

All Hail 991

Chapter 991: War

Only this time.

Looking at her dress, he couldn't help but recall that there was a hermit in the Eastern Han Dynasty called Liang Hong. After studying, he went home to farm and married Meng Guang, the daughter of the wealthy man in the county.

After their marriage, Meng Guang abandoned the Meng family's luxurious lifestyle and lived in seclusion in the Baling Mountains with her husband.

Meng Guang used thorns as hairpins and wore rough clothes. There was mutual respect between her and Liang Hong. The story of "thornwood hairpins and hemp skirts" spread for a thousand generations.

He could almost imagine the loving life of a married couple filled with mutual respect through her simple and busy figure.

A desire suddenly surged in his heart.

He wanted to hold her in his arms and completely possess her.

He watched as she bent back. Her slender waist was as soft as a cattail, and her slender figure was incomparably graceful.

During her mourning period, she didn't eat meat. Auntie Xu was worried that her body wouldn't be able to take it. Thus, she asked her to eat more meals but to eat less at each meal. She had never stopped eating all kinds of expensive medicinal porridge and supplements. However, no matter how she ate, it was fine if she did not grow tall, but she did not even grow flesh. Her figure became thinner and thinner.

At this moment, he finally knew that everything she had eaten had nourished other places, and the meat had grown where it should.

It was inevitable that he would lose control.

However, in the end, he did not dare to cross the line and hold her in his arms as if he was torturing himself. He could not bear to let go of her just like that. He tortured himself and even bullied her.

Yin Huaixi roasted two dried buns and handed them to her with some vegetables and mushrooms. "Although dried buns made with great millet flour aren't as exquisite as flour, they're warm and nourishing to the spleen, strengthen the stomach, and stop vomiting and diarrhea. Occasionally, you can eat them to nourish your spleen and stomach."

"No wonder great millet is classified as military food." Yu Youyao only ate fine food and had never eaten great millet flour.

Great millet and corn were abundant in the north, and great millet was one of the staple foods.

Most of the soldiers' rations were grounded with corn and great millet to make dried buns. The dried buns were dry and hard. They were light and easy to carry. They were also filling

However, the North lacked supplies, and the dried buns that the soldiers ate were not completely made of great millet flour. They were mixed with bran. Great millet was ground into powder and added to the dried buns.

"Let me try it." Yu Youyao took the steamed bun and took a bite. It was roasted until it was crispy and did not have any special taste. The texture was a little rough. She stretched her throat and chewed a few more times with a hint of sweetness. It was not delicious, but it was not bad either.

It was clearly not very delicious, but with the smooth and fragrant mushrooms, she took a small bite. It was crispy on the outside and tender on the inside. The juice of the mushrooms soaked the dry and crispy steamed bun. It tasted mellow, fresh, and fragrant, with endless aftertaste.

Yu Youyao's eyes lit up. "It's delicious. They're like..." For a moment, she did not know how to describe it.

"It seems to be a natural match." Yin Huaixi immediately guessed what she meant. "Meat buns are the perfect match. There are many ways to make them, and every one of them has its own flavor. When you're past your mourning period, I'll bring you to Xi'an to eat authentic meat buns."

The mushrooms were smooth, tender, and fragrant, with the texture of meat. That was why the mushroom buns were especially fresh and fragrant. Yu Youyao looked forward to it and couldn't help but smile. "It's settled then."

Yin Huaixi smiled, but he secretly heaved a sigh of relief. Yu Youyao liked delicious food, so he used food to distract her. It worked every time.

In short, there was nothing that a meal couldn't resolve.

If there was, one would have two meals!

Yu Youyao thought of the situation in Quanzhou. "I heard that the Imperial

Court's army already has more than 200,000 people. Is it possible...'

"That's impossible." Yin Huaixi knew what she meant. "The army will definitely lose."

With 200,000 against 100,000, they would still definitely lose. The army that the Imperial Court had carefully nurtured and called the number one elite of the Great Zhou Dynasty was so weak in Yin Huaixi's eyes.

Yin Huaixi explained, "How can a domesticated watchdog compare to a wild dog raised in the forest?!"

Yu Youyao couldn't help but hold her breath.

Yin Huaixi got someone to bring over a map and spread it on the table. He pointed at Quanzhou. "Fujian is on the southeast coast. It's a place with heavy trade and taxes. All the cities have

deployed a lot of troops. There are at least 70,000 people in the government offices, the sea defense bureau, and the defense of the city. They're equipped with excellent weapons and equipment."

"The King of Liang has captured Fujian. While the army rests in Quanzhou, they will definitely take back the Fujian army for their own use. The strength of the Liang army will increase greatly."

An ordinary city had a garrison of about 50,000 to 10,000 people. Some military cities had more. Fujian was a special area.

This was also an important reason why the King of Liang insisted on taking down Quanzhou.

Then, Yin Huaixi pointed at Jiangxi. "The army will arrive in Henan in a few days. Their destination is the area of Xiangyang in Hubei. The next step for the King of Liang is Jiangxi. After taking down Jiangxi, the vanguard will be the first to enter the area of Xiangyang in Hubei. Both sides will start fighting in this area."

Yu Youyao immediately understood. Xiangyang, which was in Hubei, was located at the intersection of the north and south of the Central Plains. Since ancient times, it had been a place that soldiers had to fight for.

For the Imperial Court, who lived in the north, if they controlled Xiangyang, they could enter Jingzhou and Wuhan. From there, they could control the Yangtze River defense line and lock the Liang army's attack in the north, preventing the Liang army from advancing an inch.

Meanwhile, to the King of Liang, who had started his army from the south, after controlling Xiangyang, he could maintain his attack on the north and form a huge deterrent to the Imperial Court.

Xiangyang was also an important place for nurturing troops. It was surrounded by water on three sides and the Han River Plains. The land was fertile, and it was a self-sufficient place.

As long as the King of Liang took down Xiangyang, he would win half the battle.

The Imperial Court and the King of Liang both wanted to compete for Xiangyang.

From the current situation, the army would soon be able to enter Henan from Rehe and Hubei from Henan. They had a huge advantage.

In contrast, the King of Liang could only take the path to Jiangxi and enter Hubei after taking down Jiangxi. He seemed to be a step behind, but the army led by the King of Liang was not to be underestimated.

Yu Youyao suddenly asked, "If the King of Liang takes down the capital, will you send troops to suppress him?"

"No." Yin Huaixi's voice was calm. "I won't send troops before the other vassal lords."

Yu Youyao's guess was confirmed.

There was going to be a war in the North.

The drought in the North had been going on for three years. Even the rich Shanxi and Shaanxi areas had been affected. Almost no food could be grown, and the commoners had fled their hometowns, let alone the Di people! In the past three years, the wars in the North had never stopped.

The Di people's supplies were already at their limit.

Meanwhile, Yin Huaixi had endured the Di people's harassment from time to time in the past three years. The Di people were like ticks on his body that would jump out from time to time to suck out a mouthful of blood. Although they wouldn't hurt him badly, he was still very annoyed. He must have reached his limit.

This time, both sides were going to fight..

Chapter 992: Scary to Think About

Yin Huaixi had calculated the best time and perfectly avoided the possibility of helping the capital.

It was scary to think about.

Yin Huaixi had been planning this war for three years.

He had always been scheming. With every step he took, he planned ten steps ahead. Since he had considered the King of Liang's rebellion, he would definitely be able to predict all the problems he would face after the King of Liang's rebellion.

From the day he was conferred the title of King of the North and guarded the North, he had already begun to make arrangements.

In the past three years, the Di people had disturbed the North because of their lack of supplies.

He played small games with the Di people. Every time the Di people suffered losses in the North, they would always taste a little sweetness. Therefore, the Di people were like hungry dogs that had seen bones and began to disturb the North frequently.

The Di people often disturbed the North. The Imperial Court was afraid of the Di people and was worried that the history of King Li of Zhou would repeat itself. Therefore, in the past three years, the resources of the Imperial Court gradually leaned towards the North.

Ever since the current emperor ascended the throne, there had been two wars at the border.

Both sides suffered heavy losses.

However, compared to the Great Zhou Dynasty, the Di people had suffered greater losses.

The Di people needed to recuperate more than the Great Zhou.

The Di people had been teased by Yin Huaixi for three years. As they had tasted the sweetness, they naturally did not take a small loss seriously.

As long as they were not forced into a desperate situation, no one was willing to make a fuss unless they were absolutely confident.

However, once Yin Huaixi was unwilling to let the Di people taste the sweetness again, the Di people would definitely gather troops on a large scale regardless of the consequences.

The scale of the battle and the number of participants often determined the duration of this battle.

If the battlefield in the North was extended, Yin Huaixi would be able to create the illusion that the war in the North was tense.

At that time, the King of Liang would attack the capital. King Yue Fei was extremely busy and would not be able to rush and help the capital. This was undoubtedly the best time for the vassal lords to raise the crusade flag.

When the King of Liang was destroyed and they became the emperor, the world would be settled. At that time, they could still play the blame game. They would use the excuse that King Yue Fei was unwilling to send troops to help the capital to denounce him. In the name of the emperor, they would issue a decree to make King Yue Fei surrender.

Once King Yue Fei rejected these claims, he could legitimately send troops to suppress them.

The North had just experienced a huge battle and was not strong enough to be feared.

Yin Huaixi had schemed vividly against the human heart. He had calculated that the King of Liang would rebel, that the Northern Barbarians would invade on a large scale, and that the other vassal lords would not be able to help but send troops to suppress the Northern Barbarians.

Yu Youyao wanted to speak, but stopped.

Yin Huaixi knew her very well. With a look, he could guess what she was thinking. “The imperial family is filled with a group of cowards. Before the King of Liang reaches the capital, once the army is defeated, those who have the slightest sense will know to pack their bags and escape. If they really can’t escape, it’ll be fate.”

Once the King of Liang entered the capital, he would first have to start with the imperial family and use the blood of the Yin Imperial Family to mourn the heroic spirits of the soldiers that the King of Liang had sacrificed in this battle.

But so what?!

Yin Huaixi continued, “I’ve protected thousands of homes in the Great Zhou Dynasty, but I’m the only one without a home.”

Yu Youyao held her breath. “I understand.”

Yin Huaixi hated the Yin Imperial Family more than anyone else. Although he had the blood of the Yin Imperial Family in his veins, after his family was destroyed, he had already completely severed ties with the so-called relatives.

In the imperial family, there were countless people who were related to him by blood. However, after King Li of Zhou became the vassal lord, those people had basically cut ties with the father and son.

King Li of Zhou was restrained by the nobles. When he couldn’t move an inch in the North, he had also asked his relatives in the imperial family who were on good terms with him for help.

However, most of those people avoided him like snakes and scorpions.

It was even to the extent of adding insult to injury.

When King Li of Zhou was persecuted on the groundless charge, there were still old officials like Elder Lu who stood up for him.

However, the relatives of the imperial family who were related to him by blood all hid far away, afraid that they would be implicated. Many people even wanted to step on them in order to please the emperor.

They were also involved in King Li of Zhou's tragic death.

The Great Zhou Dynasty had lasted for more than 300 years. From the beginning of Emperor Gaozu's rule, the imperial family had been passed down for countless generations. Generation after generation, there were only two or three main bloodlines who were truly closer to Yin Huaixi's bloodline. The others only had the title of the imperial family. Yin Huaixi had never cared about them.

The room was a little too quiet.

As Yin Huaixi drank the mutton soup, he said, "Every autumn and winter, the climate in Xiangping City is especially bitter and cold. Many natives can't stand this weather. I'll send you to Liancheng. I bought a hot spring courtyard in the best part of Liancheng. After renovation, it's already habitable."

Yu Youyao couldn't help but be stunned. She subconsciously said, "I'm not leaving..."

"Be obedient." Yin Huaixi put down his soup bowl. "According to the spies, the Northern Barbarians seem to have become much more obedient recently. The number of times they disturb the North has been decreasing. This is very likely a sign that the Northern Barbarians will mobilize their troops. In a few days, I'll be leaving for Jinzhou to meet the enemy. At that time, I won't be able to care about Xiangping anymore. Xiangping will be neighboring Jinzhou..."

Yu Youyao did not say anything, but she understood that if the defense at Jinzhou was broken, the Northern Barbarians would attack Xiangping.

Jinzhou was a fortress that controlled north China and Liaodong. It guarded the western corridor of Liaodong and connected the capital to the Liaodong Plain.

From Liaodong to North China, one had to pass through Jinzhou, which was the place where the Northern Barbarians had to pass to enter the Central Plains.

If Jinzhou was lost, the entire northern defense line would collapse. Shanhai Pass would become the last barrier of the capital. If the Shanhai Pass was opened, they could invade north China.

Once the Northern Barbarians entered the north, it was as if they were invincible.

Therefore, Jinzhou was the "throat of Shanhai Pass", and Shanhai Pass was the "guarantee of the capital." The two complemented each other, forming the strongest defense in the north.

Back then, the Northern Barbarians had mobilized a large number of troops and had even broken through the defense line of Jinzhou. At the critical moment, Yin Huaixi had defeated Harmon, who

had gone to Jinzhou to support them, at the narrow Yu Pass, causing Harmon's 3,000 elite cavalry to escape in defeat. It had bought King Li of Zhou a precious opportunity to recapture the defense line of Jinzhou.

The defense line of Jinzhou was too important. As long as Jinzhou was not broken, they had won most of this battle. The famous and insufferably arrogant Nurhachi in history had all died on the defense line of Jinzhou.

It was precisely because the You army had recaptured the defense line in Jinzhou and redeployed it that they had laid the foundation for victory in the North.

There was also the saying that the Marquis of Weining, who had rushed to help, had stolen the results of the battle in Youzhou.

Seeing that she had her head lowered and did not say anything, Yin Huaixi explained, "Back then, when my father first came to the North, the Di people received the news and deliberately mobilized troops to invade and take the opportunity to provoke the dignity of the Great Zhou Dynasty. At that time, the North did not have enough troops, so the Northern Barbarians secretly sent an elite team to sneak into Xiangping City silently and kill their way to King You's residence.. I'm a little worried about leaving you alone in Xiangping..."

Chapter 993: Who Can Withstand This?

"There's nothing to worry about." Yu Youyao frowned and suddenly interrupted him. "Back then, the You army paid a painful price to barely hold the defense line of Jinzhou. You weren't able to face the Di people's head-on attack on the battlefield and have been brooding about the invasion of the Northern Barbarians back then. From then on, you began to plan for revenge. I think you've been planning this battle for a long time and have also prepared for it for many years. You should be confident of winning."

Back then, no one who had participated in King Li of Zhou's case had a good ending. As one of the instigators, the Di people naturally couldn't escape Yin Huaixi's anger.

Yin Huaixi did not deny it.

Yu Youyao said softly, "I know everything. Before the King of Liang mobilized his troops, you secretly sent people who know how to do business to scatter into Jiangxi, Hubei, Hubei, Anhui, and other important food production places to buy food at high prices and speculate the prices. Before the troops move, the rations go first. I believe you."

At that time, no one knew that the King of Liang would rebel.

The price of food was a little high because of the drought. However, because most of the refugees had been settled in the Liaodong area, these important food production areas were not affected by the disaster. The price of food was still relatively stable.

The people Yin Huaixi had sent continued to buy the food on the market at a high price.

The price of food rose. Some wealthy merchants were like cats that had smelled fish. They tried their best to buy food and store it before selling it to

Yin Huaixi's people, hoping to sell it for a high price and obtain a huge profit.

The rich merchants bought food wantonly, so the price of food would definitely continue to increase. At this moment, Yin Huaixi's people took advantage of the situation and sold the food in their hands to them, slowly bringing the food back to the market.

Meanwhile, he could earn from the price difference of buying food at a low price and selling it at a high price to the wealthy merchants.

On the market, the price of food gradually increased. The rich merchants would take advantage of the fact that the price of food was not bad to transfer the accumulated food in their hands at market price.

At this moment, Yin Huaixi's people bought 50% of the food on the market at an even lower price.

Yin Huaixi did not want to go too far. He wanted to buy 50% of the food and let those wealthy merchants who wanted to stock up on food and earn a large sum of money lose everything. However, he had finally left a way out for the commoners. At the same time, he had avoided the huge reduction of food in the market, which would cause panic in the local area and the Imperial Court to be alerted.

The people who had done these things disguised themselves as merchants from the North and took the travel passes issued by the You Prefecture. There were almost no obstacles along the way.

The North was hosting a large number of refugees, and there was a lack of food. It made sense for them to buy food wantonly.

No one suspected that this was a group of unscrupulous merchants who had malicious intentions.

Therefore, Yin Huaixi used the same method to obtain a large batch of food.

Most of the five places in the Central Plains were by lakes and rivers. Yin Huaixi had merchant ships in his hands. Once he obtained food, it was very convenient to transport it by water.

During that period of time, almost every day, merchant ships would dock in Liancheng and batches of food would be secretly transported into the military camp.

By the time the same vicious actions of speculating high prices happened in various areas of the Central Plains, causing the food in various places to be greatly reduced, the King of Liang had already rebelled. The Imperial Court would blame this on the King of Liang.

No one knew that Yin Huaixi had done all of this.

Although it was a little unscrupulous, Yu Youyao also knew that even if Yin

Huaixi did not do this, most food would only fall into the hands of the King of Liang and not the commoners. The Liang army's strength would increase greatly, and the commoners would suffer. Yin Huaixi's actions were understandable.

As for how Yu Youyao knew?

First, Yin Huaixi's merchant ships worked with her. She knew a little about the movements of the merchant ships.

Secondly, Yin Huaixi never deliberately hid anything.

Yu Youyao took a deep breath. “After Ye Hanyuan took over the defense of the southeast coast, the southeast coast has almost become your backyard. I don’t know what agreement you have reached with the Lin and Yan families. The Daoist medicinal herbs controlled by the Lin and Yan families have already provided all kinds of Daoist medicinal herbs to the You army several times in the past half a year. Anshan is your main camp. You have a forging facility there. The silk from the spring and autumn seasons this year has already been invested in the production of armor...”

There was also the warhorses that he had exchanged with the Northern Barbarians earlier...

The King of Liang had been plotting a rebellion for many years and was fully prepared.

However, Yin Huaixi occupied all the resources in the north and south. When the King of Liang’s army entered Jiangxi, Hubei, and other places, they would realize that they had almost become an empty shell.

Yin Huaixi said, “In this dynasty, the Northern Barbarians have broken through the defense line of Jinzhou three times. They already have a lot of experience in how to break through the defense of Jinzhou. Although I’m confident that I can defend Jinzhou, the battlefield changes rapidly...”

“I’m not leaving.” Yu Youyao’s expression was firm, revealing a hint of stubbornness. “I’m not your burden. If you send me to Liancheng and I’m not under your watch, will you be at ease?!”

Of course he would be worried! She was not under his watch, so how could he be at ease?!

Yin Huaixi was convinced, but he was still worried about leaving her in Xiangping City.

“This is the best way.” Yu Youyao smiled and looked at him with sparkling eyes. “I’ll accompany you to Jinzhou and put me under your watch. That way, you’ll be relieved.”

Her bright eyes were like sparkling stars. Under such bright eyes, Yin Huaixi’s words of rejection were stuck in his throat, and his heart couldn’t help but soften.

Yu Youyao blinked and used her trump card. She held Yin Huaixi’s hand and shook it. “Bring me along, okay? I’m very obedient. I definitely won’t cause trouble.”

Her coquettish tone was soft and sticky, like the Qingtuan she had eaten on the Dragon Boat Festival. On the outside was the Qingtuan made of mugwort, and the filling of red bean paste inside was soft and sweet.

She usually didn’t like to eat, but she ate a lot for the first time.

Who could withstand this?

“Cough.” Yin Huaixi hurriedly cleared his throat and swallowed the word “okay” that was about to come out of his mouth. He deliberately pulled a long face, wanting to dispel her thoughts of going to the front line. “Nonsense. A

confrontation between two armies is definitely not child's play. How can I bring you along? Don't even..." Think about it.

He held back the last words because of the little girl's suddenly dejected face.

After being scolded, Yu Youyao looked at him pitifully.

She pursed her lips and looked like she was about to cry. "I'm really obedient. I won't be a burden. Can you bring me to Jinzhou..."

As if to prove that she was really obedient, the little girl sat upright in a chair, her hands in her lap. She looked up at him eagerly, as if even every strand of hair on her body said, "Look, I'm obedient. I'm soft. I'm obedient."

She was very easy to bully..

Chapter 994: Obedient and Soft

Yin Huaixi felt as if he had been struck by lightning. He felt numb. Even every strand of hair on his head was covered in electricity. How could he bear to say anything harsh?

He tried to convince her with logic. "I'm not worried that you'll be a burden. It's just that the front line battlefield is very dangerous, and the conditions are simple and very difficult..

Even men like them in the army couldn't take it, let alone this little girl, who had grown up in a noble family.

"I'm not afraid of suffering." Yu Youyao pouted, her voice soft and sweet. "Moreover, I'm very useful. The incense medicine I made previously played a very important role in preventing and treating the epidemic. I've thought about it and think that it should be quite useful on the battlefield."

Yin Huaixi held his breath and suddenly understood. Accompanying him to the front line was not a whim of Yu Youyao.

Instead, she had thought about it carefully.

After the Dragon Boat Festival, she suddenly became interested in all kinds of ordinary incense recipes. She spent more time in the incense shop than before.

Indeed!

Yu Youyao continued, "The incense medicine that's commonly used in the autumn and winter seasons can simply remove filth, expel evil, eliminate the cold, get rid of humidity, warm the body, nourishing the essence, and refresh the mind."

"Incense that is used to remove filth can clean the environment, making it difficult for germs to grow."

"Evil-repelling incense medicine can expel cold and evil. It can guard against the wind and induce sweat."

“It’s cold-repelling and moisture-dispersing. It can dissolve Qi and prevent cold illnesses.”

“It can warm the body, nourish the essence, and refresh the spirit. All the incense medicines have the effect of nourishing the body and nourishing the mind. ”

The little girl was so straightforward that even people who did not know much about incense medicine could understand what she meant.

Yin Huaixi became serious.

The environment on the battlefield was far worse than the refugee camp. In a situation where they lacked medical treatment and medicine, many soldiers suffered from physical pain because of the harsh battlefield environment and bitterly cold weather.

Yu Youyao said, “For example, incense medicine, which can eliminate filth and expel evil, can reduce the worsening of injuries and infection to a certain extent. Incense medicine that eliminates cold and dissipates moisture can nourish the blood and promote blood circulation. It can accelerate the healing of wounds. Coupled with incense medicine that can warm the body, nourish the essence, and refresh the mind can also nourish the body.”

Yin Huaixi’s expression revealed a rare solemnity.

Yu Youyao was overjoyed and decided to add fuel to the fire. “The therapeutic effect of incense medicine is to silently seep into the body by breathing it in through the mouth and nose, as well as the expansion of the pores in the body. It’s smooth and soundless. It’s about the words ‘adjustment’, ‘treatment’, and ‘nourishing’, not ‘curing’. Therefore, the effect can’t be effectively reflected on the injured. However, during the ‘curing’ process, the incense medicine can play a very good catalytic and supplementary role. When layered together, the effect can often be greater.”

She chattered on and on. It was obvious that she had thought about this a lot.

Yin Huaixi was almost convinced.

“These are all the most basic and ordinary incense medicines. The medicinal herbs and spices used are also very common. During this period of time, I’ve improved the incense prescription and further streamlined it. The optimization effect will greatly reduce the consumption of medicinal herbs, allowing more injured soldiers to receive more appropriate treatment, regardless of whether their injuries are serious or light.”

At this point, her reasons were already very sufficient. If she weren’t Yu

Youyao, who was the person at the top of his heart, he would definitely agree.

Yin Huaixi felt a lump in his throat. “But I don’t...” He didn’t want her to go to the front line and face any danger. He didn’t want her to see the bloodiest and cruelest side of the war.

“Don’t say that.” Yu Youyao suddenly leaned forward and reached out her delicate index finger to gently cover his lips. “I didn’t do all this for you.”

She chuckled, but there was nothing in her voice. There was a hint of mischief in her voice. “The old people in the North call me a living Bodhisattva and worship me at home. No matter how hard their lives are, they don’t forget to burn an incense stick every day and sincerely pray for me. I’m not a clay Buddha in a temple who has her eyes closed. I’m a living person. I’ve opened my eyes.”

Since she had opened her eyes and seen the suffering of all living beings, how could she stay out of it?!

She would do what she could.

Moreover, she and Yin Huaixi were already inseparable. They would share honor and disgrace.

It was one thing not to be able to help. Since she could help, she couldn’t stay out of it.

Yin Huaixi suddenly held her hand, which was blocking his mouth, and kissed it impudently. He said hoarsely, “Okay!”

“What are you doing?!” Yu Youyao was shocked. Her face couldn’t help but burn. She quickly wanted to retract her hand, but she didn’t. “Let go quickly, or I’ll ignore you in the future...”

Yin Huaixi held her hand and refused to let go, but he did not act impudently anymore.

Yu Youyao blushed and tried to struggle free, but she couldn’t, so she stopped struggling. “I’ve thought about it. Medicinal herbs and spices that are made with spiritual dewdrop...”

“No.” Before she could finish speaking, Yin Huaixi interrupted her in a low voice. “At the moment, we don’t know what bad consequences there will be if we use too much spiritual dewdrop. You can’t take the risk.”

Things that were too mysterious were often terrifying. The effect of the spiritual dewdrop could not be said to be heaven-defying, but it was still a rare spiritual item in the world.

Whatever was given by the heavens had to be taken. Only then would heaven and earth maintain their balance.

Whatever one obtained, one would often pay more.

Yu Youyao quickly said, “Didn’t you guess previously that the more good deeds I did, the more spiritual dew there would be? As the sweet potatoes were gradually promoted and planted, the spiritual dew produced every day had already reached more than 30 drops. Some time ago, I tried to increase the use of the spiritual dew every day, but my body didn’t feel uncomfortable. The amount of spiritual dew produced every time didn’t decrease, so I guessed...” “Yu Youyao.” Yin Huaixi grabbed her wrist, his face ashen. “You didn’t discuss it with me. We had an agreement previously that you can’t make decisions about the use of the spiritual dewdrop...”

“I...” Yu Youyao felt a little guilty. She opened her mouth, wanting to explain.

Yin Huaixi asked in a low voice, “When did it start?”

His tone was heavy, as if a storm was brewing, and his face was dark.

Yu Youyao was a little afraid. She shrank her neck and lowered her head like a little quail. “A few days before the Dragon Boat Festival. It was the first day of May.”

She glanced at him from the corner of her eye. Perhaps because she was too guilty, as soon as her gaze met his, her eyes seemed to have been stung by a bee. Before she could see anything clearly, she panicked and quickly retracted her gaze. She straightened her back, crossed her legs, and sat upright, looking obedient.

She had been like this since she was young. Every time she felt guilty, she would look obedient and soft. She was sure that his heart would soften and she couldn't bear to really criticize him.

Yin Huaixi was helpless and angry.

On the first day of May, the last batch of refugees in Longcheng's camp was about to be sent to the resettlement place. The national policies issued by the Imperial Court were also completely implemented..

Chapter 995: Why Are You Scolding Me?

“Don't be angry. I know my limits.” Yu Youyao panicked and quickly explained, “I tried to take more every day. There's no discomfort in my body. Uncle Sun takes my pulse every month and says that I'm very healthy.”

She did not use them all.

Instead, she progressed slowly.

Yin Huaixi took a deep breath and asked, “Where did you use the spiritual dewdrop?”

Yu Youyao swallowed and whispered, “I— I sent it to the incense shop to make the incense medicine I mentioned previously.”

In order to help the Longcheng refugee camp prevent the epidemic, the incense shop had opened a special area for basic incense medicine. Sister Bai Kui and Sister Qing Xiu felt that the cost of basic incense medicine was low, and it was very practical. The consumption was even greater. No family could lack it. They could take the path of low profits and high sales. They could also treat it as an activity and gift to continue mass production.

Yin Huaixi pursed his lips and said nothing.

Yu Youyao felt guilty. Instead, she felt a little self-righteous. She glared at him. “In the past two years, I've been observing the growth of the spiritual dewdrop. I realized that it was basically in line with our previous guesses. I only dared to try it because I was confident. If there were any problems, I would have stopped long ago. Why are you scolding me?!”

“I'm not scolding you.” Yin Huaixi paused, and even his voice softened. “You should discuss it with me...”

Yu Youyao's expression softened. “You think that the spiritual dewdrop is mysterious and beyond the world, so I should treat it carefully. But what if the

person with the spiritual dewdrop is you? Will you also be so secretive that you don't even dare to use it?"

Yin Huaixi thought to himself, "No, if I can't figure out its origin and analyze the pros and cons of such a mysterious thing, how can I feel at ease?!"

Yu Youyao said, "The spiritual dewdrop belongs to me. Only by figuring out its exact situation can I really be at ease and use it well."

There was a mountain of treasures, but it did not have a door. Wasn't it a waste?!

"Ms. Ye once said something to me." Yu Youyao looked at him seriously and said softly, "If I don't take what the heavens give me, I'll suffer."

Yin Huaixi frowned.

Yu Youyao moved closer to him and blinked. "Open your eyes and take a good look. Am I fine? Look, I'm sitting here fine now. Doesn't it prove that it's harmless to me?"

"I think the spiritual dewdrop and I have a relationship of mutual effect. The more good I do, the more spiritual dewdrops will be produced. I'm not using it for free, nor am I abusing it."

"I remember that when I first obtained the spiritual dewdrop, I could only take two drops a day at most. If I took too many, I would feel dizzy and uncomfortable. However, I'm taking 30 drops a day now, but I still don't feel any discomfort. The amount of spiritual dewdrop I'm using now is far from the limit of my body."

Yin Huaixi's voice was dry. "Don't continue to try, and don't expose the existence of the spiritual dewdrop."

Yu Youyao had a respectful and cautious attitude towards the spiritual dew. Other than taking two to three drops a day and using them on herself and her family, she would not use too much spiritual dew.

There was a limit to how much she took, and she had her ways of using it.

She did not seek personal gain.

The incense medicine sold in the Jade Pavilion had never been brewed with spiritual dewdrop.

But now, she wanted to use the spiritual dewdrop on the soldiers at the front line to create a greater chance of winning for him. She also hoped to use her own method to end the war as soon as possible and reduce casualties.

Wasn't this another kind of kindness?

Yu Youyao pinched her sleeve and said in a soft and sweet voice, "I just hope that fewer people will die in the war. I'll disguise the spiritual dewdrop as a concocted essence dew and hand it to Sister Qing Xiu. The effect of the incense medicine produced will at most be better than others. Everyone

in the world knows that I'm good at mixing incense. The incense medicine concocted by me will be better than the ones on the market and won't be exposed."

Fragrance was one of the core secrets of a product. The existence of fragrance dew was usually in the hands of the owner and would not be easily leaked.

The owner would concoct a high concentration of fragrance dew and hand it to the trusted aide in charge of production.

During production, a small amount would be taken and diluted to increase the fragrance.

If the core secret was not exposed, the risk of the incense prescription being exposed would be greatly reduced.

The spiritual dewdrop was not a heaven-defying thing to begin with. After being diluted, the effect was greatly reduced. It was only 40% to 50% better than most incense medicine on the market.

Others only thought that she had inherited Auntie Xu's teachings and mastered many secret recipes that had been passed down for a long time, so the incense medicine she made was effective.

Even Uncle Sun couldn't detect the existence of the spiritual dewdrop, let alone others.

Yin Huaixi's heart softened. "Get Uncle Sun to take your pulse later."

If he didn't hear from Uncle Sun himself that she was fine, he really couldn't feel at ease.

Yu Youyao knew that he was worried, so she nodded obediently and agreed. Then, she continued, "In terms of business, I didn't give you my incense medicine for nothing. It's at most 40% lower than the market price." At this point, she felt a little guilty. "Although the cost of the basic incense medicine is low, it's not a small expense to make it in batches. There are so many people in the incense shop. Recently, the incense shop has hired a batch of workers and signed a long-term contract. When this group of people is trained, the incense shop will continue to expand. I can't treat them badly..."

It had only been three to four months since the official opening of the Jade Pavilion, but the incense medicine in the shop was already in short supply.

In the past few months, the incense shop had already hired a few groups of people one after another. From the looks of it, Yu Youyao would soon be able to realize her dream and expand the incense medicine business throughout the country and even overseas.

They would use incense medicine to earn high profits from the overseas countries and continuously send the resources of the overseas countries into the country.

Yin Huaixi smiled. "I didn't take advantage of you for nothing. No matter how many incense medicines the incense shop makes, I'll buy them in the name of military supplies. I don't need you to lower the price. I'll buy them according to the relevant rules for military procurement.

There were relevant rules for military procurement. One could not lie or hide the price of items. The price had to be lower than the market price, but it would not make one lose money.

On the surface, they earned very little, but the military suppliers enjoyed some of the benefits of the trade tax reduction. At the same time, the various trade policies of the Imperial Court would be relatively relaxed, and the benefits would far exceed the losses.

Everyone followed suit.

Yu Youyao tugged at his sleeve and looked up at him. “Tell me about the battlefield!”

In the past, Yin Huaixi had told her some of the big and small battles in the North by telling her stories. In fact, she knew nothing about the battlefield.

She was about to go to Jinzhou, so she couldn't not know anything. Yin Huaixi sighed softly. “The battlefield is even more cruel than you think...”

When Yu Youyao heard that there were broken limbs and bones on the battlefield and blood flowed like a river, she subconsciously tightened her grip on her handkerchief. “I'm not afraid. Empress Zhangsun participated in the Xuanwu Gate Incident at the age of 13. She instructed the guards of the residence to kill the army that was besieging the residence and stabilized Li Shimin's home front, so that he won't have anything to worry about...”

Her tone was a little shaky, but her expression was very determined.

And so, the matter was settled..

Chapter 996: Victory in this Battle!

The next morning, after Yu Youyao had breakfast, she went to the Xie Residence next door and mentioned to Old Madam Xie that she was going to Jinzhou.

The Old Madam was stunned for a moment before she reacted and pulled Yu Youyao into her arms. “My good Yao'er, you're living a good life. Why are you going to Jinzhou to suffer...’

At the thought that Jinzhou was at the border and Fuxin was in front, where the front line of the battlefield was, the Old Madam felt sorrow from the bottom of her heart. She hugged Yu Youyao and wiped her tears.

Yu Youyao's mouth was dry, but she couldn't persuade Old Madam.

In the end, it even alarmed her maternal grandfather, her maternal grandfather, and a few uncles, aunts, and cousins.

Yu Youyao braced herself and was interrogated by the “Three Halls”. She was just short of swearing to the heavens that she was the one who wanted to go to Jinzhou, not Yin Huaixi. She even patted her chest and promised that she had thought it through, and that it was not decided on a whim. In the end, her mouth was dry as she explained the huge effect of incense medicine on the battlefield.

Everyone from the Xie Residence spoke at once and took turns persuading her for a long time, but they were still unable to persuade her. Pairs of eyes looked at the Old Master, who had been sitting on the pit and dozing off.

Was the Old Master senile?

Didn't he hear Little Yao'er say that she was going to Jinzhou? Why wasn't there any reaction?!

In front of Jinzhou was Fuxin. Outside Fuxin was the narrow Yu Pass. The narrow Yu Pass was the border between the North and the grassland. The Di people often crossed the narrow Yu Pass and disturbed the border of Fuxin.

Fuxin was the first fortress at the border. It was the first to bear the brunt of the responsibility to protect Jinzhou. Behind it was Jinzhou, which was at the rear of the front line battlefield.

The Old Master opened his eyes. "What are you looking at me for? Do as you should. "

Old Master Xie couldn't help but be stunned. "Then tell me, what should we do? Jinzhou is so dangerous. Once there's a war, that place will become a must-have place. Little Yao'er is a girl. Are you at ease letting her go to Jinzhou?"

The Old Master glanced at her. "Who are you looking down on? So what if she's a woman? She's still not inferior to men. She's even convinced King Yue Fei to bring her to Jinzhou. You can't tie her hands and feet and lock her up at home.

Children are all liabilities. You have to worry for her."

Old Master Xie quickly said, "That's not what I meant. I'm just afraid that she'll suffer in Jinzhou. Besides, it's too dangerous there."

"Whether it's dangerous or not, King Yue Fei has the most right to speak. Even he agreed." Old Master glanced at Yu Youyao and said, "Can you still persuade him?!"

Since the Old Master had already spoken, Old Master Xie and Old Madam Xie couldn't say anything else. However, the two of them were frowning and looking worried. Clearly, they were very worried.

Xie Xun and the others also sighed sadly.

The Old Master looked annoyed. He waved his hand and chased them away like he was chasing away a fly, leaving Yu Youyao alone.

After the grandfather and granddaughter's sincere conversation, Yu Youyao finally returned to the Yu Garden.

Her maternal grandfather did not persuade her. He only asked her again, "Why do you have to go to the front line of Jinzhou?"

How did she answer her maternal grandfather?

"After the betrothal, Yin Huaixi and I are inseparable. We are bound together for good or ill. This is Yin Huaixi's battlefield and mine."

"If I couldn't help, I wouldn't have forced myself. However, incense medicine can reduce many casualties on the battlefield. This is within my ability. I can't stand around and do nothing because of some danger that hasn't happened yet or even wouldn't happen."

“The conditions on the front line are difficult. However, this was not an excuse for me to avoid it.’

“I wanted to help him, and I happened to be able to help him.”

“Furthermore, I believe him.”

“We will definitely win this battle!”

Why did she have the confidence to go to the front line? It was because she believed that Yin Huaixi wouldn't put her in danger, and Yin Huaixi had a advantage in this battle.

As she had long been thinking about going to the front line, Yu Youyao had also made a lot of preparations for this. She first contacted Sister Bai Kui and sent a batch of incense medicine from the incense shop to the Yue Fei's Residence.

As for who she wanted to bring, there was nothing to be conflicted about.

Between Yin San and Chun Xiao, one was in charge of her safety, and the other was by her side. She definitely had to bring them along. She was still short of someone to order around. Xia Tao was the best choice. Considering that Yin San was also a fierce general, it was indeed a little embarrassing to be placed in the Yu Garden as the commander of the guards. In the end, she decided to bring Yin San along.

Yu Youyao only packed some necessary items and planned to go out in simple clothes.

After Yin Huaixi checked, he ordered someone to pack some more. After this ordeal, her luggage filled an entire carriage.

Yu Youyao almost suspected that he wasn't the one who previously said to “not bring too many things”.

When everything was ready, Yu Youyao found Nanny Yue again. It was almost October, and everyone was paying attention to the harvesting of the sweet potatoes, looking forward to the first harvest after the disaster.

Nanny Yue had also been busy with this matter recently. “A batch of sweet potatoes planted with the cutting method has already begun to be harvested. The soil in the Liaodong area is very suitable for planting sweet potatoes. Not only are the sweet potatoes planted using the cutting method large, but their production has also more than doubled. In October, they will be harvested on a large scale.”

The climate in Liaodong was not as warm as in the south, and the harvest of sweet potatoes was delayed for more than a month.

A smile appeared on Yu Youyao's face. “I don't think anyone will starve to death this winter.”

“That's right.” Nanny Yue also had a smile on her face. “A batch of refugees who had a good harvest early on are all grateful to you, Young Miss. The government office sent small officials to various families to register the harvest. They rarely hid the situation. They paid 30% of the harvest according to the contract that had been set when promoting the planting of sweet potatoes.”

Back then, they had agreed that 10% of the sweet potatoes harvested by the refugees would go to the government, King Yue Fei, and herself respectively. The remaining 70% would belong to the families.

The government office was not to be trifled with. Every family had a record of how much land they had explored and how many sweet potato vines they had obtained. From the approximate production of the sweet potatoes, it was obvious if they had lied.

If the offense was lighter, the government office would turn a blind eye and not hold it against them.

In serious cases, they would directly take back the reclaimed fields and confiscate 70% of the family's food. Then, they would be expelled from the North. In serious cases, they might even be sent to jail.

No one would dig their own grave.

Another day passed. Before dawn, Yu Youyao had already gotten into the carriage and left the city for Jinzhou.

At this moment, Yin Huaixi had changed into armor and was sitting on a tall horse. Behind him were a thousand elite soldiers wearing heavy black iron armor and carrying heavy sabers at their waists.

This was the legendary MO saber.

It was known as the bloodiest and cruelest executioner in history.

“Let's go!” Yin Huaixi ordered. The horses shot out like arrows from a bow, and a thousand soldiers followed closely behind.

Yu Youyao rolled up the curtain of the carriage. In the distance, dust filled the air, and the ground trembled endlessly. The flags swept up the west wind, and the carriage was speeding forward at an unprecedented speed..

Chapter 997: March

The bearings of the military carriage were made of fine iron. The material was strong and had a good shock absorption effect. The two horses and four wheels also greatly increased the buffer of the carriage. It could balance a certain level of stability and safety at high speeds.

The wood of the teak carriage was fine and hard. Even if it was exposed to the elements, the cold of winter, or the heat of summer, the wood would not be crooked or cracked. It had very strong shock absorption and shock resistance, greatly increasing the comfort of the carriage.

The hard places on the walls of the carriage were covered in sheepskin.

There were two layers of fur on the sheep's skin. The outer layer was rough and could resist the sun and rain, but the fur on the inner layer was soft, elastic, firm, and durable. It could reduce shock to a certain extent and avoid bumps and injuries.

Fixed seats were installed in the carriage, firmly securing people to the seats to reduce the impact and bumpiness of the carriage.

There was also a small fixed couch with a fence for resting.

The carriage attended to every aspect.

However, Yu Youyao was still dizzy from the bumpy ride.

Chun Xiao did not feel that the carriage was bumpy. Seeing that Young Miss was really feeling too uncomfortable, she quickly helped her up from the small couch and let her lean against her. She also took out a water bag and fed her some water.

Xia Tao's heart ached for Young Miss. She lifted the curtain of the carriage and looked out. "We've been traveling for more than four hours. Why didn't the carriage stop to rest? It's lunchtime soon. You can't let us settle it in the carriage ourselves. When has Young Miss ever suffered like this?"

After adding spiritual dewdrop to the water and drinking some water, Yu Youyao perked up a little. "His Highness has his own arrangements for how to travel and when to rest on the way. We just have to follow his orders. There's a saying that military orders are absolute." At this point, her tone became a little more serious. "We'll reach Jinzhou in five days at most. Bear with it and don't cause trouble."

She deliberately emphasized the last three words, revealing a hint of warning.

The most taboo thing on the march was to make mistakes in the military. Some insignificant matters could often have terrifying consequences. They did not know anything about war and just had to be obedient.

She had brought Xia Tao along because she was smart and knew how to do things. When they were in the army, Xia Tao could help her adapt to life in the army as soon as possible. This was a strength, but also a weakness.

Obedience in the army was the first rule.

Even Young Miss herself did not complain. As a maidservant, her heart ached, but she had no right to complain. Xia Tao immediately lowered her head. "Young Miss, I understand."

Yu You softened her voice. "Ordinary people only eat two meals a day. Usually, they eat around nine to ten in the morning and around four to five in the afternoon. The army is also making arrangements like this, so the army won't stop to give us time for lunch. The carriage has prepared some cooked food. In a while, the marching speed will slow down. Let's eat some to fill our stomachs first.

Eating three meals a day was a treatment that only noble families received.

Even soldiers who were marching to war only had two meals a day.

Xia Tao suddenly heaved a sigh of relief and quickly changed the topic. "Young Miss, how did you know that the speed of the army would slow down after a while?"

Yu Youyao said, "The army has been moving for two and a half hours. During this period of time, the speed of the army is not fixed. The army has maintained a high speed for an hour. In the next hour, the army has been slowing down. When their speed decreases to a certain extent, the army will definitely slow down."

Xia Tao was confused. Why didn't she feel anything? Had their marching speed slowed down?

Chun Xiao did not understand either and could not help but ask, "Why is that?" Yu Youyao did not know much, but she had some guesses in her heart. "I think that it is in order to maintain the speed of the army and not delay the journey, and also to preserve the stamina of the soldiers on the way to deal with some unexpected situations. After all, the battlefield changes rapidly. No one can guarantee that the army will have a smooth journey and preserve the combat strength of the soldiers at all times. This is very important."

Anyone would not be able to take it if they traveled for a long time. The fast and slow marching pattern also took into account physical recovery on the way.

Xia Tao was enlightened and immediately felt that the carriage had really slowed down. "How long will this slow march last?"

"I'm guessing about an hour." Yu Youyao was a little uncertain. During the slow march, the soldiers could drink water and eat some dry food to help recover their strength. They were allowed to leave the team and resolve some private matters.

At this moment, Yin Huaixi's voice sounded from outside the door. "Next, the army will maintain a slow march for an hour. You can use this time to eat some food and resolve some private matters, or go outside the carriage to take a breather. The army will only set up camp before dark."

Xia Tao's eyes widened. Young Miss was simply a god.

At this moment, Yu Youyao lifted the window and drew the curtain.

Their eyes met.

Yin Huaixi was sitting on a big black horse. The horse's head was thin and its neck was long. Its limbs were long, and there was a wisp of auburn mane on its forehead, like the flames of a race.

It was a handsome cold-blooded horse.

The man riding it was even more heroic and handsome.

Yu Youyao, who was sitting in the carriage, had long hair gathered in a headscarf. Silver-gray fine mink fur wrapped around her neck, making her face look even more exquisite and small. She looked transparent and pale, making her look very fragile.

Yin Huaixi almost regretted agreeing to bring her to Jinzhou. "The road ahead is relatively flat, and the carriage is bumpy and stuffy. Do you want to come down and ride?"

Yu Youyao's eyes lit up. "Can I?"

Yin Huaixi nodded. "Of course, while we're marching slowly."

Yu Youyao quickly leaned forward and opened the door. She lifted the curtain and bent down to get out of the carriage. She heard Yin Huaixi blow the whistle. Soon, she saw a snow-white and handsome horse rushing over.

“It’s Snow Mountain.” Yu Youyao was excited. “Why did you bring Snow Mountain too?”

Yin Huaixi had given her Snow Mountain when she was in Liancheng. It was a snow mountain horse with a very noble bloodline. Yin Huaixi had asked her to name it. She felt that the snow mountain horse was completely snow-white, handsome, and beautiful, so she directly named it Snow Mountain. However, Yu Youyao usually stayed in the residence and did not ride horses often.

“I guessed that you might have a chance to ride it on the way, so I brought it along.” Seeing Snow Mountain run to the carriage, Yin Huaixi dismounted and helped Yu Youyao out of the carriage.

Yu Youyao stepped on the horse pedal with one foot and tightened her grip on the saddle. She exerted strength with her feet and jumped onto the horse cleanly and quickly. She was not as careful as when she had just learned to ride a horse.

In order to make it easier to travel, she was wearing a narrow-sleeved robe and a pair of sheepskin boots. She was wearing a gray rat fur cloak that reached her waist to block the wind, making her look rather heroic.

Although Yu Youyao was raised in her own room, her knowledge and horizons were not something ordinary women could compare to. Her every move was solemn and polite, and her bearing was natural, but there was also a sense of magnanimity..

Chapter 998: Cry for You to See

“Not bad.” Yin Huaixi’s lips curled up. “It seems that you haven’t neglected learning how to ride a horse recently.”

Yu Youyao stroked Snow Mountain’s mane. “When I’m free, I’ll go to the back mountain of the Yu Garden to practice horse riding. Snow Mountain is an outstanding warhorse. I already feel very aggrieved for it to follow me. I can’t keep raising it in the stable.” Yu Youyao rode alongside Yin Huaixi.

At this moment—

The mountain was high and the road was long. The autumn air was solemn, and the mountain wind was a little strong, as if there was a small knife scraping against her face. Yu Youyao did not feel cold. Instead, she felt that the sky was vast and unrestrained, and she felt carefree.

The army maintained its pace of alternating between a fast speed and a slow speed. They did not stop.

Every five hours, when they were marching slowly for an hour, Yu Youyao would take the opportunity to eat something. Then, she would get out of the carriage and ride Snow Mountain to relax.

Although the journey was difficult, Yu Youyao’s horizons had broadened and she was still in good spirits.

It wasn’t until the sun was in the west that the army finally stopped to rest.

“We’ll rest here tonight and settle our dinner on the spot. We have to turn off the fire and rest before dark. We’ll prepare to leave at 3am tomorrow.”

The soldiers were busy setting up camp, building simple stoves, hunting, and looking for ingredients...

It was orderly.

After traveling for an entire day, Yu Youyao was still nervous and excited. Instead, she did not feel tired.

At this moment, as soon as she relaxed, a strong wave of fatigue surged up like a tide. Yu Youyao felt as if her body had been crushed, and it was sore and painful.

In all her life, Yu Youyao had never suffered before. She kept saying that she was not afraid of suffering, but when she really suffered, she felt aggrieved and uncomfortable. Tears welled up in her eyes, but she bit her lip and refused to cry, afraid of embarrassing herself.

Yin Huaixi carried the food tray into the tent. Seeing that the little girl was about to cry, he said, “If you really can’t hold on anymore, I’ll send you back overnight..”

“Don’t look down on me.” Yu Youyao pursed her lips and glared at him angrily. “I’m already feeling so uncomfortable. Why aren’t you coaxing me? You’re even deliberately making wise remarks to anger me.”

As she spoke, her eyes gradually turned red. Large tears flowed down her face and hung on her chin, making her palm-sized face look even more exquisite and small, thin and helpless.

“You don’t want to take me to Jinzhou at all, right?”

“Because you can’t dissuade me, you pretended to agree. When I suffer on the way and can’t take it anymore, you’ll naturally send me back to Xiangping...”

Yin Huaixi had never seen her cry like this before. He immediately felt a sharp pain in his heart.

That was indeed what he thought. If she couldn’t even withstand the hardship of traveling, how could she withstand the hardships of Jinzhou?!

Even if she forced herself to go, she would suffer.

He had never been able to bear to see her suffer.

Yu Youyao’s eyes were filled with tears. She glared fiercely and said fiercely, “You don’t want me to go to Jinzhou, but I insist on going. I won’t give you an excuse to send me back...”

She tried her best to look fierce, but her eyes were red and her tears were in circles. Instead, she looked like a rabbit with red eyes, making her look pitiful.

Yin Huaixi placed the plate on the small table. Without thinking, he strode forward and pulled her into his arms.

“Don’t cry.” He patted her thin back clumsily. “Chun Xiao has made medicinal porridge and dried mushroom soup. Have some food first and take advantage of

the night to recuperate. We have to set off before dawn tomorrow. The road ahead will be harder to travel on.”

Yu Youyao whimpered softly and asked pitifully, “You’re— You’re not sending me back, right?!”

“Yes.” Seeing that her eyes were filled with tears, Yin Huaixi’s deep eyes softened. “I won’t send you back.”

Yu Youyao pursed her lips again, looking like she was about to cry. “You’re not lying to me?”

She was clearly saying, “If you dare to lie to me, I’ll cry for you.”

This move had always worked.

Yin Huaixi was immediately caught between laughter and tears. “If you can’t take the hardship yourself and want to return...”

“That’s impossible.” Yu Youyao interrupted him. “I definitely have to go to Jinzhou. Even if I have to crawl, I’ll crawl over. If you send me back, I’ll sneak over alone.”

“I’m not lying to you.” Yin Huaixi’s face darkened. He brought the plate over and scooped a bowl of medicinal porridge for her. “Are you willing to eat well now?”

After receiving his assurance, Yu Youyao quickly took the medicinal porridge and was about to eat it when she frowned and said angrily, “You big liar. You placed calming medicinal herbs in the medicinal porridge. Do you want me to fall asleep at night and...’

She had come into contact with many spices and medicinal herbs, so her sense of smell was much sharper than ordinary people. With just a sniff, she could roughly guess what medicinal herbs were in the medicinal porridge. It was the wrong idea to use this method to secretly send her away.

Hmph, she wouldn’t fall for it.

This had indeed been arranged previously, but now...

Seeing her angry and vigilant expression, Yin Huaixi sighed softly. He was completely defeated by her. “You’ve been on the road for a day. I’m worried that your body won’t be able to take it and you won’t be able to sleep well in the wilderness, so I added some calming medicinal herbs into your food. Have a good sleep and recuperate so that you won’t suffer more tomorrow.”

Yu Youyao did not believe it.

Yin Huaixi looked helpless and could only promise, “If you don’t want to go back, I won’t send you back.”

Only then did Yu Youyao feel relieved. She took a small bite of porridge and put down her spoon.

The veins on Yin Huaixi’s forehead throbbed, but he endured it and asked her gently, “Why aren’t you eating anymore? You haven’t eaten anything seriously all day.”

Yu Youyao pursed her lips and looked like she was about to cry. “I have a headache and no appetite. I don’t want to eat.”

Yu Youyao also knew that it was impossible not to eat on the way. However, after traveling for an entire day today, her body was about to fall apart. As soon as her delicate aura rose, it was inevitable that she would cause a commotion.

“I’ll feed you.” Yin Huaixi took the medicinal porridge from her hand without thinking. He scooped a spoonful and brought it to her lips, coaxing her patiently. “Humans are made of iron, and rice is made of steel. No matter how powerful you are, you have to eat. If you don’t eat for a meal, you’ll be starving. You should eat some food...”

This time, Yu Youyao did not make a fuss. She obediently opened her mouth and ate the porridge she had been fed. Her face immediately scrunched up like a bun. It was obvious that she really did not have any appetite at all. The tears that had just dissipated began to well up in her eyes again, but she resisted the urge to cry. She looked indescribably pitiful, but her eyes were filled with determination.

After suffering for a day, she did not complain or cower. She only threw a little tantrum and was obedient after being coaxed.

She had been like this since she was young. Although she had been pampered by the Matriarch, she had never been pampered, let alone cause trouble for anyone. She was strong and flexible, making one’s heart ache. She was used to swallowing her grievances and tears.

She was even more used to enduring.

The young man’s eyes gradually softened. As he coaxed her to eat, he talked about some interesting things in the army to make her happy..

Chapter 999: Arriving at Jinzhou

From time to time, Yu Youyao’s clear laughter could be heard from the tent. Unknowingly, she had finished the entire bowl of medicinal porridge and half of the dried mushroom soup.

Yu Youyao really couldn’t eat anymore. Yin Huaixi took a green fruit and stuffed it into Yu Youyao’s mouth. When he saw her eyes light up, his lips couldn’t help but curl up.

“I’m fine now,” said Yu Youyao confidently.

After a long day, her bones were probably about to fall apart. How could she be fine after eating a little? The silly girl was clearly comforting him. Yin Huaixi smiled. “Get Chun Xiao to massage you before sleeping.”

“Okay.” Yu Youyao nodded.

After Yin Huaixi left, Chun Xiao brought hot water into the tent.

In the wilderness, the conditions were simple. It was already very good to have a basin of hot water. Yu Youyao was not picky. She washed up briefly and asked Chun Xiao to massage her bones with cream. The sore and painful feeling almost caused Yu Youyao to die on the spot.

Fortunately, the ointment was effective. After the massage, her body was covered in sweat, and she felt much more relaxed. Her body felt a little better, and the calming medicinal porridge had an

effect. A strong sense of fatigue mixed with drowsiness surged into her eyelids, and Yu Youyao fell asleep unknowingly.

Yin Huaixi was still worried when the curtain of the tent was lifted.

He saw that she was lying on the couch and had already fallen asleep with the blanket around her. There were still tears on her fair face, and her eyelids were still swollen. Even though she was asleep, her eyebrows were slightly furrowed.

Yin Huaixi's heart skipped a beat. He bent down and tucked her in, then took off his cloak and placed it on the blanket.

He reached out and stroked the space between her eyebrows. He lowered his head to look at her sleeping face for a while. After a while, he left the tent silently.

Chun Xiao was on guard outside the tent.

Yin Huaixi lowered his voice and instructed, "Light up the calming incense in the house. It's very cold at night. Don't put out the small stove in the tent. The foot warmer has to be changed every two hours, and it needs to warm both her hands and feet. It's been difficult to travel these past few days. Be careful. If she feels unwell, come over and report it. Don't let her do as she pleases."

Yu Youyao had learned to endure since she was young. She had used her spoiled personality previously, but after a day of traveling, she gritted her teeth and endured it. Even in front of him, she did not say anything about pain or fatigue.

Chun Xiao quickly agreed.

In the middle of the night, Yu Youyao was woken up by the roar of a beast.

Chun Xiao quickly said, "Young Miss, don't be afraid. Humans are afraid of wild beasts, and wild beasts are also afraid of humans. There are more than a thousand people on the road, and wild beasts also have to seek benefits and avoid harm. The howling is just to intimidate others. Sleep a little longer."

Yu Youyao's face turned pale as she nodded.

However, she couldn't fall asleep no matter what.

At this moment, Yin Huaixi lifted the curtain and entered.

A gust of cold wind suddenly blew in. Yu Youyao curled up under the blanket and shivered, feeling cold all over.

"Don't be afraid," said Yin Huaixi in a low voice. "Wild beasts won't go down the mountain. Sleep a little longer."

The cries of the beasts rose and fell. It was very terrifying. Even though she knew that the beasts wouldn't go down the mountain, she still felt afraid. Yu Youyao's hand reached out from under the blanket and hooked his finger. "I'm not afraid now."

Yin Huaixi frowned and pulled the blanket over her hand. "Why are your hands so cold? Is it not warm under the blanket?"

Yu Youyao shook her head. “The foot warmer is still hot. Have you been guarding outside the tent? I’m fine. It’s just that this is my first time camping in the wilderness. I’m not used to it.”

She was the one who had not slept well. After being woken up by the beast’s roar, she tossed and turned in bed. The heat under the covers dissipated.

“Go to sleep. When you fall asleep, I’ll go rest,” said Yin Huaixi gently.

Yu Youyao quickly closed her eyes and hooked her arms around him, refusing to let go. Perhaps it was because the smell of calming incense in the room was too strong, but the fragrance made her eyelids dizzy. A moment later, she couldn’t help but fall asleep again.

Before dawn, Chun Xiao woke Yu Youyao up and massaged her bones with cream. Her body was still sore, but she did not feel as uncomfortable as yesterday.

After washing up briefly, Xia Tao carried the tray into the tent. There was a bowl of silver fungus soup with rock sugar, two steamed buns, and a boiled egg.

“His Highness personally roasted the buns. He said that it’s very easy to be hungry if you eat liquid food during the day. Your body can’t take it anymore and you have to eat something to fill your stomach.”

Although the food was a little simple, the steamed buns were fragrant and crispy. The roasted mushrooms in it were smooth and tender. They tasted fresh and fragrant, and they were not greasy. The rock sugar silver fungus was stewed until it was soft and sticky, making it sweet and refreshing.

Dawn was approaching, and the world was still pitch-black. On the eastern horizon, a bright and resplendent morning star shone in the sky. Under the guidance of the Morning Star, the army walked on the path towards the light. Three days later, in the evening, the army finally arrived at Jinzhou City.

Yu Youyao lifted the curtains of the carriage. The majestic city wall was mottled with the flames of war, making it look tall and strict. It had an inviolable holiness and vicissitudes.

Since ancient times, Jinzhou had been a place that soldiers had to fight for. It was the strongest barrier against foreign invasions and the rule of the Han people. There were countless large and small battles in this city-state.

At this moment, Jinzhou was already under full martial law.

The city gate was closed, and the number of troops guarding the city on the city wall was three times more than before. There were special people in charge of guarding the guard towers and arrow towers on the city wall.

Almost all the birds that flew across the sky were killed by the long-range archers in charge of keeping watch. If one of them missed, the other sentry tower would shoot immediately.

Large machines were also installed in the archery tower. Such machines required the cooperation of many people. They had a longer range and were more powerful than bows. They could shoot more than ten arrows in a row.

In a city defense battle, more than ten machines and the soldiers guarding the city would shoot arrows at the same time. They could shoot hundreds of arrows in an instant, forming a short rain of arrows. At the same time, they could also interfere with the enemy's attack and have the advantage.

“Open the door!” With Yin Huaixi's order, the huge lacquered iron door let out a thunderous roar and slowly opened.

The army moved through the streets. Wherever they went, the commoners retreated and cheered.

To Yu Youyao's surprise, as a border fortress, Jinzhou City was not as desolate as she had imagined. Shops were open for business, and people were coming and going all around. It looked relaxed and calm, and it was a lively scene.

The impending war did not seem to have any effect on the commoners of Jinzhou.

Yu Youyao was very puzzled.

Soon, someone answered her doubts.

“King Yue Fei has led an army to Jinzhou. Is there going to be a war in the North? What should we do?”

“There's an 80% chance that they'll make a big fuss. The commoners near Fuxin City have already begun to move to Jinzhou in batches. Recently, there have been many more people in the city.”

“There are wars everywhere. I wonder when these days will end.”

“It's better to be a peaceful dog than a chaotic person..”

Chapter 1000: Virtue

The atmosphere suddenly became heavy. Thinking of the King of Liang, who had already fought in Jiangxi, everyone felt sad.

“What's there to be afraid of? Just do it.” Suddenly, a shout sounded.

Immediately, someone chimed in.

“Ever since King Li of Zhou and his son guarded the North, they haven't let the Di people break through the defense line of Jinzhou. Which time didn't the Di people come aggressively? Which time didn't they let King Yue Fei beat them up and escape with their tails between their legs?!”

“That's right. King Yue Fei is the guardian of the North. With him around, the North is stable.”

“I'll buy a portrait of King Yue Fei later and paste it in the house. I'll kowtow three times in the morning and night. I guarantee that you won't panic and you won't be disheartened. Everything will taste good.”

“Uh, does it work?”

There was a burst of laughter from the crowd.

Even Yu Youyao, who was sitting in the car, couldn't help but smile. It turned out that King Yue Fei's reputation in the North was no less than that of Shen Tu and Yu Lei, the two guardians of the residence.

Wherever the hearts of the people went, they would definitely be invincible.

“It works, it definitely works,” shouted someone in the crowd.

Then, many people laughed and joined in.

“Do you see the team of soldiers behind King Yue Fei? They're the most powerful MO Saber Army in the You army. Once they're out, no army can defeat them. They're specially used to counter cavalry. Every MO Saber soldier has the strength to fight a hundred enemies.”

This was not an exaggeration. The MO Saber soldiers were dressed in heavy armor. The archery that the Northern Barbarians were good at was not very lethal to the MO Saber Army who charged forward. Once the MO Saber Army got close, they were simply like wolves entering a flock of sheep. With a slash, they would be cut to the ground.

As everyone knew, bows and arrows were long-range weapons. When a MO saber approached an enemy, it was almost invincible.

Yu Youyao bent her finger and knocked on the wall of the carriage.

The window on the roof was pushed open. Yin Shi, who was sitting on the roof on guard, jumped into the carriage.

Yu Youyao pursed her lips and smiled. “Help me buy the most widely circulated portrait of King Yue Fei in the city.”

She wanted to see if the King Yue Fei in the portrait had three heads and six arms. Why was he even more magical than the door god stuck to the door?

After a while, Yin Shi returned and handed two scrolls to Yu Youyao.

Yu Youyao opened one of them expectantly and spat it out on the spot.

Xia Tao's eyes widened. “Ah, this...”

Chun Xiao was also dumbfounded. “Is this King Yue Fei?!”

The image of King Yue Fei in the painting was based on the four asuras recorded in the Lotus Sutra. It was the fusion of the four asuras.

Afraid that the painting did not express it clearly, the person in the portrait even “considerately” included an introduction on the painting. “Lord Yue Fei was brave, strong, and wise. He was the commander of a thousand troops. He lifted the nine prefectures with one shoulder and carried the four seas with the other. His roar was like thunder, shaking the heavens and the earth. He had nine heads, each with a thousand eyes, and nine feet. He spat fire from his mouth and burned the evil in the world. His 990 huge hands covered the light of the sun and moon.”

This image was really impressive.

Yu Youyao was laughing so hard that she was out of breath. Even her intestines were tied up. “Even three heads and six arms isn’t that ridiculous. Which talent did this? This is definitely the worst criticism Yin Huaixi has received.” According to Buddhist records, the asura was ugly.

Yin Shi was silent for a moment before reminding her, “There’s another painting.”

Yu Youyao laughed until tears streamed down her face. She held back her laughter and couldn’t help but be curious about the second painting. She quickly opened the scroll and was stunned. “If I’m not wrong, there’s a woman drawn on it!”

When did Yin Huaixi’s gender change?

The corners of Yin Shi’s mouth twitched. She endured it and said, “This painting is about you.”

“I...” Yu Youyao’s eyes widened in disbelief. She pointed at her nose with her tender finger. “Why did you buy my portrait?!”

Yin Shi was silent for a moment. “When I bought your painting, I received His Highness’s painting for free.”

Yu Youyao was a little stunned. At the thought of Yin Huaixi’s asura fusion, she suddenly had a bad feeling. She quickly lowered her head to look at the painting and heaved a sigh of relief.

The woman in the painting was dignified and beautiful. She was stepping on the Nine Serenities, and her body was under the moonlight. She was dressed in a purple crown outfit. Her clothes were painted with the sun, moon, mountains, flowers, birds, insects, grass, and five grains. She gently pinched a vine between her fingers. It looked like a sweet potato vine. She looked at the world with a smile and was benevolent.

Yu Youyao was stunned. “This is...”

Yin Shi said, “The image in the painting is modeled after Goddess Houtu, who was consecrated by the commoners. There are also paintings that use Bodhisattva as an image. However, the image of Goddess Houtu in mythology suits you more, so this kind of image is the most widely circulated. Many commoners will hang it at home to worship.”

Yu Youyao couldn’t smile anymore.

Goddess Houtu had a title. She was called the “Emperor of the Land of the Earth”. She was one of the Four Heavenly Ministers of Daoism. Land was the foundation on which people relied for survival. Goddess Houtu controlled Yin and Yang, the beauty of all things, and the mountains and rivers of the earth.

She was responsible for all nature. Therefore, many people believed in Goddess Houtu and called her Mother Earth. They firmly believed that believing in Goddess Houtu could allow agriculture to prosper.

People liked to deify some meritorious people, not because they were stupid, but because this expressed their reverence and admiration for these people. It was simple and plain.

Perhaps in ancient times, Goddess Houtu was only an ordinary woman who had helped everyone avoid the flood. However, the world was grateful to her, respected her, and admired her. In order to express their reverence for her, they had deified her and passed down her fearless spirit generation after generation.

What right did she have?!

Was it just because she had planted sweet potatoes?

Yu Youyao pursed her lips and slowly rolled up the scroll, carefully putting it away.

The carriage slowly drove through the streets and stopped at the entrance of a courtyard.

Yin San's voice sounded from outside the carriage. "The Jinyuan Garden is a side courtyard where His Highness usually stays in Jinzhou. The conditions are a little simple, but I'll have to trouble the Eldest Princess to rest here for a few days."

The Jinyuan Garden was a two-way courtyard that occupied a large area. The courtyard was filled with tall trees, plants, and trees. It was spacious. However, the courtyard had been abandoned for a long time, and everything was exposed. The traces of hasty management looked a little dilapidated.

Yin San continued, "When Master Wang first arrived in Liaodong for a few years, the war in the North was tense every year. The old king lived in Jinzhou most of the time. The old king was afraid that he would wrong the old Princess Consort, so he specially bought this other courtyard. Jinzhou is affected by the height of grassland, and it's very cold. Only some flowers and trees that are evergreen can be planted. Many flowers and trees in the other courtyard were personally planted by the old king."

Yu Youyao was in a daze. When she looked up, she saw a few osmanthus trees, incense camphor, and dragon cypress trees not far away. They were well-arranged and sparse.

The trees were ordinary trees, but the people who planted them had put in a lot of effort. Ordinary plants also had a style. The shape and appearance of the tree were all graceful, and they were quite ornamental..