

To her, Concubine Hui's every move was filled with novelty, so she couldn't help but interact more. "One year, peach blossoms bloomed all over the courtyard. Concubine Hui used the peach blossoms she had harvested in the first year to make peach blossom snacks and brew peach blossom gum. I sat under the peach blossom tree with Concubine Hui and drank the peach blossom wine from the first year while eating the food made from peach blossoms. Concubine Hui also said that when the peach blossoms bloom next year, she would use the peach blossoms to make some rouge powder and give

it to me..."

In her life, she fought with her sister and the concubine at home. When she went to the palace, she fought with the concubines. She didn't have a day of peace.

It was a carefree feeling that she had never felt in her life.

"Unfortunately, after Concubine Hui passed away, the previous emperor ordered someone to carefully take care of the peach trees in the courtyard of the Chengqian Palace. However, probably because everything was sentient, when the owner died, no matter how meticulous they were, the peach blossoms in that courtyard did not grow as well as before, and the flowers bloomed less and less year by year. In the end, the previous emperor ordered someone to shovel the peach blossoms. I never saw the scene of the peach blossoms blooming again."

In the past, she did not understand why, but later on, she did.

After the owner of the flowers passed away, no matter how meticulous the palace servants seemed on the surface, they could not compare to the change in the human heart. How could they compare to Concubine Hui's sincere love and meticulous nurturing?

The room gradually fell silent.

Auntie Shen carefully raised her head and called out softly, "Empress Dowager..."

After a while!

"Get up." The Empress Dowager coughed a few more times. "Didn't you say that you wanted to feed me pear paste water? It's been difficult for her to keep thinking about me and sending things to the palace. What she spent so much effort making is ultimately not ordinary. She'll get used to it after using it.

When she uses the other King of the East, the difference will be obvious."

Auntie Shen lowered her head and took out a handkerchief from her sleeve.

She wiped the tears from the corners of her eyes and picked up the pear paste again, carefully serving the Empress Dowager.

Perhaps it was because the pear paste water was really effective, but after the Empress Dowager took it, her coughing gradually stopped, and her expression improved a little. "What do you think of Princess Shaoyi?"

Auntie Shen was stunned for a moment before she quickly said, "I don't dare to speak nonsense."

The Empress Dowager glanced at her. "Don't play dumb. Pretend that I don't know that you like her very much, and that you treat her better than other noble ladies."

Auntie Shen was nervous and quickly explained, "When Auntie Xu was in the palace, she was close to me. After all, Auntie Xu personally raised her. I . . ."

"That's enough." The Empress Dowager waved her hand and interrupted her. "Don't explain. I'll only gossip a little. Princess Shaoyi's heart is like glass. Not only do you like it, but I also like it."

Just like Concubine Hui, Princess Shaoyi was a rare woman in the world.

Every time she thought of Princess Shaoyi, she couldn't help but think of Concubine Hui.

"It's also because you, the Empress Dowager, have eyes that recognize gold and jade." Although Miss Shen heaved a sigh of relief, she still felt that the Empress Dowager wouldn't have said this for no reason.

The thoughts of a superior were far from as simple as they appeared. Even a casual sentence, gaze, and action had a deeper meaning.

The Empress Dowager smiled and changed the topic. "Invite Eunuch Zhu over.

Go personally. Don't let anyone notice."

Auntie Shen was shocked and suddenly felt a little uneasy.

The room suddenly fell silent.

After a long time!

The Empress Dowager leaned against the desk and took a nap. As soon as Eunuch Zhu entered the room, she opened her eyes. Eunuch Zhu quickly knelt down and greeted the Empress Dowager.

"Get up!" The Empress Dowager waved her hand and pushed the ebony box, which was inlaid with gold and jade, on the desk to Eunuch Zhu. "Arranged for someone to send a reward to Princess Shaoyi. You will be the one making the arrangements. This box was given to Princess Shaoyi by me. Send it over together. No one can know about this."

The Qianji Palace had already been sealed. As the imperial eunuch, Eunuch He naturally had to take care of it from the side. All the matters in the inner palace were handled by Eunuch He's godson, Eunuch Zhu.

There was no one more thorough than him in the entire palace.

Eunuch Zhu held the box with both hands and bowed. "Empress Dowager, don't worry. I won't let you down."

Ever since the Empress came to the Longevity Palace to take care of her illness, the Empress gradually became aware of the things in the Longevity

Palace. The "anyone" that the Empress Dowager mentioned also included the Empress.

Even if the Empress Dowager gave something to Princess Shaoyi, she had to avoid being noticed and borrow his hand.

It seemed that the Empress Dowager did not trust the Empress.

The Empress Dowager seemed to be a little tired. She pushed her eyelids open and gradually closed them. "When I go..."

These words made Eunuch Zhu's expression suddenly change. He knelt on the ground with a thud and buried his head.

Why did these words sound like she was briefing him on her funeral?!

Chapter 927 - 927: Roping in

Could it be that the Empress Dowager's illness was already so serious...

Eunuch Zhu was shocked. He knew that the Empress Dowager's condition was serious, but that group of imperial physicians tended to only speak halfway.

He didn't know that her condition had already reached this stage.

The Empress Dowager was still muttering softly, "...Please take care of the people in my palace. If they're willing to leave the palace, arrange for them to be sent to Liaodong."

Even her voice was barely audible. Eunuch Zhu quickly leaned over and heard the Empress Dowager say in a weak voice, "I've asked around. Princess Shaoyi treats people kindly and takes good care of the servants who used to serve my Mother and my Grandmother. My people have also followed and served me for decades. They've done their best to serve me. After all, I've been paying respects to Buddha for half my life. I can't let them follow me..." As she spoke, there was no more sound in the room.

Eunuch Zhu's heart skipped a beat. He carefully checked the Empress Dowager's breathing. Seeing that she had only fallen asleep, Eunuch Zhu suddenly heaved a sigh of relief and wiped the sweat off his forehead. The nobles in the palace had passed away. If there were no prior arrangements, without exception, they would all die with them.

The Empress Dowager had put in a lot of effort.

Eunuch Zhu held the box in his hand and quietly left the house,

When he returned to the Hall of Diligent Governance, an eunuch came over to report that Auntie Dan Hong, who followed the Empress, was here. Eunuch Zhu was not surprised. "Please come in!"

Not long after, the eunuch led Auntie Dan Hong into the house.

Eunuch Zhu's face was filled with smiles as he asked politely, "Does the Empress have any instructions?"

"Eunuch Zhu, you're being too serious." Dan Hong took a step forward and bowed to Eunuch Zhu, explaining the reason for her visit. "The Empress has something that she wants to trouble you with."

Eunuch Zhu hurriedly said, "What do you mean by troubling me? You're really flattering me. As servants, aren't we sharing the burden of the nobles? Auntie Dan Hong, feel free to speak if you have anything to say. I'll naturally serve the Empress."

When Auntie Dan Hong heard this, her smile deepened, but she also understood in her heart that a popular person like Eunuch Zhu was talking nonsense.

Even if the Empress came over personally, she had to be polite.

These words were just for show.

How could any commotion in the palace hide from Eunuch Zhu's eyes? He knew why she was here this time, and it was nothing much. It was something casual, so it was naturally easy for her to say.

If it were any other difficult matter, it would be a different story.

Auntie Dan Hong smiled and said, "It was also a few days ago that the Empress heard about Princess Shaoyi's actions in Liaodong. She praised her for her kindness."

Eunuch Zhu was not in a hurry to talk, but he thought to himself, "No wonder the Empress, who had been staying in the Longevity Palace to attend to her illness recently, was not in the Longevity Palace today."

It turned out that she had returned to Yi Kun Palace to plan to rope in Princess Shaoyi.

Indeed!

Auntie Dan Hong changed the topic. "The Empress is the mother of the country and an example for all the women in the world. Princess Shaoyi is filial and pure. Her character is kind and respectful, and she can be considered a good woman. She deserves a reward. I heard that the Empress Dowager has issued an imperial decree on behalf of the Imperial Court to reward Princess Shaoyi generously. The Empress has also specially ordered me to come forward and ask Eunuch to send the Empress's kind intentions to Princess Shaoyi along with the rewards from the Imperial Court."

In other words, Princess Shaoyi's kindness was also because the Empress was a mother to the world. It also showed the Empress's virtue.

She was right.

Eunuch Zhu smiled and said, "Of course."

Upon hearing this, Auntie Dan Hong quickly thanked him. With a gentle clap of her hand, an eunuch palace maid carried the items into the house like a fish through its ears.

Eunuch Zhu took a look and couldn't help but gasp.

This was really a huge sum of money.

There was one box of white, pink, yellow, and black eastern pearls respectively. Each box had more than 30 pearls, and each of them was the size of a peanut. Not only were they of equal size, but their color was also extremely smooth.

White pearls were easier to obtain, but pink, yellow, and black pearls were extremely rare.

Just these alone were priceless.

In addition, there were all kinds of gems, cloth, jewelry, jade artifacts, incense materials, medicinal herbs, and so on. They were all carefully selected and were expensive.

However, Eunuch Zhu knew that the Ning Residence was like the Zhenguo

Marquis Residence. They were all noble families that had followed Emperor Gaozu and contributed greatly. The foundation that they had accumulated for generations was naturally extraordinary.

Back then, after the Ning Residence was convicted, although the family businesses were confiscated, the wealth was not placed in the treasury. Instead, it belonged to the Empress.

The Empress controlled all the assets of the entire Ning Clan.

All these years, the Empress had not spent much in the Yi Kun Palace. Instead, the precious tributes from all over the world were also sent to the Yi Kun Palace.

Due to the crime of Duke Ning, the eldest legitimate son of the emperor had died young. The Empress Dowager pitied the Empress very much. When she returned to the palace to pay tribute, she gave an additional portion to the Yi Kun Palace.

Perhaps only the Empress could reward Princess Shaoyi with rare treasures.

Even if others had the financial resources, no one dared to hide their tributes and items that represented etiquette.

If one had to ask Eunuch Zhu, could Princess Shaoyi accept it?

Naturally, she could accept it.

Princess Shao Yi had suffered on behalf of the Empress Dowager and the

Empress. If it weren't for the fact that Princess Shaoyi was vigilant, the Empress Dowager was a respected elder, and Empress Dowager was sick in the Longevity Palace, other than not being able to step in to deal with government affairs openly in the future, her reputation wouldn't be too damaged.

However, the Empress had to lose her reputation.

Princess Shaoyi could accept all kinds of gifts.

However, giving her some “heartfelt gifts” was only on the surface. It was more important to give her a “thank you” and rope her in.

Madam Han’s case spread like wildfire. Even the nobles of Shanxi, Shaanxi, Gansu, Ningxia, and other places couldn’t sit still anymore. They all imitated the Xie and Bai families and donated money, medicine, and supplies.

Due to the decline in the price of medicinal herbs in Liaodong, no one dared to raise the price anymore, and the price of medicinal herbs in the entire North gradually decreased.

At the same time, due to the price of the medicine, the nobles did not dare to control the supplies in the North like before. Even the prices of other goods were showing signs of declining one after another.

The price of goods had fallen, and all the commoners in the North benefited.

At the same time, with the support of sufficient supplies, the resettlement of the refugees was also unfolding like fire. The sweet potatoes gradually appeared. They took root in the bitter cold land of Liaodong and germinated. Green vines gradually filled the fields.

At the end of April, it suddenly rained lightly.

The commoners took advantage of this light rain to hurriedly cut the sweet potato vines.

The sky cleared after the rain. It was rare for Yu Youyao to leave Xiangping City. As far as she could see, patches of sweet potato vines were already planted on the reclaimed sand..

Chapter 928 - 928: Incognito

Xia Tao leaned over. “I heard that there’s a silkworm farm on the mountain.

Miss, do you want to go up and take a look?”

Yu Youyao was indeed very interested. She followed the mountain path up the mountain.

The first batch of silkworm cocoons had already come out. The silkworm farmers in the silkworm manor were busy picking the silkworm cocoons and moving baskets of pure white cocoons into the manor.

The manor was opened to the public, and the nearby individual silkworm farmers also brought their own silkworm cocoons to sell for money.

Yu Youyao kept a low profile on this trip. She was only wearing ordinary clothes and accessories. Chun Xiao, Xia Tao, and Yin Shi, as well as a few guards, disguised as servants to accompany her. There were only nine people in total.

At first glance, she looked like a young miss from a family who had come out to play. She was not very eye-catching.

As soon as they entered the manor, Xia Tao, who had sharp ears, had already joined the crowd of people queuing to sell silkworm cocoons. She was eloquent and sweet-tongued, and chatted with them in a few words.

Not long after, she heard some news and returned to report.

“The price given by the silkworm manor is the final price after you joined forces with the individual silkworm farmers and foreign merchants to pressure the nobles this year.”

“Didn’t you ask Steward Qian and the others to hold an exchange meeting at the Moon Pavilion in Liancheng earlier? It’s the one where the silkworm farmers exchanged their silkworm nurturing experiences. Steward Qian has organized such an exchange meeting in various areas in Liaodong that are suitable for raising silkworms and spread some good silkworm nurturing experiences to the local silkworm farmers. The silkworm farmers have benefited. The quality of the silk worms they raised this year is not bad, and they’re even more grateful to you.”

“As the retail silkworm farmers in the Liaodong area were bullied by the nobles in the past, they were unwilling to sell their silkworm cocoons to them. In order to buy silkworm cocoons from the retailers, some nobles even increased the price of their silkworm cocoons by a level. However, the silkworm farmers had all been harmed in the past, and there were still very few commoners who were willing to sell their silkworm cocoons to the nobles.’

“The silkworm farmers have all sold their silkworm cocoons to the nearby silkworm farms that have agreed to trade with you. I heard that the local silkworm farmers have all lost a lot.’

“The owner behind this silkworm manor is a retail investor who raises silkworms. He has signed a contract with the silkworm manor under your name to sell and buy silkworms. The silkworm cocoons collected by the silkworm manors will all be supplied to the silk worm manor under your name. Steward Qian has also said that he will accept as many as he can. The price will strictly follow the rules.”

“Young Miss has reorganized the silkworm business in the Liaodong area. Many retail investors have expanded the scale of raising silkworms. Even the commoners are raising silkworms in their own homes. Many new silkworm farms have been opened in the Liaodong area. The first batch of refugees that were settled caught up to the first season of spring silkworms. In just a few days, the production of spring silkworms has far exceeded that of before.”

Xia Tao told her about the situation in the silkworm manor. She was not far off.

Yu Youyao listened carefully. Previously, she had heard from the county magistrate of Liancheng that there had been a tradition of raising silkworms in the Liaodong area since ancient times. At the peak of the silkworm industry, every family had planted trees in front and behind their houses.

Other than farming, the commoners would also raise some silkworms at home to improve the conditions at home.

With additional income, the commoners were living well.

However, later on, the nobles controlled the resources in the North. The price of silkworm cocoons was too low, and the scale of raising silkworms was too small. Not only would it not be profitable, but it would also be thankless.

Gradually, the farmers stopped raising silkworms.

There were too many uses for silk, and it was also a consumable item. The Great Zhou Dynasty's annual production of silk was simply not enough. Furthermore, they still had to trade overseas, so it was naturally better to have as much silk as possible.

She estimated that she would let all 300,000 You soldiers wear the latest armor this year.

Yu Youyao was very gratified to hear that the commoners of Liaodong were especially enthusiastic about raising silkworms.

Their group was not here to sell silkworm cocoons. Instead, they kept a low profile. However, anyone with some discernment could tell that they had an imposing aura.

The steward of the silkworm manor noticed Xia Tao's information-gathering actions and couldn't help but feel a little wary. He couldn't help but pay more attention in secret.

The more the steward looked at them, the more shocked he became. He kept feeling that this group of people was not simple.

It wasn't until he had spied on the nobles and attracted the warning gaze of one of the "house servants" that an unbelievable thought suddenly appeared in the steward's mind.

Could that noble just now be Princess Shaoyi, who was patrolling incognito? It wasn't without reason that he had such a guess.

The son of the steward served under King Yue Fei. He was no stranger to the iron-blooded aura emitted by well-trained soldiers.

In this group, other than the two maidservants and the noble who was much petite than ordinary women from the North, the others were all well-trained soldiers.

From the looks of it, it was not difficult to deduce this noble's identity.

The steward was shocked. For a moment, he did not know what to do and quickly went to look for the owner.

When the owner heard that Princess Shaoyi had come over, he was also shocked. "Is— Is it really Princess Shaoyi? Did Princess Shaoyi come to our manor incognito? How is that possible?"

The steward looked solemn. "Probably. Although Princess Shaoyi is wearing ordinary clothes, her aura can't be hidden. No family in the North has such a demeanor."

This time, the owner also believed 70% to 80% of it. For a moment, he panicked. "What— What should we do?"

The steward also felt troubled. Seeing that his boss was in a daze, he could only stiffen his scalp and say, “Don’t worry. Princess Shaoyi is kind and benevolent. Our manor is also a serious business. Princess Shaoyi might have only arrived here incognito to take a look at the situation in the silkworm manor. You also know that Princess Shaoyi values the silkworm industry in Liaodong.”

Only then did the owner calm down, and the panicked expression on his face turned to respect. “You’re right. If it weren’t for Princess Shaoyi joining forces with our retail investors and foreign merchants to pressure the nobles and reset the price of the silkworm cocoons, my silkworm farm would have fallen into the hands of the nobles. Princess Shaoyi is so kind, so she will definitely be humble.”

Towards the end, his tone had already become very excited. Princess Shaoyi was so concerned about the development of the silkworm industry, which made them, the silkworm households, even more excited.

The steward wiped his sweat and also felt deep veneration for Princess Shaoyi.

After the excitement, he was in a difficult position. “Do you think I should pay a visit to Princess Shaoyi?” His tone was filled with eagerness. For a moment, he rubbed his hands and paced back and forth in the room. “I can’t pretend not to know that Princess Shaoyi is here!” As if he had convinced himself, he immediately wanted to walk out, but after taking a step, he paced back. “But since Princess Shaoyi is here incognito, she definitely doesn’t want anyone to know her schedule. Isn’t it too rude to go over like this?”

The owner fell into an endless dilemma.

At this moment, a shop assistant came over to report, ” . . . The group you asked me to keep an eye on has already left the manor.”

The steward was stunned for a moment. This time, he did not have to hesitate..

Chapter 929 - 929: Reward

The owner regretted it so much that his intestines turned green. Why was he so conflicted? Even if he did not visit Princess Shaoyi, he could still see her elegance from afar!

Now, he couldn’t see anything.

Although Yu Youyao kept a low profile along the way, before she returned to the Yu Garden, news of Princess Shaoyi being incognito outside Xiangping City still spread.

For a moment, the entire city of Xiangping was shocked.

The commoners seemed to have nothing to do. They ran to the city gate and craned their necks to stare at the passing carriages.

During this period of time, the Han family’s case in Xi’an had caused an uproar. There were not many carriages coming and going from Xiangping City. No matter how low-key the princess’s carriage was, the materials and patterns of the carriage were all meticulous. Therefore, as soon as Yu Youyao’s carriage entered the city, it was recognized by sharp-eyed people.

Someone shouted, “This is Princess Shaoyi’s carriage. Princess Shaoyi has returned to the city in casual clothes...”

Immediately, it was as if a stone caused a thousand ripples.

The commoners cheered excitedly. “Princess Shaoyi, Princess Shaoyi, Princess Shaoyi...”

Yu Youyao had never expected that she would cause such a commotion after leaving the city in a low profile manner. Faced with the simple and enthusiastic commoners congested at the city gate, she really couldn’t remain indifferent.

She could only stop the carriage and let Xia Tao negotiate with the surrounding commoners. “The Princess already knows everyone’s support for her. Please make way. Don’t block the city gate and block the other commoners from entering and leaving. It will also cause pressure on the soldiers guarding the city gate...”

Although the commoners were excited, they were also willing to listen to Xia Tao and give in. However, their enthusiasm and cheers for the princess did not decrease at all.

Yu Youyao was also grateful for the commoners’ cooperation and took the initiative to lift the curtain.

The commoners took the initiative to follow the carriage all the way. It wasn’t until the carriage entered the Yu Garden that the commoners gradually dispersed.

After returning to the Yu Garden, Yu Youyao still had lingering fears. “The commoners of Liaodong are too enthusiastic. This lineup is really a little too much. I’ll try my best to go out less in the future!”

Actually, it was not surprising that the commoners had such a big reaction. It was just that Yu Youyao usually stayed in the Yu Garden and rarely left. She was too low-key. Occasionally, she would go out and try her best to arrive early to avoid the crowd. There were also guards with knives accompanying her. Even when the commoners saw her, they would only admire her from the side, not daring to cause too much commotion.

Now, not only was Princess Shaoyi using her actions to fulfill her original intention of coming to the North, but she had even benefited the commoners. The commoners really felt Princess Shaoyi’s kindness and gratitude to her.

Yu Youyao’s reputation was also different from before.

The next day, the reward from the Imperial Court arrived at Xiangping City.

The eunuch who had come to deliver the reward was Eunuch Li, Eunuch Zhu’s most capable subordinate. As the reward this time was given by the Imperial Court and the royal family, she was accompanied by the emperor’s carriage. There were more than a hundred people in total, in addition to a hundred imperial guards. They rushed towards Xiangping.

Therefore, before the group arrived, Yu Youyao heard the news. She sent someone to tidy up the courier station again and sent someone to keep an eye on the city gate.

As soon as Eunuch Li and the others entered the city, they saw a green-clothed servant nod and bow. “Lords, it’s been a long journey. I’m a servant in the Yu Garden who’s in charge of running

errands. When the Princess found out that the Imperial Court had given her a reward, she specially ordered me to come to the city gate to wait for you.”

This servant was Old Madam Sun’s grandson, Sun Changgui. He was in charge of running errands and gathering information in the outer courtyard.

Although this job was difficult, only servants who were deeply trusted by their masters could represent the masters of the residence. It was very dignified to be sent out to do an errand.

As Sun Changgui spoke, he handed over the identity token of the Yu Garden. He was smart and likable, and he was eloquent. In just a few words, he explained his identity and the reason for his visit. His words were also beautiful.

When everyone heard this, they knew that the princess valued Eunuch Li and the others who had come from afar.

The centurion of the imperial guards, who was in charge of guarding the carriage, took the token and looked at it. The words “Yu Garden” were engraved on the front, and the words “Princess” and “Saint Venerable” were engraved on the left and right sides. It was Princess Shaoyi’s title.

After confirming the authenticity of the token, the centurion did not dare to be negligent. “Wait a moment.”

With that, he turned around and handed the token to the person in the carriage.

After a while, a pair of fair hands reached out from the carriage and handed the token back to the centurion. A feminine voice sounded. “Come forward and be obedient! ”

The centurion took the token and agreed. He returned to the front of the ceremonial envoy and handed the token back to Sun Changgui.

Sun Changgui quickly took the token and thanked him. He did not dare to delay and came to the carriage. He bowed and cupped his hands. “Greetings,

Eunuch Li.”

A young eunuch immediately lifted the curtain.

Eunuch Li looked to be in his thirties. He was wearing vermillion clothes of a eunuch and was sitting upright in the carriage. He held a golden peony cup in his hand and was lowering his head, sipping his tea casually.

Seeing Sun Changgui standing respectfully outside the carriage, he unhurriedly put down his teacup and raised his eyes. “Thank you for your painstaking arrangements. Please thank you on my behalf.”

Sun Changgui quickly said, “The courier station has already been arranged.

Eunuch, it’s been a long journey, so you’ll have to go to the courier station to stay first.”

Eunuch Li quickly thanked him.

With just a few words, Sun Changgui had an idea. Eunuch Li looked arrogant, but his attitude towards the princess was very humble.

Sun Changgui led the ceremonial envoy sent by the Imperial Court to the courier station.

There were a total of twelve carriages, and the accompanying palace maids and eunuchs were holding up yellow flags. Anyone with a little discernment would know what was going on.

For a moment, the entire Xiangping City was in an uproar.

On the surface, Eunuch Li was here to give a reward, but it was not just to give a reward. After this job was over, he still had to return to the capital to report to the nobles in the palace.

The nobles in the palace wanted to know and hear some things from him. This was the real purpose of the trip.

If the nobles were dissatisfied, no matter how efficient the job was, his painstaking journey would be in vain.

Therefore, he deliberately slowed down along the way and paid special attention to the commotion outside. The commoners spoke at once.

Eunuch Li also listened.

Princess Shaoyi had joined forces with the individual silkworm farmers and foreign merchants to pressure the nobles and resolve the situation of the nobles controlling the silkworm business and bullying the silkworm farmers. She had also revalued the prices of the silkworm industry.

Princess Shaoyi advised the Bai Residence to be kind and join forces with the medicinal herb merchants in the Bai Residence and Liaodong to lower the price of medicine so that the commoners could afford it. As a result, it led to other nobles and affected the prices of other items in the North..

Chapter 930 - 930: Good Fate

Princess Shaoyi opened an incense shop and produced many incense medicines to prevent and treat the disease. She supported the refugee camps in Longcheng.

Princess Shaoyi publicized some incense medicine recipes in her incense shop that could prevent illnesses and evil spirits. She asked everyone in the Liaodong area to make incense and use it. The commoners would fall sick less and the pressure on their lives would be reduced.

Princess Shaoyi had set up an industry in every refugee shelter. Not only did she accept a portion of the refugees to do work, but she also provided all kinds of help to the refugees who had been resettled. It ranged from the needs of daily life, to the conflicts between the refugees and the local residents because of their living habits, customs, and so on.

Princess Shaoyi had used the method of breeding seedlings to resolve the problem of the large-scale promotion of the planting of sweet potatoes. She had also resolved the problem of a large number of refugees exploring the land to settle down in Liaodong.

Princess Shaoyi cooperated with the Xie family and bought a large number of cows, sheep dung, and so on from the various livestock farms in the North. She also bought a large number of ducks and geese from the area of

Guangdong. She planned to raise them on a large scale in the Liaodong area to deal with the locust plague.

Upon hearing this, Eunuch Li could tell that there were many problems.

Princess Shaoyi had been in Xiangping for four months. In order to help the Imperial Court implement its national policy in the North, she had put in much more effort than what was stated in the memorial submitted to the Imperial Court by Lord Ye to seek credit for Princess Shaoyi.

It wasn't that Eunuch Li suspected that Lord Ye hadn't reported what he knew, or that he had lied and hidden it.

There were many things that had not passed through the government office, so there was no need for the government office to specially report them to the Imperial Court.

Meanwhile, Princess Shaoyi was not someone who liked to gain credit and ask for rewards. As long as it was not something that the Imperial Court was especially concerned about, she would not mention it.

Eunuch Li really admired Princess Shao Yi.

He had entered the palace since he was young and had been in the palace for a long time. He was best at understanding people.

He noticed that when the commoners mentioned Princess Shaoyi, the admiration in their voices and the respect on their faces could not be faked.

The more Princess Shaoyi did, the more it inevitably affected the interests of the nobles. Only then did Madam Han of Xian join forces with the consort party to attack Princess Shaoyi.

One of them framed King Yue Fei in order to hinder the implementation of the state policy and continued to be the local emperor in the North.

One took the opportunity to gain power in the court in order to suppress the royal faction.

Both sides took what they needed and hit it off.

From some words in the market, Eunuch Li inferred that the Han family of Xian had framed Princess Shaoyi and angered the public, causing the Bai family to join forces with many nobles in Liaodong to publicly stand up to suppress the Han family of Xi'an. Moreover, they had obtained the support of many scholars and commoners.

However, he still needed to investigate more details.

The courier station had been reorganized. Although it was not as meticulous as the palace, it still revealed uniqueness and comfort. Liaodong was a bitterly cold place, and the conditions of the courier station were limited. This was already not easy.

Eunuch Li was naturally satisfied.

It was no wonder that Eunuch Zhu kept saying, "Princess Shaoyi is a kind and magnanimous person. If such a person can form good karma when she's not in power and try her best to form good karma, it won't hinder her. She won't lose anything anyway. In the future, she might have unexpected gains."

"They don't have expectations for the future and simply do a good deed a day. Meanwhile, we've done many things to harm our virtue. If we can be kind to those who have nothing to do with us, we should be kind. We don't care about

what happens when we're alive. We just want our reputation. There's no need to mention what will happen when Princess Shaoyi has gained power."

After settling Eunuch Li and the others down, it was already late at night. The sun began to set in the west. Sun Changgui quickly returned to the Yu Garden to report to his young miss.

Yu Youyao nodded and asked how many people were accompanying Eunuch Li, who they were, where they were on duty in the palace, whether they had ranks, and so on.

Sun Changgui had not worked for nothing that day. He had gathered all the information he needed. Immediately, he picked out the famous people in the group and told her everything.

Yu Youyao had an idea and was satisfied with Sun Changgui's work. Thinking that he had worked hard for a day, she rewarded him. 'Eunuch Li and the others will probably stay in Xiangping City for a few days. Work harder and be thorough about the matters at the courier station these few days. If there's anything, come back in time to report.'

Sun Changgui couldn't ask for more and quickly agreed.

After Sun Changgui left, Yu Youyao called Mother Tao over. "I think the reward sent by the Imperial Court should be sent to the residence soon. Go and ask Auntie Xu how to prepare this gift."

There were about 300 people in Eunuch Zhu's group. For example, Eunuch Li, who was in charge of delivering the rewards, had to receive more ceremonious rewards. In addition, the person in charge of rewarding this time was Eunuch Zhu from the palace. The gifts for Eunuch Zhu should be even more ceremonious, and the accompanying imperial guards needed a heavy reward.

Depending on the grade of the eunuchs, the palace maids, and the other people, the reward for their hard work should also be thorough.

The next morning, just as Yu Youyao finished her breakfast, Xia Tao came over to report, "Young Miss, Eunuch Li has brought the Empress Dowager's decree and the rewards from the Imperial Court. He has already set off from the courier station and will arrive at the Yu Garden in about an hour."

Yu Youyao asked, "Has the Old Master been informed?"

Women of the Great Zhou Dynasty could not establish a household. She had "temporarily" left her father's clan. Even if she lived alone in the Yu Garden, she was still one with her mother's clan. The Imperial Court had given her a reward, so it was only right for her relatives from her mother's clan to step in.

Xia Tao quickly said, "I've already sent someone to inform the Old Master."

Yu Youyao was a little relieved and quickly returned to her room to freshen up.

When Auntie Xu received the news, she rushed over. Dong Mei, who was a little flustered because of her nervousness, finally calmed down.

Auntie Xu smiled. "You've already experienced it a few times. How can you still be nervous? You're Eldest Miss's most capable person. If this happens again, you can't count on me anymore."

Dong Mei patted her chest. “This kind of thing has nothing to do with how many times I’ve experienced it. When I saw the people from the palace and heard the sharp and thin voices of the eunuchs, it was like needles stabbing into my ears.”

Chun Xiao also nodded. “I don’t even know where to place my hands and feet.”

Xia Tao also stuck out her tongue. “As long as the eunuchs in the palace proclaim an imperial edict and or give a reward, they represent the nobles in the palace. I heard that there’s someone in the ceremonial envoy who specially keeps an eye on the etiquette of each family, from their makeup and clothes, to their words and actions. If there’s anything inappropriate, it will reach the ears of the nobles. Just thinking about it makes me feel afraid.”

Yu Youyao was amused, but she did not think it was an exaggeration. There were already families in the dynasty who had been rewarded, but they were accused of looking down on the other party because of etiquette mistakes. As a result, the entire family was punished.

Sometimes, heaven and hell were decided by a person in power.

Even she was fully focused on dealing with every person who came from the palace. She did not dare to be careless at all..