

Divine 1731

Chapter 1731 Crowning Ceremony 3

He acknowledged meeting a remarkably beautiful version of Gu Chaoyan and entertained the idea of taking her as a concubine rather than his legal wife. As the prince of Duke Changning's Mansion, he believed his wife should not be a woman of that caliber.

Observing the dissatisfaction on his face, Madame Duke Changning ceased her nagging. It was all in the past, and there was no point in dwelling on it. Instead, she focused on devising a plan for Jiming's future.

However, she couldn't help but feel a twinge of regret. Marrying that girl would have undoubtedly been a more favorable outcome compared to the current situation they were facing.

Madame Duke Changning advised him to take a break while she sought a conversation with Duke Changning

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In the 23rd year of August, Lord Huai ascended the throne as the new King, while Gu Chaoyan was crowned as the new Queen.

This coronation ceremony was unlike any previous ones. Zhou Huaijin believed that as the King, he should be closer to the people, as they were the ones he served. Therefore, before the formal ceremony, he and the new Queen took to the streets, allowing the people to see them up close and dispel any fears or concerns about their reign.

On this momentous day...

The capital's streets were teeming with people, all eager to catch a glimpse of the new King and Queen, hoping to imbibe some of their auspiciousness for a brighter future.

The Housekeeper of Duke Changning's Mansion had made all the necessary preparations. He escorted Duke Changning, Madame Duke Changning, and Young Master out, reminding them not to miss the propitious moment. They departed early, securing a favorable vantage point from which to observe the King and Queen clearly.

The citizens, joyous about the coronation ceremony, flooded the sides of the avenue, creating a crowded atmosphere where movement was difficult due to the sheer volume of people. Among them, the family of Duke Changning were found.

Lu Jiming felt immense displeasure being surrounded by those he considered low-class individuals. However, he knew there was no alternative but to endure the situation. With a furrowed brow, he impatiently waited.

His curiosity piqued—just who was this new Queen?

He dismissed the notion that it could be the unattractive woman he had encountered before. Lu Jiming was certain that Gu Ruxue would be the one to claim the title of Queen. His intuition about people was rarely wrong.

Though he had only gleaned bits and pieces of information from outside the mansion, he had caught wind of the news that Gu Ruxue had married Lord Ling, who later ascended as the Crown Prince. I think you should take a look at

Therefore, it made perfect sense for the new King to be the Crown Prince, and his wife, the Queen, to be Gu Ruxue. It seemed like a natural progression.

The servant's earlier assertion about her being Gu Chaoyan had been entirely incorrect.

Duke Changning's Mansion underwent notable changes, distinct from its previous state.

Laughter filled the air, accompanied by mocking remarks from the servants. Lu Jiming was well aware of the disdain directed towards them. Many individuals seemed unwilling to engage in any work and instead took pleasure in ridiculing their predicament. However, he had not anticipated such open and brazen laughter from the onlookers.

Amidst the crowd's commotion, Lu Jiming contemplated these circumstances, feeling constricted in the throng.

Madame Duke Changning and Duke Changning shared a common purpose—they scanned the surroundings, eagerly awaiting the arrival of the new King.

The housekeeper, on the other hand, was overwhelmed with excitement.

This was his first opportunity to witness the imminent crowning of the new King and Queen. Such an auspicious occasion was a rare occurrence, particularly when the new Queen was the highly esteemed Phoenix Girl, a remarkable figure who appeared once in a blue moon.

Suddenly...

The crowd grew increasingly animated, jostling and pressing against one another.

They were approaching.

Enthused, the housekeeper couldn't contain himself and repeatedly exclaimed, "They are coming, they are coming!"

Lu Jiming, too, craned his neck and peered around, longing for a closer glimpse of the new King and Queen's visage.

Chapter 1732 Crowning Ceremony 4

"Long live the King, long live the Queen!" echoed through the crowd as people knelt down in an orderly fashion.

Duke Changning, his family, and the housekeeper all joined in kneeling.

Lu Jiming raised his gaze as the grand procession passed by.

In the distance, he caught sight of the King, adorned in a resplendent dragon robe, accompanied by a finely dressed new Queen, whose face remained partially obscured. Intrigued, Lu Jiming edged forward, attempting to get a closer look. Those ahead of him muttered curses under their breath, reproaching his behavior. In the past, Lu Jiming would have been bothered by such reprimands, but his focus on the new King and Queen rendered him indifferent to their words.

Slowly but surely, the procession drew nearer.

Lu Jiming's eyes widened with anticipation.

He strained his eyes, making every effort to discern the figures seated in the carriage as it approached.

And then, Lu Jiming finally saw who the couple truly were.

Well...

It wasn't Gu Ruxue!

It was...

Gu Chaoyan!

Gu Chaoyan appeared utterly transformed, exuding an undeniable air of elegance and striking beauty. Lu Jiming couldn't deny it—her unmistakable red birthmark confirmed her identity. She was indeed Gu Chaoyan.

"This is impossible! How can she be the new Queen?" Lu Jiming's disbelief echoed through his thoughts.

Madame Duke Changning and Duke Changning also found themselves in a state of panic. The housekeeper had not been mistaken—it was truly Gu Chaoyan.

"What are you shouting about?" The crowd around them gathered, their annoyance palpable. As the parade passed by, they had been on their knees, seeking blessings, while these three individuals continued to disrupt the proceedings with their outbursts.

Truthfully...

"Why not? Lord Huai is the new King, the son of the previous Queen! Moreover, Lord Huai has led the Shadow Door effectively, aiding us all this time. He deserves to be the King, without a doubt!" someone stepped forward, defending the decision.

The majority approved of Lord Huai's ascension to the throne, but it seemed someone disagreed. I think you should take a look at

Observing the reactions of those around him, the housekeeper interjected, "Furthermore, Lord Huai is betrothed to the Phoenix Girl! Having the Phoenix Girl is a tremendous blessing. Anyone who possesses her can claim the throne. Thus, Lord Huai is the rightful King!"

Anyone who possessed the Phoenix Girl could become the King?

That repulsive woman was the Phoenix Girl?

What in the world had transpired?

"What exactly is a Phoenix Girl?" Lu Jiming inquired, his confusion evident.

Upon hearing his question, the people's displeasure diminished slightly. They surmised that this man might be an outsider unaware of the recent happenings in the capital.

A kind-hearted individual explained, "The Phoenix Girl is the one who possesses the ability to unlock enchantment—a true blessing to our land! With her presence, we can lead peaceful lives, regardless of the chaos in the world."

" "..."

"The Elder Miss of the Gu Family is Pheonix Girl!"

" "..."

"Destiny Monk predicted that anyone who has the Phoenix Girl can be the King. We thought it was a joke, but apparently it was true!"

" "..."

"Lord Huai is the King. What a fortunate woman Phoenix Girl is. You should not mess around with Phoenix Girl. You have to kneel down at her so she can give you blessing!" That man said proudly.

Lu Jiming opened his mouth, watching all of these in disbelief.

So many things had happened...

Anyone who had Pheonix Girl could become the King...

So...

Chapter 1733 - Secret Plan 1

It dawned on Lu Jiming that he had once been engaged to Gu Chaoyan!

If the saying was true, and if he hadn't broken off the engagement and married Gu Chaoyan, then it would have been him sitting on the throne today, not Lord Huai!

After all, he was the first one engaged to her, and Lord Huai only became engaged to her because of his own decision to break off the engagement.

These thoughts flooded Lu Jiming's mind, causing him to furrow his brow and experience a throbbing headache. A sense of unease washed over him.

Examining the life he now led, Lu Jiming realized it was far from desirable. Duke Changning's Mansion had been devoid of guests for over two years, and the companionship of the young masters who used to be by his side had vanished. He no longer dared to venture outside the confines of Duke Changning's Mansion, and even the servants who served him no longer feared him but instead openly mocked him.

This was not the life he was meant to live. His mother had even suggested finding a bride in another province. However, he was unwilling to abandon his current life.

If he had been the one on the throne today, Gu Chaoyan's beauty would have made her a suitable wife, far surpassing the women in the capital. Furthermore, he could have married many other women who would have been at his disposal.

Regret overwhelmed him as he realized the magnitude of his actions.

Lu Jiming crouched down, clutching his head tightly, desperately trying to alleviate his own anguish.

He had been completely oblivious to the existence and significance of the Phoenix Girl.

Had he known, he would never have broken off the engagement.

Gu Ruxue...

It was Gu Ruxue who had constantly vilified Gu Chaoyan and schemed to make him marry her instead.

He needed to confront her about this!

Just as Lu Jiming was about to turn around, Madame Duke Changning grabbed hold of him. Her expression was filled with calculation, regret, and disbelief. "Jiming, it was our mistake! We should

never have blindly trusted the Second Lady like naïve fools. Even if her mother later became the legal wife, she will always be the daughter of a concubine as long as the lineal daughter is alive. She is nothing!”

” “ ... ”

“Did you hear that? Gu Chaoyan is the Phoenix Girl! You should have been the King!” Madame Duke Changning sobbed, her breathing heavy and erratic.

Lu Jiming was consumed by worry.

Gu Ruxue had poisoned his and his mother’s minds against Gu Chaoyan, leading him to make a resolute decision.

When Gu Chaoyan’s beauty blossomed, he had desired to take her as a concubine, but her mother had intervened and prevented it.

Now she was crying...

“Why are you crying?” Lu Jiming demanded, his dissatisfaction evident.

The entire family began to argue amongst themselves.

Onlookers assumed they were outsiders who were unaware of the significance of the Phoenix Girl, so they forgave the family and kindly explained the importance of showing respect to the Phoenix Girl.

However, the argument triggered memories for some elderly individuals who had seen this family before.

One of them pointed at them and said, "They are from Duke Changning's Mansion! They broke off the engagement with the Elder Miss and mistreated her!"

Chapter 1734 Secret Plan 2

"But it was the Second Lady of the Gu Family who broke off the engagement later! No respectable girl would dare to marry someone like him! And now, the Elder Miss has become the Queen. How dare they be here, trying to share in our blessings? Shame on them!" A voice in the crowd pointed at them, spewing out bitter curses.

The shouts multiplied, and discussions about the disgraceful actions of Duke Changning's Mansion spread through the crowd like wildfire.

Soon, anger erupted. People began shouting at Duke Changning and his family, and objects were hurled in their direction.

Duke Changning and his family were defenseless against the onslaught. They were punched and battered, acquiring numerous bruises as they struggled to escape the chaos.

By the time they managed to break free from the crowd, they were in a state of disarray.

They were powerless against the people on the street until they reached the safety of Duke Changning's Mansion.

It wasn't until they were back within the confines of their home that they dared to unleash their frustrations.

The housekeeper, equally disheveled, had managed to find one servant to assist them. He exclaimed, "Duke Changning, Madame Duke Changning, and Young Master, I told you so! I wasn't lying!"

The housekeeper was in disarray himself, for he had remained by their side throughout the ordeal.

However...

A sense of satisfaction enveloped him.

This family had once mistreated the Phoenix Girl and now disrespected her. It was only fitting that they faced consequences for their actions.

Those who committed wrongs deserved to be held accountable.

Lu Jiming felt a surge of dissatisfaction, but he realized there was nothing he could do. It was the harsh reality they now faced.

Adjusting his clothes, Lu Jiming prepared to leave.

However, Duke Changning halted him. "Where do you think you're going?!"

Duke Changning's Mansion still stood, but they couldn't afford to further offend the people. They needed to avoid trouble at all costs.

"I am going to confront that wretched Gu Ruxue. If it weren't for her, we wouldn't be in this situation!" Lu Jiming snapped, seething with anger. I think you should take a look at

The engagement had been broken, and Gu Chaoyan had become the Queen. There was no salvaging the situation.

But his discontent and frustration gnawed at him.

He needed to confront that wretched Gu Ruxue!

"Get back here!" Duke Changning shouted at him. "What do you think you're doing?! Picking a fight with Gu Ruxue? She is Gu Chaoyan's sister! She is part of the imperial family! Even if Gu Chaoyan wanted her gone, we would never involve ourselves with the imperial family!"

" "..."

"We can't afford to offend anyone. Stop making trouble. Stay alive and live peacefully!"

" "..."

"Gu Chaoyan is the Queen and she can get us killed like she kills an ant!"

" "..."

"We must move out of the capital. We must go to some other place!"

" "..."

"Duke Changning's Mansion will again be the topic of rumor. The grudge that is forgotten is going to emerge again! We will not have any peaceful life again!"

" "..."

"Listen to me! Get ready and pawn all we have. Bring what we can and we are moving out of this place. Find one wife by the New Year. That is it!"

Having said that, Duke Changning found that a great solution.

"I am not leaving the capital!"

Chapter 1735 Secret Plan 3

"Are you waiting to be killed here in the capital?!" Duke Changning gritted his teeth as he confronted Lu Jiming. "Gu Chaoyan is the Queen now, and we've already caused trouble. If she learns about our past grudge from the people, she could have us all executed!"

"...."

"I don't see any chance of promotion for me in my current position. What's the point of staying here if I can't secure a higher rank? The best course of action is for us to leave the capital, start a business, get married, and have children," Duke Changning said, glaring at him.

Lu Jiming shook his head. He couldn't accept that.

He had been the one engaged to Gu Chaoyan, and he had been so close to attaining that throne.

Now he was being told to leave the capital, find an ordinary woman, and become a businessman?

The disparity was too great for him to bear.

He wouldn't leave.

If he left, he would have nothing.

Lu Jiming shook his head firmly. "I'm not going anywhere. You can leave if you want to!"

"..."

"Gu Chaoyan still loves me. I believe she hasn't forgotten everything. She's been engaged to Lord Huai for a while, and she hasn't treated us poorly. So she must still have feelings for me, right? I need to find a chance to meet her!" Lu Jiming said, sounding hopeful.

Duke Changning looked at him with disbelief. "Stop indulging in fantasies!"

"What do you mean? Jiming is right! He's not fantasizing!" Madame Duke Changning stepped forward. "Jiming is right. We can't leave the capital. We'll have nothing if we do. Let's give it a try, maybe there's still hope!"

Duke Changning shook his head, thinking his wife and son had lost their minds.

The housekeeper didn't even bother trying to persuade them.

Suddenly, a commotion erupted in Duke Changning's Mansion.

Mother and son began discussing a plan.

Meanwhile, the coronation ceremony continued with the parade. The new King and Queen were greeting the people on the streets.

Among the crowd...I think you should take a look at

Gu Yunhe and Gu Ruxue were also eagerly watching, craning their necks to get a better view.

Gu Yunhe saw Gu Chaoyan, and his heart sank. He let out a sigh, filled with mixed emotions, and turned to Gu Ruxue. "It's her, it's really her!"

" "..."

"We were all mistaken, all of us."

" ..."

"She said she would marry an exceptional man, and she was right. The King is truly exceptional, far beyond our reach." Gu Yunhe whispered to Gu Ruxue.

Everything was clear now.

That was the truth.

He was convinced.

"I should never have mistreated Gu Chaoyan. If I had treated her as my sister, I could have been her imperial brother, with a respected position!"

" ..."

"How could I have been so misguided and foolish?!"

" ..."

"Everything is ruined now!"

"...."

"Mom and dad are dead. We have no way to stand out again. We have no future!" Gu Yunhe thought of the glorious days he used to have, which were now all memories.

They had made a mistake. It had been their own fault.

"Elder Brother, what are you talking about? She is just a Queen, so what?" Gu Ruxue said, displeased.

"Can you become the Queen then?" Gu Yunhe shouted furiously.

Gu Ruxue fell silent, feeling humiliated.

In the past...

She had come so close to achieving her goals. But in the end, she had ended up like this.

However, there was still a long road ahead, and Gu Chaoyan, that wretched woman, could have her moments of weakness. She might be the Queen now, but she wouldn't always have the upper hand. Gu Ruxue believed that she could find other ways to regain her position.

"Just wait and see. She may be the Queen, but she's no match for me!" Gu Ruxue shouted, pushing Gu Yunhe away and storming off in anger.

She couldn't bear to see that wretched woman sitting on the throne.

All of this should have been hers.

"Second Lady?" A voice halted Gu Ruxue just as she was about to leave.

Gu Ruxue furrowed her brow. She was too angry to be bothered by anyone.

She looked up...

And saw a very familiar figure.

“Duke North?” Gu Ruxue was confused as to why Duke North was stopping her. Weren’t they good friends? He hadn’t even spared her a glance.

What a shame.

He had been so unlucky, almost losing his life in the war after inheriting his title.

He looked frail and haggard, no longer as bright as he used to be.

Gu Ruxue didn’t try to avoid the conversation. Instead, she faced Duke North head-on.

“What do you want, Duke North?” she asked, her tone wary.

“It’s just a coincidence that we crossed paths. Second Lady, I hope you don’t mind,” Duke North replied, his voice tinged with darkness. “I’m here to witness the crowning ceremony of the new King and Queen. If you have the time, Second Lady, I would appreciate it if you could visit my mansion. There are a few matters I would like to discuss with you.”

After speaking, he offered a polite smile and departed.

He definitely intended to attend the ceremony. He wanted to see how everything would unfold.

Lord Huai was undeniably fortunate to have married Gu Chaoyan.

Duke North wondered what would have happened if Chaoyan had met him earlier. Perhaps the situation would be different now.

His mother was confined to her bed and unable to intervene. There was nobody to stop him from pursuing what he desired. However, he couldn't comprehend how they had married so swiftly.

How had she become the Queen?

Zheng Chenyi couldn't make sense of it all.

He had experienced death once, and he no longer feared anything. He was determined to obtain whatever he desired.

Yes, she was married.

But as long as she was still alive, he still had a chance to have her.

This time...

He was determined to bring her to his side, regardless of her consent. As long as she was by his side, everything would be perfect.

Zheng Chenyi's eyes gleamed with determination.

He walked through the crowd, his gaze fixed on his goal.

The ceremony commenced.

Ministers and officials bowed before them, while Zhou Huaijin and Gu Chaoyan sat upon their thrones, looking down upon everyone with authority.

Zhou Huaijin held Gu Chaoyan's hand, and with a commanding voice, he addressed the gathering, "You may rise."

Later that night...

Zhou Huailing was in the Crown Prince's Mansion, feeling a sense of unease as if something significant was unfolding. However, he couldn't fathom what it could be.

Summoning one of his guards, he inquired, "What is happening outside? Why is there so much commotion?"

Chapter 1737 - The Truth 1

The Crown Prince had been confined to the mansion by the order of the previous King. As a result, he was unaware of the events unfolding outside. The mansion was surrounded by the imperial army, leaving the Crown Prince with no means of escape. Thus, he remained clueless about the situation.

Furthermore...

Lord Huai's forces had taken control of the court, closely monitoring the Crown Prince's mansion from within and outside. This strict surveillance made it impossible for the Crown Prince to leave his confinement.

Despite being grounded in the mansion, they managed to gather some information about the ongoing events. However, they remained indifferent to the situation, merely wasting their days within the mansion.

The Crown Prince, lacking real authority since his coronation, had dedicated most of his efforts to finding a suitable marriage partner. Consequently, he found himself powerless to overturn the current circumstances. This powerlessness prevented him from rebelling even while being confined.

The guard, accustomed to his role as a loyal protector, responded truthfully to the Crown Prince's inquiries. He understood the importance of providing accurate information, even if it might not be what the Crown Prince wanted to hear.

After the Crown Prince posed his questions...

The guard paused for a moment, carefully choosing his words before responding. "The new King, Lord Huai, is holding the crowning ceremony. He is actively engaging with the people, taking a stroll along the avenue, which has generated much excitement."

Upon hearing this, the Crown Prince's frustration reached its peak. His voice trembled as he shouted with clenched teeth, expressing his disbelief and resistance. He refused to accept the reality unfolding before him.

The idea of a crowning ceremony taking place without his involvement deeply unsettled him. In his mind, he believed that he, as the Crown Prince, was the rightful successor to the throne. He could not fathom someone else assuming the position that he believed belonged to him alone.

“The new King is Lord Huai, and the new Queen is the Elder Miss of the Gu Family, namely the Phoenix Girl! Now they have been crowned and the land’s name has been changed to Jin.” The guard continued according to the truth.

“My Eighth Brother? That is impossible! He is just a useless, idling man, a spoiled Lord! What can he do as the King! No one will accept him! Father must have been drugged to have given him the throne! He is from the Jiang Family too!” Zhou Huailing continued to shout, and because of anger, his eyes were bulging, full of blood shots, looking quite intimidating.

” “ ... ”

“I am the Crown Prince. I am the future King!”

“The situation has evolved, the Crowned Prince, Lord Huai successfully took control of the palace, and with the support of influential figures, including Prime Minister Chu and General Liu, he has solidified his position as the King. The people have embraced him, and the crowning ceremony was conducted with widespread acceptance.”

he felt compelled to address the reality He did not even know who the King was. What kind of things people with such abilities were able to achieve anyway?

I am the Crown Prince. I am the rightful heir to the throne!” Zhou Huailing stressed.

The guard sighed.

Chapter 1738 - The Truth 2

Lord Huai was already crowned as the King, and the Crown Prince was not going to be the future King. He might even get eliminated by the new King.

That was what an imperial family was like – a King could have nine sons, but only one was able to make it to the throne. The others were just useless.

The guard continued, “Lord Huai has become the King, and General Liu is defending him. He is also the Head of the Shadow Door who is equally capable as the army of the court. The Crown Prince, it is all settled. We are in a very dangerous situation. We are surrounded by the imperial army, and hidden guards from the Shadow Door have long been watching us. We can’t move at all, let alone take the throne!”

” “ ... ”

“The Crown Prince, we need to think about what to do with our life. The King doesn’t share the same mother as you, and he has been your enemy. He may want to get rid of us!”

” “ ... ”

“He has just become the King, and for now, he may not be able to touch us directly. However, once this period of celebration and auspiciousness passes...” the guard’s voice trailed off, filled with concern.

Zhou Huailing's fear intensified as he absorbed the guard's words. He realized the harsh reality of his situation. Despite his father's affection towards him, he had been deprived of any real authority. He was merely a figurehead, kept under strict control and even grounded to prevent any possibility of rebellion.

Though the Crown Prince still had a small number of loyal soldiers at his disposal, their strength was meager. With the majority confined within the mansion, they were unable to exert any significant influence to change the current circumstances.

The thought struck him like a bolt of lightning—was Zhou Huaijin planning to eliminate him? Zhou Huaijin, known for his lack of mercy, had displayed brutal actions in the past, even going so far as to sever the head of a minister's wife who had provoked him. Zhou Huaijin's disdain for the Crown Prince was apparent.

If Zhou Huaijin intended to eliminate him, there was a high possibility that he would resort to lethal means. After all, if Zhou Huaijin had ascended to the throne, he would have undoubtedly removed any potential threats.

Zhou Huailing's mind raced, grappling with the gravity of the situation. What options did they have? What actions could they take to ensure their survival?

In his panicked state, Zhou Huailing's thoughts fixated on Junyi. Junyi possessed sharp wit and resourcefulness, qualities that had proven invaluable in the past. If there was anyone who could devise a plan to keep them alive, it was Junyi.

"Junyi! Where is Junyi? Bring him here!" Zhou Huailing exclaimed, his focus solely on finding Junyi. He believed that Junyi's practical nature and problem-solving abilities would be their greatest hope in this dire situation.

The guard quickly went to locate Junyi, aware of the urgency of the matter. However, Junyi had been confined within the mansion, completely cut off from information about the outside world.

As the guard relayed the news to Junyi, his complexion turned pale, the weight of the situation sinking in.

So many events have transpired in such a short span of time. Junyi thought to himself, his mind racing to comprehend the gravity of the situation.

And now, after just a few days, a new King had emerged in the capital. Junyi realized with a heavy heart that he was not the Crown Prince's strategist, nor was he involved in the new King's court.

Had he been mistaken all along? Was his dream of becoming the strategist of a great ruler now shattered?

It felt as though their fate was sealed. It was doomed. He understood that he would have to wait for the next opportunity, but his aging master would not be able to witness the realization of his lifelong dream.

Chapter 1739 - The Truth 3

All was lost!

What remained was nothing but futile daydreams!

It was not because he lacked intelligence, but because he was shackled by a hopelessly inept Crown Prince who hampered any progress. He dragged him down.

Junyi's expression turned deadly, his face consumed by darkness as if he contemplated taking direct action against someone.

Even the guard was taken aback, witnessing a side of the strategist that differed greatly from his usual composed demeanor. While the guards had served the Crown Prince, they had limited knowledge about the strategist himself. Based on their observations, the strategist had always carried a calm and pleasant countenance. But now, he appeared disturbingly intense.

The guard added hesitantly, "Strategist, the Crown Prince wishes to see you."

"He wants to see me?" Junyi sneered, swiping the books off the table with contempt. "He wants to see me? Fine, then!"

With a purposeful stride, Junyi headed towards the Crown Prince's study, knowing the way all too well. It had often been his refuge when time did not allow him to return to his own quarters.

What an ironically pathetic request.

What did that imbecile expect from him?

On what grounds did he think he had the authority to summon him again?

Utterly foolish, the epitome of stupidity.

Junyi stormed forward, seething with anger.

As soon as Zhou Huailing laid eyes on Junyi, he began complaining. “Junyi, come up with a solution. Lord Huai has become the King, and his soldiers surround us. I feel trapped and constantly fear for my life! Think of a way for us to escape this place and regain our luxurious lifestyle!”

“...”

“You must be aware that my Eighth Brother established the Shadow Door! How could he have discreetly formed such an organization? I am no match for him, not in the least.”

“...”

“I am not driven by ambition or the pursuit of the throne. All I desire is to stay alive and possess opulent possessions!”

“...”

“You have always been the brilliant strategist. Think of something for me! We can spend the rest of our lives together in luxury! Remember, I too am part of the imperial family!”

Zhou Huailing pleaded anxiously.

“A luxurious life?” Junyi stared at Zhou Huailing, his eyes filled with disdain.

Zhou Huailing nodded confidently, convinced that a life of luxury was all he needed. He simply wished to avoid any form of suffering.

That was the bare minimum expectation he had as a prince.

Hearing those words, Junyi's disgust deepened. "You imbecile! How dare you dream of a life of luxury? You have survived this long solely because of my assistance."

"..."

"You find yourself in this wretched state because you brought it upon yourself! Just wait, your demise is imminent!"

"..."

"A life of luxury?"

"..."

"I possess immense talent, but as Xie Yan rightfully pointed out, my judgment is flawed. That's why I've been aiding you, you foolish fool!"

“...”

“And you have the audacity to yearn for a life of luxury? I hope you meet your end!” Junyi snapped, overwhelmed by disgust.

Chapter 1740 - The Truth 4

Frustrated and seething with anger, Junyi couldn't bear working for such a foolish Crown Prince any longer.

Even women dared to slap him, and this imbecile treated him as nothing more than a low-class servant.

And now, this fool had the audacity to ask for a solution! He should realize that such an honor was undeserved!

With a swift motion, Junyi flung his sleeves and stormed away, consumed by anger.

He had come to assess whether this man had the resolve to rebel. If he had shown a glimmer of that desire, Junyi might have been convinced to take another risk. But this idiotic Crown Prince only cared about living a life of luxury! What a truly foolish man!

Cursing under his breath, Junyi left without a second thought.

Zhou Huailing, who had been thoroughly scolded, remained oblivious to what had just transpired.

He was stunned.

Junyi was his strategist! Though their time together was short, Junyi had proven to be a dedicated companion, tirelessly devising plans for him. Even in the busiest of times, Junyi never took a break. He never sought assistance from anyone else but him. Zhou Huailing had entrusted this man with his deepest trust.

He had even made up his mind to keep Junyi by his side, regardless of the life that awaited him. He trusted Junyi more than he trusted his own father.

How could Junyi treat him this way?

How could he resort to calling him a dumbass?

It sounded as if he had not done anything or spent any time with him in the past.

Zhou Huailing could not stand that any more.

He did not know what to do with this man.

The guard reminded him of the current situation. “The Crown Prince, the strategist, has left the mansion. Should we take any action?”

Zhou Huailing’s mind was in turmoil, his emotions unstable. He shook his head, unable to process everything that had transpired.

This was what he had to show for all the effort he had put into their partnership. It was disheartening.

“Never mind,” Zhou Huailing sighed. He turned to his own guard, realizing he had no one truly loyal working for him. Addressing the guards, he asked, “So, what do you think I should do?”

Although they were not his most trusted men, they still served under him. He hoped they would offer some guidance and support in this difficult situation.

Contemplating their options, one solution emerged in their minds.

“The Crown Prince, General Liu is deeply trusted by the King, and he even has his own military authority like in the past. The Elder Miss of the Liu Family, who used to be your Princess Consort of Lord Ling, still remains unmarried after the divorce. Moreover, she has your son,” the guard suggested.

“....”

The guard continued, “If you approach the Liu Family and propose marriage to the Elder Miss, it would not only provide her with support and companionship, but it could also potentially gain you favor in the eyes of the King. The Liu Family holds influence, and by aligning yourself with them, you may secure a rank within the court. While you may not have direct authority, you would still maintain your respected status as a well-regarded young master. Isn’t that what you desire?”

It could be the perfect solution they were seeking.

Zhou Huailing agreed. He thought of Liu Qingqing who was very elegant, and then his mind became filled with thoughts of a prosperous life alongside Liu Qingqing and their child.

“I will communicate with the Liu Family immediately,” Zhou Huailing declared, determined to take action.

“The Crown Prince, considering your current circumstances of being grounded and surrounded, it would be more prudent for me to relay the message on your behalf,” the guard suggested, reminding him of the risks involved.

“Very well, proceed with it,” Zhou Huailing agreed, with some hope resurfacing into his mind.

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That same night, within the halls of the Saint Divine Land palace.

Rather than going to Qianqing Palace, the new King resided with the new Queen in Fengxian Palace.

It marked the beginning of the crowning ceremony.

Simultaneously, it served as their wedding night, where the two embarked on their journey together as King and Queen.