

East Palace 711

Chapter 711: Shi Cai Lin, the Mastermind Behind the Scenes

On the imperial platform.

Emperor Xia's face was cold, and his eyes were bright. They were imbued with an immense majesty and the domineering aura of an emperor. He sat calmly on the fishing platform and watched the scene unfold before him. He was quite surprised that a small matter had involved so many people. The confrontation between the three Pavilion Elders, the Crown Prince, and the princes was within the expectations of the Bureau of Military Personnel and the military. They were still counting on Zhang Ronghua to develop a spiritual item so that they could kill the enemy and make a contribution. It was reasonable for them to do something good.

"Correct!" he said in a deep voice after sweeping his gaze around.

Everyone returned to their ranks. There was nothing else to report, and the court session ended.

He left from the side door on the left and walked towards the Ministry of Works.

When they arrived at the Spirit Research Department, they entered the office hall, followed by Ding Yi and the others.

Tang Bo closed the door of the hall. He had the lowest status here.

Zhang Ronghua sat on the main seat and pointed at the chair.

He sat down according to his status, his expression serious, his back straight, and only a third of his butt was sitting, as if he could stand up at any time.

Knowing that they did not understand, he simply said, "Xu Xing is my friend. I just mentioned it. I didn't expect it to cause so many changes. Fortunately, the appointment passed. You guys don't have to think too much."

“As long as it’s done by my lord, it’s all right!” Huang Zhongshi hurriedly expressed his loyalty. This subordinate will be the first to charge.”

Zhao Yi and Tang Bo cursed in their hearts, bootlicker! The words that came out of her mouth were as mushy as they could be, completely forgetting the words that she was cursing in her heart.

Zhang Ronghua instructed seriously,” After you go down, pick some valuable and powerful weapons and feys according to the list we made yesterday. Then, transfer some people. Ability is secondary. You must be able to take on things and withstand the wind and rain. No matter what test you face, you must stand firm.”

The three of them were all smart people. They could hear the hidden meaning in his words. His Excellency was going to do a big job and bring them to eat and drink. Excitement and joy filled their faces. They hurriedly expressed that they would do their best to pick out the “suitable” people before opening the door and leaving.

Haoran?” Zhang Ronghua frowned and looked confused.” Where’s Haoran?”

Ding Yi then remembered that he was fine when he came. He had asked the

Golden Scaled Mysterious Heavenly Army to bring him to the Ministry of Works and wait at the entrance. Why was he gone? “Did he go out of court?” he asked, scratching his head.

Other than this explanation, nothing else made sense.

“Yes.” Zhang Ronghua nodded.

He asked with a serious expression.

“Did you see anything in the court just now?”

Forget about Elder Hu and Elder Zeng," Ding Yi said seriously." The princes and Grand Secretary Cui will fight. The former will fight with His Highness, while the latter will be afraid of your power." "The left assistant minister of the Ministry of Works, Yan Lihua, is the Second Prince's man, and the right assistant minister, Shi Dailong, is the First Prince's man. Although we were on their home ground, we could still suppress them for a while if we had just arrived. After Cui Jiancheng and He Jianzhi fell, we added the power of the Fire Spirit Oil, the horizontal saber, and the Poison Plague Bead on top of the foundation of the Flame Thunder Bead. We showed great potential and were like the sun in the sky. Even if Fu Kun wanted to suppress them, we didn't need to do anything. The Ministry of War and the military wouldn't agree either." "What did you realize?" Zhang Ronghua asked again.

"To forge iron, you need to be tough yourself. If you are not tough enough, or if you do not have enough benefits, others will not offend other forces for you." "Not bad." Zhang Ronghua smiled.

"Brother, what did you and Xu Xing talk about last night?" Ding Yi was puzzled and asked the doubt in his heart.

Zhang Ronghua briefly explained the situation.

After listening.

"He takes all the good things," said Ding Yi enviously.

There was still one thing he did not understand.

"How did Xu Xing persuade Elder Hu and Elder Ceng?"

He pondered for a moment.

"Don't forget that he's the Commandery Prince of Baiyun," said Zhang

Ronghua.

“A connection left behind by Mother?”

“It should be!”

Other than this, the other explanations did not make sense. In this way, the doubts were resolved. Even if there was a difference, the difference would not be too big.

Footsteps sounded and stopped outside the palace door. The palace door knocked. Pei Haoran’s voice came from outside.” Brother Hua, are you guys inside?”

The two of them looked at each other and saw ridicule in their eyes.

“I’ll open the door,” Ding Yi stood up from his chair.

He walked over and opened the door.

“Don’t tell me she really went to the outhouse?” she teased.

Pei Haoran looked as if he had seen a ghost. How did he know?

Ding Yi couldn’t hold it in anymore. He laughed exaggeratedly.

The door closed and the two of them sat down on the chairs.

Pei Haoran explained,” I drank too much water in the morning. I stayed at the entrance of the Ministry of Works for a while and suddenly wanted to go out. I asked the Golden Scale Mysterious Heavenly Army at the entrance to bring me to the toilet.”

He continued.

“Brother Hua, guess what I heard in the outhouse?”

“What?”

“Cui Jiancheng has resigned!”

Zhang Ronghua’s reaction was calm. It was within his expectations. At least it would look better if he resigned. Otherwise, if he continued to apply for leave, the censor would attack him. At that time, he would lose his official position and lose even more face.” It’s normal.’ He looked at Ding Yi.

“Take Haoran to complete the procedures.”

“Yes.” Ding Yi stood up from his chair.

The procedure for a civil official was simple. After he passed, he just had to register with the Ministry of Works. However, it was very difficult to get out of the “cruel official”. Without a connection to the heavens, one would still be an official for the rest of their life.

It could stump others, but not Pei Haoran.

Whether it was his father or Zhang Ronghua, both of them could solve this problem.

The Spirit Research Department was now a hot topic. Even the opposing factions wanted to arrange for people to come in and ride on Zhang Ronghua’s free ride. They wanted to take credit for their promotion..

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When the power of the weapons, armors, and spiritual items increased, even though Zhang Ronghua had taken the biggest part, the people who participated could also drink the soup. With this contribution, Pei Haoran's transformation from an official to an official could be resolved. With some operation, he would be at least a ninth grade official. Then, he would be transferred to the Scholar Hall to be gilded. When his qualifications were full, he would be promoted very quickly.

After they left.

Zhang Ronghua poured a cup of tea and took a sip. He thought about the follow-up of the Supreme Nirvana Life Technique. If he hadn't experienced these changes before, he wouldn't have been in a hurry. After these things, regardless of the Crown Prince's factor, Emperor Xia couldn't be harmed. At least, before his power was formed, he had to be well.

When the power was formed, the court and the army would occupy a decisive position. In addition to their cultivation, whether it was against the Grand Tutor, the Empress, or any changes in the court, they would be able to take the lead and let Xia operate according to their own will.

After settling the matters at hand, he began to create an even more powerful cultivation technique to increase his lifespan.

Without wasting any time, he entered the inner room and sat on the blanket.

The Black Yellow Heaven Opening Art had broken through to the third realm of perfection, which was enough for the time being. He did not need to cultivate. It was impossible to advance to the fourth realm of perfection in a short period of time unless he absorbed more Dao runes and took shortcuts. Perhaps it was possible.

The Eternal Indestructible Technique was only at the initial stages of the first realm. Although it was as difficult to advance as it was, it was not difficult for him to advance to the second realm with his talent. Once he reached the second realm, he would be able to control more time power. Whether it was using the Mantra Focus Art, researching, or using it in other aspects, he would have a lot of foundation.

He twisted his hands and changed his hand seals. When cultivating this god technique, his aura was restrained and did not emit any strange phenomena. He was immersed in his cultivation...

Fifteen minutes later.

Laughter and laughter came from outside. Hearing the sound, Zhang Ronghua ended his cultivation and opened his eyes. He stood up from the ground and walked out.

Brother?” Ding Yi was just about to open the door when he saw the palace door open. He was stunned.”
Brother, so fast?”

“Is it done?” Zhang Ronghua glared at him and asked. “From now on, Haoran is a member of the Ministry of Works.” “Go to the research and development hall.”

He closed the door and walked out. The two of them followed him.

At this point.

Huang Zhongshi, Zhao Yi, and Tang Bo stood in the courtyard with dozens of people. They seemed to have been waiting for a long time. Their eyes lit up and they quickly went up to greet him. They bowed with their hands clasped.”

Greetings, sir!”

“Yes.” Zhang Ronghua replied.

The three of them had the foresight to retreat to the side and stand behind.

Looking at the people in front of him, they were relatively old. The youngest was around 30 years old, which was normal. Even if they were young when they entered, they were old after all these years of polishing. To be able to be selected from the crowd to stand here, they were all their confidants. Their abilities still needed to be tested.

“Have you arranged the job for the class?”

“It’s already been arranged. It won’t delay the work at hand.” Huang Zhongshi bowed.

“Follow me!”

After saying this, he walked towards the largest refining hall of the Spirit Research Department.

Everyone followed.

After entering the Weapon Refinement Hall, the door was closed. The space was huge and the materials were more complete. The layout was similar to other Weapon Refinement Halls and could accommodate more people. Dozens of people stood here, but it didn’t seem crowded at all.

Without any instructions, they stood in four rows. It was so quiet that even a pin drop could be heard.

“What level are they in refining?” Zhang Ronghua asked with his hands behind his back.

“The lowest is the minor accomplishment of the second realm. The highest is the fifth realm of Returning to True. There are also the five realms of Human-made Talisman Arts, Traps Arts, and Puppet Arts.”

Zhang Ronghua was quite surprised. The Ministry of Works was indeed a place where talents gathered. However, he was also relieved. The population of the Great Xia Dynasty was countless. Other than those hidden among the people, it was not strange for them to have such a foundation. This way, the following plan became even simpler.

What he wanted was not as simple as improving the power of weapons, armors, materials, feys, and so on. He also wanted to nurture a group of talents. There were two benefits. Firstly, he wanted to speed up the research and development of these things and improve their power in the shortest time possible. Otherwise, it would take a long time to improve all the feys on his own even if he did not eat or drink. Secondly, even if Gao Sheng left the Spirit Research Department, with them around, he could still continuously develop powerful feys.

In this position, promotion was one thing. On the other hand, just like what he had said to Ding Yi previously, he had to do something for the people of the world and the soldiers at the border.

I'll be serious in a while. Study hard. Ask me if you don't understand anything. Don't hide or hide anything. Don't be afraid of embarrassing yourself."

"Yes!" Everyone replied excitedly.

Zhang Rong Hua stretched out his palm, and Huang Zhong Shi handed over the list that he had prepared. He started with the simple ones, such as armors, bows, and crossbows. They were very powerful, but after modification, their power would be increased by half. Once they were put into the battlefield, they would become the most terrifying weapons. The first one recorded was armor. It was very simple, and it didn't even have a name, but it was worn by low-level soldiers.

Huang Zhongshi took out the materials for refining the armor and placed them on the table.

Zhang Ronghua waved his hand, signaling for them to gather around. There were three materials in total: Iron Ore, Mystical Sky Powder, and Green Vine Liquid. He pointed at an old man." What's your name?"

"My lord, my name is Qin Shouyi.."

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"What level of craftsmanship?" "Five States of Returning to True."

"Do you know him?" asked Zhang Ronghua.

Qin Shouyi replied respectfully, "Iron and stone are the main materials for refining armors. Mystical Sky Powder reduces weight, and Green Vine Liquid increases toughness. They're all common materials. They're cheap, and you can have as many as you want."

How can I increase my defense and toughness by half without changing my weight?"

Since Zhang Ronghua had increased the power of the Fire Spirit Oil, the horizontal saber, and the Poisonous Plague Pearl by half yesterday, they had been studying how to increase the power of other items, starting from the commonly used weapons and armors. They had been thinking for a long time but could not find a way.

Take armor for example. If one only increased its defense and toughness, it would suffer more damage during a battle. There were many ways to resolve this problem. The simplest method was to add an Earth Kylin Stone to increase its power by about two times. That way, the weight would increase, and ordinary soldiers would not be able to withstand it.

Only a few people with special physiques or strong physiques could bear its weight.

"I don't know." Qin Shouyi shook his head.

"What about you guys?" Zhang Ronghua turned around and looked at the others.

Everyone shook their heads in confusion.

"Bring over the Earth Qilin Stone, Soft Water Stone, and Dark Sun Wood."

Huang Zhongshi became an errand boy. He quickly walked forward and took three materials from the iron rack at the side and placed them on the table.

Qin Shouyi reacted very quickly. "After refining the three materials and adding them in, the armor's weight won't change and its power will increase?"

“Try it?” Zhang Ronghua didn’t answer.

“That’s exactly what I’m thinking!”

Qin Shouyi stepped forward and lit the Spirit Heart Charcoal. The vigorous flames burned and enveloped the furnace. He opened the lid and waited for it to heat up. He looked at the six materials on the table and fell into deep thought. Should he put the first three or the last three?

If he placed the first three items in the container after refining them, then refined the last three items. By the time the refinement was successful, the materials in the container would have dried up. The reverse was also the case.

It was like a dead question, unsolvable!

Refining at the same time? It wasn’t that he hadn’t thought about it. The six materials had different attributes, so the success rate of failure was very high. After thinking for a while, he made up his mind to refine them together.

He threw the iron ore, earth kylin stone, and soft water stone into the furnace and used the token to control the flames to begin refining. He split his mind and ground the black sun wood into powder, placing it beside the black sky powder and green vine liquid.

Restraining his mind, he didn’t dare to be distracted and focused on refining the three materials. Iron Stone and Earth Qilin Stone were of the Yang attribute, while Soft Water Stone was of the Yin attribute. The Yin Qi it contained was very heavy, and fire and water clashed. If he wasn’t careful, he would fail and become a pile of useless materials.

Zhang Ronghua placed his hands behind his back and was quite satisfied. From his skillful movements, he was one of the stronger ones among the five states of Returning to True. He had a deep foundation. The only thing he lacked was fusion. He could master the attributes of all the materials and mix them at will to increase their power. Then, he would be able to break through to the sixth state of Near Dao.

After a while.

Qin Shouyi's eyes widened as cold sweat dripped down his forehead. He tried his best to control the flames, wanting to fuse the three materials together. However, the repulsion between the attributes wasn't so easy to resolve. In less than a minute, the liquid formed by the three materials exploded. The furnace shook violently, and a burnt smell spread out.

He put down the token and sighed helplessly. "I failed."

"Who wants to try?" Zhang Ronghua looked at the others and asked.

Everyone also thought that even Qin Shouyi couldn't do it. Even if he went up, he would still fail. They all shook their heads.

Zhang Ronghua commented, "The idea is good, but the method used is wrong. Forging an armor is the same as forging a human. It requires cooperation. For example, two people forging at the same time and then combining the materials at the first moment."

Qin Shouyi felt that he had done it again. His decadence was swept away and his fighting spirit was high. "I want to try again."

"Sure."

Qin Shouyi turned around and looked at an old man. His name was Li Yifeng, and he was a good friend of his. He had reached the acme of perfection in the fourth level of weapon refinement and the fifth level of Return to True in puppetry. They had worked together for many years and were both members of the Materials Hall.

"Greetings, my lord!" He took the initiative to step forward and bowed.

"Yes." Zhang Ronghua replied.

Qin Shouyi took the three materials for the armor while Li Yifeng took the three materials for the Earth Qilin Stone. They didn't waste any time and started to forge. Everyone was watching attentively, not wanting to miss a single thing.

Ding Yi and Pei Haoran were the same. By now, the two of them understood that as long as they added them, the armor would maintain its weight and increase its defense and toughness.

After a while.

Qin Shouyi's craftsmanship was a level higher, so he finished it first. He placed the stone liquid into the container and was about to add the Mystical Sky Powder and the Green Vine Liquid according to the ratio when he felt that it was inappropriate and stopped. He thought about it seriously and added the two materials into the armor. The armor was roughly formed, and then he added the Earth Qilin Stone and other materials. The weight still increased. The key was the order. He should first add the Black Yang Wood to neutralize the stone liquid, then add the Soft Water Stone and the Earth Qilin Stone, and finally add the Mystical Sky Powder and the Green Vine Liquid.

A minute later.

Li Yifeng extinguished the flame and walked over with the two materials and the Black Yang Wood. He placed them on the table.

Qin Shouyi started to add the ingredients according to what he had in mind. He stirred them evenly and finally placed them into the mold.

Clenching his hands tightly, he stared intently. Whether he could succeed or not depended on this moment.

Under everyone's gaze..

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The liquid in the mold cooled down and formed an armor. Unlike ordinary armor, this armor was very bright. Without even trying, one would know that it had failed. If it had succeeded, the color would not have changed. It would still be light black instead of dark black. It was almost like a black fungus!

“Sir, what’s going on?” Qin Shouyi asked humbly.

Everyone immediately looked over.

Zhang Ronghua walked forward with his hands behind his back. He stopped beside the furnace. Huang Zhongshi hurriedly took out another set of materials, including the three materials of the Earth Qilin Stone. He said, “Look carefully.”

He didn’t use the Phoenix Divine Fire to ignite the Spirit Heart Charcoal. He used the token to control the flames to the maximum, covering the entire furnace. It emitted a terrifying high temperature, scaring everyone into hurriedly taking a step back.

With a wave of his hand, he threw the Iron Stone, Earth Qilin Stone, and Soft Water Stone into the cave.

Qin Shouyi wanted to say that there was a high chance of failure, but when he thought of Daren’s abilities, he swallowed his words.

A few minutes later.

After removing the impurities from the three materials, he took out the liquid and placed it into three containers.” Anyone with some common sense knows that water and fire clash and can’t be fused together. If you want to unleash the effects of the Soft Water Stone, you can’t first put it into the stone liquid. Grind the Black Yang Wood into powder and add it according to the ratio of the three materials to unleash its Yin and Yang attributes. Then pour the liquid of the three materials into it at the same time. You have to be fast. In the shortest time possible, add the Mystical Sky Powder and the Green Vine Liquid.’

As he spoke, the six materials had already fused together and were poured into the mold.

He held his breath and stared with his eyes wide open.

Under their watchful eyes, the fused liquid solidified and formed a light black armor that appeared in front of everyone.

He grabbed at the air.

A powerful suction force burst out from his palm, and he took the armor and threw it over. Qin Shouyi hurriedly caught it. After so many years of refining, he had rich experience. He could feel the weight of this armor. Compared to ordinary armor, it was one-third lighter and had a better texture. He tried to pull it, and it was very tough, enough to support high-intensity movements. After testing its power, it was considered a success. He placed it on the table and took out an ordinary horizontal saber. He held it with both hands. He mobilized all the strength in his body and slashed down.

Chi!

Sparks flew everywhere. He put away his saber, and a small cut appeared on his armor. However, it was not big. If it was an ordinary armor, the cut would be at least twice as big as this. He looked excited." It's done!" "Do you understand?" asked Zhang Ronghua.

A smart person would see through it with just a little bit.

Qin Shouyi nodded heavily." I understand now. I walked into a dead end previously and neglected the fusion of attributes. By fusing the materials together and finding the correct order, I can increase their power." It sounded simple, but it was very difficult to do.

There were very few people who truly understood the attributes of the materials!

"Don't be afraid of failure!" Zhang Ronghua smiled in satisfaction and reminded. On the path of innovation, there will always be failures. Don't be afraid of using up your quota. As long as you refine something, the higher-ups will send the silver over without asking."

"This subordinate understands!"

Let's start with ordinary materials and weapons." Zhang Ronghua looked at them and said, "We'll increase their power. After we're familiar with them, we'll study feys."

"Yes, sir!" Everyone answered in unison.

After they left, Zhang Ronghua pointed at the strengthened armor and ordered, "Give it to Minister Fu. Tell him that I want the skeleton of a true spirit. The stronger the better. If he asks what I want, he can research powerful spiritual objects and try to create new ones."

"I'll go over now," replied Huang Zhongshi.

He took the armor and left the Weapon Refinement Hall, heading toward the depths.

"You guys are in charge of dispatching and keeping an eye on this matter," said Zhang Ronghua.

Zhao Yi and Tang Bo responded and quickly retreated.

"Brother, what about us?" asked Ding Yi.

"There's no harm in learning more knowledge."

The two of them understood and opened the door to leave.

In the office hall.

Fu Kun had tested this armor before. Its power had doubled, and it was much stronger than ordinary armor. He threw the sword to the Golden Scale Mysterious Heavenly Army and waved his hand, signaling him to retreat. He sat on the chair and asked in a low voice, "What does he want the bones of the True Spirit for?"

“Sir, you want to research powerful feys. Ordinary materials won’t do,” said Huang Zhongshi.

Fu Kun frowned and gathered them together. What kind of spiritual object needed a True Spirit skeleton? The stronger, the better? Could it be Heaven Rank? His heart was burning with excitement. If it really was a Heaven -grade spiritual item, whether it was a single spiritual item or a group of spiritual items, it would be a heaven-defying treasure. Once such a great killing weapon was successfully refined, his qualifications would be full. No matter how many there were, his resume would become gorgeous. When the time came, he would definitely enter the Prophecy Pavilion.

Good credit was shown. The Flame Thunder Bead, Fire Spirit Oil, Horizontal

Blade, Poison Plague Bead, and armor were five items. In addition to Zhang Ronghua’s powerful ability and reputation, even Fu Kun did not suspect anything. He did not expect him to fill his own pockets and use the power of the Ministry of Works to secretly refine puppets that were comparable to gods and devils with the Heavenly Arts section to strengthen the power of light.

The better a person’s appearance was, the more deceptive they were sometimes.

After thinking for a while, Fu Kun stood up from the chair and instructed, “Go back and tell Doctor Zhang that the skeleton of a True Spirit is very precious. Even the Ministry of Works doesn’t have it. However, since he needs it and it involves the research of spiritual objects, I will enter the palace to meet the emperor now.. Wait patiently!”

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“Yes, sir!” Huang Zhongshi replied.

He turned around and left.

Fu Kun was a man of action. He took this armor and opened the door of the hall. He entered the inner palace through Xuanwei Gate and rushed to the royal study.

In the royal study.

After the court session, Jiang Tian waited here. When the Emperor arrived and was summoned into the palace, he immediately told the details of the interrogation of Zhao Chengjie and the other two in detail, including their speculations that they were high-level spies trained by the Shang Dynasty to spy on important information in the Xia Dynasty. He then handed the information to Wei Shang, who would present it to the Emperor.

The news recorded Zhao Chengjie's background, the destruction of the Zhao family, and the details of the events in recent years. It was dozens of centimeters thick.

To be able to investigate so much in such a short period of time, one could see how huge the Scarlet Heaven Palace was.

The Xia Emperor's face was dark, his eyes cold and filled with a terrifying baleful aura. He flipped it open and began to read it seriously...

Hand over to the Grand Primordium Demon God!" A cold voice sounded after he finished reading the information.

Jiang Tian's expression changed, and his pupils constricted. His body subconsciously tensed up as if he was afraid. With his cultivation and status, he was actually frightened by a name. It was obvious how terrifying it was. He replied respectfully, "Yes!" He bent down and left.

When the door closed.

"Pry open their mouths," the Xia Emperor ordered. "If there's one, then one!"

"This old servant understands!"

The door of the palace was pushed open. Eunuch Xiao controlled the movement and walked in from the outside. He carefully closed the door and stopped three steps away from the imperial platform without making a sound. He bowed and said, "Your Majesty, Minister Fu has brought an ordinary armor to see you!"

The Xia Emperor had just raised his teacup and was about to moisten his throat before dealing with political affairs when he heard this. He paused and frowned, then parted. Could it be that Zhang Ronghua had just developed it? "Let him in!" he ordered.

He took a sip of tea and passed the teacup to Wei Shang.

They entered the main hall.

"Greetings, Your Majesty!" Fu Kun quickly stepped forward and placed the armor on the ground.

"What is it?"

Fu Kun bent down and picked up the armor, holding it in his hand.

Wei Shang came down from the imperial platform and took the armor from his hands. He stopped beside the Emperor and placed the armor on the imperial table.

It was just a glance.

Emperor Xia immediately noticed the difference in this armor. Although it was light black, its appearance was much more exquisite and less rough. He stretched out his palm and stroked it, then pulled it a little. After that, he withdrew his hand and asked, "How much has the power increased?"

"Double!"

"What materials did you add?"

"Earth Kirin Stone, Soft Water Stone, and Dark Sun Wood."

They were all common materials and were not too expensive. They were only a little more expensive than iron ore.

The Xia Emperor's draconic eyes shone with excitement. Even with his temperament, he couldn't bear it anymore! Although armor and sabers were ordinary, the cheaper and more common the materials used to equip the lower ranks of Great Xia's army, the imperial court could only mass produce them and equip them in the army. Otherwise, no matter how valuable they were, they could not be widely used. They could only be used as killing weapons at critical moments.

After dealing with Hengdao yesterday and the armor today, once the Great Xia army was equipped, their combat strength would increase by at least two times. And this was only for ordinary troops. When the Spirit Research Department developed more powerful weapons and feys, the combat strength of high-level troops would be even more terrifying, especially for troops formed by martial artists and troops that specialized in cultivating the physical body.

At that time, if he were to deal with the Shang Dynasty, the losses would be reduced and the success rate would increase. Perhaps he would really be able to destroy the Grand Shang Empire and integrate it into the territory of Grand Xia...Thinking deeper, after unifying the Shang Dynasty, he would suppress the True Spirit Hundred Races, the ferocious beasts, and the demons. He would plant the Black Dragon War Banner in every corner of the continent.

The entire world was the territory of Great Xia. Wherever the sword pointed, gods and devils would submit!

A few breaths later.

"Test its power," the Xia Emperor ordered, calming himself down.

Wei Shang stopped in the middle of the hall with his armor in hand. He took out an ordinary saber and slashed down. The strength he used was the same as that of an ordinary soldier's full strength, leaving only a small cut on the surface.

He put away his saber and returned with the armor.

The Xia Emperor was delighted. He clenched his fists under his dragon robe. His expression was stern.” Is there anything else?”

Fu Kun guessed that there was a 50% chance of success. Armor, which was used by low-level soldiers, was very valuable. Seeing the Emperor’s reaction, he was sure.” Your Majesty, Doctor Zhang wants the bones of a true spirit to study powerful spiritual objects. The Ministry of Works doesn’t have them.

What do you think...”

“I know!”

Fu Kun understood and tactfully bowed and left.

When the door closed.

The Xia Emperor tapped the armrest of his throne with two fingers, producing a ” dong dong ” sound. After a long while, he finally spoke.” You’re able to develop a new Heaven-grade fey with a large area of effect?”

Wei Shang pondered for a moment. Thinking of Zhang Ronghua’s ability, he didn’t say too much.” Qinglin has never disappointed Your Majesty!”

The Xia Emperor smiled.” Pass down my orders. Send ten powerful truesoul skeletons, ten vicious beast skeletons, ten fiendish demon skeletons, and the necessary materials.”

Wei Shang was jealous. His heart was filled with envy. The Emperor’s grace scroll was too heavy. He had taken out so many at once. He replied respectfully,” I’ll get Xiao Zhong to send it over now.”

Craftsmanship Hall.

After Huang Zhongshi finished his report, he asked him to leave and learn from them. He wanted to take this opportunity to improve his craftsmanship skills. He sat on the ground and cultivated the Eternal Immortal Technique.

Suddenly..

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He could sense three footsteps approaching from afar. They came closer to him. He ended his cultivation and stood up from the ground. The corners of his mouth curled up into a smile. "Are you here?" Outside.

"Is Doctor Zhang inside?" Eunuch Xiao asked.

He walked over and opened the door.

"Stay outside," Xiao Zhong instructed.

He entered the hall and closed the door. He took out a Sumeru Pouch and handed it over with a smile. "His Majesty asked me to give it to you." "Thank you, Grandpa Xiao," said Zhang Ronghua. "The more capable you are, the happier you are as an elder." She told him about Fu Kun's request to meet Emperor Xia. He said again.

"Eunuch Wei told me to tell you that no matter how busy you are with work, don't forget to study,"

Zhang Ronghua understood immediately. He was referring to the follow-up cultivation method. "Grandpa Xiao, when you go back, tell Eunuch Wei that Qinglin should always remember this. When you're done with the things at hand, study hard and try to read widely."

It wasn't convenient to chat as Wei Shang was still waiting.

Eunuch Xiao bade farewell and sent him out of the hall. Seeing that they had disappeared, he entered the hall and closed the door. He took out the Sumeru Bag. This was the Great Sumeru Bag, specially prepared for logistics and transportation.

He inserted a bit of Black Yellow True Qi into it and looked at the pile of True

Spirit bones, beast bones, demon bones, and other precious forging materials.

Zhang Ronghua smiled unkindly. Although these things did not meet the requirements of the Heavenly Art section and could not refine powerful puppets comparable to gods and devils, they met the requirements of the third section of the Puppet Art. According to the introduction, the Puppet Art was divided into Heaven Puppet and Earth Puppet.

The requirements for a Heavenly Puppet were very high. Compared to the Heavenly Art Chapter, it was only slightly weaker. It was made of True Spirits, ferocious beasts, demons, and other materials of similar value. It was also refined with the recorded secret technique, the Heavenly Origin Seven Rotation Technique. There was no restriction on its appearance. Once it was cultivated, its potential would be comparable to that of a prodigy or a monster. It could cultivate on its own, no doubt like ordinary people.

The requirements for Earth Chief were relatively simple. Most of the materials could be used. It was refined with a secret technique, the Earth Fiend Five

Rotation Technique. Its potential was average and it could not be cultivated. The cultivation level of the refined product was the same as that of ordinary people. Ordinary people could not see through it.

In the Great Meru Bag, there were a total of thirty sets of skeletons of True Spirits, fierce beasts, and demons, including the necessary materials and high-level demon cores. Using the Heavenly Puppet method, he could only refine ten puppets, but he couldn't do that. He had to make a show of it. There were so many precious materials, and it wouldn't be wrong to use up all of them. He had to leave half of them to study the spiritual items. Even if he studied one spiritual item, he would have to use up all the remaining materials before asking for it.

If the higher-ups asked, research would inevitably fail. Every refiner could not avoid it, especially when it came to innovation, which was even more difficult.

Among these skeletons, the ten True Spirits were the strongest, followed by the beasts, and the demons were the weakest. The majority of the True Spirits were Kun Peng skeletons, a total of eight pieces. There was also a five-clawed golden dragon and a phoenix. It seemed that the Kun Peng clan had a hard time in that battle and was almost exterminated.

He kept all the True Spirit skeletons and picked the five strongest ones from the beasts. He placed the rest with the demon skeletons and studied them later.

He patted the Five Dragon Spirit Controlling Belt on his waist and took out the Myriad Treasure Cauldron. He injected a stream of Xuanhuang True Essence into it and retracted the phenomenon. It floated in the air.

With a flip of his palm, the Phoenix Divine Fire rushed out. It had already reached the sixth revolution. The golden flame burned and emitted a scorching wave of air, causing the void to change shape. It hit the bottom of the Myriad Treasure Cauldron. The seal changed, increasing the power of the flame to the maximum.

Chi!

The Phoenix Divine Fire enveloped the Myriad Treasure Cauldron and burned fiercely. In an instant, the cauldron was heated up.

He took out the skeletons of the Five-clawed Golden Dragon, Phoenix, and Kun Peng. There were three of them in total, as well as other precious materials. He did not take out the demon core, but threw the three skeletons and these materials in.

He increased the output of the Black Yellow True Essence, and the power of the Phoenix Divine Fire increased to the maximum. He multi-tasked, purifying the three skeletons, removing the impurities, and the remaining True Spirit, beast, and demon aura while refining the materials.

Under the control of his immense soul power, everything that happened in the cauldron seemed to be magnified countless times under a magnifying glass.

As time passed, an hour passed in the blink of an eye.

The three skeletons had already been purified. They were pure and natural without any aura left. The materials had also been refined into liquid and floated in the cauldron. The hand seals changed and he executed the Heavenly Origin Seven Revolutions Technique. He struck down spells one after another, controlling the three skeletons to fuse and condense into the appearance of an ordinary person. This time, it was a young woman. There could not only be men in the light, but also women. At certain times, even if women did not have cultivation, they could still exert more power than men. This was their nature. He couldn't compare!

Women who were beautiful, had good figures, and had a good temperament were more valuable. Whether it was to obtain information or to assassinate them, the success rate was very high.

Even Zheng Yi, who was comparable to a Godfiend, had managed to refine it. How could a mere Heavenly Puppet pose a challenge to Zhang Ronghua?

It took him some time to successfully mold the skeletons of the three True Spirits. They were mature, charming, and had a unique temperament. They gave people the feeling of wanting to welcome and reject them. Their bodies were hot, and their waistlines were outlined from top to bottom. There was also their buttocks. Their eyes were very big, and their peach blossom eyes were watery. They were filled with the feeling of autumn. Without saying anything, they could charm countless men to death and make them fall head over heels for them..

Chapter 717: Shi Cai Lin, the Mastermind Behind the Scenes

Without further delay, he added in the other materials and continued to refine them. It was still the first cycle. When the materials were successfully fused, he would use the second cycle to purify them seven times in a row. If he could withstand it, it would be considered a success. He had the potential of a prodigy and had a very high upper limit. He had reached the highest level of cultivation of the three true

spirits when they were alive. If he could not withstand it, all the materials would fail, and all his efforts would be in vain.

Another hour passed, he had already passed rank seven without any injuries.

Zhang Ronghua's eyes lit up and he smiled. He changed his hand seal and put away the Phoenix Divine Fire. With a wave of his sleeve, a golden light shot down and the young woman in the cauldron appeared on the ground. Her eyes were closed and she didn't have any aura. It was only a half-finished product. It was just one step away from refining the demon core. When the demon core was refined, it would be considered a success. It didn't need to be like a

heavenly technique, where a little soul power was injected. When it was about to succeed, it just needed to plant a slave and it could be mastered.

He looked at her carefully, and there was no other meaning. He wanted to see if there were any flaws. Seeing that she was bald and had no hair, he pointed his finger and a golden light shot into her. Three thousand strands of hair instantly grew out, and long hair reached her waist. With this, the last flaw was solved.

In other aspects, he had everything he should have.

As expected, men understood men the most!

With a wave of his right hand, he put her into the Five Dragons Spirit Controlling Belt.

He took out the remaining seven True Spirit skeletons and five vicious beast skeletons, as well as the precious materials. This time, he was going to play big. Time was limited, so this was the only way!

With a soul master's cultivation base, multitasking could also be successful.

He started the fire again, ignoring the consumption of Black Yellow True Essence. He stimulated the power of the Phoenix Divine Fire to the maximum and threw all the bones and materials into it. The

flames swept out and burned crazily. The fluctuations were limited to the hall and did not spread out at all. If outsiders came, they would not be able to escape his senses.

This time, it took a longer time, nearly four hours, and consumed more mental energy. Fortunately, the refinement was successful. The four Heavenly Puppets all survived the purification of the Heavenly Origin Seven Revolutions Technique and appeared in the cauldron.

Three men and a woman. Two of the men were ordinary, and they wouldn't be noticed even if they walked past them. The other man was handsome, and his skin was fair and tender. He had a noble aura, and he was a sharp weapon against upper-class women. The remaining woman had changed her style. She was no longer mature and charming, but pure, cute, and innocent. Her smile was sweet, and her figure was top-notch. She was still a little away from being top-notch. When she met a specific person, she would be more lethal. She was even more terrifying than mature and charming. It was specially designed for high-level missions or the most difficult missions.

He took them out of the cauldron and looked at the four puppets. He did the same thing and injected a stream of Black Yellow True Essence into their bodies to grow their hair. He nodded in satisfaction and couldn't find any flaws. He looked forward to the development of the light. With them, he would grow at the fastest speed and meet his requirements. He would put them into the

Five Dragons Spirit Controlling Belt along with the Myriad Treasure Cauldron.

After refining for more than six hours without eating lunch, he was a little tired. He stretched his arms and stretched his body. He sat cross-legged on the ground and circulated the Creation Heart Technique to recover his exhausted mental strength.

Fifteen minutes later.

Zhang Ronghua stood up from the ground. He had recovered from his mental exhaustion and was in a better state than ever. He looked at the sky and realized that it was almost time for the low value. There were still two hours left.

He wanted to take advantage of this time to research new feys and try to create them.

Pulling out a chair, he took out some spiritual liquid and placed it in a teapot. He used the Phoenix Divine Fire to control the temperature and boiled the water in a dozen breaths. He took out some spiritual tea, Bitter Bodhi Tea, and brewed a pot. He poured a cup and drank a few mouthfuls. He calmed his mind and focused. His terrifying talent was once again in effect. He established a model in his mind. With [Lethal Power],[Large Area] Explosion], and [Duration] as the foundation, he extracted useful information from the vast sea of knowledge to complete it.

The books in the Book Hall of the Ministry of Works, including the precious manuscripts, were all read. The knowledge recorded was very extensive, and it was all introductions to refining, talisman making, mechanisms, puppets, and so on. Some of them were even ancient fragments. Although they could not be used, they were very valuable. After Zhang Ronghua absorbed them, they became his own.

At this time, the brain was like a high-speed machine, operating quickly, repairing, dismantling, and at least a low-grade heaven-tier. If the power was not enough or did not meet the four requirements, he would have to start all over again.

With his huge accumulation, it was not possible to complete this project in a day.

Two hours passed in the blink of an eye.

Footsteps sounded, and Ding Yi and Pei Haoran's laughter could be heard.

"Brother Ding, how did you learn so quickly?" Pei Haoran asked.

' Treat them as women. The beautiful girls in the brothel will naturally learn faster when their interest is aroused."

The two of them laughed without restraint.

Zhang Ronghua finished his deduction. Up until now, he had only managed to get a rough idea of the direction. The main focus was on the fire attribute. The materials were common and could be obtained no matter how precious they were. They were not like other materials that were very difficult to find.

He put down the teacup and finished the pot of spiritual tea.

“How’s the result?” he asked with a smile as he opened the door.

Ding Yi was delighted. He held up three fingers and said, “I’ve improved three of them. The power has increased by one-third.” It was a little difficult in the beginning, but when he became familiar with it, his speed would be even faster. When he encountered many difficult problems, he would brainstorm and study them together. With one word from each other, he would overcome them one by one! When the ordinary weapons, armors, and materials are all improved, the difficulty of researching feys will be doubled. At that time, I’m afraid you’ll have to step in..”

Chapter 718: The Mastermind Shi Cai Lin

“Where are the samples and the list?”

“Old Huang is tidying it up. He will send it over when it’s done.”

While they were talking, Huang Zhongshi and the other two trotted in with their official robes. Their smiles were so wide that they looked like flowers. They stopped in front of him and handed over the list and samples in their hands without paying any attention to their greetings.

Zhang Ronghua took the list. Bows, spears, and swords were all ordinary weapons, but they could improve their power by one-third. It was rare. As the saying goes, everything is difficult at the beginning. After passing the first test, the rest will be easy.

He glanced at the list and handed it over. He tried the three items one by one. It was indeed as he had said. It was not fake.

“Give them to Minister Fu,” he ordered.

“Yes, sir!” Huang Zhongshi replied respectfully.

Zhang Ronghua continued, “After you’ve finished modifying the ordinary materials, weapons, and poisons, I’ll teach you how to fuse feys. If you encounter something you don’t understand and can’t overcome it, feel free to ask. Don’t force yourself.”

“This subordinate understands!”

The three of them left.

“Let’s go back,” Zhang Ronghua said.

He left the Ministry of Works and walked out of the palace, not even changing out of his official robes.

At the Vermillion Bird Gate’s gate, there was a carriage. Six top Divine Heavenly Dragons pulled the carriage. The carriage was extraordinary and was made of thousand-year-old purple wood. On both sides of the carriage, there was a ‘Huo’ character, representing Marquis Wushuang’s Huo family.

The carriage was called the Northguard Carriage.

Two young men leaned against the car and chatted casually. One of them was dressed in a blue brocade robe with a white tiger embroidered on his chest. He had long fangs and looked fierce. His eyes were like blood-red jade, deep and cold, making people afraid. He held a folding fan in his hand, and with his cynical temperament, he looked very funny. It was Huo Jingyun.

The other person was wearing a white robe. The style was ordinary, straight, and made of natural silk. There was no decoration at all. He had a blue ponytail and was gentle and refined. He was mature and steady, and he gave off a scholarly aura. It was Xu Xing.

What happened in the royal court was no secret. As the court session ended, it spread immediately. Many people congratulated him. Before he could ask for more details, Jiang Tian returned from the palace and called him over.

Although he was unhappy and Xu Xing did not discuss the transfer with him in advance, he was not like Jiu Xuanji, who was petty, fierce, and heartless. He had always treated his subordinates well and was sincerely happy for them to have a good future. He had the support of his subordinates and had a good reputation. He told him what had happened in the imperial court, the two cabinet elders, Zhang Ronghua's support, the Minister of War Xu Shidao, Fu Kun, and the military bigwigs, as well as his own guess.

He thought for a moment.

Xu Xing felt that Daren was right. The two ministers and the military bigwigs should have said good things for Zhang Ronghua's sake. Including last night's idea, they owed him a big favor this time.

Jiang Tian asked again how he persuaded the two Pavilion Elders to step forward.

Xu Xing recounted the matter. The relationship left behind by his mother, Grand Secretary Wei owed him a favor back then! After leaving Heavenly Earth last night, Grand Secretary Wei paid him a visit in the middle of the night to discuss the matter in detail. Grand Secretary Wei didn't promise him anything and told him to go back and wait for news.

As for Grand Secretary Zeng, he should have been the one who came forward to exchange benefits.

After using the favor this time, the favor in the future would fade away. Fortunately, the transfer was successful and it was completed beyond the quota.

After listening.

Jiang Tian was silent for a while. Seeing that he had served the Red Heaven

Palace for many years, he reminded him to be on good terms with Zhang Ronghua. This person's ability was too strong, and his rising momentum could not be suppressed. Building a good relationship with him was not the end. Perhaps it was just the beginning. In the future, he might not be able to get into the position of Minister of the Six Ministries or even higher.

Xu Xing was grateful and left after bowing.

The process of transferring from the Red Heaven Palace to the Shangjing government was complicated, and the departments involved were too large. If it weren't for the support of the two cabinet elders, three ministers, and the military bigwigs, it would have been impossible. Just the procedures alone took half a day.

In the afternoon, he took up his post accompanied by the Right Assistant

Minister of the Ministry of Personnel. After the people from the Ministry of Personnel left, he went to visit Chen Youcai. He had also contributed to the court today. Moreover, he had a deep relationship with Zhang Ronghua. Lastly, he was the magistrate of Shangjing.

With Zhang Ronghua as a medium, although it was the first time the two of them talked in detail, they were like old friends who had been working together for many years. They reached a silent agreement and controlled Shangjing government and the entire capital.

A magistrate, a pushing official, and a judge were sandwiched in the middle. Even if their positions were stable, they were like rats on a holiday. Their days were very difficult. The four county yamen below were the same. They had their tails between their legs. The capital had completely entered the era of the word "Zhang".

Furthermore, Zheng Fugui was working in the Fifth Division of the City Defense, so even the slightest movement could not be hidden from them.

Since he had officially stepped into the officialdom, he couldn't avoid socializing. He had to be grateful. He had booked a private room in Heavenly

Earth in advance and invited Chen Youcai, Wu Jinxiu, and the others to gather. He even came over himself and waited at the Vermillion Bird Sect to express his gratitude.

With the change in status, he naturally had to change his clothes to appear mature and steady.

"Mr. Xu," Huo Jingyun teased, "you have to send more people to patrol the streets near Heavenly Earth in the future to maintain law and order."

"With your Huo family's power, who dares to behave atrociously there?" Xu Xing rolled his eyes.

"You don't know what happened a while ago. Heavenly Earth was seized. Even

Lu Qingqing, Ningxue, and all the girls were imprisoned in the Ministry of Justice. If Second Uncle hadn't stepped in in time, the consequences would have been unimaginable."

Xu Xing knew about this. It was said that Ning Xue was even tortured by Zhang Ronghua at that time. Not only did the Huo Family not take revenge, but they chose to go to her house to apologize and even gave her a cultivation technique and divine power..

Chapter 719: The Mastermind Shi Cai Lin

From the looks of it now, it was indeed worthy of being a top-notch family of generals with a long history. They were really accurate in judging people. They resolved the matter and laid a good foundation for their relationship. If they had become enemies back then, the Huo family would now have a strong enemy. With the potential that Zhang Ronghua had shown, he would probably not be able to eat well or sleep well in the future.

"What are you doing here?" she asked curiously.

"Let me keep you in suspense." Huo Jingyun smiled mysteriously.

Xu Xing did not ask anymore. Three familiar figures walked over while chatting and laughing. The two of them tidied up their appearances and walked up to greet them.

"Green Kirin!"

Zhang Ronghua glanced at them, then at the carriages of Northguard. What was the purpose of such a large formation? The group of people stopped at the slope.

Huo Jingyun said, "I'll be the host today. Heavenly Earth will be closed for the night. We've prepared a feast. It's all real meat and dance music. There's a lot of programs. I guarantee that you'll be satisfied."

Xu Xing did not agree. "Holding it in for half a day, you want to intercept Hu?"

Huo Jingyun smiled apologetically and lowered his posture. "I really have something to do tonight. Brother Xu, please help me!"

He didn't seem to be joking.

"Alright." Xu Xing nodded.

"Qinglin, please!" Huo Jingyun made a gesture of invitation.

"I was wondering why you were so kind," Zhang Ronghua joked. "So you were waiting here."

Stepping on the small stool, the carriage was big enough for everyone to sit inside. It was not crowded at all. There were spiritual fruits on the table, and they were lit with incense. They were fresh, elegant, and not annoying. It smelled very comfortable.

They chatted casually and did not talk about serious matters.

Very quickly.

The carriage stopped at the entrance of the Heavenly Earth. It was very luxurious. It seemed that Huo Jingyun had prepared it carefully. The ground was covered with a red carpet and sprinkled with water. Sister Lu, Ning Xue, and a group of young women in bold clothes had been waiting for a long time with veils over their faces.

He got out of the car and looked at the scene in front of him.

“You don’t even dare to go in after playing so big.” Zhang Ronghua teased.

“As long as you’re willing, they can always welcome you like this every time you come over,” Huo Jingyun said.

“I’m afraid of trouble!”

If they really did that, the censors of the opposing forces would definitely jump out and interfere. Although it was fine, listening to them chatter like shrews was also very annoying.

Ning Xue quickly walked up and handed over the black silk cloak in her hand. She blushed and whispered, “This is specially prepared for you.”

Ding Yi leaned over and stopped beside Pei Haoran’s ear. If you have the ability, get Hua Kui to make one for you.”

“Brother Ding!”

Ding Yi chuckled.

“Xue ‘er, it’s a token of her appreciation. Please accept it!” Huo Jingyun put in a good word for her.

“Thank you!” Zhang Ronghua said.

Ning Xue raised her head and mustered up her courage.

If he didn’t refuse, it meant that he had agreed.

He took a step forward.

He unfolded the cloak and draped it over Zhang Ronghua's body. Then, he tied the belt. The size was just right. It was half a foot above the ground. There was a ball of golden flame embroidered on the back. Seeing that there was this ball of flame on his chest, he specially embroidered it.

"Let's go!" Huo Jingyun called out. Let's talk inside."

The group of people entered the Heavenly Earth and stopped at the largest and most luxurious private room on the third floor. A middle-aged man in his thirties was sitting inside. He looked a little like Huo Jingyun and was probably his cousin.

"Huo Jingxiu!" Ding Yi recognized her.

Huo Jingxiu stood up from her chair. She smiled and was easy-going and approachable. She took the initiative to greet him." Qinglin!"

Huo Jingyun introduced him to his second uncle, Huo Chengcheng's son. Unlike the rest of the Huo family, he did not join the army and chose to develop his career in the officialdom. After his appointment in the state capital, he returned to the capital to report on his work.

After listening.

Zhang Ronghua had guessed their intentions. Cui Jiancheng had resigned today, and Huo Jingyun had come looking for him. Now, it seemed that the Huo family had made a move to make him give up his position so that Huo Jingxiu could take over.

With the Hunts' power, even if their home base was in the military, they would still have a certain amount of influence in the officialdom after so many years of inheritance. It would not be difficult to mobilize them.

However, the Spirit Research Department was different. Without his permission, no one could enter, let alone force people in. There were two reasons. Firstly, even if they were to be stuffed in, it was still unknown whether they could withstand his third fire, unlike Cui Jiancheng and He Jianzhi. Secondly, if they delayed the progress of the Spirit Research Department, the Ministry of War and the military would be the first to make trouble. They would throw the blame on them and blow up the court. The person behind the scenes would also suffer.

Only by nodding his head could he take up the post and follow behind to drink the soup.

One should not hit a smiling person. After getting along with them for the past few days, the Huo family was quite good at dealing with people, and so was Huo Jingyun. They gave him face and dignity everywhere. As long as he came over, other people could not see Ning Xue, but not only could he see her, but he could also take her chastity sand at any time.

Moreover...

The officialdom was not about making enemies. One more friend meant one more path. The Huo family wanted to hitch a ride on his ride, and in turn, they could use the Huo family to open up the military situation and make a better plan.

“Xuan Ping.”

This was Huo Jingxiu’s surname.

With Zhang Ronghua’s intelligence, it was impossible for him not to have guessed the arrangements for tonight after introducing his cousin. He did not reject him outright or call him by his name. This matter was 80% certain.

Smart people didn’t need to talk too much. If they understood, they understood. If they didn’t, they didn’t.

Huo Jingyun warmly invited everyone to take a seat. At this moment, Chen Youcai and Wu Jinxiu came over together. The two of them met on the road and this scene immediately became lively.

The dishes and wine were all served on the table. There was also the Heavenly Jade Wine, Ning Xue as the lead dancer, twelve girls as the dancers, and other programs. They ate and chatted..

Chapter 720: Shi Cai Lin, the Mastermind Behind the Scenes

The small is hidden in the forest, the big is hidden in the city.

South City, Xiuchun Lane.

The people living in this area were all commoners. They lived in the lower levels of the capital. The courtyards were dilapidated, and so were the streets. Some places were potholes, and some bricks were missing in the middle, as if they had been stolen. There were piles of abandoned garbage in the corners.

There were many of them, and they were also very tall, emitting a strong stench.

They were both in the capital and in the south. The workshops were different from each other, and the environment was also very different.

Number 121.

The mansion was very big, close to the city wall, with four entrances and four exits. No matter how cheap the house was, it was not cheap to set up a house with such a huge area. The interior was completely different from the outside.

If the outside was a garbage dump or a kennel, it was a paradise on earth. There was a Qi Restraining Formation arranged to hide the scenery in the mansion. Outsiders could not see it. The ground was covered with priceless purple patterned bricks. The beams, doors and windows were all made of thousand-year-old purple wood, rockery, and artificial lake. There were rare and expensive flowers and plants planted here. It was like spring all year round. No matter how the seasons changed, the courtyard was full of spring and bathed in the fragrance of flowers.

There was no one outside, and the defense inside was strict. There was a guard every three steps and a sentry every five steps. The further in they went, the tighter the defense became, and the stronger the guards were. They had big bronze eyes, looked fierce, and did not smile. They emitted an iron-blooded and fierce aura. If one looked carefully, one would find that these people were like death warriors. They did not have any emotions and were born to kill.

Back courtyard, lakeside, pavilion.

A young woman called Shi Cai Lin was wearing an expensive purple dress and a moon-white veil. The veil was decorated with golden lines, covering her face, revealing only her eyes that contained wisdom. She sat on a stone bench, and a zither was placed on the stone table. It was made of top-grade sandalwood, and the strings were extraordinary. It was actually made from the tendons of a phoenix. Just this zither alone was priceless. Ten slender, white, and jade-like fingers were playing the zither.

Her hair was tied up and fixed with two phoenix hairpins, representing that she was already married or had performed the rites of the Duke of Zhou. What was missing was a title.

The sound of the zither rang out. Judging from his zither skills, he had already reached the sixth level of the skill of approaching the Dao, standing at the peak. Just this point alone was enough to surpass 99% of people. She was clearly beautiful, but the artistic conception she played was lonely, gloomy, and helpless. It was as if she was hiding something. She clearly had monstrous power, but she could not solve it.

Behind her stood two middle-aged women in long dresses. They were like bodyguards, protecting her closely. Other than them, there were even more guards in the courtyard.

At this moment.

An uninvited guest appeared outside the mansion. He had an old face and his hands were behind his back. He didn't give off any aura and wore a bright yellow dragon robe with four claws. His name was Zhu Jiutian, the Grand Elder of the Candle Dragon Clan. This time, he had received a message from the higher-ups that Zhu Huang had mysteriously disappeared and was suspected to have been killed by the Fate Academy. He was asked to investigate this matter and to take care of a person. As for the owner of the mansion, he was just casually hunting a rabbit.

"What?" He looked at the white fog in the courtyard and sneered. "You think a mere Qi Restraining Formation can stop me?"

Stepping forward, he turned into a green light and forcefully passed through the formation. He appeared in the courtyard. The guards around him reacted very quickly. As expected of a death warrior who had been strictly trained.

Almost as soon as he appeared, they rushed up and took out dozens of Black Demon Beads and smashed them fiercely. They were densely packed and wanted to kill the enemy.

Zhu Jiutian casually waved his hand, and azure light scattered down, forming an azure barrier that enveloped the residence. It protected this place from the sounds of battle and prevented the people in the residence from escaping.

He didn't even look at the Black Demon Beads that were shooting towards him and walked straight towards the backyard. The person he wanted to kill was

A green light shot out from his body and swept across the Black Demon Pearl.

Chi chi..

It could easily kill a Connate spiritual creature. With so many of them, even a grandmaster would have to retreat. However, they actually dissipated without even making a sound.

The green light continued to sweep through the area. Wherever it passed, the guards were killed. Blood rained down, dyeing the ground red and emitting a thick smell of blood.

In the backyard.

Shi Cai Lin paused for a moment. She raised her beautiful eyes and looked in the direction of the front courtyard. When she heard the commotion, she did not panic at all. She was still calm and composed, as if everything in front of her had nothing to do with her.

The music that had stopped sounded once again. It was different from the artistic conception that it contained just now. This time, it was cold and murderous, like an ancient battlefield. It contained monstrous killing intent and existed for slaughter.

The surrounding guards hurriedly rushed up and protected her tightly. The two middle-aged women lowered their eyelids and a cold light flashed in their eyes. This place had been exposed. Someone had found this place. He didn't go because he was afraid that the other party would lure him away.

A few breaths later.

Zhu Jiutian walked in with his hands behind his back. The guards in the courtyard pulled out their swords and charged forward. With the intention of dying, they abandoned their defenses and only attacked. They executed their sword techniques to the acme of perfection, ignoring the consumption of their inner qi. They wanted to finish off the intruder.

Compared to the guards outside, their strength was not just a little bit stronger. They cooperated well and even used formations to fight the enemy. However, they were still not enough.

"Are you counting on these small fries?"

With a wave of his sleeve, a large green light swept out and landed on their bodies.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

An explosion sounded and they were instantly destroyed, leaving only Shi Cai Lin and the two middle-aged women.

Zhu Jiutian took a step forward and appeared ten steps away from them. He sized them up and commented, "Although his looks are average and can only be considered as first-class, his aura is unique. It will be unforgettable if you see him. It will leave a deep mark in your heart."

'You're not the Crown Prince's subordinate!' Shi Cai Lin stopped and withdrew her finger before standing up calmly.

Pa! Pa!

Zhu Jiutian clapped his hands and a rare smile appeared on his wrinkled face.” The higher-ups have sent news that you have everything planned out. You are in control of the overall situation and can decide the fate of countless people with a single word. It seems that you are indeed extraordinary.”

“Darkness!” Shi Cailin coldly replied.

“Congratulations on guessing correctly! ”

“Kill me and frame the Crown Prince?”

“You guessed it again.”

Shi Cai Lin was silent. If she died, he would definitely pay any price to take revenge because her value was too great. Everything he had today was all because of her.

Zhu Jiutian’s gaze fell on the two middle- aged women. He squinted his eyes and licked his lips. The taste is not bad. I’m in luck this time..”