

## Divine 1751

### Chapter 1751 - Early Plan 1

“Although the Saint Divine Land is relatively more open-minded compared to the other three countries, many women here still prioritize marrying into nobility as a means to elevate their social status,” Gu Chaoyan commented.

“...”

“In my life, there are few individuals whom I truly admire, and you happen to be one of them,” Gu Chaoyan continued, smiling warmly. “That’s why I wanted to meet you.”

Liu Qingqing was taken aback by the Queen’s words, but a smile soon graced her face.

The Queen’s sentiment resonated with her own thoughts.

Growing up in a military camp under her father’s care, Liu Qingqing had encountered mostly delicate and helpless girls. However, the Queen stood out as one of the few women she genuinely admired.

Zhou Huaijin noticed the positive change in her demeanor.

Deciding to give the ladies some time to chat, he excused himself and made his way to attend to other matters.

Zhou Huaijin exited the inner chamber, with Sword One following closely behind.

She followed Zhou Huaijin for a while until he finally halted. “What is it that you wish to tell me?” he inquired.

Sword One, a dedicated hidden guard who had grown up under the tutelage of the Shadow Door, had always been fiercely loyal to both the Shadow Door and Zhou Huaijin. However, since she started working for Gu Chaoyan, her devotion had shifted towards Chaoyan. She had even disregarded Zhou Huaijin and chose to accompany Chaoyan instead. Thus, her decision to follow Zhou Huaijin today indicated that she had something important to convey.

Sword One surveyed their surroundings cautiously, ensuring no one was within earshot. With a perplexed expression, she spoke, “Mr. Head, on the night of your wedding when Elder Miss fell ill, the City Lord of Snow Territory infiltrated Fengxian Palace. Although I paid little attention to them while Elder Miss was suffering, I carefully observed their reactions. If his intention had been to marry Phoenix Girl, he would have intervened during the wedding ceremony itself rather than coming to Fengxian Palace to stop you.”

” “...”

“What is more, after he knew what happened inside the chamber, he left as if he had confirmed about something.”

“....”

“I believe that maybe, the poison incident has something to do with them.”

“....”

“Maybe they drugged her. Or maybe they know the truth behind this incident.”

“....”

“Ms. Lingyun mentioned that Elder Miss would require the assistance of a skilled individual for a thorough examination,” Sword One disclosed after pondering for a moment.

As Zhou Huaijin recalled the events of that fateful night when Ouyang Mingjing intruded, he realized that he had been so preoccupied with Gu Chaoyan that he paid little attention to Ouyang Mingjing’s intentions or appearance. Sword One’s reminder shed new light on the situation, making it all the more plausible.

“Very well,” Zhou Huaijin replied, instructing Sword One to depart before rushing off himself. Meanwhile, Sword One returned to attend to Elder Miss.

Back at the inn, in their room, Ouyang Mingjing, the Snow Territory Elder Men, and Longqing gathered together. They had achieved their objectives during their infiltration of Fengxian Palace and had returned to their lodgings after successfully halting the proceedings.

“City Lord, what shall we do now? We do not endorse any coronation ceremony or wedding customs within the Saint Divine Land. However, as long as they haven’t consummated their marriage, she remains eligible to be your wife. It appears that due to the events of last night, they were unable to take that final step,”

” “...”

“But judging from how Phoenix Girl is doing, we better make a plan and bring her back to Snow Territory as soon as possible, or...”

Chapter 1752 - Early Plan 2

“Snow Territory cannot afford to descend into chaos,” Elder Man spoke with utmost seriousness. “Given the current state of affairs, with the gates of enchantment open and chaos prevailing, we must prevent any further disruptions within Snow Territory.”

Snow Territory operated under its own distinct set of rules and laws. While the King and the Head held significant power, in Snow Territory, the most revered figure was the Phoenix Girl, considered even more supreme than City Lord. City Lord would not gain full acceptance until marrying the Phoenix Girl.

Presently, Snow Territory faced divisions and challenges, putting City Lord in a less favorable position. The most favorable resolution would be to bring the Phoenix Girl back to Snow Territory, allowing City Lord to assume control and restore stability.

However, if this delicate plan went awry, Snow Territory would be thrust into a devastating internal conflict, potentially falling into the hands of others. Such a scenario would spell the end for Snow Territory.

The situation had grown increasingly dire, causing great anxiety among the Elder Men. Yet City Lord appeared strangely nonchalant, displaying no concern whatsoever.

Now, matters had taken a turn towards the absurd. Phoenix Girl had married the King of the Saint Divine Land, ascending to the position of Queen. This turn of events left them questioning their next move.

But the Elder Men knew deep down that such a scenario would never come to pass

The Elder Men had been firm in their belief that it was imperative to bring the Phoenix Girl to Snow Territory on her wedding day, regardless of her own willingness. Their primary goal was to ensure that the people of Snow Territory saw the Phoenix Girl before attending to any other matters.

Observing the unease among the Elder Men, Ouyang Mingjing gestured calmly with his hands.  
“There is no need to be so anxious,”

“...”

“You saw the other night that the hidden venom inside Phoenix Girl’s body is breaking out. They are able to control it at this early stage, but soon, Phoenix Girl won’t be able to control that. By that time, she had no choice but to follow me to Snow Territory. Only the ice beds in Snow Territory would be able to suppress the venom.”

“...”

“By that time, we are going to kill two birds with one stone.”

“....”

“I can help her to detoxify, but the condition is that she has to marry me and help people from Snow Territory.” Ouyang Mingjing said to the Elder Man confidently.

The Elder Man of course knew about this plan. But their time was pressing and they had little time left. What he needed was to make sure everything went well. City Lord had a great plan, but waiting would be such a waste of time.

“City Lord.” The Elder Man was trying to convince him.

Ouyang Mingjing waved his hands, telling him not to talk.

He had to drop it.

Then he threw a side look at Longqing, asking her for help. Longqing did not move.

He had to drop it, finally.

Ouyang Mingjing told them to quit the room, and he needed time for himself.

These days...

He himself was also in a very complicated mood.

He had been firmly certain about marrying Phoenix Girl, because she was going to be his wife for the whole town.

But this feeling was fading away.

He knew clearly that he must marry Phoenix Girl, because Snow Territory needed someone like this. But he also had another woman in his heart apart from Phoenix Girl.

It was a girl whom he did not want to kill at the moment.

He was waiting for one possibility.

He hoped that the possibility could make things become perfect.

Chapter 1753 - The Cangyan Door's Plan 1

Since the people of Snow Territory only recognized Phoenix Girl as the rightful wife of Mr. Head, her presence could potentially unify the divided Snow Territory. This realization led Ouyang Mingjing to consider the possibility of striking a deal with Phoenix Girl to align their individual goals.

Lost in his thoughts, Ouyang Mingjing's attention began to waver, his mind drifting away from the immediate matters at hand.

—

At Fengxian Palace, Liu Qingqing had been keeping Gu Chaoyan company while Zhou Huaijin secluded himself in the imperial study.

He was determined to find a solution to the ongoing matter.

As the construction of Shiling Palace progressed in the Saint Divine Land, the Shadow Door had employed a skilled individual to oversee its operations. However, this person's abilities were not sufficient to handle the situation with Gu Chaoyan.

Zhou Huaijin realized that they needed someone with even greater expertise to deal with the challenges they faced. Turning to Fu Bao, he gave clear instructions, "Fu Bao, take care of it."

"Understood, Mr. Head," Fu Bao responded and left.

As Zhou Huaijin contemplated his next move, he received word that representatives from the Cangyan Door had arrived.

Normally, he would have declined to meet with them, but today he saw it as an opportunity to have a conversation.

The Cangyan Door members had maintained a relatively low profile since their arrival, distinguishing themselves from the more unruly Piaomiao Pavilion and the tightly controlled Snow Territory.

"Welcome, Mu Ning," Zhou Huaijin greeted them with equal politeness.

"What do you want, when you come to see me?" Zhou Huaijin asked quietly.

Mu Ning smiled.

He started carefully, “I heard about your building Shiling Palace on my way out today. So are you trying to train people to stop monsters from invading the country?”

“...”

“We are not a particularly influential school, but we are highly experienced and respected. The Saint Divine Land has welcomed us warmly, and if you need assistance, we are willing to offer our help. What you are constructing holds great significance for us, and we can provide a selection of disciples to ensure the most suitable individuals for the practice.”

“...”

“In addition, if you desire, we can also provide assistance with the practice,” Mu Ning stated courteously.

Zhou Huaijin found it rather surprising to be discussing this matter with them.

However...

Zhou Huaijin soon realized that this situation was quite normal. The Cangyan Door appeared to maintain a low profile in comparison to the Piaomiao Pavilion. Nevertheless, both schools coexisted within the Saint Divine Land, implying that the Piaomiao Pavilion couldn't take any action against them either.

While they all coveted the Golden Rolls, the Cangyan Door chose not to step forward, as they preferred to remain behind the scenes.

It appeared to be an opportune moment for them to bring up this proposition.

They had their own motives.

“That is most gracious of you, Young Head. Please, inform me of the terms,” Zhou Huaijin inquired directly.

“It’s not so much a condition. Your Queen is the Phoenix Girl, and our intention is to show our admiration for both you and her. Although the Phoenix Girl has chosen not to offer the Golden Rolls, which is beyond our influence, we do have something else to offer...”

Chapter 1754 - The Cangyan Door’s Plan 2

“We are extending our help to you because we also require your assistance, especially in times of chaos when we may be unable to protect ourselves,” Mu Ning stated bluntly.

This level of candor was necessary in the current situation.

If he wavered or showed any signs of solely coveting the Golden Rolls, their offer would undoubtedly be rejected.

The Phoenix Girl was cautious of their intentions.

Their objective was to ensure the Phoenix Girl let go of her defensiveness.

After listening to their words...

Zhou Huaijin acknowledged their point...

The Cangyan Door wasn't as troublesome as he had initially thought, and they were being upfront about their own motives, which were now laid bare...

However...

Zhou Huaijin shook his head earnestly and replied, "Young Head, I appreciate your offer. But I cannot accept it."

"..."

"We already have a plan for Shiling Palace."

"..."

"And I can't just give Phoenix Girl any pressure just because I need something."

” “...”

“I have accepted your kindness. If I am able to offer you help, I definitely will. As for Phoenix Girl... that is her own decision, which is not within my territory.” Zhou Huaijin said frankly.

Mu Ning appeared visibly surprised.

They had humbled themselves by offering such a significant gift, only to be rejected by the King?

The young King held himself in high regard, unaware of what the Cangyan Door could provide.

Mu Ning was also a young head, after all.

Annoyed by Zhou Huaijin’s response, Mu Ning remained silent for a prolonged moment.

An Elder from the Cangyan Door stepped forward and spoke, “In that case, we will no longer insist. Even if we don’t require the assistance of the Phoenix Girl in the future, if you ever find yourself in need of our help, we will gladly offer our assistance.”

The Elder continued to maintain a friendly demeanor.

Mu Ning said nothing in reply. Although still irritated, he accepted this proposition.

Zhou Huaijin was an observant individual, and he had noticed the expression on Mu Ning's face.

He briefly smiled and said, "Thank you."

The members of the Cangyan Door departed.

Zhou Huaijin stood up and made his way towards Fengxian Palace.

The Cangyan Door individuals were irritated but chose not to create a scene. Otherwise, they would not have allowed the Piaomiao Pavilion to have free reign all this time.

Inside Fengxian Palace...

Liu Qingqing had recently left when an intruder forcefully entered Fengxian Palace.

It was Honored Princess Jing.

Since the passing of the previous King, she had been confined to her own palace. She had not caused much trouble, leading the palace servants to lower their guard. However, upon learning of the Crown Prince's demise, she became emotionally unstable and broke into Fengxian Palace without anyone impeding her.

"Zhou Huaijin, Gu Chaoyan, you wicked individuals! Return my Ling's life!" Honored Princess Jing stormed into Fengxian Palace, encountering no resistance.

As Honored Princess Jing stormed into the inner chamber, Sword One swiftly unsheathed her sword. Surprisingly, Honored Princess Jing appeared unfazed by the sight of the drawn sword and continued her mad rush forward.

Sword One skillfully evaded her attack, taking a few steps back to maintain distance.

Honored Princess Jing was consumed by a desperate desire for vengeance against those responsible for her son's death.

Upon arriving and learning of the situation, Zhou Huaijin swiftly entered the inner chamber and intercepted Honored Princess Jing, causing her to stumble and lose her balance.

“Return my son's life!” Honored Princess Jing exclaimed as she lunged at Zhou Huaijin.

#### Chapter 1755 The End Of Honored Princess Jing

The depth of Honored Princess Jing's resentment towards Zhou Huaijin was palpable. She couldn't hide her intense hatred for him.

If it had been her own skills that led to her son's death, perhaps she wouldn't have despised him so fervently. But it was Zhou Huaijin who was responsible for her son's demise. Ling was not only her beloved son but also her only source of hope in life.

Ling had already held the esteemed position of Crown Prince, just one step away from the throne she had dreamt of. If Zhou Huaijin hadn't interfered, everything would have unfolded differently.

With Ling's demise, Honored Princess Jing refused to let any of them live.

In a disturbed mental state, Honored Princess Jing exerted every effort to lunge at Zhou Huaijin.

Before she could reach Zhou Huaijin, she was swiftly brought down by Zhou Huaijin's guards. They restrained her.

Despite causing such chaos in the court, she had not been immediately escorted away due to her status as Honored Princess Jing. The servants hesitated to take any action against her. However, when she came to Fengxian Palace and posed a threat to the Queen's safety, as well as attempted to harm the King, the court servants had no choice but to intervene.

Honored Princess Jing continued to struggle fiercely, as if she refused to give up on this day.

Honored Princess Jing had reached a point where she felt she had nothing left to live for. With her son dead, she did not wish to endure a solitary existence in this world. If she couldn't seek revenge, she saw no purpose in continuing to live and would prefer death.

Zhou Huaijin recognized the precarious state of her mental well-being.

However...

He felt no sympathy for Honored Princess Jing.

In the past, she had committed numerous malicious acts against them. It was because Zhou Huailing had failed that she found herself in this situation. If Zhou Huailing had succeeded, her demeanor would have been quite different.

Zhou Huaijin sighed softly. "Escort her back to her palace and grant her a single ribbon. If she wishes to end her own life, she is free to do so. But if she chooses to continue living, ensure she remains where she currently resides. If she causes any more disturbances regarding Chaoyan, I will not forgive her."

After uttering those words, Zhou Huaijin did not spare a glance towards Honored Princess Jing as she was restrained. Instead, he approached Gu Chaoyan's side.

He asked with concern, "Are you frightened?"

"No, not at all. With Sword One by my side, there is nothing to fear," Gu Chaoyan replied with a brief smile.

Although Honored Princess Jing had caused quite a commotion, she was alone. Gu Chaoyan understood that she posed no threat, and therefore, she never felt afraid.

"Imperial families have always been characterized by their cruelty and ruthlessness. However, there are times when we must embrace such traits. Those who fail in the game for the throne often meet unfortunate fates like Honored Princess Jing. Thankfully, the previous King had only a few sons, and our Elder Brother and Sixth Brother never sought involvement in the throne or the court. That's why we are able to maintain a harmonious relationship with one another," Zhou Huaijin confided in Gu Chaoyan.

Typically, only the King survives among the imperial family, solely driven by their pursuit of the throne.

Zhou Huaijin and Gu Chaoyan took their seats, and she graciously served him tea. "Lord Yan is gentle, and Lord Yu enjoys traveling. They may not appear particularly close to you, but they truly care. Please don't dwell on it too much."

Zhou Huaijin nodded and smiled.

"It's getting late; let's retire for the night."

Chapter 1756 - Junyi's Visit 1

"Since you're not feeling well, Sword One can attend to you in the main hall, and I'll sleep in the wing room. Just call me if you need anything," Zhou Huaijin stated directly.

They had recently married, and Zhou Huaijin longed to fall asleep with Gu Chaoyan in his arms. However, recent events had left him feeling unsettled.

But...

He wasn't sure if Chaoyan's reaction was a result of his actions, he didn't want to take any chances. He prioritized her well-being above all else, and there would be ample opportunities for them to spend time together in the future.

Upon hearing the arrangement, Gu Chaoyan opened her mouth as if to speak, but after a moment of contemplation, she decided against it.

On one hand, she didn't fully understand the cause of her current condition. On the other hand, if Huaijin stayed with her, he might not have a restful sleep.

For the time being, this arrangement seemed appropriate.

Fengxian Palace was larger than Xinlin Mansion, but Gu Chaoyan wasn't accustomed to having many people around her. Therefore, Sword One was the only one who would stay by her side overnight.

After attending to her grooming and washing, Gu Chaoyan instructed Sword One to sleep in the adjacent bed.

She closed her eyes and began to reflect on her health.

Perhaps, from the very beginning, when she acquired this body from the original host, there were underlying health issues.

However, she had been preoccupied with combating the smaller poisons that affected her.

When she tried to detoxify the poison that had influenced her appearance and caused her body to gain weight, she lost control over the balance of heat and coldness within her body and fainted.

Initially, Mr. Zhao had been there to assist her with this, and later, Madame Min had accompanied her on one occasion.

As time passed and with few occurrences, she gradually forgot about it.

Unbeknownst to her, there existed a fundamental poison within her body that had persisted for a long time.

On that particular day...

She suddenly felt an intense heat within her body. As the temperature rose, the heat seemed to interact with other poisons in her system, causing inexplicable sensations beyond her control.

Even Lingyun, who possessed great skill, was unable to do anything about it. This suggested that the poison must have been introduced into her body by someone more adept than Lingyun.

Despite her attempts to use the magical spring water from her space, the problem persisted, unaffected by the quantity she consumed or applied.

Since the previous day, she had experienced intermittent moments of intense coldness, followed by sudden bouts of heat. Worried about causing unnecessary concern, she kept these fluctuations to herself.

There was no book within her space that could shed light on this peculiar condition.

Her anxiety grew with each passing moment, wondering if it was somehow connected to her being Phoenix Girl.

None of these developments boded well.

Considering Zhou Huaijin's unwavering devotion from the very beginning, it was disheartening that such an issue arose on their wedding night.

Gu Chaoyan's confidence waned, and she found herself tossing and turning before finally succumbing to sleep amid her troubled thoughts.

She had barely awakened when Zhou Huaijin spoke to the guard in a hushed voice, "The Crown Prince's strategist is requesting to see me?"

Chapter 1757 - Junyi's Visit 2

The strategist who served the previous Crown Prince?

Zhou Huaijin didn't have a strong impression of him, but she certainly did. They had crossed paths before in Bingzhou. She had to admit that the man was exceptionally intelligent, as he had devised a solution to save Prime Minister Chu from a dangerous situation.

However...

He was incredibly arrogant, carrying grudges within his heart. Otherwise, he wouldn't have chosen to align himself with Zhou Huailing, despite his own remarkable talents.

When Zhou Huailing ascended to the position of Lord Ling and gained the respect of the officers as the Crown Prince, it was largely due to this strategist's ideas.

Moreover, it seemed that this strategist held a disdain for women. That explained why he had consistently humiliated her.

Now that the previous Crown Prince was no more, it appeared that the strategist had not been by his side during his demise.

Unexpectedly...

He was here in the court, alone.

She was quite curious to see why he had come alone to the court.

While Gu Chaoyan was lost in her thoughts, Sword One helped her change into a casual blouse. She decided to go and meet him, saying, "Shall we go and see him?"

Zhou Huaijin initially intended to decline the strategist's request. He had no interest in wasting time on someone like him. He would rather have breakfast with Chaoyan. However, since Chaoyan expressed curiosity in meeting him, he agreed to the meeting.

Zhou Huaijin granted the strategist entry into the court.

Gu Chaoyan, despite being the Queen, chose to dress in her usual simple attire without any elaborate ornaments or vibrant colors. Zhou Huaijin respected her preference.

Chaoyan disliked the complexities and intricacies of extravagant dresses. On the day of her coronation, she had frowned upon the opulent attire.

He wouldn't force her to wear what she didn't like.

After the summons, it took quite some time for Junyi to finally arrive at Fengxian Palace.

He was merely a strategist who had served the previous Crown Prince, holding a relatively low rank within the hierarchy. In the Saint Divine Land, strategists were not highly regarded and were often considered to be on par with businessmen in terms of social status.

As per the protocol, strategists had to wait outside the palace when summoned or requested to meet with high-ranking individuals. Thus, it took a considerable amount of time for Junyi to reach the throne room.

Junyi displayed great respect and greeted the King and Queen in a polite manner.

Rather than immediately asking him to rise, Zhou Huaijin carefully observed him.

While strategists may not hold a prestigious position, they were still expected to adhere to certain principles and decorum.

Unlike businessmen who were primarily driven by profit, strategists operated by their own set of rules. For instance, Xie Yan, who had sought their assistance, had even come to pay his respects to them in the capital during the coronation ceremony. Despite this, Xie Yan had declined their offer to work as a strategist.

Well...

Xie Yan worked for Zhou Huailing, and he could not possibly turn to serve other people from the imperial family.

Because of this, Xie Yan had become their friend.

They and Xie Yan met by accident.

And Junyi was here for some other purpose, obviously.

That was why Zhou Huaijin did not respect him as much.

Though he might be working so hard and achieve greatly when serving Zhou Huailing.

“Mr. Strategist for the previous Crown Prince. What are you asking to see me for?” Zhou Huailing asked.

Chapter 1758 - Junyi's Visit 3

Kneeling before Zhou Huaijin, Junyi performed a deep bow, adhering to the expected protocol for a strategist serving the previous Crown Prince.

Zhou Huaijin allowed Junyi to remain on his knees as he posed his question, a deliberate choice that slightly irritated Junyi.

Junyi was still a headstrong and arrogant individual, frustrated by his current insignificance. In this position, he couldn't help but think about how things would have been different if Zhou Huailing had ascended the throne. He imagined himself proudly standing by the King's side, or if he had chosen Zhou Huaijin, the son of the previous Queen who held significant influence. In either scenario, he believed he would have been held in high regard, rather than enduring this humiliation.

However...

Since he was still alive, his journey wasn't over. He hadn't achieved his ultimate goal yet.

If he worked harder, he believed he could still accomplish great things.

During his time serving Zhou Huailing, numerous offers for positions had come his way. It was clear that he was publicly recognized as a talented individual.

The newly crowned King lacked a firm foundation and needed capable individuals like himself. Junyi firmly believed that he had the ability to handle any challenges and could assure the King that he would successfully navigate any situation that arose.

With this confidence in mind, Junyi maintained his composure while remaining on his knees and addressed the King, saying, "the King, I humbly request to discuss a matter of great importance with you."

"..."

Junyi spoke with confidence, laying out his thoughts and intentions before the King.

“The previous Crown Prince’s demise has left me without a master to serve. Even if he were still alive, I would have no one to dedicate my loyalty to. My association with the previous Crown Prince was a collaboration, not a transaction in which I sold myself to him. I had the freedom to leave whenever I desired.”

“....”

“Now, with his passing, the timing is opportune,” Junyi continued.

“....”.

“I offer myself to you, Your Majesty, willing to be at your service and accept any conditions you may set forth.”

“....”.

“As a newly-crowned King, you lack a solid foundation and require talented individuals to assist you. I can assure you that I possess the skills and ability to rectify any situation that may arise.”

“....”

“Take your time to consider my proposal, or you may put me to the test. Within three days, I can ensure that everyone in the court will accept and obey your authority, effectively changing the

current situation in which many do not fully acknowledge you as their King. What are your thoughts on this matter, Your Majesty?" Junyi inquired, awaiting the King's response.

Zhou Huaijin was watching Junyi who was on his knees. He was thinking very carefully.

This man was very confident about his talent, as he made such a promise.

He knew what he was capable of, and he knew that his talent could be used as a condition to get himself out of the current situation.

What he said was convincing.

He was definitely going to make all the ministers in the court accept the new King.

Actually...

He was a very smart person.

Few people would be as talented as he was.

But...

He was not going to hire Junyi.

He was smart, talented and competent. But he just did not understand one thing.

Chapter 1759 Junyi's Visit 4

It was about devotion.

What a master required of the man working for him was that he should be devoted and utterly faithful.

Chaoyan did not have much demand for her employees, except that they had to be devoted. She could teach them if they could not do the job well, but not the inner devotion.

He held the same opinion.

The Shadow Door was successful because the Shadow Door demanded the employees to be devoted.

Zhou Huaijin looked at Junyi and felt pity.

Xie Yan once said that his master told them before that Junyi was not suitable to become the strategist for the King. And their master was right.

Zhou Huaijin smiled briefly.

Junyi stared up and looked very confident.

He had been fully prepared before he came to the palace. He was sure that the King would accept him, except that he might need some conditions as exchange.

He was a new King and he desperately needed someone like him.

And when he saw this smiling face of the new King....

He believed that the whole thing was going to work out well and fine.

"What do you think, the Jin King?" Junyi asked, and he seemed quite confident.

"I don't think that is a good idea," Zhou Huaijin firmly stated. "I already have an abundance of capable individuals working under me, and I have no need to rely on the remnants from the previous Crown Prince. If you have nothing else to discuss, please leave. This is not an open place for you to come and go freely. The previous Crown Prince is dead, and without his presence, your title holds no significance. Today will be the last time you are addressed with such a designation."

Having made his position clear, Zhou Huaijin decided not to waste any more time with Junyi. He instructed the servants to escort him away, ensuring that the strategist would leave promptly. The King was mindful of Gu Chaoyan's breakfast, and he wanted to avoid any further delays caused by this unwanted visitor. I think you should take a look at

Hearing the answer, Junyi was totally taken aback.

He turned him down and told him to leave?

That was impossible!

He did not want to hire him?

But he was a capable man. He could not possibly have got another man who could achieve what he was capable of. But the King turned him down?!

Junyi even suspected that he heard it wrong.

"Did I hear it anything wrong?" Junyi tried to confirm.

"No, you didn't. The King could not possibly hire you," Gu Chaoyan firmly stated to Junyi. "You are undoubtedly intelligent, and your capabilities are unique. There is no denying that the King lacks someone like you. However, intelligence alone is not enough to earn a place by the King's side. What you lack is principles, and most importantly, devotion. The King will never employ someone who lacks loyalty and commitment."

Zhou Huaijin had chosen not to reveal this truth earlier in order to preserve his reputation. However, upon Junyi's insistence, Gu Chaoyan candidly exposed the reality of the situation.

Junyi may be exceptionally intelligent, but Gu Chaoyan had an inherent dislike for him. This sentiment had been present since their encounter at the Min Mansion and had not changed.

This man did not respect any women, including her. He had been insulting her when working for the previous Crown Prince.

Gu Chaoyan was never an inclusive woman. She always held a grudge, always.

For example, she decided never to show any friendliness in front of Junyi.

"Devotion?" Junyi had a complicated look on his face.

Chapter 1760 - Junyi's Visit 5

"Or perhaps you are merely pursuing your own agenda, using any means necessary to achieve it. The previous Crown Prince was foolish enough not to realize that he was being manipulated by you. But the King will not allow himself to be controlled in such a manner," Gu Chaoyan said with straightforward honesty.

With her words spoken, she instructed the servants to escort Junyi out of the palace.

Junyi was left feeling perplexed by the situation.

He couldn't comprehend the complexity of it all. He couldn't understand why, despite being acknowledged as someone with exceptional abilities and the potential to offer much-needed assistance, he was not being hired.

Lost in his thoughts, Junyi wandered aimlessly through the halls of the Saint Divine Land's palace. The realization sank in that the King's decision meant that no matter what he did or achieved, there would be no reward or recognition awaiting him. His greatest competence had seemingly become futile in this context.

Was it all for his life?

Was he unable to prove himself?

So his whole belief collapsed like this? What was the point of living then?

Junyi was walking in distress.

Then, he suddenly paused and exclaimed in surprise. "It is you!"

"..."

"What are you doing here?"

He just could not believe his eyes.

Xie Yan, who had once been hunted down by the previous Crown Prince and left severely injured, must have endured a difficult life, hidden away in some remote corner of the world.

It was perplexing to see him in the court, appearing well-dressed and exuding an air of nobility. He even had a retinue of servants attending to him.

Why?

Why?

What was he doing here?

Junyi did not understand.

Xie Yan saw Junyi too.

He was quite surprised that he ran into Junyi here. The previous Crown Prince was already dead, and he could have left, if he had not killed himself too.

What was he doing in the court?

Xie Yan was going to visit the Queen and have tea with her. That was why he ran into him.

“It is indeed a momentous occasion, the crowning ceremony for the new King and Queen, an event that occurs only once in a lifetime. They are not only my saviors but also my dear friends, so it is only natural for me to be present here. Besides, the weather is delightful today, and The Queen’s

maid informed me that a new variety of tea has been introduced in the court. She kindly invited me to join her for a cup.”

Junyi couldn't help but feel incredulous. What was happening? It appeared that he wasn't the King's strategist, but Xie Yan had a close friendship with the King after all

Why?

What did he do?

Didn't he work for the previous Crown Prince too? Why was he not inquired about the so-called devotion?

As Junyi's chest continued to ache faintly, he struggled to maintain his composure, his voice strained. Through gritted teeth, he questioned, “What is happening? Why?”

Xie Yan sighed softly before answering, his expression filled with a mix of gratitude and determination. “I was pursued by Lord Huai and Miss Gu when I unexpectedly crossed paths with them. They sought information about the Crown Prince from me, but I refused to comply. Surprisingly, they chose to rescue me instead. Through subsequent encounters and interactions, our paths became intertwined. And that is why I find myself here. I have done nothing extraordinary. It was merely a matter of sharing tea and receiving medical treatment from Elder Miss Gu.”

” “...”

“Junyi, what about you? What are you doing here in the court? Are you trying to get hired by the new King? He must have turned you down.”

