Having children earns benefit, start competing for dominance in the world by marrying a wife

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Chapter 41: The First Offspring is Borni

Seeing the excited populace, Lu Chen revealed a slight smile; he believed that after seeing the yield of potatoes, they already had the idea of planting them in their minds.

After all, compared to potatoes, the yield of wheat was simply too low.

At this moment, Lu Chen called out to the surrounding people, "Quiet down, everyone!"

As the North Prince spoke, the crowd instantly fell silent.

Their eyes were fixed on Lu Chen as if they were hungry wolves eyeing their prey.

They were eager to know if the North Prince would distribute the seeds of this plant to the people.

Seeing the crowd quiet down, Lu Chen then spoke, "The grain you see here is called a potato; it can serve as a staple food. As for its yield, you've seen it yourselves."

"The Prince has decided to distribute some potato seeds for the public to try planting, and those who do so will be exempt from agricultural taxes for two years."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, the people stirred with excitement once more.

They hadn't expected that the North Prince would truly consider giving them this miraculous crop to cultivate, and even exempt them from two years of agricultural tax.

Then some of the people couldn't help but kneel down, constantly bowing their heads to Lu Chen in gratitude.

Seeing the fervor of the populace, Lu Chen knew that promoting potatoes would probably not be a big problem. After a few years, if North City wasn't stricken by any

natural disasters or calamities, it was highly likely that there would be no severe food crisis like there was currently.

Just at that moment, when Lu Chen was about to say something, a system notification suddenly sounded.

[Congratulations to the Host for the birth of your first child, rewarded with 5,000 Brocade Guards, two Master Level Commanders, and a bonus reward of weapons forging technology.]

[The more offspring the Host has, the more valuable the rewards will be, including but not limited to various modern technologies, factories, and even industrial production lines.]

Hearing this unexpected system voice, Lu Chen was stunned; he hadn't thought that shortly after leaving the Prince's Mansion, he would already have a child.

But without a doubt, Mu Zixuan must have given birth.

At that moment, as he was preparing to hurry back to the Prince's Mansion, a trusted aide from the mansion rode towards him excitedly, shouting, "Prince, Prince, the Princess Consort is about to give birth, Madam Chu requests you to return quickly!"

Hearing this, Lu Chen didn't hesitate to say to Li Feng, "General Li, I'll leave the rest to you; I need to go see the Princess Consort."

Li Feng naturally understood the importance of the Prince Consort giving birth to an heir. With an heir, it meant that the North Prince Mansion's lineage would continue. He immediately replied, "Prince, please rest assured on your return; 1 will instruct the soldiers to excavate the potatoes as quickly as possible."

Lu Chen said no more and immediately boarded his carriage.

Meanwhile.

In a tavern in Yan County, North City.

The tavern owner stood at the counter, clicking away at an abacus.

Suddenly, his brain paused as a surge of information flooded his mind.

The tavern owner immediately looked shocked, turning his head in the direction of the North Prince Mansion in disbelief.

Muttering to himself, the tavern owner said, "Could it be him? No wonder, no wonder."

"It looks like I'm going to be busy in the future."

With that, the tavern owner set down the abacus and began to change clothes.

At almost the same time.

In the Capital City.

The owner of a liquor establishment that Prince Lu Shuyun frequently visited, and also the manager.

Just as he was about to personally welcome today's distinguished guests, he froze in place, his expression one of disbelief.

He murmured to himself, "If it's that Prince's doing, I fear my task is imminent. It seems I must prepare in advance."

On the way back to the Prince's Mansion, Lu Chen opened the system to take a look at the rewards he had just received.

"System, where are these 5,000 Brocade Guards now? And what's their strength like?"

Lu Chen hadn't expected that one of the rewards for having an heir would be a group of people; he thought the system would have awarded him a batch of modern military hardware.

The system's prompt sounded at that moment.

[The five thousand members of the Brocade Guard are now distributed across the various counties of the Great Xia Dynasty, with the lowest rank among them being Fifth Grade, while the heads of the four major institutions and the five Commanders of the Brocade Guard are all Ninth Grade. In addition, the subordinates obtained by the host through the system have a loyalty of one hundred percent and possess identities implanted from this world.]

Upon hearing the system's prompt, Lu Chen curiously asked, "How do those people know that they are part of the Brocade Guard?"

[It is the power of the system; the host can think of it as the system having implanted a portion of special memories in them, keeping the whole Brocade Guard operational until their true master appears.]

At the sound of the system's prompt, Lu Chen couldn't help but marvel at the system's power.

[All members of the Brocade Guard have received your personal information. Currently, there are three hundred Brocade Guards in North City, including a Commander, a Commander, Head of Punishment Department, Head of Investigation Department, and both Outer and Inner Commanders stationed in Yan County. They will arrive at the Prince's Mansion as soon as possible to report intelligence to you.]

[Does the host need to recall Brocade Guards from outside North City?]

Seeing the system's prompt, Lu Chen asked, "Can 1 communicate with them across the distance?"

[No, but the host has the authority to summon them once.]

Lu Chen understood the system's meaning; if he wanted to recall all the Brocade Guards, then they would be able to receive a message from the system. This was a capability of the system.

But why would he want to recall all the Brocade Guards?

The function of the Brocade Guard is to monitor officials and gather intelligence. If he recalled them, what use would the Brocade Guard still have?

With this in mind, Lu Chen said, "No need, let them stay where they are."

[The Brocade Guards outside North City have received the host's order to stand by at their current locations.]

After returning to the Prince's Mansion, Lu Chen hurried to Mu Zixuan's birthing room.

At that moment, Mu Zixuan looked pale, covered in sweat, and extremely weak.

Seeing Lu Chen return, Mu Zixuan strained to rise from the bed, and Lu Chen quickly went to support her, saying, "My love, you should lie down and rest."

Just then, the midwife came to Lu Chen with a child in her arms, "Congratulations, Prince, the Princess Consort has given birth to a Princely Heir for you."

Hearing this, Lu Chen immediately glanced at the child in the midwife's hands and nervously took him into his own arms.

The newborn was very small and rather ugly, but Lu Chen had no thoughts of disdain, for it was his own child.

At that moment, Chu Yuqin reminded him, "Chen'er, you haven't named the child yet. Give him a name now."

Lu Chen thought for a while and then said, "Let's call him Lu Changfeng."

"Changfeng" can be interpreted as a continual wind, symbolizing strength, vitality, and hope.

Lu Chen wished for his first child to grow proactively and one day accomplish great things.

After accompanying Mu Zixuan in the birthing room for a while, Lu Chen left to prepare for the arrival of the Commander of the Brocade Guard.

As soon as he stepped out of the birthing room, Chu Yuqin asked, "Chen'er, where have you just been?"

Mu Zixuan was about to give birth, yet Lu Chen was not at the Prince's Mansion, which meant he must have been attending to something very important.

Lu Chen replied, "The potatoes are ripe; 1 just went to check on General Li and the others harvesting potatoes."

At that, Chu Yuqin's eyes lit up before she asked, "The same potatoes you gave us to eat before?"

Chu Yuqin and the other women of the inner court of the Prince's Mansion had all seen potatoes and tasted them.

Chu Yuqin realized the importance of potatoes to North City after Lu Chen introduced them.

Lu Chen nodded at this time.

Chu Yuqin continued to ask, "How is the yield of those potatoes?"

Lu Chen replied, "Two thousand kilograms per acre."

Upon hearing this answer, Chu Yuqin stood frozen in place. Although Lu Chen had mentioned before that the yield of potatoes would be substantial, she hadn't expected it to be this high.

If potatoes could be widely adopted, the people of North City might never have to go hungry again, and the prestige of the North Prince would quickly rise.

Seeing Chu Yuqin astonished at the yield of the potatoes, Lu Chen said mysteriously, "Madam Chu, are you surprised? Wait, there's something even more surprising coming for you." Before Lu Chen could finish, a trusted aide from the Prince's Mansion rushed over and said, "Prince, Madam Chu, something terrible has happened.. A group of martial artists wearing strange clothes has arrived outside the Prince's Mansion!"

Chapter 42: The Crisis at Duke Mu Residence i

Hearing the report of the trusted aide, Chu Yuqin's brows furrowed.

A martial artist dressed in strange attire?

Who would dare to cause trouble at the North Prince Mansion?

Ever since the assassination attempt on Lu Chen by Blood Moon Tower failed last time, no one in North City had dared to provoke the North Prince Mansion.

People knew that the North Prince Mansion had a Grandmaster, so they wouldn't be so foolish.

And yet, someone had come knocking today?

Chu Yuqin immediately said to Lu Chen, "Chen'er, I'll go take a look first."

Lu Chen said, "Madam Chu, I'll go with you."

Chu Yuqin was about to say something, but thinking of the mysterious weapon on Lu Chen's person, coupled with the fact that Lu Chen was now a martial artist himself, she refrained from dissuading him.

After that, they arrived at the entrance of the Prince's Mansion.

As soon as they arrived at the entrance, they saw the martial artists in strange attire, described by the trusted aide, standing in rows, extremely respectful at the entrance of the Prince's Mansion, with no intention of causing trouble.

Lu Chen evaluated the martial artists wearing Flying Fish Suits and cloaks, the Brocade Guards, but didn't immediately approach.

Chu Yuqin, on seeing this scene, was immediately stunned.

She had thought they were there to cause trouble, but by their appearance, they clearly weren't.

Moreover, their attire was uniform, as if they were martial artists from some government agency.

However, she had never heard of any agency under the Great Xia Dynasty that wore such attire.

After sensing the realm of these individuals, Chu Yuqin's brow furrowed, and she became instantly alert.

The man at the forefront, judging by his aura, was undoubtedly not any less powerful than her.

And the five people behind him were also Ninth Grade.

As for the remaining warriors on the two carts, nearly all were Fifth Grade or above.

Last time when Blood Moon Tower sent people to assassinate Lu Chen, they didn't bring so many Fifth Grade martial artists.

What was the origin of these people?

And what did they want to do at the Prince's Mansion?

What made Chu Yuqin most uneasy was the man at the front, who posed a tremendous threat to her; she even suspected that he might be a Grandmaster.

Just as Chu Yuqin was about to inquire their identities, she saw the leading man step forward and then kneel on one knee in front of Lu Chen, saying, "Commander of the Brocade Guard, Qin Yushan, pays his respects to the Prince!"

"I have failed to report to the Prince at the earliest opportunity, please, Prince, punish me!"

After Qin Yushan knelt down, the Brocade Guards behind him also uniformly knelt down in unison.

Seeing this scene, Chu Yuqin's face showed shock.

She couldn't understand when Lu Chen had acquired so many strong subordinates.

Keep in mind, Li Feng, who had come to North City with Lu Chen initially, was only Eighth Grade now.

And yet, Lu Chen had in his company five Ninth Grade martial artists, over a hundred Fifth Grade ones, and even a master whose strength seemed to surpass that of a Half-step Grandmaster.

Afterward, Lu Chen glanced at Qin Yushan and checked his personal information.

[Name: Qin Yushan]

[Identity: Commander of the Brocade Guard, shopkeeper of the Joyful Arrival Tavern in North City. Upon learning you are his master, he immediately summoned the Jinyiwei Guard of Yan County to report to you.]

[Strength: Grandmaster]

[Loyalty: 100]

After reviewing Qin Yushan's personal profile, Lu Chen glanced over the other members of the Brocade Guard and found that their loyalty, indeed, was as the system had said: all 100.

The system really was powerful, able to cultivate so many wholly loyal subordinates for him in advance.

Lu Chen then said, "Commander Qin, rise. Don't stand at the entrance of the Prince's Mansion; come inside first."

With that, Lu Chen turned and walked towards the Prince's Mansion. Occasionally, civilians would pass by the entrance. Seeing so many martial artists at the entrance of the Prince's Mansion, they would probably spread rumors everywhere.

It was better to discuss matters after entering the Prince's Mansion.

Following that, Qin Yushan led several hundred subordinates into the Prince's Mansion.

When they arrived at the Training Ground, Chu Yuqin curiously asked Lu Chen, "Chen'er, when did you cultivate so many experts, and why didn't Madam Chu know anything about it?"

If it were just one expert, her ignorance would be normal, but seeing these Brocade Guards wearing the same type of clothing, Chu Yuqin instantly understood that this was an organization.

Lu Chen had already created an organization belonging to the Prince's Mansion, and she had not heard a whisper of it, which puzzled Chu Yuqin.

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Madam Chu, there are still many things you don't know about me."

Hearing that, Chu Yuqin rolled her eyes at Lu Chen.

But thinking of Lu Chen as someone with a celestial fate, Chu Yuqin also felt reassured in her heart.

At this moment, Lu Chen stopped in his tracks, turned around, and said to Qin Yushan, "Commander Qin, give an overview of the current situation of the Brocade Guard."

"Yes, Prince."

"The Brocade Guard currently has five thousand members, distributed across the various counties of the Great Xia Dynasty, all above the Fifth Grade in strength. There are eleven martial artists above the Ninth Grade, among them two are Grandmasters – that is, myself and Commander Liang Zong."

Hearing Qin Yushan's report, Chu Yuqin was completely stunned.

Five thousand martial artists above the Fifth Grade?

All of them Brocade Guards?

And there are nine Ninth Grade martial artists and two Grandmasters!

Chen'er had secretly created such a huge power!

With such a force, why had he needed to pretend to be an ignorant wastrel back when he was in the Capital city?

The Princes of the Capital city, even with various powers backing them, did not directly control such a superpower as Lu Chen did.

With such a vast force backing him, why would Lu Chen need to fear those Princes? Furthermore, with the support of the Chu Family and the Aristocratic Families of the South, his position as the Crown Prince was virtually secured.

Chu Yuqin was utterly confused for a moment; she couldn't fathom the point of Lu Chen's past pretense as an incompetent fool.

Of course, she didn't know that Lu Chen had only just acquired the Brocade Guard, so her lack of understanding was natural.

Lu Chen had Qin Yushan introduce the Brocade Guard purely for Chu Yuqin to hear. Now that the introduction was finished, it was time to discuss serious matters.

"Commander Qin, show me the intelligence that the Brocade Guard has gathered recently," Lu Chen said.

As soon as Lu Chen finished speaking, the Jinyiwei Guards behind Qin Yushan carried several large boxes over to Lu Chen.

"Prince, this is the intelligence gathered by the Brocade Guard on the Great Xia Dynasty this year. Please review it, Prince," said Qin Yushan.

Seeing so many boxes of intelligence, Lu Chen paused. He definitely wouldn't be able to finish them today. Then he said to Qin Yushan, "Move these intelligence documents to my study later. Commander Qin, tell me, has anything happened in the Capital city recently?"

Upon hearing Lu Chen inquire about the Capital city, Qin Yushan immediately replied, "Prince, I received a Pigeon Letter from my colleagues in the Capital city yesterday. A major incident happened recently in the Capital city."

On hearing this, both Lu Chen and Chu Yuqin's expressions became a bit more severe.

Qin Yushan continued to report, "The remnants of Chen Nation attempted to assassinate His Majesty in the Capital city and failed, escaping from the Capital city. Despite His Majesty's exhaustive search across the entire Capital city, the whereabouts of those assassins were not found. Ultimately, His Majesty's Shadow Guard found out that the Duke Mu Residence had helped those assassins escape the Capital city."

"Now the entire Duke Mu Residence has been thrown into the dungeon, awaiting trial," Qin Yushan finished.

After hearing Qin Yushan's report, Lu Chen's mind went blank for a moment; he hadn't expected his father-in-law to get into trouble so soon..

Chapter 43: Intelligence from the Capital Cityi

During the Zhou Family's rebellion, Duke Mu Residence was implicated once, and only by producing the Writ of Protection Against Execution was Mu Changtian able to barely preserve the entire Duke Mu Residence.

Just a little over a year had passed, and the Duke Mu Residence encountered such an incident again.

Lu Chen started to doubt whether his father-in-law was really this foolish.

Even if he truly had a rebellious streak, it wouldn't make sense for him to align with the remnant forces of Chen Nation again in such a short span of time.

He wasn't an idiot; the current Sum Emperor was in his prime, and his skill had also broken through to the Master Realm, so living past a hundred years old shouldn't be an issue. Thinking that assassinating the Sum Emperor and then overturning the Great Xia Dynasty would be easy was anything but the case.

At this moment, Chu Yuqin quickly said to Lu Chen, "Chen'er, Zixuan has just given birth to a child; she must not know about this under any circumstances."

Although the term 'postpartum depression' wasn't used in this era, people of the time were aware that women could be emotionally sensitive after giving birth.

If Mu Zixuan found out that the whole Mu Family had been locked up in prison, it could adversely affect her physical recovery.

Lu Chen said, "Mmm, I understand."

At this point, Lu Chen looked at Qin Yushan and asked, "Commander Qin, has my imperial father incurred any injuries?"

Qin Yushan replied, "Your Highness, the Emperor has not been harmed. It is said that during the assassination attempt by the remnants of Chen Nation, the State Preceptor was right in front of His Majesty."

Hearing this, Lu Chen let out a scornful laugh.

He then said, "Are these remnants of Chen Nation really that foolish? To dare attempt an assassination on a master in front of a grandmaster?"

Although Situ Ce never declared himself a grandmaster, the fact that he was one was no longer a secret.

After all, as the National Pillar of the Great Xia Dynasty, how could he be called that without the strength of a grandmaster?

When the remnants of Chen Nation tried to assassinate the Sum Emperor, did they not do any homework at all?

Lu Chen continued to inquire, "How many assassins did the remnants of Chen Nation dispatch to assassinate my imperial father? And what is the level of skill of these assassins?"

Qin Yushan replied, "Based on the intelligence gathered by colleagues in the Capital City, the remnants of Chen Nation dispatched a total of thirty assassins to infiltrate the Imperial Palace. Among these assassins, the majority have skill around the sixth rank, with the strongest being half-step grandmasters—there are two of them."

Upon hearing Qin Yushan's report, Lu Chen was at a loss for words on how to comment.

Sending thirty assassins, among them two half-step grandmasters, to the heavily guarded Imperial Palace to kill a master.

And these assassins didn't even bother to find out if there were any formidable individuals around the Emperor beforehand—their brains truly had issues.

Lu Chen even began to question whether these remnants were really from Chen Nation.

Lu Chen immediately asked, "Has the Brocade Guard investigated these remnants of Chen Nation? Are they truly from Chen Nation?"

Qin Yushan responded, "Your Highness, Commander Liang has sent people to investigate, confirming that remnants of Chen Nation indeed entered the Imperial Palace. However, according to Commander Liang's investigation, the escape of the remnants of Chen Nation from the Capital City is probably not related to Duke Mu Residence."

Qin Yushan, knowing what Lu Chen wanted to confirm, directly shared Commander Liang's investigation.

After hearing Qin Yushan's words, Lu Chen fell silent.

First, the Sum Emperor used the Zhou Family's rebellion as a pretext to take the Writ of Protection Against Execution from Duke Mu Residence, then stripped Mu Changtian of his military command, and eventually disbanded the Hu Ben Army, redistributing its soldiers to other camps.

Now, by using the remnants of Chen Nation, he has thrown the entire Duke Mu Residence into prison—it seems his imperial father is intent on killing the donkey once it's outlived its usefulness.

Even as a political novice, Lu Chen had a basic understanding of what the Sum Emperor intended to do.

Mu Changtian and Zhou Wangtian, who rebelled more than a year ago, were once known as the two Sky Kings of the Great Xia Dynasty; now that Zhou Wangtian has been eliminated, Mu Changtian is also almost due to be ousted.

With the fall of these two Sky Kings, the Sum Emperor's control over the Great Xia Dynasty has reached an unprecedented height in its history. He has taken all military power into his own hands. What is he planning to do?

Seeing that Lu Chen hadn't spoken for a long time, Chu Yuqin sighed beside him, "Chen'er, I'm afraid your father the Emperor is planning to take action against the Aristocratic Families." Hearing this, Lu Chen realized.

His father the Emperor had tried every means to reclaim military power and must have had something in mind; otherwise, why would he go to the trouble of reclaiming military power at the risk of destabilizing the foundation of the nation?

If it was to act against the Aristocratic Families, indeed, it would require having soldiers at hand. He hadn't expected his father the Emperor to have such boldness.

Throughout history, few Emperors have dared to casually act against the Aristocratic Families.

There's a saying: "The Aristocratic Families last a thousand years, the dynasties only a hundred." Even if a dynasty was overthrown, those families would still remain, their dominance of court affairs now taken for granted.

That his father the Emperor had such ambition made Lu Chen also couldn't help but admire him.

But on the flip side, his current situation was somewhat awkward.

First off, his mother's family comes from the Chu Family, the largest of the Aristocratic Families in the South, and secondly, his wife is the daughter of Mu Changtian...

Lu Chen then looked at Qin Yushan and asked, "Has the court said how they plan to deal with my wife?"

Qin Yushan answered, "There have been several debates in the court about this issue. Prince Lu Shuyun's faction believes that the Princess should be brought back to the capital city for disposition, while Prince Lu Yi believes that the Princess, being the wife of a prince, should not be seen as belonging to the Duke Mu Residence anymore."

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Unexpectedly, there are still people in the capital who speak up for this useless Prince."

Just then, a soldier from the Prince's Mansion entered the Training Ground.

"Your Highness, there is a Martial Artist outside claiming to be from the Brocade Guard seeking an audience."

As he said this, the soldier from the Prince's Mansion glanced at the Jinyiwei Guards on the Training Ground, and then continued, "He is dressed just like them."

Lu Chen said directly, "Let him in."

"Yes, Your Highness."

Shortly after, the soldier led the newly arrived Jinyiwei Guard into the Training Ground.

The Jinyiwei Guard saw Lu Chen and immediately knelt down halfway, saying, "Greetings, Your Highness."

Lu Chen said, "Rise."

Lu Chen had thought that this Jinyiwei Guard had arrived at the Prince's Mansion simply because of the long distance, but as soon as the Jinyiwei Guard stood up, he immediately took out a bamboo tube from his waist and handed it to Lu Chen.

"Your Highness, I have a letter from the capital. The Duke Mu Residence is accused of colluding with the remnants of Chen Nation and has been exiled by His Majesty to the northwest."

Lu Chen was somewhat surprised; he had just taken charge of the Brocade Guard, and its intelligence network was already operating.

Lu Chen took the bamboo tube from the Jinyiwei Guard, removed a piece of intelligence from inside, and read it carefully.

From the content on the intelligence, Lu Chen immediately understood that it was a routine exchange of information between members of the Brocade Guard, and it was not because the Jinyiwei in the capital knew in advance that he, the North Prince, was their master.

Seeing Lu Chen's expression turn somber, Chu Yuqin asked, "Chen'er, what's wrong?"

Lu Chen replied, "Commander Liang says in this report that, on his way to exile in the northwest, Duke Mu will be subject to assassination attempts by numerous forces. Now that Duke Mu has been stripped of his skill and is just an ordinary person, it's very likely that the entire Duke Mu family will not make it to the northwest.."

Chapter 44: Prince? Which Prince?_i

Ancient officials on their way to exile were generally at the greatest risk.

The exiled officials had lost their power, and those who they had offended in the past no longer feared them. It was very likely that their enemies would seize this opportunity to take revenge by hiring assassins to kill the exiled.

Moreover, political adversaries still in court did not wish for these exiled individuals to ever return to the court, and would find ways to eliminate them.

Not to mention, Mu Changtian was once a highly renowned general in the Hu Ben Army.

In his efforts to assist the Sum Emperor in seizing the imperial throne, Mu Changtian had made quite a few enemies.

These people ail wanted Mu Changtian dead.

Now, like a tiger without teeth, Mu Changtian's enemies would not miss this chance.

The issue Lu Chen now contemplated was whether to save his esteemed father-in-law or not.

With his current strength, if he wished to save Mu Changtian, it wasn't completely out of the question, especially since he already had the Brocade Guard at his disposal.

Furthermore, Mu Changtian was the father of his wife, and it wouldn't be right to turn a blind eye to his plight.

After a long moment, Lu Chen finally spoke, "If the exile is to the northwest, then it shouldn't be too far from North City, right?"

Qin Yushan replied, "Indeed, my Prince."

Lu Chen glanced once more at the report in his hand and then said, "This report came four days ago; 1 fear the Duke Mu Residence's family is already on the way to exile. If this prince wants to save them, I'm not sure whether there's still time."

Hearing these words from Lu Chen, Qin Yushan immediately said, "Please rest assured, my Prince. 1 believe that once Commander Liang Zong becomes aware that you are our lord, he will know what to do."

If Liang Zong didn't know that his master was the North Prince, he definitely wouldn't act to save the Duke Mu Residence.

But since he was already aware that their master of the Brocade Guard was the North Prince, and Duke Mu was the father-in-law of the North Prince, he would surely act immediately to rescue Duke Mu Residence and then await the North Prince's next command.

After some thought, Lu Chen could only hope that the yet-to-be-met Commander of the Brocade Guard would have some sense.

Lu Chen then said to Qin Yushan, "Send a message to Commander Liang, instructing him to save Duke Mu Residence's family. Have him disguise them as if they've all perished and then find a way to bring them safely to North City."

Qin Yushan saluted and said, "As you command, my Prince."

Lu Chen looked at the heads of the four divisions of the Brocade Guard and continued, "The Brocade Guard must continue to operate covertly for now. Whatever you were doing before, keep doing it."

Although the Brocade Guard, in comparison to the Great Xia Dynasty's Shadow Guard, wasn't much to speak of,

as a prince, a lord on the frontier with such a vast and complete intelligence network, this would certainly arouse suspicion from others.

Why would a prince send people to infiltrate various counties of the Great Xia Dynasty, monitor officials, and gather intelligence? What are his intentions?

This is overtly preparing for rebellion.

Lu Chen wasn't so foolish.

It was best for the Brocade Guard to continue lurking in the shadows.

Meanwhile.

Capital City.

Heaven Prison.

A middle-aged man clad in prisoner's garb, tall and imposing, was bound tightly to the rack.

The man had disheveled hair, and his face looked utterly exhausted.

Upon learning of his impending exile, Mu Changtian couldn't help but laugh uproariously.

"Hahaha, how ridiculous, truly ridiculous!"

"Lu Xingqiu, oh Lu Xingqiu, back then, to save you, I risked my life and led a hundred men deep into enemy territory, fighting with all we had to get you out. And when you were contending for the throne, 1 gave my all to support you, yet today, I've been reduced to such a state!"

"The emperor's heart is always cold and merciless! Today, I have truly seen it!"

Mu Changtian's neighboring cell held the members of Duke Mu's family. As Mu Changtian's words ended, a young man dressed in prisoner's clothes asked, "Father, will we survive the journey to the northwest?"

The young man who spoke was Mu Changtian's second son Mu Xingping, also Mu Zixuan's elder brother.

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He had grown up in the Duke Mu Residence, acutely aware of politics, so he was very clear that their whole family's exile to the northwest was nothing more than a pretense.

The Sum Emperor would certainly not allow them to arrive in the northwest safely.

Even if the Sum Emperor didn't kill them, the former enemies of the Duke Mu Residence would not let them live in peace.

Now that all the males in their family had been stripped of their skill, they were all ordinary people. If they encountered an assassination by a martial artist on the road, they would have no means of resistance.

After hearing his second son's words, Mu Changtian fell silent.

Because he also knew that the Sum Emperor would not allow him to live and reach the northwest, nor would his enemies let him continue to live.

He and his family would die on the road of exile.

The Sum Emperor had not killed them directly but chose to exile their whole family, only because he feared others would accuse him of killing a meritorious official, afraid of being pointed at the spine.

At that moment, Mu Changtian's eldest son, Mu Jingwu, said, "Father, little sister shouldn't be implicated, right?"

Their demise was certain, beyond doubt. Mu Jingwu was now only worried that his sister, who had married the North Prince, would also be implicated.

Hearing this, Mu Changtian sighed deeply, still saying nothing.

The North Prince was nothing but an ignorant waste, and moreover, he was weak and incompetent.

He had heard that after the North Prince went to North City, he had kept many women in the Prince's Mansion, indulging in pleasure every day, with his entire mansion managed by his daughter. Given the North Prince's character, even if the court did not dispose of his daughter, the North Prince might fear the court's punishment and drive his daughter out of the Prince's Mansion, or even divorce her directly.

Once the people from the Duke Mu Residence were all dead, Mu Zixuan would be completely helpless, and the North Prince wouldn't have to worry about anyone troubling him.

Just thinking of his daughter's future plight made Mu Changtian's heart seethe with hatred!

He had truly been blind to have supported the ingrate Lu Xingqiu to the throne!

At that moment, a jailer unlocked the cell that held Mu Changtian alone.

A man walked in and said to the jailer beside him, "You go out first, I have a few words to pass on to Duke Mu."

"Okay, head jailer," replied the jailer.

After the jailer left the cell, only the man remained in Mu Changtian's presence.

The Mu family members in the adjacent cells, seeing someone enter Mu Changtian's cell, all turned their attention in that direction.

Mu Changtian gave the man in front of him a once-over, snorted with a laugh, and said, "Did Lu Xingqiu send you?"

Facing his impending death, Mu Changtian no longer showed the Sum Emperor the same respect, addressing him directly by name.

At these words, the man simply smiled.

He then approached Mu Changtian and unlocked all of the iron chains that bound him.

Seeing this scene, the Mu family members were all puzzled, not understanding why the head jailer would do such a thing.

The head jailer then spoke, "Duke Mu, let me introduce myself. My name is

Zhao Hong, and I am a man of the Prince."

Upon hearing this, Mu Changtian was filled with confusion.

The Prince?

Which Prince?

Which Prince would dare to send someone to contact him now?

He was already about to be exiled, and he didn't believe that the other Princes did not understand what his exile implied.

If a Prince contacted him at this time, it would surely incur the Sum Emperor's displeasure.

Then, not just confinement but even their princely positions could be at risk of being lost.

After being unchained, Mu Changtian moved his body to ease the stiffness. While he was about to inquire which Prince Zhao Hong served, Zhao Hong took out three bottles and said, "These are three Great Returning Pills. Upon taking them, you will recover ninety percent of your skill."

Hearing this, Mu Changtian was completely stunned..

Chapter 45 - 45: 45 Chen Wanrong: I Will Plant a Love Worm in Hirn i

As a former Grandmaster Martial Artist, Mu Changtian could not possibly be unaware of what the Great Returning Pill was.

However, he had only heard about it before and had never seen it.

The rumors claimed that the Great Returning Pill could bring someone back from the dead and fully restore one's skill.

Although the rumors may be exaggerated, there was no doubt it could restore one's skill, and the Imperial Palace indeed had such pills.

Mu Changtian looked at the three small porcelain bottles in Zhao Hong's hand with disbelief.

After a moment of silence, he sneered and said, "It seems some people can't wait anymore, we haven't even left the Capital city yet they plan to make their move on me."

At such a time, how could anyone come to rescue them, and even bring them a miraculous elixir like the Great Returning Pill?

Apparently, someone was planning to act against them in advance, to poison him to death with a toxicant.

What nonsense about the Great Returning Pill!

Clearly, it was poison.

Mu Changtian then said, "Speak, who sent you?"

"If it's Lu Xingqiu, ha, I'd rather die on the road than take the poison he gives!"

Seeing that Mu Changtian seemed to have misunderstood his intent, Zhao Hong said with a smile, "Duke Mu, you have misunderstood. Those who want you dead wouldn't let you die in Heaven Prison."

"The Great Returning Pills in my possession are indeed real, and as for which Prince gave them to you, you will soon find out. If you want to see your daughter again, it's best to take the Great Returning Pill immediately and regain all your strength before you're exiled."

If Zhao Hong now said that the Great Returning Pill was from the North Prince, Mu Changtian would probably be even more distrustful, given that the North Prince's image as a good-for-nothing had deeply imprinted in people's hearts.

Hearing Zhao Hong mention his daughter, Mu Changtian was startled for a moment.

At this time, Mu Jingwu from the neighboring cell said, "Father, give it to me, I'll take it first. Even if it's poison, 1 accept my fate; we won't live many days anyway."

Mu Changtian looked again at the small porcelain bottles in Zhao Hong's hand, pondered for a moment, and finally snatched the bottles from Zhao Hong. He opened one and threw the pill inside into his mouth.

Just when Mu Changtian was ready to meet death, he found his inner strength starting to recover, and he felt an incredible sense of comfort flooding his body.

Soon, he felt his skill returning. Although it had not fully recovered, he now possessed the strength of a Ninth Grade Martial Artist.

Mu Changtian looked at the remaining two small porcelain bottles in his hand with disbelief. Could these actually be the real Great Returning Pills?

How could that be!

Only the Imperial Palace had Great Returning Pills.

Such skill-restoring pills were coveted by Grandmasters, let alone by Great Grandmasters.

One pill was already immensely precious, yet now this prison head actually gave him three!

If people knew that there were three Great Returning Pills in the hands of a commoner, the Capital city would have probably already been in chaos. Such precious pills, could they really have come from a Prince?

Wait a minute...

Mu Changtian seemed to realize something.

The prison head had only mentioned that these pills came from a certain Prince, but he did not say that this Prince was a child of the Sum Emperor.

The Great Xia Dynasty had numerous Princes, and it wasn't only the current Princes who could be named so; a Seignior might also be possible.

Could it be that a Seignior was planning a rebellion and thus sought to enlist his support?

With this thought, Mu Changtian immediately confirmed his suspicion.

It must be so; otherwise, why would the other party be willing to part with three Great Returning Pills to help him and his two sons regain their skill?

But then again, even if that Prince intended to rebel, he no longer cared.

Lu Xingqiu was just an ungrateful wretch, what did it matter if he rebelled against him!

With this in mind, Mu Changtian immediately said to Zhao Hong, "Thank you, go back and tell your Prince that whatever he wants me to do, 1, Mu Changtian, will oblige."

Having said that, Mu Changtian tossed the two remaining small porcelain bottles to his sons Mu Jingwu and Mu Xingping in the next cell.

After Mu Jingwu and Mu Xingping received the small porcelain bottles, they didn't say another word and immediately swallowed the pills.

When the two of them felt their skill returning within their bodies, they also revealed a look of disbelief.

This isn't poison, but the actual Great Returning Pill?

Does this mean our father has also recovered his skill?

If that's the case, we'd be able to put up some resistance on the way, and not be slaughtered unilaterally by others.

As for whether we can make it to the northwest alive, that's up to fate.

Zhao Hong said, "Alright, Duke Mu, I will relay your message to the Prince."

"I won't disturb you any longer."

After that, Zhao Hong turned around and left the cell.

Once the cell door was closed again, Mu Xingping immediately asked, "Father, which Prince dares to send us the pili at this time, and it's even the legendary Great Returning Pill?"

Mu Changtian was silent for a moment before saying, "It seems that a Seignior is getting restless and wants to take advantage of Lu Xingqiu dealing with the Aristocratic Families to unite with them and overthrow Lu Xingqiu."

The Aristocratic Families already knew that Lu Xingqiu might take action against them, so they wouldn't just sit and wait for death. The most likely scenario is that they would support a Seignior, then overthrow Lu Xingqiu's rule and replace him with someone else as the Emperor.

Just as the Aristocratic Families helped Lu Xingqiu ascend to the throne back then.

Hearing Mu Changtian's words, Mu Jingwu asked from the side, "Father, what should we do then?"

Mu Changtian scoffed and said, "What to do? 1 was the one who helped Lu Xingqiu to the throne back then. Since he has turned his back on me, he can't blame me for pulling him down!"

Mu Changtian had already decided that if someone truly wanted to rebel against Lu Xingqiu, he would definitely support that person.

Obviously, these three Great Returning Pills were the other party's gesture of sincerity; otherwise, they wouldn't have sent such precious pills to them.

It's just that 1 don't know which Prince it is.

There aren't many Seigniors in the Great Xia who have the power to rebel. Although the Great Xia gave some Princes a lot of power, Lu Xingqiu liked to meddle in those territories that had potential for growth.

If they couldn't be controlled, then he would have the Shadow Guard take action in advance to eliminate any potential disasters.

This wasn't something that Lu Xingqiu had never done; Mu Changtian knew of a Prince who was killed by Lu Xingqiu's Shadow Guard. After his death, the court even pushed all the blame onto the head official of the Seignior's territory, accusing him of imprisoning the Seignior with the intent to rebel.

After pondering for a moment, Mu Changtian still couldn't figure out which Seignior would reach out to him. He had no choice but to let it go; after all, once he got out, he would know who had approached him.

In the meantime.

Mysterious Moon Palace.

Within the chamber of light veils, transcendent in a veil of smoke, a woman dressed in plain white clothes was sitting in front of a zither, earnestly playing the instrument.

The woman had a tall figure and a graceful, enchanting posture. At that moment, a breeze came by, lifting the sheer veil at the door, revealing a glimpse of the woman's exquisite beauty.

The woman's beauty was unmatched, flawless like frost and snow, her pale countenance revealing a touch of aloofness. She was like a goddess from the ninth heaven, a fairy descended to earth.

At that moment, a woman dressed in purple Cloud Attire entered the room, exuding a dignified and elegant aura.

The melodious sound of the zither ceased as the woman arrived, and the female zither player spoke, "Madam Lin, is there something you need?"

The woman's voice was cool but also carried a hint of gentleness.

The dignified woman asked, "Palace Master, do you really plan to go to North City?"

Upon hearing this, Chen Wanrong stood up and walked slowly out of the veil-covered chamber; her saintly face came into view of the dignified woman.

Chen Wanrong spoke softly, "Only with the fresh blood of Sum Emperor's child can the Subtle Dragon Spell be created, and the North Prince is the easiest Prince to approach."

As she heard this, a worried look appeared on the dignified woman's face, "But I've heard the North Prince is lustful; he keeps many servants in his residence for pleasure-seeking. If he takes a fancy to you..."

The woman left her sentence unfinished.

Gazing emotionlessly at the distant green hills, Chen Wanrong said indifferently, "People are easier to control when they have desires. I will plant the Love Worm in him, then manipulate him to help us complete the Subtle Dragon Spell."

Hearing this, the dignified woman sighed and then said, "He is Chu Yue's child; if possible, 1 hope you can spare his life in the end."

Chen Wanrong offered no response, merely looking silently into the distance as a breeze blew by, swaying her dress continuously..

Chapter 46 - 46: 46 Wang Qingci Reports on Intelligence!

Lu Chen had no idea he was already being targeted by the remnants of Chen Nation. With the arrival of the Brocade Guards, he became much busier.

The information brought by the Brocade Guards was overwhelming, and he had spent the last few days in his study poring over the accumulated intelligence.

It must be said, the abilities of the Brocade Guards were indeed formidable.

Even without his oversight as their master, the Brocade Guards had managed to thoroughly investigate some of the old affairs of the Great Xia Dynasty.

For instance, the truth about his mother's death, and how the Sum Emperor, supported by the Aristocratic Families, had gradually become antagonistic towards them.

At that moment, as Lu Chen was flipping through the Brocade Guards' files, his brows grew more furrowed by the minute.

According to the records, the woman loved by the Sum Emperor was murdered by his mother, and the Sum Emperor had hated her immensely, directing that hatred towards him as well, to the point that the Sum Emperor had even contemplated getting rid of him at his birth.

As for the reason why his mother had killed the Sum Emperor's favorite woman, it was nothing more than the petty affairs of the Harem, such as the strife for the position of Empress. Lu Chen had no interest in those matters. What he was interested in now was how he could return to the Capital city. Judging by the Sum Emperor's attitude towards him, it seemed that his only way back to the Capital city in this lifetime might be through rebellion.

Any Prince could partake in the struggle for power, except for him, the North Prince. There was no way he could normally participate; the Sum Emperor would never allow it.

To return, only his corpse might accomplish that.

Just then, a charming voice called from outside the door.

"Prince, are you there? This servant has important matters to report."

Hearing that it was Wang Qingci's voice, Lu Chen set aside the intelligence in his hands. Well, there were too many matters, and they could not be resolved in a short while.

Better to take it slow. He had plenty of time, so he might as well relax a bit first.

"Come in," he said.

As Lu Chen's words fell, Wang Qingci, dressed in a thin red gauze, entered the study with even steps.

By now, Wang Qingci had completely submitted to Lu Chen. Maybe it was because of the frequent cultivation of their relationship, but she had become increasingly charming and almost bewitchingly so.

A delicate nose, soft red lips, a slender waist, and skin as white as jade... combined with the warm fragrance emanating from her at all times, even just passing by her would make one involuntarily think of doing something to her.

If it wasn't for the fact that Lu Chen was already a Ninth Grade Martial Artist, he might have pounced on Wang Qingci, driven by the effects of the Dragon and Tiger Pill.

Of course, although Lu Chen could now control himself, it did not mean he would give up on cultivating a relationship with Wang Qingci.

During the time when Mu Zixuan and the other two were pregnant, Wang Qingci had mostly been the one tending to him, and she almost visited the Prince's Mansion every day.

Compared to the other three, Lu Chen felt a stronger impulse towards Wang Qingci.

Perhaps it was due to her identity as an Oiran. Just the thought of the much-adored Oiran only being his Female Slave excited Lu Chen immensely.

It must be said that sometimes status complements appearance.

When Wang Qingci entered the study, she said softly, "1 have seen the Prince."

Lu Chen glanced at Wang Qingci and then, lifting her delicate hand, he pulled her forcefully into his arms.

Wang Qingci did not resist and soon sat in Lu Chen's embrace.

In front of this man, she had no power to resist, nor did she need to. She was his Female Slave, at his behest to do with as he wished.

Lu Chen asked, "What is it you want to see me about?"

Wang Qingci replied, "Prince, Prince Lu Shuyun has sent a letter, saying the Tower Master of Blood Moon Tower plans to visit North City personally and wants this servant to gather recent developments from the Prince's Mansion, especially to find out about any movements from that Mysterious Grandmaster."

Hmm?

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen was momentarily taken aback.

Was his brother Shuyun still not giving up?

After having stayed in North City for so long, he should know that the Chu Family had not sent anyone to make contact with him. Why would he still trouble himself with Lu Chen?

While stroking Wang Qingci's body, Lu Chen asked, "The Tower Master of Blood Moon Tower should possess Grandmaster strength, right? Is he coming to assassinate me?"

Wang Qingci answered, "The Prince did not tell this servant. He only asked this servant to report what has been happening in the Prince's Mansion lately, and whether there has been any activity from that Mysterious Grandmaster."

Lu Chen thought to himself that his brother Shuyun probably didn't yet know that their father, the Sum Emperor, was planning to move against the Aristocratic Families in the South. With so much at stake, he still aspired to gain the Chu Family's support?

"Just don't end up being abolished alongside the Chu Family," she warned.

Just then, an idea seemed to strike Wang Qingci, and she continued, "That's right, Prince, I also inquired about something else."

Lu Chen asked, "What is it?"

"I heard that the entire Duke Mu Residence has been exiled to the northwest."

The intelligence network of Misty Pavilion was also quite formidable. They quickly obtained news of events happening in the Capital city, which Wang Qingci could then learn.

Upon learning the news about Duke Mu Residence and considering that the Princess Consort was also Duke Mu's daughter, Lu Chen would likely be concerned about this. Hence, she took the initiative to bring it up.

However, upon hearing this, Lu Chen immediately said, "I already know about it."

Wang Qingci then said, "Then I have nothing else to report."

As she said this, Wang Qingci shifted her body slightly, feeling somewhat uncomfortable sitting down.

At that moment, Lu Chen said with a smile, "No, you have one more thing to do."

"Coincidentally, I was feeling a bit tired just now and need to relax."

Hearing this, Wang Qingci gave Lu Chen a resentful glance and, understanding what he implied, stood up and leaned over the table to tidy up the scattered intelligence papers on his desk.

[Host and Wang Qingci foster affection once, Qi Refinement Mantra Experience + 20, Rejuvenating Skill Experience +20, congratulations to the host for Rejuvenating Skill reaching the second level.]

After hearing the prompt, Lu Chen glanced at Wang Qingci, who was sprawled out, feeling somewhat perplexed.

It was known that martial artists had difficulty conceiving, and he was aware of that.

However, ever since Mu Zixuan and the others had become pregnant, Wang Qingci had been coming to the Prince's Mansion almost daily, fostering affection with him every day, but still, Wang Qingci remained childless.

Even though Wang Qingci was a ninth-grade martial artist, wasn't this difficulty in getting pregnant a bit too much?

It had been almost a year.

Could there be an issue with Wang Qingci's body?

Lu Chen wouldn't think the problem lies with his body. After all, he had taken the Dragon and Tiger Pill and drunk the Dragon and Phoenix Tea.

It could only be something wrong with Wang Qingci's body.

After a moment of thought, Lu Chen used his Rejuvenating Skill to check Wang Qingci's body.

The Rejuvenating Skill had reached the second level, and for him to check for any hidden injuries or diseases in someone's body was very easy.

When he placed his hand on Wang Qingci's abdomen, the conditions inside her body flashed through his mind in an instant.

Wang Qingci's body did not have any issues and was much like any regular woman's.

This was rather strange.

Her body was fine, yet getting pregnant was so challenging.

Could it indeed be because she was a ninth-grade martial artist?

If that was the case, wouldn't it be even more difficult for him to have children with a beautiful woman in the future?

Just then, Wang Qingci suddenly spoke up, "Prince, when do you plan on 'eating' your Madam Chu? Her jealousy is growing stronger by the day, and she's becoming increasingly annoying to me."

Hearing this, Lu Chen's expression froze for a moment, then he chuckled and said, "What do you mean by that? Do you really think I would do something disrespectful to her?"

Wang Qingci said, "The moment you hear the words 'Madam Chu,' you become even fiercer. Do you still need me to spell it out for you?"

Lu Chen huffed a laugh, then responded, "It seems you still don't understand what a female slave is, daring to meddle in my affairs. Today, you must be properly disciplined."

"All! Prince, I know my mistake," she pleaded.

"Mmm, good brother," she cooed.

Chapter 47 - 47: 47 Lu Chen's Problem i

Wang Qingci left Lu Chen's study disheveled, her hair loose and flowing, her face flushed with color.

Her walk was unsteady and wobbly.

Just as she stepped out of the main courtyard, she happened to bump into Chu Yuqin, who was on patrol. Seeing Wang Qingci in such a state, Chu Yuqin knew that bitch must have just gone to seduce her Chen'er.

Chu Yuqin said in a taunting tone, "Miss Wang, I've heard that the business at the Hundred Flowers Tower is particularly good. As the Tower Master, why aren't you there overseeing it, instead of coming to the Prince's Mansion every day?"

Seeing the jealousy in Chu Yuqin's eyes, Wang Qingci smiled knowingly.

She was very aware of why Chu Yuqin disliked her: wasn't it because she served the North Prince every day, arousing her envy?

Wang Qingci then said, "Madam Chu, the Princess and several ladies are pregnant, so only a concubine like me can serve the Prince. You're not unaware of the great stress the Prince is under. If 1 don't attend to him, are you suggesting that Madam Chu help the Prince relax?"

"If Madam Chu plans to help the Prince relieve his stress every day, then this concubine won't come tomorrow."

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin's complexion changed dramatically, and then a gust of wind blew out from her body, wildly tossing her skirts.

"Wang Qingci, you're just Chen'er's Female Slave. I'd advise you to watch what you say!"

"Otherwise, even if I kill you, I believe Chen'er wouldn't say a thing!"

Wang Qingci smiled sweetly, and then said, "Madam Chu, if you really intend to kill this concubine, without me to serve the Prince, I'm afraid you'll truly have to attend to him every day then!"

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin was both angry and embarrassed, her face coloring with a blush.

"You!"

Seeing that Wang Qingci wasn't afraid of her at all, Chu Yuqin couldn't be bothered to argue any further. She turned on her heel and walked towards the other side of the Prince's Mansion, muttering as she went:

"She's merely a tool for Chen'er to release his evil thoughts. Why should I be upset over a tool?"

Wang Qingci wasn't angry upon hearing these words. Indeed, she was just a tool, but as long as she could please the North Prince, that's all that mattered.

Watching Chu Yuqin's voluptuous figure, Wang Qingci's lips curled up slightly as she whispered, "Madam Chu, oh Madam Chu, the Prince's patience is limited, and it won't be long before you end up in his bed."

Although Chu Yuqin had been trying to keep her distance from Lu Chen for the past six months, she was, after all, the commander of the inner guard, responsible for Lu Chen's safety.

So, Chu Yuqin would occasionally come across Lu Chen seizing Wang Qingci, and every time she saw Chu Yuqin or even mentioned her in his presence, his entire demeanor would grow more furious, as if he became a completely different person, wildly crazed, making her suffer alongside.

It was clear that Lu Chen's desire for Chu Yuqin was growing day by day, and while he still could restrain his inner longing, it might not last forever.

Maybe one careless day, the two might bump into each other, Chu Yuqin might not get away, and then she would be devoured completely.

After Chu Yuqin's figure disappeared from sight, Wang Qingci turned and continued to leave the courtyard. But as she turned, she saw Mu Zixuan.

Having rested a while after giving birth, Mu Zixuan had largely recovered and was now able to get out of bed and walk.

Unlike with Chu Yuqin, Wang Qingci held great respect for the Princess Mu Zixuan. Upon seeing her, Wang Qingci immediately said, "Greetings to the Princess."

Mu Zixuan smiled faintly and nodded, "Rise, Miss Wang."

Mu Zixuan knew that Wang Qingci was Lu Chen's plaything, so she didn't mind at all that Wang Qingci frequently visited the inner court.

In this era, most mistresses didn't care if their husbands had concubines or Female Slaves; Mu Zixuan was no exception.

At this moment, Mu Zixuan asked, "Is the Prince inside?"

Wang Qingci answered, "The Prince is now in the study."

Mu Zixuan said, "Alright, Miss Wang, go ahead and do whatever you need to,

I'll go check on the Prince."

Mu Zixuan was increasingly exuding the temperament of a Prince's wife, with every word and action revealing the aura of someone in a high position.

Just as Wang Qingci was about to leave, she suddenly thought of something and immediately said, "Oh yes, Madam, I have a favor to ask of you, if you would be willing to hear it."

Hearing this, Mu Zixuan asked with a hint of curiosity, "What is it? Miss Wang, please speak."

Wang Qingci glanced at Lu Chen's study, then said, "Madam, isn't it about time for the Prince to take another concubine? Please consider this as me overstepping."

Ever since Lu Chen's wives and concubines became pregnant, it had been Wang Qingci attending to Lu Chen every day, and even as a Ninth Grade Martial Artist, she could hardly bear it any longer.

Now that Mu Zixuan had just given birth, she obviously couldn't attend to Lu Chen, leaving her, the Female Slave, to continue serving him.

Although she was just a Female Slave, and it wasn't her place to speak of taking concubines, she simply couldn't endure it any longer.

She believed that Mu Zixuan was a rather magnanimous person and wouldn't prevent Lu Chen from taking concubines, after all, the North Prince's household was hardly sufficient to serve him, and as his wife, Mu Zixuan couldn't possibly forever refuse him additional concubines.

When Mu Zixuan heard Wang Qingci's words, she immediately grasped the situation, knowing that Wang Qingci must be overwhelmed.

Mu Zixuan thought to herself, if even a Ninth Grade Martial Artist could barely cope, her darling's constitution must be extremely formidable.

When she had married Lu Chen in the Capital city, she had thought him to be a youth whose body was depleted by wine and women, and presumed it to be quite frail.

Looking at it now...

Mu Zixuan sighed and then said, "Miss Wang, 1 will bring up the matter of the Prince taking concubines to him. You can go back with your mind at ease."

Wang Qingci immediately expressed her thanks, "Thank you, Madam."

"I shall take my leave."

Afterward, Wang Qingci turned and left the courtyard.

Meanwhile.

Just coming out of his study, Lu Chen saw Chu Yuqin, her face flushed with redness, and immediately called out to her, "Madam Chu, wait a moment, I have a question to ask of you."

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin halted in her tracks. She turned to look at Lu Chen with a puzzled expression and asked, "Chen'er, what do you need from me?"

Lu Chen asked, "Madam Chu, I remember that the higher a Martial Artist's realm, the more difficult it is for them to conceive, correct?"

Chu Yuqin answered, "That's correct, why do you ask?"

Chu Yuqin felt a twinge of nervousness inside. Why would Chen'er suddenly ask this? He wouldn't still be considering me as an option, would he?

After all, within the inner quarters of the Prince's Mansion, it seemed she was the only female Martial Artist close to Lu Chen.

At this moment, Lu Chen said, "I've been intimate with Wang Qingci so many times, and yet she still hasn't become pregnant, but there's nothing wrong with her body."

"Even if it's harder for Martial Artists with higher realms to conceive, it shouldn't be that after half a year there's still not the slightest reaction from her body, right?"

Upon hearing Lu Chen mention Wang Qingci, Chu Yuqin breathed a sigh of relief. So, he was speaking of Wang Qingci. She had thought he was eyeing her up.

Chu Yuqin smiled warmly, then responded, "Chen'er, are you unaware that Martial Artists above Fifth Grade can expel certain impurities from their bodies using their Inner Strength?"

"Many Martial Artists, if they're poisoned, can use their Inner Strength to expel the toxins, as long as the poison isn't too fierce.."

Chapter 48 - 48: 48: Then I'll Trouble Madam Chu i

Hearing Chu Yuqin's response, Lu Chen was momentarily stunned.

So that was it?

He had been wondering why Wang Qingci showed no signs of illness, and yet, half a year had passed without any reaction from her stomach.

How dare this female slave take the emotions he imparted to her and use her inner strength to expel them?

The next time he saw her, he would have to punish her severely, to let her know the power of him as her master!

This person had actually kept it from him for half a year!

He had even suspected there might be something wrong with his own body, but it turned out to be her problem all along.

At that moment, Chu Yuqin reminded him, "Chen'er, even though Wang Qingci is a Ninth Grade martial artist, her public identity is that of the Oiran of Hundred Flowers Tower. It's not a problem if you are just playing around, but if you want to take her as a concubine, it could affect your reputation."

Chu Yuqin did indeed have some preconceived notions about Wang Qingci, but her reminder was not without reason; this era placed great importance on one's status.

Even if an Oiran was redeemed, or purchased by a wealthy family, they were often still unable to become a concubine.

Moreover, for Lu Chen, a prince, to take an Oiran as a concubine would become the subject of ridicule once it spread.

Hearing Chu Yuqin's reminder, Lu Chen said with a smile, "Madam Chu, don't you think taking her as my concubine could buy me more time to grow?"

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Chu Yuqin was taken aback for a moment, then asked, "Do you mean you want to continue to tarnish your name to numb the court, making them believe you are still that useless prince?"

Lu Chen replied, "Now is a time of many affairs. Although North City is not in the direct scrutiny of the court, there are still many who are watching over it, making my every move particularly important."

Chu Yuqin thought for a moment and then sighed softly, "Chen'er, you have grown up and have your own ideas, do whatever you wish. If you encounter any trouble, tell me, and I will persuade your grandfather to help you."

Hearing this, Lu Chen smiled and said, "Madam Chu, I have indeed encountered a bit of trouble recently."

Chu Yuqin asked with concern, "What trouble?"

Lu Chen answered, "Lately, when 1 practice martial arts, 1 always feel a breath circling in my dantian, which makes me very uncomfortable. Could you help me check it out, and see what's going on?"

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin was taken aback.

When Lu Chen was young, she did often check his body, but now that he had grown so much and even had his own wife, it was somewhat inappropriate for her to check his body at this time.

After all, he was an adult, and there are differences between men and women.

Chu Yuqin thought for a moment, and then said, "Chen'er, you are an adult now, and it wouldn't be appropriate for me to check your body anymore. I will ask General Li to come and see you later; he should be able to see what the problem is."

Hearing this, Lu Chen said, "Madam Chu, General Li is just a martial artist of the Eighth Grade, and it hasn't been long since his breakthrough to that status. He doesn't have your extensive experience."

Chu Yuqin then said, "Don't you still have the Brocade Guard? Commander Qin should still be in Yan County, right? He is a Grandmaster. Let him check it."

Chu Yuqin refused to check Lu Chen's body herself; she was afraid that intimate contact might occur once again.

After hearing Chu Yuqin's words, Lu Chen sighed deeply and then said, "Ah, I see, Madam Chu. You despise me now."

Chu Yuqin immediately said, "Chen'er, how can you talk like that? I am your aunt, how could 1 possibly despise you?"

Lu Chen said, "When 1 was younger, you often checked my body, but now that I have grown up, you refuse to do so anymore. If that's not despising me, then what is it?"

Hearing his words, Chu Yuqin's face turned a shade of red, spreading even to her neck.

Chu Yuqin was about to say something when Lu Chen immediately turned around and said, "Madam Chu, if you don't want to help me check, then forget it. If something really happens, then I'll just be dead, and it seems you no longer care about me anyway."

Upon hearing these words, Chu Yuqin's mind went blank, then she said somewhat angrily, "Chen'er, how can you talk about life and death so casually?"

As soon as she finished speaking, Chu Yuqin raised her hand and grabbed Lu Chen's wrist.

The corners of Lu Chen's mouth curved slightly upwards, but since he was turned away from Chu Yuqin, she couldn't see it.

Lu Chen had long noticed that recently, Chu Yuqin had been finding ways to avoid him.

Of course, Lu Chen understood why; Chu Yuqin was afraid that things would escalate between them and she would end up becoming his woman.

After all, she was a relatively traditional woman and wasn't able to come to terms with such a thing just yet.

After holding Lu Chen's wrist, Chu Yuqin sighed and said, "Come to the room, 1'11 have a look and also help you regulate your inner strength."

Chu Yuqin had actually wanted to check on Lu Chen's body for a while now. Although Lu Chen had a fortunate destiny, training in martial arts is still an individual matter, and nobody knows if something might go wrong.

However, thinking about that incident from the past, and knowing that Lu Chen, this little rascal, had been coveting her body all along, she had to restrain herself and never took the initiative to suggest checking on his body.

Seeing that Chu Yuqin agreed, Lu Chen immediately said, "Then I'm troubling you, Madam Chu."

Shortly after, they arrived at the study.

When Chu Yuqin smelled an odd scent in the study, a peculiar expression appeared on her face.

"What is this smell? Why is it so unpleasant?"

Although Chu Yuqin was already twenty-eight, almost twenty-nine, she had never been involved in 'those kinds of matters,' so there were some things she was still clueless about.

Lu Chen said indifferently, "This is a new perfume developed by the Prince's Mansion."

Chu Yuqin said with a hint of surprise, "Perfume? Who would buy a perfume with this kind of scent?"

As she said that, Chu Yuqin sniffed the air and then continued, "Could it be that being exposed to this scent has caused some issue with your body during your training?"

Sometimes, mishaps during training can be caused by the environment, so Chu Yuqin suspected that the overpowering smell may have caused some problems for Chen'er during his training.

Lu Chen said, "I don't know. Maybe there is some connection."

At this moment, Chu Yuqin glanced at Lu Chen and, blushing, said, "Take off your upper clothing. I want to look at your condition first."

No sooner had Chu Yuqin finished speaking, than Lu Chen skillfully took off his top.

Seeing this, Chu Yuqin's face grew even hotter, as if she were running a fever, her ears turning red as well.

With the removal of Lu Chen's upper clothing, his muscular body was revealed before Chu Yuqin.

Seeing Lu Chen's neatly lined eight-pack abs, Chu Yuqin was momentarily dazed.

When Lu Chen married Mu Zixuan, Chu Yuqin had checked his body once, and at that time, there weren't noticeable abs, just a little belly.

Now that Lu Chen actually had such pronounced muscles, it seemed unbelievable to Chu Yuqin.

Although she knew that Lu Chen was a martial artist, she hadn't actually seen how he trained, and for someone who hadn't trained much, to have such a sturdy physique was indeed surprising..

Chapter 49 - 49: 49 Are You Deceiving Your Aunt i

Lu Chen's muscles, though well-defined, weren't exaggeratedly bulky like those of modern bodybuilders.

The shape of Lu Chen's muscles was flawless, and the sight left Chu Yuqin somewhat dazed.

Struggling with herself, Chu Yuqin said, "Chen'er, even though you are now a martial artist, I don't seem to have seen you practice martial arts before. Why is your body so well-built?"

Lu Chen replied with a smile, "Madam Chu, who says I haven't been practicing martial arts? Haven't I been training every day these past days?"

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin asked in confusion, "Then why haven't 1 seen it?"

Lu Chen answered, "I usually practice in my room, and it requires cooperation from Prince Wang Qingci, so it's normal that you haven't seen it."

Upon hearing this, Chu Yuqin instantly grasped Lu Chen's implication and gave him a white look, saying, "You little rascal, is that really what you call practicing martial arts?"

Unabashed, Lu Chen said, "Madam Chu, that's because you don't understand, there are many ways to practice martial arts."

Chu Yuqin huffed lightly and did not continue the topic with Lu Chen.

"Chen'er, tell me, where do you feel uncomfortable?"

As she finished speaking, Chu Yuqin began to seriously examine Lu Chen's abs.

At that moment, Lu Chen grabbed Chu Yuqin's jade hand and placed it directly on his chest. "I sometimes feel pain here, especially during martial arts practice. Often, it hurts so much that I can't move."

Chu Yuqin instinctively tried to pull her hand away when Lu Chen took hold of it, but after hearing his words, she didn't take it to heart.

She earnestly sensed Lu Chen's condition. By now, she was able to transmit her inner strength into another person's body, and she could easily find out if there were any symptoms within a person's body.

After a while, Chu Yuqin muttered to herself, "Strange, there seems to be nothing wrong?"

Lu Chen reacted to Chu Yuqin's words, "Madam Chu, could you be feeling it wrong? How could there be no problem?" As he said this, Lu Chen suddenly seemed to think of something, then with a surprised expression, he exclaimed, "Eh, how odd?"

"Madam Chu, 1 don't know why, but after your hand touched my dantian, that burning sensation is gone?"

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin looked at Lu Chen skeptically, "Really?"

Lu Chen said, "Why would I lie to you?"

Just then, Lu Chen looked at his own chest and said, "Madam Chu, look quickly, there's something strange on my chest."

At his words, Chu Yuqin's gaze immediately shifted from Lu Chen's face to his chest. As she looked, she saw a green glow emanating from Lu Chen's chest.

What was this thing?

It was the first time Chu Yuqin had seen such a phenomenon.

Lu Chen continued, "How magical, Madam Chu, the gas that had been accumulating in my dantian seems to be gradually dissipating, and it feels like my inner strength is flowing again."

Looking puzzled, Chu Yuqin asked, "Really?"

"But 1 didn't do anything?"

She had just placed her hand on Lu Chen's chest and checked his body, not doing anything to adjust his inner strength, yet his body was healing on its own?

Was there such a miraculous thing?

Chu Yuqin could not comprehend what was happening.

At that moment, Lu Chen bluffed, "Madam Chu, I understand what this is."

Hearing his words, Chu Yuqin quickly asked, "What is it?"

Lu Chen continued, "The Immortal Law I inherited contains a unique cultivation technique, which allows a woman who is in tune with my heart to help me cultivate."

"It must be because you touched my body, Madam Chu, so we indirectly met the conditions for dual cultivation, which calmed the chaotic energy in my body and made my inner strength flow smoothly."

With a look of doubt, Chu Yuqin stared at Lu Chen, "Chen'er, you're not deceiving me, are you?"

"How come I feel like the cultivation technique you're talking about is the Demon Sect's Happy Union Skill?"

Lu Chen asked earnestly, "Madam Chu, have you never considered where the Demon Sect's Happy Union Skill came from?"

"The Demon Sect's Happy Union Skill is harmful to people, while the Immortal Law I inherit benefits both parties. And as you've seen, just by touching my body, you have helped stabilize my inner strength, and you didn't get hurt at all."

As he spoke, Lu Chen looked intently into Chu Yuqin's beautiful eyes.

"1 suspect that the Happy Union Skill definitely has similarities with the cultivation technique I practice, but the Happy Union Skill is incomplete, hence it's harmful to people."

"The cultivation technique I possess is complete, so it's not bad for either party. It's possible that someone once stole a part of an Immortal's technique, and what they took was not complete, resulting in the Demon Sect's Happy Union Skill."

Hearing Lu Chen's fanciful talk, Chu Yuqin seriously considered it and thought there was some reason to it.

"So, what should we do now?" Chu Yuqin asked with a blush.

Her hand was still on Lu Chen's chest, and combined with how close she was to him, she was feeling extremely agitated at the moment.

The masculine scent of Lu Chen's body continuously stimulated her, assaulting her innermost thoughts.

If things continued like this, it might lead to what had happened before.

At this point, Lu Chen said, "Madam Chu, since touching me can stabilize my inner strength, why don't you stay close to me a little longer?"

Chu Yuqin thought for a moment. It's just her hand resting on Chen'er's chest. As long as she didn't actively get closer, it should be fine.

With that thought, Chu Yuqin sighed and said, "Alright, if you're better, tell me right away."

But at that moment, Lu Chen suddenly let out a cry of pain, his hand violently tightening, grasping Chu Yuqin's hand and pressing it firmly against his chest.

Seeing this, Chu Yuqin asked in a panic, "Chen'er, what's wrong with you?"

As soon as she finished speaking, Chu Yuqin's body instinctively moved in front of Lu Chen, and her other hand quickly supported him.

Lu Chen showed a pained expression and said, "Madam Chu, it might be because 1 have too many impurities accumulated in my body from martial arts training, and they can't be cleared out all at once."

Chu Yuqin's rosy complexion instantly turned pale, "What should we do now?"

Lu Chen said, "Madam Chu, hold me now, maybe you can use the special cultivation technique I practice to alleviate some of my body's pain."

This...

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Chu Yuqin hesitated.

After all, Lu Chen had grown up; he was not a child anymore, and such close contact with him was definitely not appropriate.

But seeing how much pain Lu Chen was in, Chu Yuqin simply couldn't bear it. She then bit her lip and said, "Chen'er, tell me once you're feeling a bit better."

Having said that, Chu Yuqin took the initiative to embrace Lu Chen's body.

Lu Chen hurriedly controlled all the inner strength in his body, stabilizing his mind.

Even as a Ninth Grade martial artist, he was almost losing control, truly a woman of 97 points.

Then, as the two held each other, after a while, Chu Yuqin felt something was amiss as her body became hotter and more agitated.

Chu Yuqin clenched her teeth, reminding herself in her heart that this was Yue's child, and she mustn't have any improper thoughts.

However, the more she thought this, the more panicked Chu Yuqin became.

Gradually, Chu Yuqin's body softened, and although she was the one embracing Lu Chen initially, now it turned into Lu Chen holding her delicate body.

Seeing Chu Yuqin like this, Lu Chen knew the Dragon and Phoenix Tea was taking effect.

Lu Chen thought to himself, my dear Madam Chu, you've avoided me for the better part of a year, but today you can't hide anymore.

Just as he was thinking this, a voice suddenly came from outside the door. "Prince, are you in there?"

Chapter 50 - 50: 50: Why Doesn't the Prince Take a Concubine Part 1

Upon hearing Mu Zixuan's voice, Chu Yuqin, who had been in a befuddled and amorous state, instantly sobered up.

She quickly pushed Lu Chen with force and said anxiously, "Chen'er, let go of Madam, Zixuan is coming in!"

Lu Chen felt like crying but had no tears to shed.

My dear Princess, why choose to come now of all times? Why exactly now!

Then, Lu Chen had no choice but to let go of Chu Yuqin.

However, Chu Yuqin didn't run away immediately; she looked at Lu Chen with concern and asked, "Chen'er, are you feeling better now?"

Lu Chen nodded and said, "Yes, much better, it seems that doing this is indeed helpful."

"Madam Chu, you will have to help me regulate my body on a regular basis in the future."

Chu Yuqin said, "Can't Zixuan and the others help you with that?"

Lu Chen said, "Zixuan and the other two aren't martial artists, they lack inner strength, it won't work, and Qingci seems to have no feelings for me, so she can't meet the conditions for dual cultivation either."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Chu Yuqin's brain nearly fried; she quickly said, "Alright then, if you feel unwell in the future, come and find me. 1 have to go now."

With those words, Chu Yuqin immediately headed for the door.

When Mu Zixuan saw Chu Yuqin open the door, she was momentarily startled.

Chu Yuqin quickly explained, "I was just checking on Chen'er's health, you two talk, I'll be taking my leave now."

As soon as she finished speaking, Chu Yuqin hurriedly made her escape.

Seeing Chu Yuqin's frantic silhouette and her flushed face, Mu Zixuan instantly realized what had just happened.

She turned to Lu Chen and apologized, "Prince, it is all this consort's fault for interrupting your moment; I will be more careful in the future."

Hearing this, Lu Chen gave a slight smile and then said, "It's fine; Madam Chu and I were just chatting, and we didn't do anything inappropriate."

"By the way, my beloved consort, did you come to see me about something?"

Mu Zixuan immediately entered the study and responded, "Prince..."

Just as Mu Zixuan was about to speak, she suddenly smelled something pungent. As Lu Chen's Princess, how could Mu Zixuan not recognize that scent?

Mu Zixuan looked at Lu Chen, somewhat speechless, thinking he just said they hadn't done anything improper, yet the room was heavy with that odor.

Seeing Mu Zixuan suddenly stop speaking and wearing a strange expression on her face, Lu Chen knew she must have misunderstood and quickly added, "Oh, right, Qingci was here earlier."

Hearing this, Mu Zixuan then realized that the smell in the room was caused by Wang Qingci.

Lu Chen continued, "My consort, go ahead and speak your mind."

Mu Zixuan immediately said, "Prince, I took over the business of the Prince's Mansion today and found that our soap and perfume sales in the capital have dropped significantly recently; I'm not sure what's causing this."

Lu Chen was taken aback; he immediately came over to Mu Zixuan, then wrapped his arms around her body and said, "My consort, you've just had a child, why not rest properly instead of taking over the business of the Prince's Mansion so soon."

Mu Zixuan said, "Prince, this consort would be idle in the mansion anyway, and besides, Feng'er is being taken care of."

In ancient times, when the ladies of noble families had children, they would usually hire a wet nurse, and the Prince's Mansion was no exception.

After Mu Zixuan gave birth to a child, although she also cared for the child, most of the time it was the Prince's Mansion's wet nurses and maids who looked after them, allowing her to relax more.

Mu Zixuan was someone who couldn't sit still, and after being pregnant and staying in the Prince's Mansion for so long, she had grown somewhat tired of it, so as soon as she had recovered from childbirth, she once again took over the business affairs of the Prince's Mansion.

Mu Zixuan continued to ask, "Prince, I heard that you established an organization to collect intelligence. Do you know what's going on in the Capital city?"

Even though the Brocade Guard had not made a public appearance, Mu Zixuan had seen some of them coming to report intelligence to Lu Chen these past few days at the Prince's Mansion, so she had some understanding of the Brocade Guard and also knew that Lu Chen had established an intelligence agency.

Mu Zixuan had just given birth, and Lu Chen definitely wouldn't tell her about the affairs of the Duke Mu Residence.

At that time, Lu Chen said, "The Capital city has been quite turbulent recently; I've heard that the commanders of the Imperial Guard have been changed over and over, and the downturn in the Prince's Mansion's business may also be related to the current situation."

Mu Zixuan showed a thoughtful look and then said, "So that's it, 1 was wondering why the business of the Prince's Mansion had dropped so swiftly." As for the decline in the Prince's Mansion's business, Lu Chen had basically figured out the reasons, and it definitely wasn't just because of the instability of the times.

Soap, perfume, and scented soaps were all new things that sold very well in the Capital city and were very profitable; it was impossible that no one would covet them.

Before, with the Duke Mu Residence keeping watch, no one dared to target the businesses of the North Prince Mansion. But now that the entire Duke Mu Residence was being exiled, who would fear the Duke Mu Residence?

And with the North Prince far off in North City, he couldn't manage the Capital city.

The shops of the North Prince Mansion in the Capital city were probably either robbed or vandalized, and it's likely that some people were already coveting the methods of producing soap and perfume.

From now on, the business strategy of the Prince's Mansion must change; it would be best to find local merchants or high-ranking officials to collaborate with and share some of the profits with others, otherwise they would always be eyeing us. Thinking of this, Lu Chen said to Mu Zixuan, "My love, from now on our business at the Prince's Mansion should not only be conducted in the Capital city but also spread to other fiefs."

"In the future, when conducting business, try to give gifts to those fiefs' Seigniors, especially shares in the shops; otherwise, others will keep eyeing them."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's reminder, Mu Zixuan instantly understood what Lu Chen meant.

Doing business required understanding the niceties of human relations, and some profits that should be conceded must be given up.

Mu Zixuan then said, "I will keep your reminder in mind, Prince."

At that moment, Mu Zixuan suddenly thought of something and then said, "Prince, there's something I'm not sure whether or not 1 should mention."

Lu Chen gave a faint smile, and then he gently teased her delicate nose, "Between husband and wife, what can't be said? Go ahead, what is it?"

Mu Zixuan said, "Prince, 1 have only just given birth to a child and the Xiaoxiao sisters are also pregnant, so now it's only Miss Wang serving you alone."

"Your health has been getting better and better recently, and it seems Miss Wang is somewhat overwhelmed. Perhaps it's time for you to take a concubine?"

Upon hearing the mention of Wang Qingci, Lu Chen felt a bit irritated inside. Of course, he was not angry with Mu Zixuan but was put off by the thought that Wang Qingci had managed to detach her own feelings.

After pondering for a moment, Lu Chen said, "Since my love has already mentioned it, then I shall find a time to take a concubine."

"However, North City doesn't seem to have many beautiful women, and you know, I may be lustful, but I am only interested in peerless beauties. Ordinary women do not intrigue me much."

Hearing this, Mu Zixuan thought for a moment, and then said, "Prince, how about we issue a Concubine Invitation, and openly invite families from the entire Great Xia Dynasty to send in concubines."

"By then, many families will surely send their daughters to the North Prince Mansion for selection, and with enough candidates, there will definitely be someone who catches your eye.."