

## Divine 2301

### Chapter 2301: Mission 32

Gu Chaoyan offered a brief smile.

Then, she addressed the Emperor of Southern Mist with earnestness, saying, “Despite our disadvantageous terrain, if we can entice Chengqi’s forces to approach our border, we can strategically position low mountains as an ambush to ensnare them in a middle-ground trap.”

“Just this maneuver alone could result in significant losses for Chengqi’s troops. Furthermore, it will instill a sense of fear and apprehension in Chengqi, making them hesitant to attack.”

“Afterward, I will capture their prince, king, monarch, ninth-layer warrior, and sixth-layer warrior. I believe there is still a considerable disparity between us, isn’t there?” Gu Chaoyan expressed confidently.

“Very well, excellent plan. Let’s proceed!” The Emperor of Southern Mist found this plan entirely feasible. Moreover, Shen Lianxue had devised a strategy that hadn’t been contemplated previously. Historically, Southern Mist had relied on sheer force, never delving into the realm of strategic planning.

Emperor Southern Mist had complete trust in Shen Lianxue’s cultivation and intellect.

“In that case, I entrust everything to you. As long as we secure victory in the war, I will reward you with whatever you desire!” Emperor Southern Mist expressed his satisfaction, sealing his promise.

“Understood!” Gu Chaoyan affirmed.

The next step was to prepare for battle.

On this occasion, Emperor Southern Mist assigned a total of 30,000 elite troops to Shen Lianxue.

These 30,000 soldiers had previous experience on the battlefield and were well-acquainted with Chengqi's tactics.

As for Shen Lianxue, she was a newcomer to the role of a general.

Many among these soldiers held reservations about being led by Shen Lianxue.

Although her cultivation prowess was remarkable, she was, after all, a woman. Some doubted whether a woman could effectively lead troops into battle.

They harbored concerns that she might be either timid, overly emotional, or inexplicably compassionate.

Southern Mist had encountered setbacks due to female generals in the past.

Consequently, when Shen Lianxue assumed command of the troops, many of these soldiers held reservations and displayed a degree of disdain. Throughout the journey, they remained somewhat aloof.

Gu Chaoyan paid little mind to these attitudes, having confronted numerous challenges herself.

As long as she executed her duties effectively, everything would fall into place.

After three days of marching, exhaustion had taken its toll on everyone. Their initial vigor had dwindled for several reasons. Firstly, the lengthy journey had drained their stamina. Secondly, while they had adequate rations, they were just sufficient for the extended expedition. Thirdly, discomfort had arisen due to adverse weather conditions.

And these...

Gu Chaoyan observed it all.

However, nobody conveyed these issues to her.

In their view, they were men and couldn't afford to lose face by seeking assistance from a woman. Moreover, their prior experiences with a female general had left them apprehensive and wary of any potential consequences.

Initially, Gu Chaoyan didn't address their needs, opting to teach them a lesson in the hopes of discouraging future insubordination.

As their endurance waned...

Gu Chaoyan emerged, providing medicinal pills to the wounded soldiers while instructing the others to prepare herbal remedies.

Upon consuming the pills, the heavily injured soldiers experienced rapid recoveries, leaving them feeling somewhat conflicted.

Firstly, they were astonished at the efficacy of the general's medicinal pills.

Secondly, they felt somewhat embarrassed. The general had offered them such potent pills, yet they had consistently underestimated her.

Their emotions were complicated for a moment.

The journey resumed.

Those who had taken the medicine experienced marked improvements in their well-being.

As for those who remained steadfast in refusing the treatment, they continued to endure discomfort..

Chapter 2302: Mission 33

Those who had taken the medicine began to perceive that this female general possessed competence and wasn't so bad, after all.

After all...

Despite their frequent deployments to the border for combat, they had never received such exceptional treatment before.

Now, they felt light and rejuvenated.

When it was time for the next dose of medicine, those who had already partaken of it couldn't help but persuade the holdouts, "Drink it. Why fight to the death? By the time we reach the border, you might not have the strength to endure further combat.'

The stubborn individuals relented under this persuasive appeal.

None of them were foolish. Those who had consumed the medicine were in high spirits, and they could naturally endure for extended periods on the battlefield. In fact, in good condition, they might even escape unscathed. In their current state, they were at risk of being easily overcome on the battlefield. This issue pertained to their lives, and nobody wished to jeopardize it out of pride.

They weren't fools.

With lowered heads, they consumed the medicine.

"I've heard that this female general has a master. There are plenty of these rumors circulating. I just hope that when we truly face war, she won't let us down." Although they had ingested the medicine, there were still some lingering doubts they wanted to voice.

Their comments were met with silence.

Some who had benefited from the medicine chose to remain silent, reluctant to utter anything derogatory about the female general.

Thankfully, they had little time to linger. They resumed their journey immediately, arriving at the border after another day of travel.

Gu Chaoyan also heaved a sigh of relief; they had expended considerable time on the road.

Fortunately, they had finally reached their destination.

He yearned to swiftly resolve the impending war and accomplish the mission promptly.

“The border is just ahead. Keep your spirits high and heed my commands,” Gu

Chaoyan declared in a magnanimous manner.

She appointed the deputy general to oversee the ambush.

As for herself, she led the troops to the forefront, providing support and overseeing the lure.

She had left behind a total of 22,000 soldiers for the ambush while leading 8,000 soldiers forward.

Initially, these soldiers found it difficult to accept this strategy, but as time passed, a revelation seemed to dawn upon them.

In the past, no one had ever conceived of such a tactic for warfare.

If they succeeded, it might well result in a victory for Southern Mist.

This decision led many to perceive this female general as being fundamentally different from her predecessor. She demonstrated intelligence and decisiveness.

Unperturbed by their perceptions, Gu Chaoyan proceeded to the frontlines with her 8,000 troops.

Upon reaching the border, the Southern Mist general there appeared despondent upon observing the limited reinforcement. “The emperor has only sent this small force?”

“It’s all over, it’s all over.”

Only then did Gu Chaoyan grasp the dire situation. There were at least 20,000 Chengqi troops arrayed against them, while Southern Mist, already the weaker side, had only 10,000 troops left at the border. Gu Chaoyan had brought only a few thousand soldiers with her, and despite not matching Chengqi in terms of strength, they still possessed fewer troops than Chengqi. How could they possibly secure a victory? Southern Mist was bound to suffer heavy casualties.

The Southern Mist soldiers’ morale plummeted.

Conversely, the Chengqi soldiers were filled with confidence.

“With such scant reinforcements, you still dare to challenge Chengqi? Perhaps it would be wiser to surrender the city here and now,” the Chengqi general boomed with laughter.

“Engage!” Gu Chaoyan wasted no time and initiated the confrontation with Chengqi.

The border’s Southern Mist general brimmed with anxiety..

## Chapter 2303: Mission 34

Under these circumstances, there was no need for combat. A more prudent approach would have been to adopt a defensive stance.

He ascended with a pained expression.

Gu Chaoyan and the 8,000 soldiers accompanying her were well-versed in their strategy. They tactically retreated, ensuring their safety.

As the forces from Southern Mist began to withdraw, those from Chengqi grew even more arrogant. They contemplated pursuing the retreating Southern Mist troops, intending to defeat them before returning to claim their rewards.

Meanwhile, Southern Mist's people continued their hasty retreat in all directions, prompting Cheng Qi's men to consider pursuing them.

Southern Mist was left virtually empty, lacking both significant reinforcements and led by a female general. The question arose: what utility did they hold?

As expected, Chengqi's men gave chase, unknowingly leading themselves into a cunning trap set by Southern Mist.

Upon arriving at the ambush site, Southern Mist's soldiers swarmed from all directions, encircling their unsuspecting pursuers.

With over 10,000 individuals in pursuit, Gu Chaoyan's troops combined with the 22,000 concealed ambushers left Chengqi with no hope of overcoming Southern Mist's might, no matter how formidable they were.

At that moment,

Regret filled Cheng Qi's forces. Their lack of caution had led them into a perilous trap within Southern Mist's territory.

Moreover,

The presence of mountains surrounding them made it impossible for their horses to escape.

They had forgotten a crucial lesson: never chase a desperate enemy, especially one who has led you into their own territory.

There was no time for reflection; their situation demanded immediate action.

In an instant, they were overwhelmed, unable to resist, and met their demise on the battlefield.

Upon witnessing this dire situation, Cheng Qi's general chose to sacrifice himself.

He believed he no longer deserved to live.

Gu Chaoyan was taken aback.

It became clear why Chengqi had consistently emerged victorious. Their general possessed unparalleled determination.

"Let's honor Chengqi's general with a proper burial; such a valiant soldier deserves nothing less," Gu Chaoyan declared with a solemn expression. "Now, let's gather our belongings and depart."

"Yes, General Shen. We will follow your lead," the deputy general responded with a respectful smile.

Victory!

This was a victory of monumental significance, a once-in-a-century triumph!

Upon returning, promotions were assured, and their family's standing in Nanlan would soar.

How could they not be elated?

Aside from the burial of a general, they would do whatever it took. Gu Chaoyan was not just a woman; she was their great leader, deserving of their utmost reverence.

Gu Chaoyan nodded approvingly.

She then instructed them to commence the battlefield cleanup.

The people of Southern Mist were brimming with joy.



They wholeheartedly engaged in the cleanup effort.

Gu Chaoyan observed their determination. After completing the task,

They proudly proceeded to the border city.

The general stationed at the border wore a somber expression. Initially prepared to oversee the collection of fallen comrades, he couldn't believe his eyes when he witnessed a substantial contingent of Southern Mist soldiers emerging. He repeatedly rubbed his eyes, wondering if he was hallucinating. How many had been unaccounted for, and where had they all come from?

"What's happening here?" the border general inquired.

Before Gu Chaoyan could respond, the deputy chimed in, "This is all part of our general's strategy. We set up an ambush here, and our general lured the enemy into it. It's a remarkable victory, a once-in-a-lifetime triumph, the likes of which hasn't been seen in 800 years. We've inflicted 14,000 casualties on Chengqi's forces, with only 300 losses on our side—200 of them wounded, and just 100 fatalities."

"Well...

The border general struggled to digest this unbelievable turn of events. Simultaneously, he couldn't help but acknowledge Shen Lianxue's exceptional prowess.

Furthermore, learning that he was a Ninth Heaven Warrior only deepened their admiration.

Without delay, he warmly welcomed them and initiated discussions about their next steps..

## Chapter 2304: Mission 35

The loss of fourteen thousand soldiers was indeed a significant blow to Chengqi. However, it only managed to dent Chengqi's strength slightly, far from enough to truly overthrow them.

The next move from Chengqi would undoubtedly be a more relentless and aggressive counterattack, driven by both the need to bolster their morale and seek revenge. Therefore, devising a solid countermeasure was imperative. After makeshift quarters were established by various generals,

The deputy general from Gu Chaoyan's ranks suggested, "General, we could continue to lay in ambush and inflict further damage, potentially targeting tens of thousands.'

It was a show of admiration that this deputy general, like others in the past, was now addressed as "general."

"No," Gu Chaoyan immediately rejected the idea.

"Why not?" The surprise was evident on everyone's faces. Given the magnitude of today's victory, this approach seemed highly effective. Why wouldn't it work?

"Chengqi has suffered a major defeat for the first time. They won't be so eager to pursue us and risk falling into an ambush again. The border city remains vulnerable at any moment. This method is suitable for catching the enemy off guard once, but it's not sustainable," Gu Chaoyan explained.

"So, what should we do?" the deputy general inquired, mirroring the doubts of others.

Gu Chaoyan contemplated the next steps.

What was the best course of action?

A surprise ambush was ruled out, and a direct confrontation was beyond Southern Mist's capabilities.

Well...

"A surprise assault, " Gu Chaoyan declared with determination.

"How do we go about that?"

“I will handle this personally. To capture the bandits, I’ll apprehend the prince, the king, and the monarch. I’ll abduct their generals, throwing Chengqi into disarray. Then, I’ll leverage my position to negotiate with Chengqi,” Gu Chaoyan said with a confident smile.

“I’m coming with you,” Gu Chaoyan’s assistant asserted directly.

He believed that there was no harm in accompanying the general. In fact, he saw it as an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution.

“No need, I’ll go alone,” Gu Chaoyan replied.

She was well aware of the deputy general’s intentions, and if he joined her, it would disrupt her plans. Besides, she had a distinct strategy in mind and preferred to go solo.

The deputy general looked disappointed but acquiesced, saying, “Very well.” There would be other chances for him to contribute; he could be patient.

“Do you think you can handle it on your own?” inquired the border general.

“I am a Ninth Heaven Warrior; capturing a Chengqi general won’t pose a problem,” Gu Chaoyan replied confidently.

As darkness cloaked the sky,

She set off without delay.

Gu Chaoyan was not merely a Ninth Heaven Warrior; her true cultivation was that of a Martial God. If she concealed her aura carefully, no one in Chengqi’s border city would detect her presence.

Among Chengqi’s ranks, there were four generals at the level of Chengqi warriors. One of them had self-destructed today, leaving only three. Gu Chaoyan intended to capture two of them and leave one behind, ensuring a balance between Southern Mist and Chengqi.

The human heart’s desires were insatiable.

If Southern Mist gained too much dominance over Chengqi, the Emperor of Southern Mist might harbor ambitions of swallowing Chengqi whole. However, Gu Chaoyan did not wish to see unnecessary loss of life.

Her objective was simply to establish a delicate equilibrium between Southern Mist and Chengqi.

Therefore, she embarked on this mission personally.

Her intention was clear: once these two generals were captured, she had no further plans.

With this determination, Gu Chaoyan approached her target directly.

Her keen senses swiftly led her to the source of their aura.

Subsequently, they located the tents of the two generals.

Swiftly and decisively, she incapacitated them and had them discreetly removed from the area..

## Chapter 2305: Mission 36

Balancing on one shoulder, Gu Chaoyan moved with the agility of a swallow.

In no time, she returned.

Despite the darkness, Southern Mist's soldiers and generals patiently awaited her arrival.

Upon seeing their dedication, Gu Chaoyan couldn't help but feel touched. She gently lowered the man from her shoulder and explained, "I managed to seize two of Chengqi's generals, but I couldn't defeat him, so I returned."

“These two alone could prove valuable assets for us.”

“Put them away for now and get some rest. We’ll discuss our strategy tomorrow,” Gu Chaoyan casually suggested.

Her nonchalant tone left the Southern Mist soldiers wide-eyed in astonishment.

This was the first time they had followed such a fearless and capable general. It seemed as if there was nothing they needed to do; she had handled everything effortlessly.

In a single swoop, she had captured two generals who once struck fear into the hearts of Southern Mist’s soldiers.

And now, they were being told to get some sleep.

Sleep?

It was an unexpected turn of events.

After the two captives were secured, the soldiers dispersed.

The following day, everyone was revitalized and enjoyed a hearty breakfast.

Only then did they gather in a leisurely manner.

Gu Chaoyan approached with a general in each hand and challenged, “Are you still thinking of fighting? Let Southern Mist be the first to touch these two generals’ necks.”

“What!” Chengqi’s soldiers murmured to one another in disbelief.

Earlier that morning, they had discovered the disappearance of their two generals but were clueless about the situation. Now, they found the missing generals in the hands of Southern Mist.

Panic and confusion swept through Chengqi's ranks.

Losing three generals in quick succession was a grave concern. How could they dare to plunge recklessly into a war now?

"What's your condition for releasing our general?" The lone Martial Warrior general in Chengqi inquired.

"That depends on how sincere you are," Gu Chaoyan replied with a smile.

Without hesitation, Chengqi withdrew his troops.

Thus, Gu Chaoyan departed with her forces.

The deputy general posed a peculiar question, "Should we cease fighting now?"

Gu Chaoyan playfully knocked him on the head. "What are you thinking? Do you honestly believe you can defeat him?"

While it was acceptable to use their numerical advantage for intimidation, a direct confrontation was beyond their capabilities.

Was he challenging the general to a fight?

"I can't beat him," the deputy general admitted gloomily.

"Then what's the point of discussing it further? Don't you think winning is enough? Do you want to court defeat again?" Gu Chaoyan retorted.

"No, I don't."

"Then take these two captives back and collect the rewards. Don't get yourself into trouble," Gu Chaoyan advised bluntly.

“Yes, yes, yes.”

Gu Chaoyan ceased speaking when she noticed his complete compliance.

He hoisted the two generals onto his shoulders and departed.

The two captured generals, humbled by their predicament, couldn't even muster the courage to look up.

Once they had set things right,

Gu Chaoyan commenced her arrangements.

Recognizing that the border had a shortage of troops, she assigned additional soldiers to remain at the border while some accompanied her back.

These soldiers found it to be the oddest and easiest battle they had ever experienced. It didn't feel like they had won the battle without exerting any effort; instead, it felt like a monumental victory.

Such an extraordinary turn of events was unlikely to recur.

General Shen would need to pay regular visits in the future.

Gu Chaoyan asked Lady You to provide some herbs for the soldiers to have when needed, a gesture that Lady You could later call upon for a favor.

This would undoubtedly serve Lady You well in the future.

On the journey back.....

Lady You was responsible for tending to the sick soldiers, so Gu Chaoyan found herself performing a similar role.

The return journey was notably swifter.

The citizens of Southern Mist and the emperor personally welcomed them upon their arrival.

For these soldiers, it was a tremendous honor to be greeted in such a manner.

After all...

After all, they hadn't felt as though they had done much at all.

"Lianxue, I appreciate your hard work!" Emperor Southern Mist expressed his gratitude with a smile, then turned his attention to the two generals confined in a cage behind him. "These are Chengqi's generals, correct?"

"Yes, Chengqi has only four warrior-level generals. One perished on the battlefield, and two are now in our custody. Chengqi will need to send envoys for negotiations, and when the time comes, the King will not hold back. Training two warrior-level generals takes considerable time and effort, and they won't overlook it," Gu Chaoyan explained.

The Emperor of Southern Mist gestured for someone to handle the captives.

Then, he proceeded to the court alongside Gu Chaoyan.

He left with the entourage.

Emperor Southern Mist expressed a trace of dissatisfaction, saying, "We've won this battle with such ease, so why not continue? If we pursue further, it would be prudent to seize Chengqi's border city. This way, Chengqi would be no match for us whatsoever. Haven't they always sought to annex us? We may as well turn the tables and annex them."



The emperor's words carried a hint of frustration.

Gu Chaoyan anticipated his thoughts.

Indeed, human greed knew no bounds.

"Your Majesty, we lack the strength to pursue further. While our unexpected victory has emboldened us, continued pursuit could lead to losses for Southern Mist," Gu Chaoyan cautioned.

"It's best to quit while you're ahead. Not only will you instill fear in Chengqi, but you'll also drain their resources significantly. In the coming years, it's essential to conserve our strength. It will be wiser to prepare for future battles," Gu Chaoyan advised.

Although Emperor Southern Mist felt a sense of regret, he couldn't dispute her counsel.

Nonetheless, he wasn't entirely pleased.

At this point, Shen Lianxue had gained an almost god-like status in Nanlan, nearly rivaling his own position as the emperor. Thus, he found himself in a perplexing situation, struggling with an indescribable feeling.

Gu Chaoyan glanced at the King of Southern Mist and inquired, "Your Majesty, before the battle, you mentioned that if we emerged victorious, you would agree to Lianxue's conditions. Is that still the case?"

"Whatever you desire, whether it's gold, silver, or jewelry," Emperor Southern Mist replied, still somewhat downcast.

"I don't want gold, silver, or jewelry," Gu Chaoyan clarified.

Emperor Southern Mist's expression darkened.

"A few years ago, my mother suffered mistreatment within the Shen family. I endured the same in the Shen family. Now that we've won the war, I have no other requests. My only wish is to provide

my mother with a secure life away from the Shen family and help establish a new life for another woman. I plan to leave with my Master, and I may not return for many years. I worry about my mother's well-being in the Shen family," Shen Lianxue explained.

Upon hearing this, the Emperor of Southern Mist found himself feeling somewhat reassured.

Shen Lianxue wanted to depart and stay away indefinitely, while Lady You aspired to establish her independence from the Shen family.

If that was the case...

He wasn't concerned about the Shen family's potential dominance over the world. In his view, no matter how influential a woman became, her capabilities would have limited impact.

"Very well. I had no idea the Shen family would treat you this way," Emperor

Southern Mist acknowledged. "Rest assured, once you've left the Shen family, I'll bestow an honorary title upon your mother. Even without the Shen family, no one will dare to mistreat her."

"Furthermore, I'll provide her with a spacious courtyard and ample gold, silver, and jewelry. You need not worry about your mother's well-being," the emperor assured..

## Chapter 2307: Return 1

Observing the Emperor's attitude, Gu Chaoyan deduced that he would ensure Lady You's safety for several years, protecting her from any potential harm by the Shen Family.

A few years down the road.

As long as Lady You cultivated diligently using the pills she had concocted, no one in Nanlan would dare to threaten her.

This brought a sense of relief to Gu Chaoyan.

“I genuinely appreciate your kindness on behalf of my mother,” Gu Chaoyan expressed her gratitude sincerely.

“You’ve made a significant contribution, so it’s only fitting for me to extend this protection. You may depart. Leave the rest to me,” Emperor Southern Mist stated plainly.

Gu Chaoyan bowed and departed.

Watching her leave, Emperor Southern Mist smiled thoughtfully.

Initially, he had felt a sense of regret. It was unfortunate that Shen Lianxue was a woman, as it complicated matters. However, her victorious return had changed his perspective. Observing the people of Southern Mist, he couldn’t help but feel relieved that both Shen Lianxue and her mother were women. This situation made it necessary for the royal family to protect them.

This situation suited him well.

As for Chengqi...

Chengqi had lost one warrior-cultivated general, with the other two now in his custody. All that remained was a single general with warrior-level cultivation on Chengqi’s side. Currently, Southern Mist and Chengqi stood on equal footing.

However, with enough patience, Chengqi would eventually meet his demise at Emperor Southern Mist’s hands.

Lady You could consistently refine pills on a set schedule. With the availability of pills, there was no need to worry about Southern Mist’s lack of growth or the absence of capable generals.

The thought of this dispelled most of the gloominess from Emperor Southern Mist’s face, replacing it with a smile. He turned to the imperial eunuch beside him and demanded, “What are you still doing here? Didn’t you hear what I said earlier? Hurry and make the necessary arrangements.”

The imperial eunuch was momentarily stunned but quickly comprehended. He nodded and bowed, responding, “Yes, yes, yes. I’ll handle it promptly and efficiently.”

Emperor Southern Mist nodded in approval.

Gu Chaoyan exited the court and made her way to the Shen family’s clan.

In the Shen clan, representatives from various branches, both major and minor, had assembled to welcome Shen Lianxue. Most of them were eager to establish a presence in front of Shen Lianxue, anticipating the remarkable future benefits that might come their way.

Gu Chaoyan courteously greeted them before seeking out Lady You.

Lady You was in the midst of organizing her belongings.

Upon seeing her return, Lady You inquired gently, “How did it go?”

“The King has agreed,” Gu Chaoyan responded. However, as she spoke, she cast a worried glance at Lady You. Eventually, she withdrew her gaze and continued, “Mother, there’s something I need to inform you about. Master has summoned me for an important matter, and I’m afraid I won’t be back for a few days. Once you’ve left the Shen Family, focus on pill-making and cultivation. If anything arises...”

“Use this to contact me if needed.” Gu Chaoyan hesitated but ultimately extended a fragment of her divine consciousness to Lady You.

“Alright.” Although Lady You couldn’t hide her reluctance, she refrained from asking her to stay.

She understood all too well..

Over the years, Lian Xue had endured an excessive amount of suffering, and the Shen family was not a place where she and her daughter could find protection.

Leaving the Shen family was merely the initial step.

In the days to come, they would need to support themselves independently. In this regard, Lian Xue aspired to grow stronger. While she was no longer young, her daughter, Lianxue, was still in her prime, with many years ahead of her. Stopping here was insufficient; they had to strive for further progress. No one should dare to mistreat them lightly.

Lady You was far from foolish.

Her years of enduring inhumane treatment had forged her into an exceptionally rational person.

She understood that indulging in luxury was an unrealistic desire.

Gu Chaoyan was taken aback by Lady You's sudden transformation.

This change brought Gu Chaoyan a greater sense of confidence, especially as she prepared to leave.

At this point, Gu Chaoyan had been outside the court for a while, and the imperial edict was about to arrive. The King of Southern Mist had allocated a mansion for her, chastised the Shen Family for their treatment of Lady You and Shen Lianxue, and demoted the Shen Family. He bestowed a title upon Lady You. The court officials then assisted Lady You and Shen Lianxue in relocating.

The Shen family was utterly flabbergasted. They had initially expected to revel in the prosperity brought about by Lady You and Shen Lianxue's return, possibly attaining high-ranking positions in Southern Mist. However, they were blindsided when Lady You and Shen Lianxue took the Shen family to task. Not only did they fail to reap any rewards, but their prospects in Southern Mist appeared bleak.

Within the Shen family clan, they shifted the blame entirely onto Shen Chengwang, who was subsequently expelled from both the Shen family and the Shen clan.

After resolving this matter, the Shen clan elders ventured to Lady You's new residence. They intended to use this opportunity to dissuade Lady You from further conflicts with the Shen family. However, despite their prolonged wait outside, Lady You did not make an appearance.

Shen Chengwang, along with his entourage, also made daily visits to Lady You's residence to plead for leniency.

Ultimately, the imperial authorities intervened and ordered him to leave.

As for these developments...

Gu Chaoyan remained unaware.

This was because, on the second day after relocating to the mansion, she departed.

Currently, she found herself in the chaotic spacetime, undergoing a rigorous training process.

In just three days, the tempering process was completed within the chaotic spacetime.

Gu Chaoyan felt as though she had been purified after attaining the cultivation level of a Paragon. At different levels of cultivation, she experienced distinct sensations. She left the refining area feeling lighter than ever.

The chaotic spacetime observed her condition and was in good spirits. "Take a few days to rest, and then return to the chaotic spacetime promptly to continue your missions. Subsequent missions will assist you in advancing your cultivation. "

"Understood." Gu Chaoyan responded calmly and had no inclination to engage in conversation with the chaotic spacetime.

She hastily departed, intending to resolve matters related to the Shenyong Dynasty.

“It’s becoming more and more like the past,” the chaotic spacetime grumbled discontentedly. In the past, Gu Chaoyan had been so talkative. Prior to missions, she would engage in a lot of idle chatter. But now, having just elevated her cultivation level, she had reverted to her quiet disposition. Thus...

Gu Chaoyan, who had already left the room, remained oblivious to these comments.

At this moment, within the chamber, she opened her eyes and stretched her long-unused muscles. Gazing upon the familiar surroundings of the Supreme Sect, she couldn’t help but feel a sense of unreality. She had abruptly transitioned from one familiar place to another, leaving her mood in a state of fluctuation..

## Chapter 2309: Return 3

Taking a deep breath, Gu Chaoyan made an effort to compose herself before leaving her room.

She pushed the door open, instantly feeling the influx of spiritual energy. It was an incredibly refreshing and comfortable sensation, a stark contrast to the thin spiritual energy in Southern Mist Country.

Shaking her head slightly, Gu Chaoyan mentally set aside thoughts of Southern Mist for the moment.

At that instant, Di Hongyun and the leader of the Undead Race swarmed around her, surrounding Gu Chaoyan.

“Girl, you’ve had a breakthrough!” The leader of the Undead Race sensed Gu Chaoyan’s aura and expressed joy.

While the leader of the Undead Race spoke first, Di Hongyun remained silent, his gaze fixed on Gu Chaoyan.

Gu Chaoyan nodded. “Yes, I successfully achieved a breakthrough. I am now a Paragon.”

The leader of the Undead Race gasped in astonishment.

The cultivation level of a Paragon Martial Saint.

It seemed that Gu Chaoyan didn't break through unless she reached the highest level. Once she did, it was enough to astound anyone.

Initially, the leader of the Undead Race had believed Gu Chaoyan had only attained the Paragon realm. He hadn't anticipated that she would directly reach the level of a Paragon.

Henceforth, the leader of the Undead Race refrained from entertaining further thoughts on the matter.

"How many days have passed?" Gu Chaoyan inquired.

She had spent half a month in Nanlan.

Although the mission had proceeded smoothly, and her breakthrough had been a resounding success, she couldn't help but worry that the Shenyong Dynasty's affairs might be delayed by the mission, potentially impacting the larger plan.

The leader of the Undead Race paused for a moment before answering, "Three days have passed."

"Over the past three days, we followed your instructions and waited outside without entering or disturbing you. I initially thought we would need to wait a few more days, but I didn't expect you to achieve the Paragon Martial Saint Realm in such a short time. It's truly astonishing."

"That Yan Zhengchu visited several times during this period, but I turned him away. We couldn't allow him to disrupt your progress," the leader of the Undead Race said, appearing quite pleased with himself. He believed that every action he took was deserving of praise.

Gu Chaoyan was still in a state of mild disbelief and didn't pay attention to his expression at all.

Only three days had elapsed?



Yet, half a month had passed during the mission.

Did this mean that time in the chaotic spacetime wasn't synchronized with time in this world?

In other words, the Southern Mist within the chaotic spacetime might not correspond to the same time as their current reality? Gu Chaoyan was suddenly filled with confusion.

After a long pause...

She calmly stated, "Go fetch Yan Zhengchu. We should discuss matters concerning the Shenyong Dynasty."

The head of the Undead Race pursed his lips.

He had explained so much, but it appeared that this girl hadn't paid any attention to him. It seemed there would be no reward for his efforts.

Reluctantly, he scurried off to find Yan Zhengchu.

Seizing the opportunity, Gu Chaoyan inspected Di Hongyun's cultivation. She felt pleased to see that he had made some progress.

"If you continue to cultivate like this, your progress will be swift," Gu Chaoyan remarked.

"Yes."

Gu Chaoyan then recollected that there were two other matters to address.

"Where are Little Dragon and White Deer?"

"They're right over there," Di Hongyun indicated a corner of the inner room.

Little Dragon and White Deer were nestled together, appearing as though they were asleep. It was a tranquil sight..

#### Chapter 2310: Return 4

Gu Chaoyan grinned.

Initially, she had been concerned that the young dragonman, who had a somewhat contentious relationship with the white deer, would continue causing trouble. The white deer was known for its mischievous nature, and she had feared that their pairing would lead to constant chaos. However, to her surprise, they had actually gotten along much better than she had anticipated. How could she not be thrilled?

In this moment, Gu Chaoyan finally felt like she had truly returned to this continent, instead of feeling the lingering discomfort of Southern Mist in her heart.

“It seems like they’re getting along quite well, so I can breathe easy,” Gu Chaoyan remarked.

Di Hongyun’s expression took on a peculiar twist.

He couldn’t help but think that his junior sister was being overly optimistic.

Did she genuinely believe that these two companions were getting along well?

The reality was that they were currently exhausted and had finally found a moment of respite in sleep. If they were to wake up, it would likely be chaos all over again.

“Little Junior Sister, take care,” Di Hongyun had initially intended to say more, but he decided to remain silent instead.

There wasn’t much else to do except let his Little Junior Sister enjoy a brief period of tranquility. It could be seen as the calm before the storm.

Meanwhile...

Yan Zhengchu rushed to the scene.

He had been around for the past few days, but Gu Chaoyan had been deeply engrossed in her cultivation and had declined to meet with him. He had been growing increasingly anxious, believing that he would have to wait for an extended period to see her. However, today, someone arrived. Seeing him, Gu Chaoyan felt a wave of relief wash over her.

The Shenyong Dynasty was effectively saved.

"You're finally out," Yan Zhengchu exclaimed emotionally as he entered.

"Please tell me what's happening."

"Well, that Paragon Martial God expert doesn't appear to be in a rush to attack the Shenyong Dynasty. However, these aristocratic families have been facing constant difficulties during this period. The Zhang Family's members are taking turns visiting these aristocratic households. They are either creating troubles for them or making direct demands. These noble families are enduring unbearable hardships, but they are powerless against the Zhang Family."

"As for the imperial family, they are currently in a passive observation mode. However, I am well aware that even though the imperial family remains unaffected for now, their turn will come sooner or later. Right now, they are merely watching and trying to protect themselves. Once these aristocratic families are weakened or disappear, that person will engulf the imperial family."

"If we don't return soon, I fear these families won't be able to hold on much longer."

"The Zhang Family has become a vile force, causing the most trouble," Yan Zhengchu explained the situation.

In his perspective...

It was acceptable for a few aristocratic families to suffer, but it was unthinkable for all of them to face troubles. Apart from the royal family, the Shenyong Dynasty relied on these noble houses for support.

Yan Zhengchu had been preparing for years to become the emperor of the Shenyong Dynasty. It would be a terrible waste if the dynasty were destroyed before he had the opportunity to take the throne.

That's why he was determined to protect these aristocratic families.

Gu Chaoyan looked at Yan Zhengchu and remarked, "You're more astute than the royal family."

It wasn't surprising that after injuring Yan Wuji, Yan Zhengchu had assessed the situation and refrained from attacking the Yan Clan. Instead, he attempted to make amends.

Such a person displayed intelligence in knowing what actions to take and what to avoid.

"Let's go. We should head back to the Shenyong Dynasty together. Besides dealing with that Paragon Martial God expert, it's in your best interest to secure the imperial power.."