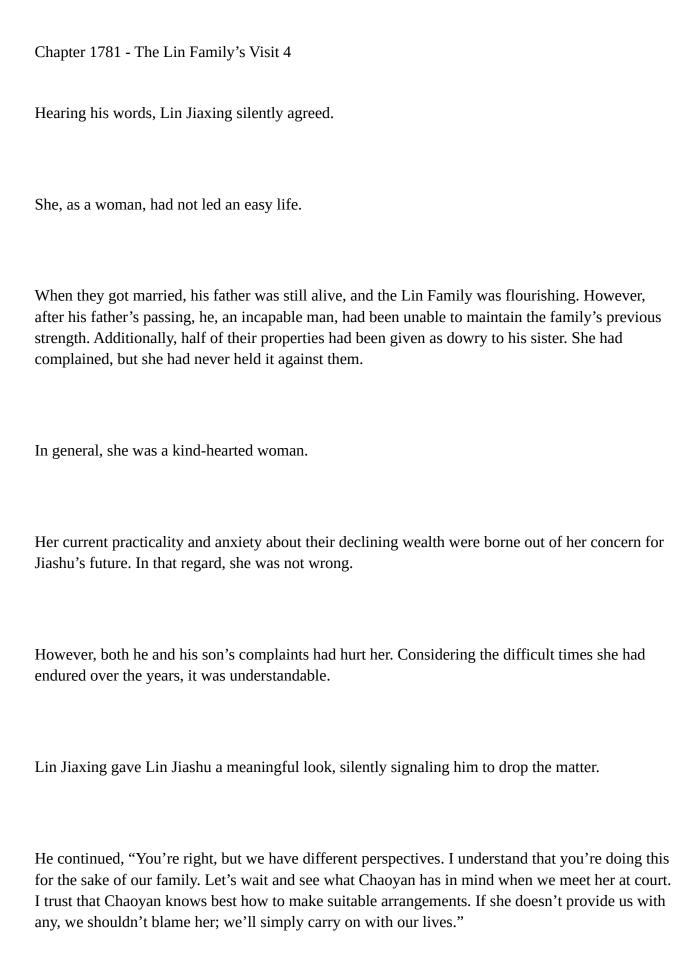
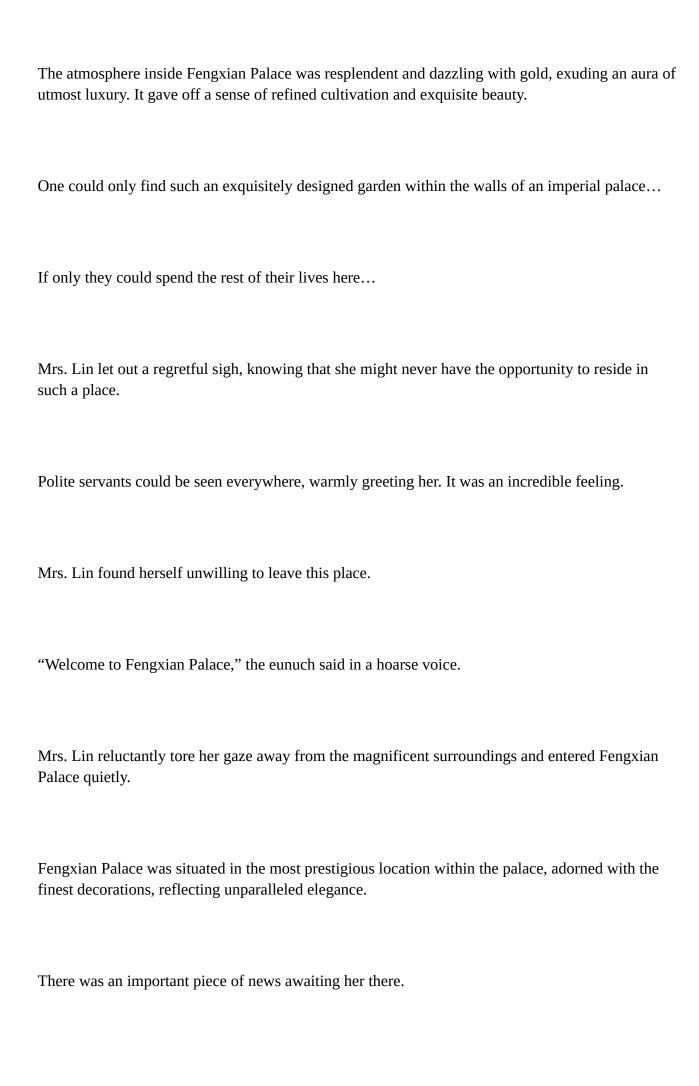
Divine 1781

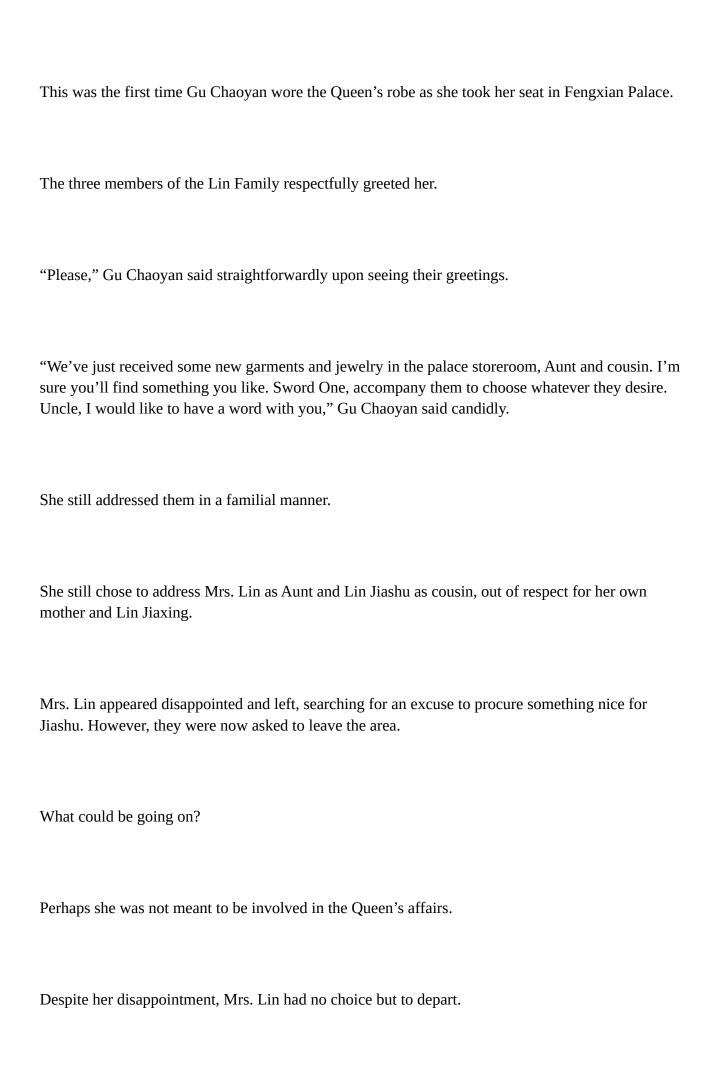


Softening his tone, Lin Jiaxing acknowledged and supported her intentions, causing Mrs. Lin to relent.
She nodded in agreement.
If she persisted, she would be seen as unreasonable. Realizing this, Mrs. Lin decided to let the matter go for now and proceed step by step. If there was an opportunity to obtain something better, she was determined to seize it.
With the Lin Family reaching an agreement, they made their way to the court together.
Everyone in the court recognized the Lin Family and treated them with utmost politeness and consideration. Mrs. Lin's mood was uplifted as they made their way to the palace. The respectful treatment she received from the courtiers alleviated her worries. With Gu Chaoyan being part of the Lin Family, she was confident that they would receive assistance.
Deep in her heart, Mrs. Lin vowed to make it happen.
However
She refrained from voicing her thoughts further, knowing that her husband and son would not appreciate it.

After a long journey, they finally arrived at the court. Rather than stopping at the gate, the wagon continued on. This was an unprecedented treatment for the Lin Family. Mrs. Lin raised the curtain and peered outside, overwhelmed with happiness.
Lin Jiaxing was on the verge of reprimanding her
But then he reconsidered her perspective and realized that their visits to the court were infrequent, allowing her to indulge in the experience. He decided to address the matter later, once they returned home.
Finally, they arrived at the back palace.
They disembarked from the wagon.
Mrs. Lin had been eagerly observing her surroundings throughout the journey. It was her first time in the back court, as women from a business family were never granted such privileges.
The imperial court was a stark contrast to her own modest mansion and the Lin Family's residence.
Their own mansion had a simple backyard, as they prioritized establishing a well-maintained front yard. Similarly, the Lin Family's mansion was relatively unadorned.
But within the imperial court
Chapter 1782 - The Lin Family's Visit 5







Lin Jiaxing remained alone with Gu Chaoyan and Lingyun in Fengxian Palace.
Observing the situation, Lin Jiaxing asked earnestly, "What's happening? Are you facing any difficulties? Share it with me, and I'll do my best to help. I may just be a businessman with limited influence, but I'll give it my all!"
Gu Chaoyan felt her heart warm at Lin Jiaxing's words.
In this world, where she had no family of her own, Lin Jiaxing, her uncle, displayed genuine affection and concern for her.
Her uncle had misunderstood her due to her refined demeanor, but his love for her was evident.
Gu Chaoyan smiled and said, "It is fine. I am just trying to ask you about something that happened in the past."
""" …
"Did the Lin Family have any enemies with anyone, like did mother have anyone who disliked her? Or, did the Lin Family get in touch with any powerful people?"
Lin Jiaxing started to think carefully in head.



Then her venom could not have been related to the Lin Family.
So
Could the origin of the venom have something to do with Golden Rolls?
The door to enchantment was opened and Golden Rolls should have been there apart from the sword. But the Golden Rolls were gone. She was drugged and could the person who took away Golden Rolls also drugged her?
That seemed very likely.
Golden Rolls were very important just look at how desperate Piaomiao Pavilion was.
And they came to Phoenix Girl directly for Golden Rolls, which meant that Golden Rolls were supposed to be in the hands of Phoenix Girl after all.
Then it might be a little difficult to find the solution.
"Chaoyan?" Lin Jiaxing felt even more worried seeing her absent-minded behavior. He called her by the name.



""
"They have finished selecting the gifts, and it's getting late. Uncle, please take them back home. We will arrange for the items Aunt has chosen to be delivered from the court tomorrow."
As Lin Jiaxing was about to say something, he noticed Gu Chaoyan rubbing her temples, a sign of fatigue. He decided against voicing his concerns at that moment.
Being the Queen came with many responsibilities and challenges. Lin Jiaxing understood the weight on her shoulders and chose not to burden her further.
Meanwhile, Mrs. Lin returned from her distraction and hurried back upon hearing that they were leaving. However, to her disappointment, she only found Lin Jiaxing waiting outside the palace, and the absence of the Queen made her smile fade.
Why was the Queen avoiding her?
With a solemn expression, Mrs. Lin boarded the wagon without uttering a word. Once settled, she couldn't contain her curiosity any longer. "What did she talk to you about?" she asked, her voice filled with apprehension.
ш ш •••

"She was dodging me! She just did not want to give us anything. But her mother took half of the Lin Family's properties.!"

Chapter 1784 The Lin Family's Visit 7

Lin Jiaxing's disappointment was evident as he observed Mrs. Lin's reaction. He believed that Gu Chaoyan and his sister owed the Lin Family nothing. On the contrary, they had been instrumental in helping the family. Gu Chaoyan had saved Jiashu's life when he was on the brink of death, allowing him to live a normal life as a man.

Lin Jiaxing recognized that their father had been responsible for arranging the dowries, and the

Lin Jiaxing recognized that their father had been responsible for arranging the dowries, and the amount was at his discretion. He acknowledged that his wife had faced hardships and understood why she might display a certain level of fierceness. However, he felt that it was unfair for her to blame Gu Chaoyan for avoiding her when Gu Chaoyan had done so much for the Lin Family.

Feeling frustrated, Lin Jiaxing confronted Mrs. Lin. "Chaoyan has offered us everything!" he exclaimed.

"...."

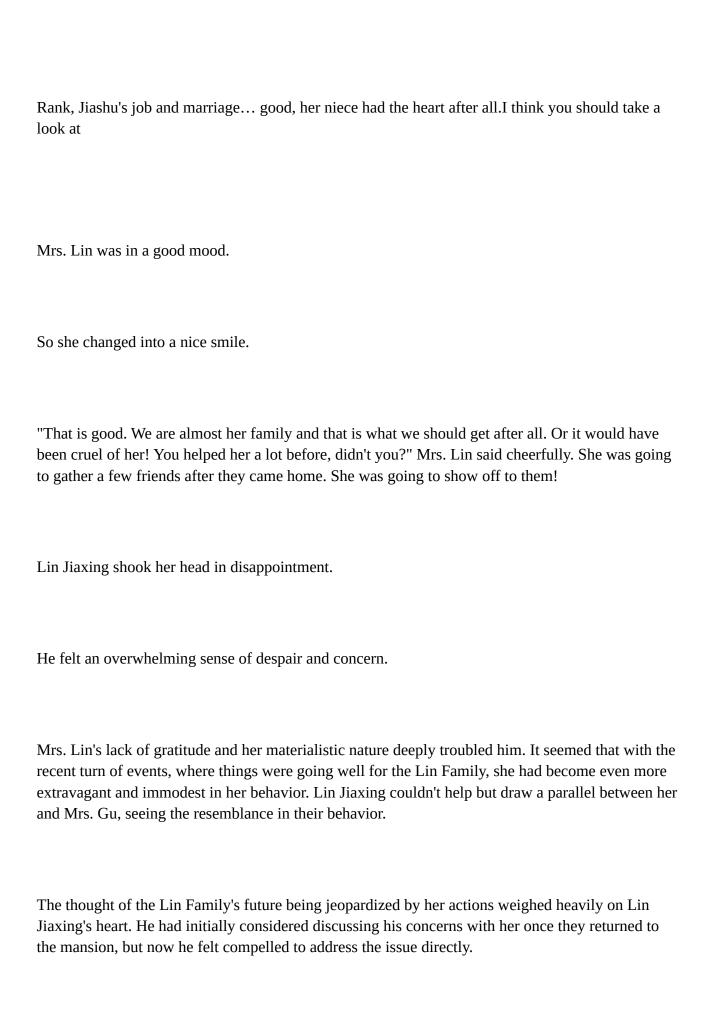
Lin Jiaxing continued, his tone stern. "She has secured a rank for us, arranged tasks for Jiashu, and even discussed Jiashu's marriage with the King. She is treating us with utmost kindness and consideration, where is your conscience?"

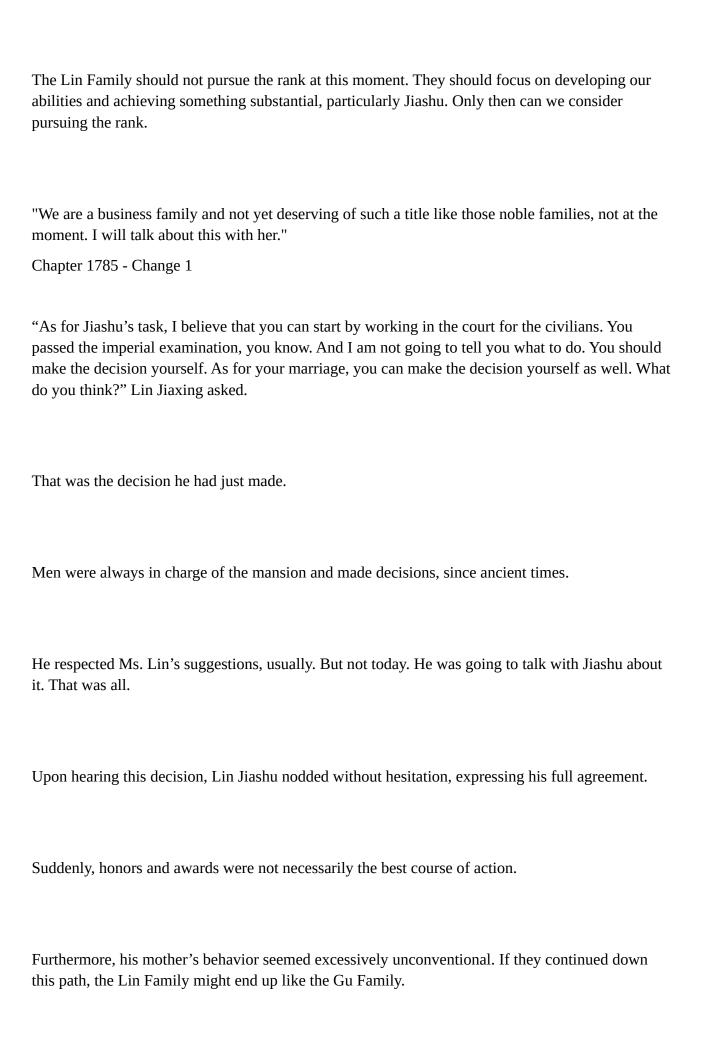
"...."

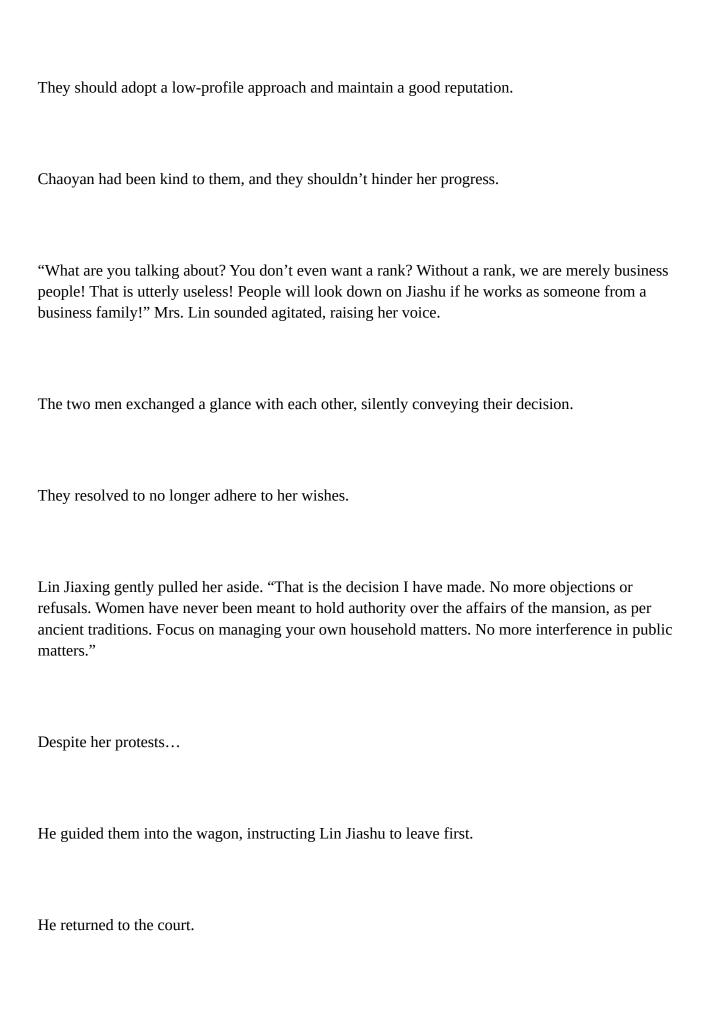
Conscience? What did he mean?

She did not need to have any conscience. She was her aunt and that was all she deserved to get.

Good. Now they had everything and she did not need to spend effort to get them.







The eunuchs in the court treated Lin Jiaxing with respect. They guided him to Fengxian Palace upon hearing his request. Subsequently, the eunuchs relayed the message to the Queen.
Gu Chaoyan was preparing to take a break when she learned about her uncle's return. She stepped outside, dressed in casual attire, to meet him.
"What else can I assist you with, Uncle?" Gu Chaoyan inquired, feeling perplexed. She had been almost certain that her past experiences had nothing to do with the Lin Family. However, now her uncle had arrived, and she was unsure of the reason for this change.
Lin Jiaxing nodded solemnly and spoke in a serious tone, "Chaoyan, I have pondered over your words. I believe it is best for us not to accept the rank and Jiashu's assigned tasks. You can assign him tasks that align with his abilities, but do not promote him solely because of me. I lack competence, and my wife's behavior is unreasonable. If I were to accept your offer, it could potentially create difficulties for Jiashu and for you."
"…" …
"I am here to inform you of this. I will be returning now. If you require anything, relay the message to Jiashu, and I will do my utmost to assist you."
" "
"It's getting late. Get some rest. I'm taking my leave," Lin Jiaxing said wearily.
And so, he departed.

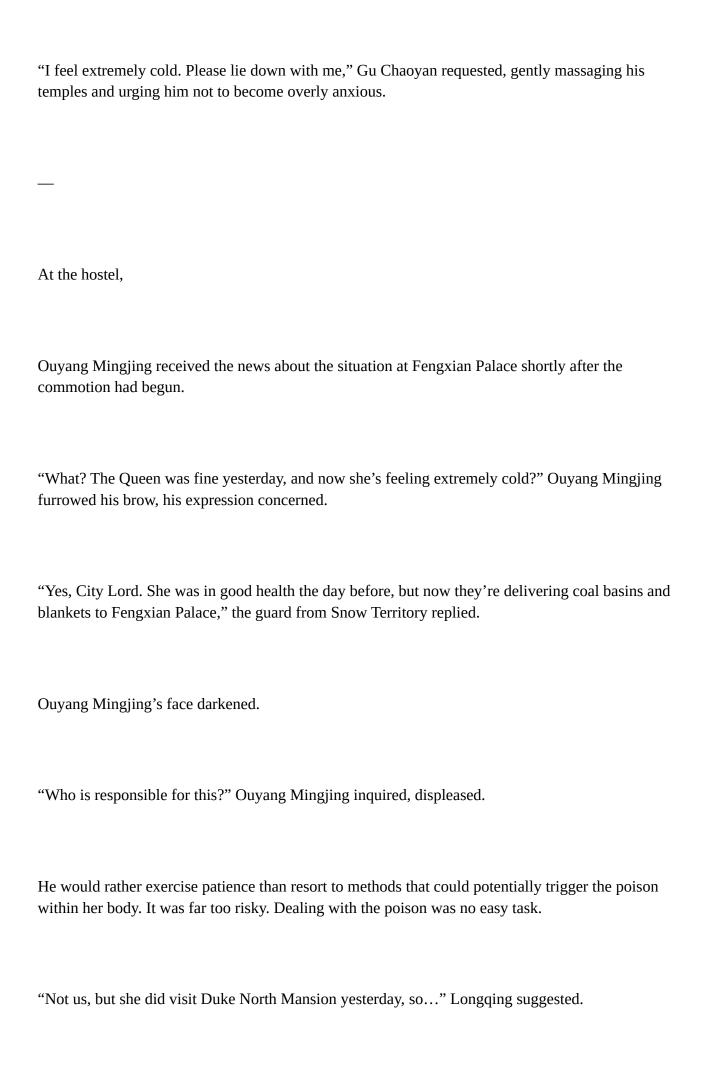
Gu Chaoyan made no attempt to stop him.
After pondering for a while, she comprehended her uncle's intentions.
If her uncle could remain grounded like this, perhaps he would achieve greater things in the future. At present, she felt no sympathy for him.
Once again, silence enveloped Fengxian Palace.
Gu Chaoyan retired to rest and fell asleep.
The following day, as dawn broke, Sword One roused Gu Chaoyan from her slumber, informing her of a matter that required her attention in the rear court.
Gu Chaoyan had just awakened, and her head throbbed. She shivered slightly as she inquired, "Has the weather changed?" Chapter 1786 - Change 2
Feeling disoriented from her sleep, Gu Chaoyan experienced a wave of dizziness. As she regained full consciousness, she suddenly felt a piercing chill in the air. Hastily wrapping herself in a blanket while still in bed, she spoke with a serious tone, "Prepare thick blankets for the inner chamber, and coal basins as well. Why is the weather changing so rapidly? It's getting much colder!"
Sword One displayed genuine concern and worry upon hearing Gu Chaoyan's shivering words.

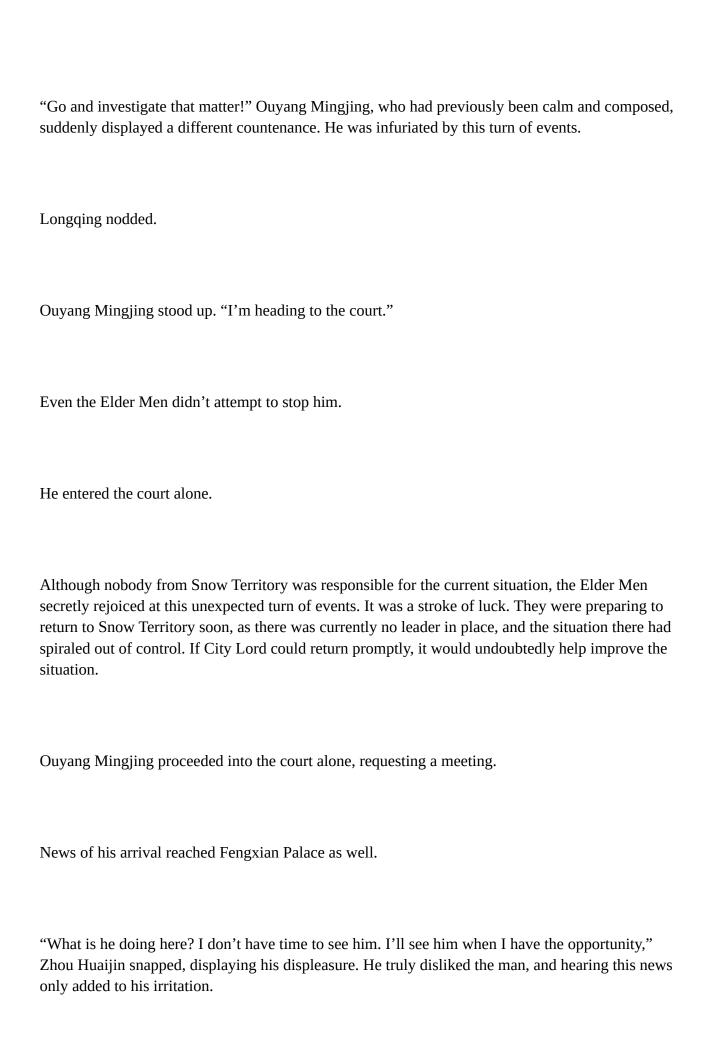
What was the Queen talking about?
The weather hadn't changed. It was cool, but not cold. They were still dressed in lightweight attire.
Only the Queen, for some inexplicable reason, felt as if they had suddenly entered winter.
A sudden realization struck Sword One, recalling what Lingyun had mentioned—the Queen had the cold drug within her body, inherently. The Happiness Drug was attempting to suppress that sensation.
In that case
Was the Queen being overwhelmed by the effects of the cold drug?
Worry etched across Sword One's face.
Gu Chaoyan cast a brief glance at Sword One and noticed that she, too, was dressed as lightly as she had been the day before.
Then, her gaze shifted to the sunlight streaming in through the window.
And then, she understood.

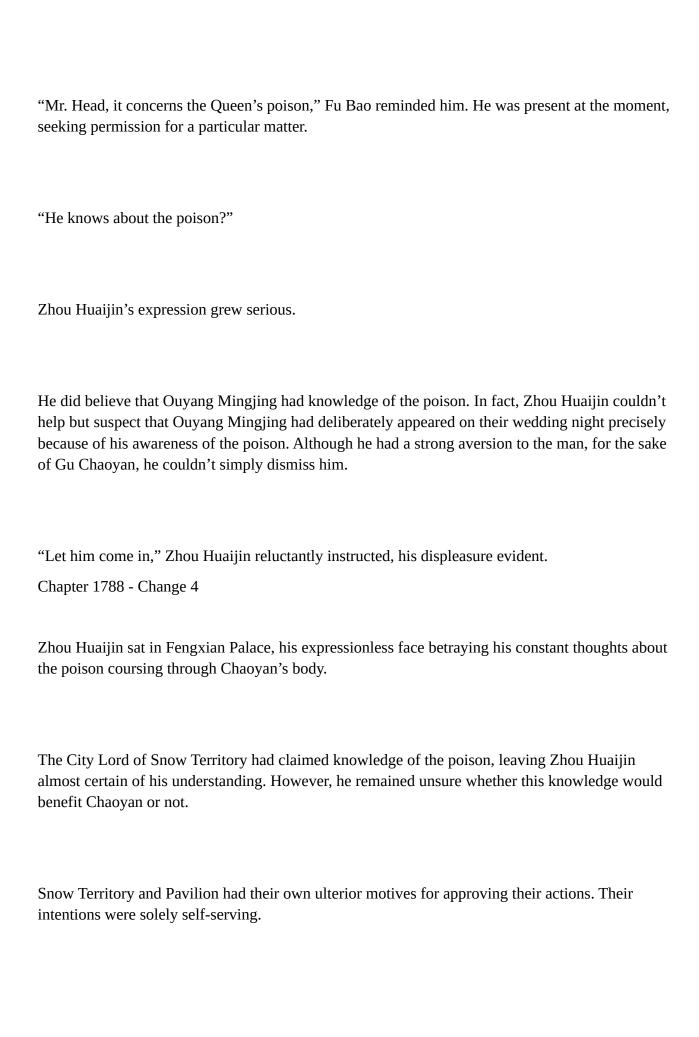
The weather hadn't changed.
She had.
Wearing an expression of unease, Sword One spoke anxiously, "I will fetch Ms. Lingyun and arrange for thick blankets and a coal basin for you, Your Majesty. Please wait a moment."
Gu Chaoyan maintained a composed demeanor, feigning ignorance of Sword One's desperation.
Ever since Lingyun had provided her with detailed information about her condition, she had known that this day would inevitably arrive.
Well
Gu Chaoyan let out a slight sigh.
In the imperial study,
Zhou Huaijin had spent the entire night sorting through matters concerning Shiling Palace and the court. He had even secured a position for Lin Jiashu. Everything was settled.
He believed that Chaoyan must have awakened and that they could enjoy breakfast together.

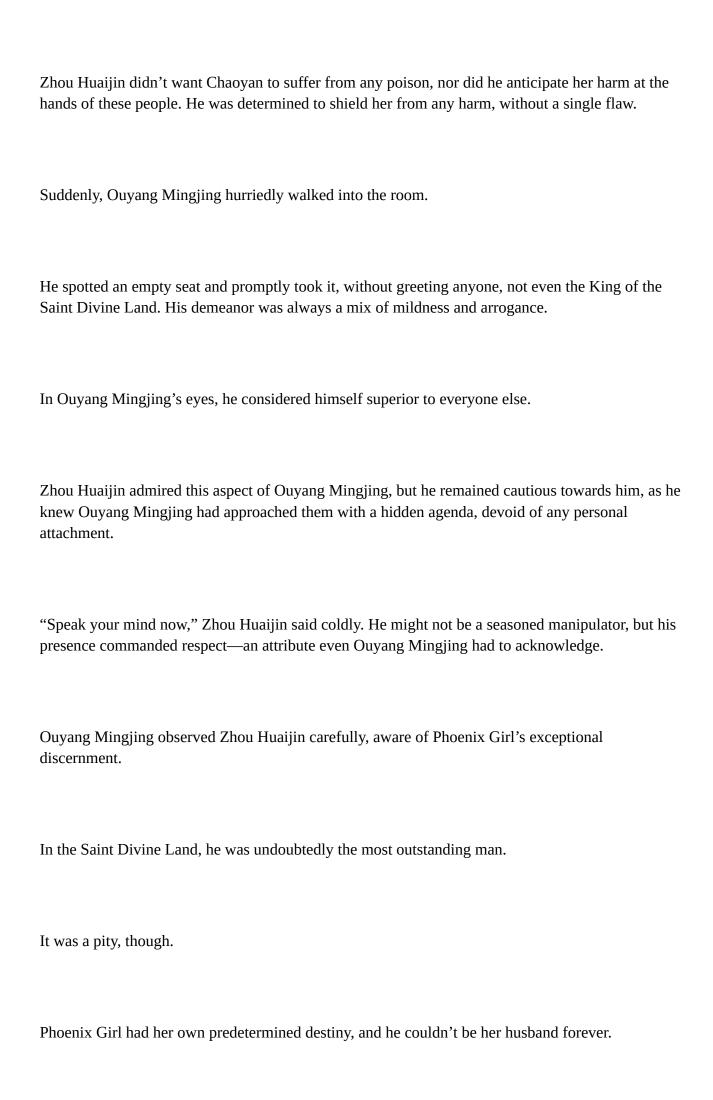
Despite his fatigue, Zhou Huaijin wore a contented smile.
Just as he was about to rise from his seat, Sword One burst into the room. "Head, please go to Fengxian Palace immediately."
"What has happened?" Zhou Huaijin asked, his concern evident.
"The Queen complained about feeling cold. If Lingyun is right and the cold drug is spiraling out of control, then" Zhou Huaijin abruptly left the study without allowing Sword One to finish relaying the message. He hastened towards Fengxian Palace with great urgency.
What could be happening?
Hadn't she mentioned that she was improving? Why was this happening again?
Zhou Huaijin felt deeply concerned.
He arrived swiftly at Fengxian Palace.
Numerous servants were busy preparing coal basins and blankets. Some were closing the windows, even though it was a pleasant day with fresh air flowing through the open windows. However, considering the condition of the Queen, it was necessary to shut them.

Zhou Huaijin dashed inside, paying no heed to the greetings.
He enveloped Chaoyan in his embrace. "How are you feeling? Are you still feeling extremely cold? Any discomfort?"
He held her tightly, unwilling to let any hint of chill reach her. Chapter 1787 - Change 3
"Just a slight chill, an old problem. You're already aware of it. Nothing to worry about," Gu Chaoyan calmly reassured him.
The warmth from the lit coal basins provided her with some comfort, easing her discomfort.
However, Zhou Huaijin couldn't shake off his unease upon hearing Gu Chaoyan's words.
Yes, she had experienced similar issues in the past, but it hadn't been as severe as it was now.
He had already exerted considerable effort in searching for Mr. Zhao and other potential talents, but there had been no progress. No one seemed to know where Mr. Zhao had taken his mother. They had previously discussed living in the southern region and having Mr. Zhao regularly report their situation to the capital. However, to this day, they hadn't received any reports, nor had they been able to locate them in the southern area. Had they changed their location? Or had they purposely secluded themselves from the world?
Zhou Huaijin's anxiety grew more intense.









"Where is she? Release her so that I may speak with her. I have something to discuss with her, not with you. I won't utter a word until she is present," Ouyang Mingjing stated bluntly.
Zhou Huaijin appraised him, contemplating a response. Fu Bao grew visibly displeased and was ready to counter him
However, Zhou Huaijin halted him, instructing him to convey the message instead.
Zhou Huaijin was certain that if Ouyang Mingjing had made this demand, he would follow through with it. There were numerous hidden guards present, yet he remained unchallenged.
Zhou Huaijin could choose to listen to what he had to say.
A gentle expression crossed Ouyang Mingjing's face. He didn't appear arrogant due to Zhou Huaijin's compromise, nor did he push for more.
Yet, this only deepened Zhou Huaijin's concern.
Ouyang Mingjing possessed a composed state of mind. He didn't even need to resort to threats, indicating his indifference toward the King.
Dealing with Ouyang Mingjing proved to be an exceptionally challenging task.

Zhou Huaijin's expression darkened.
Gu Chaoyan entered, her figure draped in flowing garments. She didn't exchange pleasantries but instead took the seat beside Zhou Huaijin. He poured her a cup of tea, offering it to her to ward off the chill.
Ouyang Mingjing's gaze lingered on Gu Chaoyan.
She appeared frail, her frame hidden beneath the layers of clothing, and a hint of pallor graced her complexion.
Gradually, warmth enveloped the hall. Ouyang Mingjing observed Zhou Huaijin's preparations upon his request to meet her.
This couple
Chapter 1789 Change 5
They appeared to be a couple perfectly attuned to one another, with one showing care and the other exuding gentleness in their presence. It was an ideal pairing
Impressive, truly impressive.
However



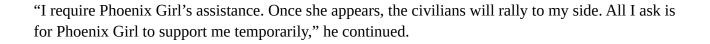
"He evokes love within you. As you begin to love, the Happiness Drug within your body diminishes. But it's fortunate that your wedding night wasn't consummated, or else you would have perished!"
""
"You don't have much time left, anyway," Ouyang Mingjing stated, his gaze fixed on Gu Chaoyan as if she were a woman on her deathbed.
Gu Chaoyan furrowed her brow.
She had to concede that there might be some truth to his words. Her current state was indeed a result of her experiencing love.
However, she wasn't pleased with how Ouyang Mingjing framed it.
Why did he portray Huaijin as the culprit?I think you should take a look at
Ultimately, it had been her own doing.
She was a woman.





She immediately rejected the proposition. "It's impossible. I am the Queen of the Saint Divine Land, Huaijin's wife. Our union is set, and nothing can alter that."
She would rather face death than compromise her position for the sake of the Fire Lotus.
Gu Chaoyan expressed her resolute stance, unwilling to entertain any further discussion on the matter.
Her words came forth spontaneously, without consideration. She declared that she would rather die than become someone else's wife.
In that moment, Ouyang Mingjing felt a wave of sadness and grief engulf him.
Half of his heart had already been seized by Acacia beans, and he was no longer as fixated on Phoenix Girl. However, the idea of marrying Phoenix Girl had become deeply ingrained in his heart, and Gu Chaoyan had become like a snow lotus within Snow Territory, taking root within his heart.
Although his devotion towards her had waned, the pain he felt upon hearing Gu Chaoyan's words still gnawed at his heart.
It was a kind of anguish that couldn't be assuaged by any form of training or medicine. It pierced his heart like a tiny blade.

Gu Chaoyan remained resolute in her decision.
However, Zhou Huaijin found himself wavering.
It seemed to be the only viable solution to save Chaoyan in the present circumstances.
He deeply desired for Chaoyan to be his alone, but above all, he wished for her to live a pain-free life. If she could survive, he could protect her in secret. That would be sufficient.
"Chaoyan, you must live. Don't concern yourself with my feelings," Zhou Huaijin urged.
"Impossible," Gu Chaoyan replied firmly, her gaze locked with Zhou Huaijin's. She prevented him from continuing. He had treated her too well for her to betray him simply to pursue a life of her own. She had her own principles to uphold.
Ouyang Mingjing observed the couple, one willing to make sacrifices while the other vehemently opposed. Yet, they were acting for each other's sake.
He smiled wryly
"But I haven't finished yet. Don't be so hasty. Snow Territory needs Phoenix Girl because some elder figures within Snow Territory are on the verge of rebellion, inciting the populace to overthrow me. I lack the power to counter them alone," Ouyang Mingjing explained.
" " · · · ·



"...»

"You can accompany me to Snow Territory to retrieve the Fire Lotus and stage a performance together. Once I have achieved my goal, our act will come to an end," Ouyang Mingjing proposed, his gaze fixed on Gu Chaoyan.

He was well aware that if he insisted on marrying Phoenix Girl, he would still be unable to take her away under the current circumstances. However, by framing the marriage as a mere performance, he could create an opportunity to bring her along.