

## Es. Benefits 1291

### Chapter 1291: The Chiyue Dynasty Facing Difficulties

Chiyue Dynasty.

Imperial City, Imperial Palace.

In a secret chamber with walls adorned with various symbols and runes, there sits an old man cross-legged in the center of the grand hall. His body is like a withered tree, and a dark death Qi emanates from him, indicating that his final moment is nigh.

At this moment, the elder spits out a mouthful of black blood, followed by several more.

The elder's body collapses to the ground, but he struggles to prop himself up with his hands, then slowly pushes himself up, "As expected... it's no use..."

Pei Tianlu lets out a deep sigh, then sends a message to the guard outside the chamber, "Have His Majesty and Princess Junwan come to me."

"Yes!"

Upon hearing Pei Tianlu's message, the guard hastily departs the chamber to inform the Emperor and Princess Junwan of the Chiyue Dynasty. In a short while, a middle-aged man clad in a yellow Dragon Robe and wearing a pure gold crown appears outside the chamber.

The middle-aged man, looking anxious, asks the guard at the entrance of the chamber, "How is the elder patriarch faring?"

The guard responds, "Your Majesty, we do not know. The elder patriarch only asked for you and Princess Junwan to come. He didn't say anything more."

Upon hearing this, Pei Wenfu's expression darkens instantly.

Princess Junwan?

He is the Emperor of the Chiyue Dynasty, yet even at this juncture, the old patriarch of the Chiyue Dynasty still thinks of that woman.

And to summon them together at such a time obviously doesn't bode well. Coupled with some recent rumors about deposing the Emperor spreading within the Chiyue Dynasty, this makes Pei Wenfu feel extremely uneasy.

Despite his unease, Pei Wenfu still remains quietly outside the chamber, waiting for the arrival of that woman.

After a short while, a woman of breathtaking beauty, dignified and noble, slowly approaches the entrance of the chamber. The woman is dressed in a long black-purple gown, her figure lithe, and every movement she makes exudes the charm of a mature woman.

Upon reaching the entrance of the chamber, the woman glances at Pei Wenfu with indifferent eyes, then says, "Greetings, Your Majesty!"

Pei Wenfu forces a smile, then replies, "Princess Junwan needs not be so formal with family."

Pei Shuhua responds indifferently, "Ceremony must not be discarded."

As her words fall, Pei Shuhua says no more, her gaze settling upon the chamber's stone door before her.

Seeing that Pei Shuhua has not given him a straight look from start to finish, a sinister glint flashes across Pei Wenfu's eyes.

This woman truly does not take me, the Emperor, seriously at all!

Just wait. Once that old fellow inside is dead, we'll see how much longer she can remain arrogant.

With that thought, the corners of Pei Wenfu's mouth lift slightly, revealing a faint and almost imperceptible smile.

It is then that the voice of an old man comes from within the chamber, "Come in."

As the old man speaks, the stone door of the chamber slowly opens, and Pei Wenfu and Pei Shuhua quickly enter the chamber.

Once the two enter the chamber, the stone door closes again, leaving only the three of them inside.

Seeing the black blood on the ground, Pei Shuhua approaches the elder with a worried look and crouches beside him, "Elder, how are you feeling?"

Pei Tianlu sighed and said, "My time is near, yet I am ultimately unable to take that final step."

Hearing this, Pei Shuhua was slightly startled, and faint wrinkles appeared on her fair forehead.

The old ancestor of the Chiyue Dynasty was the linchpin of the entire Chiyue Dynasty. Now, the Chiyue Dynasty only has Pei Tianlu as their Great Emperor; should even Pei Tianlu fall, what's left of the Chiyue Dynasty might only be a fate of being divided by other empires.

At this moment, Pei Wenfu was kneeling on the ground, saying loudly, "Old Ancestor, you mustn't have anything happen to you. If you fall, our Chiyue Dynasty might soon be annihilated by the other empires."

"Old Ancestor, I will definitely find a treasure that can extend your life."

Pei Tianlu looked up and swept Pei Wenfu with a meaningful glance, then said, "It's useless, I am well aware of the state of my body."

Pei Wenfu spoke worriedly, "But what can we possibly do? Now, many spies from the great empires have come to the Imperial City to gather information, and the activities of all the

major powers are becoming more frequent. Once they learn of your demise, Old Ancestor, the Chiyue Dynasty will be finished.”

Pei Tianlu sighed deeply, just about to speak, when he suddenly started to cough violently again; Pei Shuhua hurriedly patted his back.

After a while, Pei Tianlu calmed the chaotic energy within his body and then said, “Our only pressing solution is one last method.”

Pei Wenfu, grasping at straws, quickly asked, “What method?”

Pei Tianlu answered, “That would be to create another Great Emperor.”

This...

Upon hearing this from Pei Tianlu, both Pei Shuhua and Pei Wenfu were stunned where they stood.

Create a Great Emperor?

Becoming a Great Emperor isn’t something that can be achieved so easily.

Even for Pei Shuhua, who is known as the most talented cultivator in a hundred thousand years, she has been stuck at the Quasi-Emperor Realm for five thousand years. If Pei Tianlu could hold on for a few tens of thousands of years, perhaps Pei Shuhua might potentially break through to the Great Emperor Realm.

But considering Pei Tianlu’s condition, let alone ten thousand years, he probably can’t hold on for even one thousand years.

It’s impossible for Pei Shuhua to break through to become a Great Emperor in such a short amount of time.

Pei Tianlu continued, “Back when I was on the Outer Domain Battlefield, I heard someone mention a method to forcibly break through to the Great Emperor.

“Now, Shuhua, you have already reached the Quasi-Emperor Realm; you’re just one step away from becoming an Emperor. This method could be used for your breakthrough attempt.”

“However, the likelihood of success is next to nothing, and if you fail, you will perish completely.”

“Furthermore, a Great Emperor who has broken through using this method will not be as strong as a true Great Emperor, but it’s currently the only way that can quickly get the Chiyue Dynasty out of this predicament. It’s up to you whether you’re willing to try it or not.”

Upon hearing Pei Tianlu’s words, Pei Shuhua was extremely shocked, for it was the first time she had heard of a method that could help someone forcibly break through to become a Great Emperor.

If there truly were such a method, wouldn’t the universe be filled with Great Emperors by now?

At this moment, Pei Wenfu, after hearing Pei Tianlu’s words, was frantic and anxious inside. Currently, Pei Shuhua, as a Quasi-Emperor, already overshadowed him; should she become the one and only Great Emperor of the Chiyue Dynasty, would he still be the master of the Chiyue Dynasty in the future?

Thinking this, Pei Wenfu hastily said, “Old Ancestor, it absolutely must not be so. Although I do not know if the method you mentioned would succeed, even if it does, it must also have significant side effects; otherwise, people would have already been using this method to become emperors.”

“Princess Junwan has the greatest cultivation talent seen in the Chiyue Dynasty in a hundred thousand years, her potential achievements are boundless. Sooner or later, she will become an Emperor. How could we rush the process with a method with such severe side effects?”

At this moment, Pei Shuhua did not speak; she appeared to be thinking deeply about something. After an unknown period, Pei Shuhua suddenly looked up at Pei Tianlu and said, “Old Ancestor, just tell me. What is the method? As long as it can help the Chiyue Dynasty out of this predicament, whatever the method, I am willing to try it.”

## Chapter 1292: A Forceful Method to Become Emperor

Seeing that Pei Shuhua actually agreed, Pei Wenfu became even more anxious in a moment and hurriedly said: “Junwan, you can’t destroy your foundation. With your talent, when you go to the Outer Domain in the future, you will surely dominate one side, and you might even have the chance to take that step and become an even stronger existence.”

Pei Shuhua said: “Your Majesty, there’s no need for further words. As a royal offspring of the Chiyue Dynasty, I cannot watch the ancestral foundation built over thousands of generations be buried.”

Seeing Pei Shuhua’s righteous demeanor, Pei Wenfu clenched his fists, a hint of hatred flashing in his eyes. It seemed this woman was determined to snatch his throne.

Pei Shuhua continued to look at Pei Tianlu and said: “Old ancestor, please tell me the method.”

Seeing that Pei Shuhua had agreed, Pei Tianlu sighed again, then said to Pei Wenfu: “Wenfu, you go out first.”

As the words fell, the secret room’s stone door slowly opened.

This...

Pei Wenfu frowned deeply, but in the end he said nothing more, reluctantly rose from the ground and then left the secret room step by step.

Before leaving, he gave Pei Shuhua a fierce look, as if he wished he could tear her apart.

After Pei Wenfu left the secret room, the stone door of the secret chamber closed again, leaving only Pei Shuhua and Pei Tianlu inside.

Pei Tianlu sighed deeply again, he knew all too well what Pei Wenfu was thinking, but now the Chiyue Dynasty was at a critical moment of life and death. As an ancestor of the Chiyue

Dynasty, his priority was the survival of the Chiyue Dynasty, the conflicts between descendants did not concern him as much.

Pei Tianlu then said: “Shuhua, even in the Outer Domain, your talent is rare. Even if you do not wish to bear the responsibility of guarding the Chiyue Dynasty, I will not blame you. Wenfu is not wrong, you could have stood on a higher peak in the future.”

“If you do not wish to continue staying in the Chiyue Dynasty, I also won’t say much, after the demise of the Chiyue Dynasty, you should head to another Star Domain.”

Pei Shuhua said: “No, old ancestor, I am a royal offspring of the Chiyue Dynasty. At the critical moment of life and death for the Chiyue Dynasty, how can I abandon the entire Chiyue Dynasty? If I really did that, it would definitely become my Heart Demon, even if I have a high talent, it may not necessarily lead to becoming an Emperor in the future.”

Seeing that Pei Shuhua had said this, Pei Tianlu directly said: “Well then, since that is the case, I will tell you the method to become Emperor.”

As the words fell, Pei Tianlu took out a Jade Scroll from his own small world.

Pei Shuhua took the Jade Scroll and immediately opened it, the next moment, the Jade Scroll transformed into a beam of light that drilled into Pei Shuhua’s forehead.

Pei Shuhua instantly understood what the method to become Emperor that Pei Tianlu spoke of was.

After learning about the method to become Emperor that Pei Tianlu spoke of, Pei Shuhua fell into silence.

The method to become Emperor that Pei Tianlu spoke of was simple: proclaim oneself as Emperor and then absorb the entire Chiyue Dynasty’s Dynasty Fortune to forcefully break through.

By doing so, even if one breaks through, the Dynasty Fortune of the Chiyue Dynasty would almost be used up, and an Emperor who relied on Dynasty Fortune to break through is not a real Great Emperor, and can only be called a Fake Emperor.

The strength of a Fake Emperor is indeed close to a Great Emperor, several times stronger than a Quasi-Emperor, but after all, it's not a real Great Emperor; if they confront a Great Emperor who has used the normal method to become Emperor, the chances of a Fake Emperor winning are very slim.

Of course, even if only a Fake Emperor, temporarily escaping the current predicaments of the Chiyue Dynasty is still not a problem.

However, after escaping this predicament, the Chiyue Dynasty will face countless crises, once Pei Shuhua absorbs the entire Chiyue Dynasty's Qi Fortune, it might not recover for tens of thousands of years, and the future Chiyue Dynasty does not know how many disasters and calamities it will face, this will be another great test for Pei Shuhua.

Seeing Pei Shuhua standing there blankly, Pei Tianlu said: "Whether or not to use this method, it's up to you to decide."

Pei Shuhua came back to her senses, she looked at Pei Tianlu and asked: "Old ancestor, if I use this method, do I have to seize the throne?"

Pei Tianlu said: "Now Wenfu is the Emperor of Chiyue Dynasty, and the focal point of Qi Fortune rests upon him. If you do not seize the throne, you will not be able to absorb the Dynasty Fortune of the entire Chiyue Dynasty."

Pei Shuhua fell into silence once again.

After a while, Pei Tianlu continued, "Being an Empress is not impossible. Throughout the universe, many empires have had female rulers."

Pei Shuhua remained silent.

Pei Tianlu then said, "Alright, go back and think it over. If you make a decision, I can go out and depose the Emperor myself to spare you from bearing too much karma."

Pei Shuhua slowly stood up, "I understand."



“Junior takes leave.”

As her words ended, Pei Shuhua exited the secret chamber.

Just as Pei Shuhua left the secret chamber, Pei Tianlu spat out another mouthful of black blood. He hastily circulated his Spiritual Power in an attempt to control the disorder within, but at that moment, a black force rampaged unchecked within him.

Pei Tianlu said in agony, “What exactly is this power... ”

Just then, a tempting voice echoed in Pei Tianlu’s mind, “Do you want to break through your limits and reach a higher Realm?”

“Accept me, and I can grant you immortality and make you stronger.”

...

Pei Tianlu immediately closed his eyes and continued to circulate his Spiritual Power, suppressing the restless powers within him and striving to maintain control over his mind, not allowing it to be influenced by the voice.

Ever since he returned from the Outer Domain Battlefield, he had often been tempted by that voice, and his body would occasionally be invaded by the Dark Power.

He was well aware that this power was not benevolent; if he willingly accepted it, he might fall into an abyss of no return. He would rather wait for his demise when his time came than to embrace that Dark Power.

A typical Great Emperor might not be able to resist the temptation and accept that power, but as someone who had seen countless walking corpses on the Outer Domain Battlefield, he would under no circumstances allow himself to turn into one of those monsters from the Outer Domain.

The moment he embraced that Dark Power, he would also turn into one of those monstrous beings from the Outer Domain.

Meanwhile.

After Pei Shuhua left the secret chamber, Pei Wenfu quickly approached her, “Older sister, are you really planning to heed the elder ancestor’s words and forcefully advance to a higher Realm?”

Pei Shuhua glanced at Pei Wenfu, and she could see through his intentions at a glance; clearly, Pei Wenfu was afraid of her seizing his throne.

Since childhood, Pei Wenfu had always been wary of her; there was no helping it, her talent was truly fearsome, having reached the state of Quasi-Emperor in less than a thousand years.

Not to mention the entire Chiyue Dynasty, there are hardly any cultivators in the entire universe who could become a Quasi-Emperor in a millennium.

Pei Shuhua said expressionlessly, “If Your Majesty can find a solution to our current predicament, I will not resort to using the elder ancestor’s method.”

Hearing this, Pei Wenfu’s eyes brightened, “Really?”

Chapter 1293: Tell Me, Where Did You Go Wrong

In Pei Wenfu’s heart, as long as Pei Shuhua does not break through to the Great Emperor Realm, he can still suppress her and the power of her faction.

Once Pei Shuhua becomes a Great Emperor, he will have no hope at all. At that time, not to mention the ministers of the Chiyue Dynasty, even members of the Royal Family might consider deposing the Emperor to allow Pei Shuhua to ascend the throne.

Especially that undying old man in the secret chamber.

Pei Wenfu could clearly see the fondness the old ancestor had for Pei Shuhua; who could blame her given her exceptional talent?

Pei Wenfu had no doubt that if Pei Shuhua asked, that old fellow would probably come out to depose the Emperor, and then install Pei Shuhua as the Emperor.

Seeing Pei Wenfu looking very expectant, Pei Shuhua said, “Truly, if Your Majesty does not find a way to break the deadlock by the time the old ancestor’s life limit approaches, I will forcibly break through to become Emperor using the old ancestor’s method.”

Feeling somewhat excited, Pei Wenfu replied, “Junwan, rest assured, I will definitely not let you sacrifice your talent to forcefully break through; I will find a way to break the deadlock.”

Pei Shuhua did not say more, but simply bypassed Pei Wenfu and left.

She did not believe that Pei Wenfu could find any way to break the deadlock now. A dynasty without a Great Emperor is an enticing target to any powerful being.

After learning that the Dynasty Qi Fortune could allow Cultivators to forcefully become Great Emperors, Pei Shuhua was even more aware of the attractive power of the Dynasty Qi Fortune.

She knew what Pei Wenfu was doing lately; Pei Wenfu simply wanted to seek the protection of another Great Emperor for the Chiyue Dynasty, but to those Great Emperors, no reward could compare to the Qi Fortune of the Chiyue Dynasty.

Even if a Great Emperor really agreed to protect the Chiyue Dynasty, that Great Emperor would definitely renege in the end.

Now, the only way out for the Chiyue Dynasty is to have another Great Emperor emerge from within the Royal Family, even if it’s a Fake Emperor, it could still temporarily deter those coveting the Chiyue Dynasty.

Pei Wenfu clearly hadn’t realized this; in his eyes, only his own power was the most important.

Watching Pei Shuhua's departing figure, the smile on Pei Wenfu's face disappeared, replaced by a face full of hatred.

Ever since childhood, he had been compared with Pei Shuhua; even after becoming the Emperor, people would still say it would be better if Pei Shuhua was the Emperor, as if his position as Emperor was handed down to him like charity.

Pei Wenfu was fed up with all this, but helpless against the powerful Pei Shuhua. By the time he had his own power base, Pei Shuhua had already risen to be a Quasi-Emperor, and he could do nothing against her.

Of course, most importantly, Pei Shuhua had the backing of that undying Pei Tianlu, leaving him no opportunity to eliminate Pei Shuhua.

Now that Pei Tianlu is close to his end, Pei Wenfu's chance to take full control is near, and he cannot let Pei Shuhua ruin his plans.

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Daxia Dynasty.

Tianchen World, the original Capital City.

Inside a certain mansion, a group of servants trembled as they knelt on the ground, not daring to even breathe heavily.

In front of these servants knelt an obese man, who was also prostrate on the ground.

Before this man stood another man, dressed in plain white robes, ethereal like a Banished Immortal come down to earth.

At this moment, the obese man kneeling on the ground said with a crying voice: "Father Emperor, your son knows his mistakes, your son dares not do it again!"

Seeing Lu Zi'an kneeling before him, Lu Chen felt a mix of emotions.

Lu Zi'an is his sixth child. When Lu Chen named him, he hoped that he would grow up safely and live a peaceful life; he never expected Lu Zi'an to achieve anything great.

Indeed, in his life, Lu Zi'an didn't achieve much. His talent for cultivation was mediocre compared to his brothers and sisters, and Lu Chen didn't hold very high expectations for him.

Since reaching adulthood, Lu Zi'an left Yan County and began a life of debauchery, taking over a hundred concubines and leading a hedonistic lifestyle in the old capital of Great Sum.

Of course, Lu Zi'an remembered his mother's teachings and didn't commit any heinous acts. With Lu Zi'an's identity, matters were handled for him without him even needing to ask.

For Lu Chen, once most of his children came of age, he didn't manage them much; it was their mothers who guided them.

Lu Chen knew well that some of his children were indulgent in pleasures, but considering he himself had numerous wives and concubines, he didn't feel it was right to be too harsh, so he wasn't too concerned about taking wives or concubines, as long as they weren't forcibly taken.

However, what Lu Chen didn't expect was that Lu Zi'an, this boy, would end up taking over a hundred concubines in the old capital of Great Sum, a number that even surpassed his own.

Furthermore, investigations by the Brocade Guard revealed that the women involved with Lu Zi'an far exceeded a hundred. Lu Zi'an would occasionally leave the old capital and travel to other Life Worlds for enjoyment.

The major powers, aware of Lu Zi'an's identity and his penchant for beautiful women, would secretly send beautiful women to Lu Zi'an. Lu Zi'an also had properties in other Life Worlds, where he kept women in almost every house.

Initially, Lu Zi'an thought that since his father had so many wives and concubines, he wouldn't care about him. Since his father hadn't said anything about his own hundred-plus

wives and concubines, he felt no matter how many women he had, it wouldn't matter, so he welcomed any beautiful woman he saw.

But when Lu Zi'an saw his father appearing before him with a face full of anger, he instantly regretted his actions.

His father had only a few dozen wives and concubines, how could he have more women than his own father.

Thinking about his actions that exceeded his bounds, Lu Zi'an felt incredibly nervous inside.

Seeing Lu Zi'an's corpulent body made Lu Chen so angry that he couldn't let it go and coldly said: "Tell me, where did you go wrong."

Lu Zi'an immediately broke into a cold sweat. While wiping the beads of sweat sliding down his forehead, he said: "Your... Your son should not have taken so many women."

Lu Chen coldly reprimanded: "It seems like you haven't realized your mistake."

Lu Zi'an quickly continued to kowtow, "Father Emperor, your son knows his mistakes, please don't tell mother consort about this."

Lu Chen, feeling disappointed as if dealing with someone unworthy of his training, said: "You still know what shame is, huh! You tell me..."

Lu Chen initially wanted to say, Lu Zi'an and Lu Huanhuan were born of the same mother, how could they be so different. But then he remembered that children are naturally different and he had never expected Lu Zi'an to achieve much, so he swallowed those words.

Then Lu Chen said: "I should have told you that our family has a special bloodline. Every time you have a child, a portion of your Bloodline Power and Qi Fortune is divided away, right?"

Hearing this, Lu Zi'an despairingly said: "Father Emperor, you know that my talent is limited. Even if I continue to cultivate, it's hard to achieve anything significant on the path of cultivation. Given this, I might as well enjoy life properly."

Lu Chen couldn't refute Lu Zi'an's words, as Lu Zi'an truly had poorer cultivation talent compared to his many children, not all of whom could have excellent cultivation talents.

Lu Zi'an didn't have a Spirit Root, and even after the revival of Spiritual Energy in the Tianchen World, Lu Zi'an's cultivation progress was particularly slow. If not because he was Lu Chen's son with countless pills available for his consumption, he probably couldn't even break through to the Heavenly Human Realm.

#### Chapter 1294: The Merchant Caravan of the Chiyue Dynasty

Lu Chen looked at the almost shapeless Lu Zi'an due to his obesity and then said, "I have never expected you all to achieve great things, nor have I thought about how far you can go on the path of cultivation. All I want is for you to live a few more years."

"Do you think I let you all practice cultivation to become some kind of powerful beings? The purpose of cultivation is merely to extend your lifespans a bit."

"To put it bluntly, if your Cultivation State is too low, there are some lifespan-extending methods that can't even be applied to you."

Indeed, in the cultivation realm, there are many methods to extend one's lifespan, such as pills and the like, but the lifespan extension methods for the lower levels have limits. Even a Great Emperor has an end to his days, let alone ordinary cultivators.

And some higher-level methods of extending longevity typically have requirements for the Cultivation State of the cultivator. If the Cultivation State is too low, one cannot withstand the methods to extend life.

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Lu Zi'an lay on the ground, no longer speaking.

He could naturally see that their Emperor father was very good to his children, and it was precisely because of his father's "precepts and example" that he, a leisurely Prince, was also very good to his own children.

Seeing that Lu Zi'an did not continue to argue, Lu Chen let out a deep sigh and continued, "You like beauty, and there's nothing wrong with that. Your father, I, have so many wives and concubines, it is not possible to restrict you all either."

"But you must understand, there is no such thing as a free lunch in this world. Those who present you with beauties—they all have their motives. Are you really so oblivious to that?"

Lu Zi'an seemed to realize something and hastily said, "Your Majesty, your son has never betrayed the Daxia Dynasty."

Lu Zi'an was not foolish and understood why some people approached him. However, he always just accepted their favors without doing anything in return. After all, the gifts were given to him freely, and refusing them or not had no cost to him.

Lu Chen asked, "With your identity, what is it that you want and do not have? What are you lacking?"

Upon hearing this from Lu Chen, Lu Zi'an paused. Indeed, with the wealth at his disposal, he wanted for nothing and was not lacking in beauties. There truly was no need to accept favors from those people.

Lu Chen continued, "Even if you accept gifts without doing any favors in return, in the eyes of others, the moment you accept anything, the givers become your people. If those who give gifts commit any offense, what do you think people will think?"

Lu Zi'an was drenched in sweat. He understood Lu Chen's point; even if he had done nothing, just by accepting gifts, it signified that he had accepted those people's allegiance. Once he took in people or powers, it was inevitable that others would commit offenses under his banner, and ultimately, the blame would fall upon him.

At that moment, Lu Zi'an suddenly realized, was his father's anger not because he had married over a hundred wives and concubines? It was merely because he did not handle his relationship with those gift-givers appropriately?



With this thought, Lu Zi'an quickly said, "Please rest assured, Your Majesty. From now on, I will not casually accept gifts from others. Except for gifts from my aunts and siblings, I will refuse all others."

Lu Chen sighed slightly. Although he indeed felt some anger towards what Lu Zi'an had done, he was generally lenient with his children and did not have the heart to punish Lu Zi'an harshly.

After pondering for a while, Lu Chen asked, "How many children do you have now?"

Lu Zi'an replied, "Your Majesty, a hundred and twenty-three."

This...

Hearing Lu Zi'an state the exact number of his offspring, Lu Chen's emotions became even more complicated.

Lu Zi'an having over a hundred children meant that there wasn't much of his Bloodline Power left. Originally, his talent and aptitude were nothing special, and with so many children sapping his Qi Fortune and Bloodline Power, it would be even harder for Lu Zi'an to practice cultivation in the future.

However, Lu Chen felt a bit relieved. The fact that Lu Zi'an could instantly report that he had a hundred and twenty-three children showed that he treated his children quite well on a daily basis.

This was also consistent with what Lu Chen knew. He had the Brocade Guard inquire, and indeed, Lu Zi'an was very good to each of his children, regardless of whether they were boys or girls.

This was indeed a trait inherited from Lu Chen.

With that in mind, Lu Chen said, "From now on, you are not allowed to have more children. Over a hundred is enough. If you must have children with someone, you also must tell your mother concubine."

This...

Lu Zi'an was startled for a moment before replying, "Yes, Father Emperor."

Lu Zi'an understood that his father was doing this for his own good.

Additionally, his father had only said not to have children, not to stop being intimate with his consorts. For cultivators, it was exceedingly simple to avoid conceiving during intimate moments.

Lu Chen took another look at Lu Zi'an's portly figure, unable to bear the sight any longer, he waved his hand, and a cool energy entered Lu Zi'an's body.

In the next moment, the fat on Lu Zi'an's body evaporated like mist, and Lu Zi'an instantly transformed into a robust man with eight-pack abs, handsome and dashing in appearance.

Feeling the change in his body, Lu Zi'an was completely astonished. He hurriedly kowtowed and said, "Thank you, Father Emperor!"

Lu Chen continued, "You made a mistake, and you must be punished. Starting today, you are not to leave the mansion for three years."

Lu Zi'an didn't see anything wrong with this. Although he enjoyed traveling around, so long as he had women with him, he didn't mind staying home forever without going out.

"Yes, Father Emperor, your son will certainly mend his ways."

"So be it."

Having said this, Lu Chen left without further ado.

Lu Zi'an hurriedly called out, "Farewell, Father Emperor!"

No sooner had Lu Chen stepped out of Lu Zi'an's residence than a Jinyiwei Guard rushed towards him. Lu Chen thought the Brocade Guard had discovered some criminal activity of Lu Zi'an and his face darkened instantly.

However, the Jinyiwei Guard immediately reported, "Your Majesty, a merchant fleet from the Chiyue Dynasty has appeared on the outskirts of the Imperial Mountain Domain Star Region."

Relieved, Lu Chen had thought the Brocade Guard had discovered more ludicrous acts by Lu Zi'an and was ready to turn back and discipline the child.

Lu Chen asked, "Are you sure they're a merchant fleet?"

Trade between empires is quite rare as most resources circulate within a stable market inside the empires themselves.

Lu Chen found it hard to believe that a merchant fleet from another empire would show up in the Daxia Dynasty; he suspected that they were masquerading as merchants to enter the Daxia Dynasty and spy on its secrets.

The Jinyiwei Guard replied, "We can't be certain, but their Immortal Boat is carrying a large amount of Black Gold."

"Black Gold?" Lu Chen was momentarily taken aback.

Black Gold is a substance that falls from the bodies of Heavenly Demons after their death and is capable of directly harming Heavenly Demons. Although the Daxia Dynasty has some Black Gold, the quantity is not significant.

And since there are no large-scale Heavenly Demon appearances now, there isn't much mining for Black Gold either.

However, Lu Chen always believed that sooner or later, Heavenly Demons would reappear, and preparing early was the right decision.

In Lu Chen's view, when Heavenly Demons emerge on a large scale, it would be the time of a major cosmic calamity. Therefore, it is essential to eradicate the Heavenly Demons as soon as they appear, so as to possibly prevent the universe's rejection reaction and avert the catastrophe.

Of course, this was merely Lu Chen's speculation.

In any case, Black Gold is the most important substance for combating Heavenly Demons.

Lu Chen then said, "Take me to meet them."

#### Chapter 1295: The Shocked Ye Xingteng

Lu Chen thought to himself he was free of pressing matters recently and could allow his alter ego to meet the people from the Chiyue Dynasty in person.

Although he hadn't visited several of his grown children, they were all aware of the basic principles, and he believed they wouldn't do anything too rebellious even if he were to visit them later.

Even Lu Zi'an, the most disappointing of his children, was only fond of the company of women and had never done anything more serious than keep a group of mistresses, at least he hadn't resorted to murder or arson.

Compared to Lu Zi'an, Lu Chen felt more at ease with his other children.

Black Gold was an extremely precious material. Given its importance, they needed to stock up on more. If the Chiyue Dynasty indeed had a large amount of Black Gold, then he would be quite busy soon.

Before long, Lu Chen's doppelganger appeared on the edge of the Imperial Mountain Star Region. As he approached the border, he saw several shining, Immortal Boats suspended in the void ahead.

At that very moment,

On board the Changhong Trading Team's Immortal Boat, the crew was looking nervously at the strange Immortal Boats not far from them.

On the deck of the largest Immortal Boat belonging to the Changhong Trading Team, a middle-aged man in black and red clothing furrowed his brow, his eyes staring intently at the Immortal Boat that was gradually moving closer.

A trading team member whispered to the man, "President Ye, are those truly Immortal Boats? Why don't I feel any Spiritual Power flowing from them?"

Ye Xingteng did not respond to the crew member, his expression growing even more serious. This was the first time he had encountered such a peculiar type of Immortal Boat.

The so-called Great Sum Dynasty was likely not simple. He remembered that when he passed by this place five thousand years ago, there was no Empire. Now, after just five thousand years, an Empire had risen in this Star Domain, and they also possessed some oddities.

When Lu Chen, aboard a Starship, reached within two kilometers of the Changhong Trading Team, Ye Xingteng disembarked from the Immortal Boat, leading people towards the Starship asking, "May I know which Lord is in charge here?"

Lu Chen emerged from the Starship, standing on its top deck, watching Ye Xingteng and the others from afar. He then used the system to identify their information and, after a quick glance, his gaze settled on Ye Xingteng.

[Name: Ye Xingteng]

[Identity: President of the Chiyue Dynasty's Changhong Trading Team]

[Strength: Guixu Realm Ninth Layer]

[Loyalty: 20]

Lu Chen spoke up: "I am here to negotiate with you on behalf of His Majesty."

Lu Chen did not intend to reveal his identity just yet; he wanted to see what these people were planning before deciding whether to disclose his Identity.

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Ye Xingteng immediately said, "President Ye Xingteng of the Chiyue Dynasty's Changhong Trading Team at your service, Lord."

Lu Chen nodded and said, "My surname is Lu."

Ye Xingteng then asked, "Lord Lu, may we now enter the Imperial Mountain Star Region?"

Lu Chen asked, "Before that, I need to ask President Ye a few questions."

Ye Xingteng replied, "Please ask, Lord Lu."

Lu Chen inquired, "May I know the purpose of President Ye's visit to the Daxia Dynasty this time?"

Ye Xingteng answered, "We didn't specifically have the Daxia Dynasty as our destination. It's just that we happened to pass by the nearby Star Domain, so we thought we'd stop by to see if there was anything of interest for us."

Lu Chen felt somewhat surprised in his heart. Judging by Ye Xingteng's tone, Ye Xingteng was not lying. Does that mean the other party was really just passing by?

Lu Chen asked with a smile, "May I know what President Ye is in need of?"

Upon hearing Lu Chen's question, Ye Xingteng's gaze involuntarily fell upon the starship. It was his first time seeing a starship that could move without the aid of Spiritual Power, and at that moment, his interest in the starship grew intensely.

If they could purchase a starship to study thoroughly, and if they could also manufacture starships in the future, then the Changhong Trading Team could definitely become the largest merchant association in the universe.

Although powerhouses can traverse the void, and those with somewhat weaker abilities can travel to other worlds by riding an Immortal Boat, the number of these celestial vessels in the universe is still far too few. If they had a large number of vessels like the ones from the Great Sum Empire that don't require the propulsion of Spiritual Energy, then interstellar exchanges between various powers would definitely become more frequent in the future.

Ye Xingteng then said, "Lord Lu, I wonder if the Immortal Boat you are traveling on could be available for trade? Our trading team has a large amount of Black Gold that we can trade with."

Lu Chen originally wanted to ask where their Black Gold came from, but quickly realized that it's taboo to inquire about a merchant's sources of goods, and it was very likely that Ye Xingteng would not disclose this information to him.

With this in mind, Lu Chen refrained from voicing his question.

Finding out the source of the Black Gold wouldn't be a difficult task for him, as his Soul Control Technique had reached the pinnacle of perfection. He just needed to casually inquire anyone from the Changhong Trading Team when the time came.

Lu Chen then said, "The matter regarding the starship must be reported to Your Majesty. Only with Your Majesty's consent, can the trade occur."

"You all are planning to stop at the Imperial Mountain Domain Star Region for repairs, right?"

Ye Xingteng replied, "Yes, that's right."

Lu Chen continued, "Alright, I'll have someone lead you to register first. Once you receive your pass, you'll be able to visit the majority of the star domains in the Great Sum Empire."

Ye Xingteng courteously said, "Then I would like to thank Lord Lu for the trouble."

Lu Chen answered indifferently, "It's no trouble at all, it's expected."

At this point, Lu Chen looked over to the General at his side, “General Zhang, it’s up to you to lead them to get their passes.”

“Yes, Your... My lord.”

Subsequently, a General of the War Dragon Army led Ye Xingteng and their Immortal Boat into the Imperial Mountain Domain. The moment they entered the Imperial Mountain Domain, they were once again struck by awe at the sight before them.

Within the Imperial Mountain Domain, there were starships coming and going between life worlds. The entire star domain was bustling with activity. Ye Xingteng had visited many star domains but had never seen such a lively scene elsewhere.

However, he quickly calmed down. It was not surprising to witness such scenes in the Great Sum Empire, as they had Immortal Boats that did not require Spiritual Energy to operate.

Previous Immortal Boats had to be powered by Spiritual Power, and to allow for a smoother flow of Spiritual Power, most parts of the Immortal Boat had to be constructed with Xianjin.

As the resources of Xianjin in the universe are limited, Immortal Boats were not plentiful, particularly in remote star domains.

With few Immortal Boats, naturally, one would not witness such a bustling scene filled with these celestial vessels, and only the outer regions of super dynasties like the Emperor Star of the Shenyue Dynasty would likely exhibit such vistas.

Since the Great Sum Empire’s Immortal Boats didn’t need to be driven by Spiritual Power, there was no need for so much Xianjin, and their quantity wasn’t constrained by Xianjin resources.

After observing for some time, Ye Xingteng saw that the Great Sum Empire’s Immortal Boats only made minimal use of Xianjin in the protective formation on the surface, while the other materials were relatively ordinary metals.

Of course, the term “ordinary” here means that these metal materials could be produced, they weren’t as rare as Xianjin, but in terms of this era, the materials used to manufacture starships were still quite special.



## Chapter 1296: Ye Xingteng's Little Scheme

Ye Xingteng dared not imagine that if the technology to build Immortal Boats of the Daxia Dynasty were to be widely distributed, how much more frequent interactions among various powers in the universe would become.

Interactions between major powers are usually frequent, as after all, major powers are not lacking in Immortal Boats.

However, most medium and small powers are often confined to their own Star Domains, and even Cultivators above the All Law Realm can only directly build channels to nearby Life Worlds.

Once small and medium powers possess Immortal Boats, the entire universe will undoubtedly become incredibly bustling.

At this moment, Ye Xingteng envisioned a scenario where Starships were everywhere in the Cosmic Void.

Just then, a person from the Changhong Trading Team whispered in Ye Xingteng's ear, "President Ye, these Immortal Boats might not be good news for us?"

Hearing this, Ye Xingteng snapped back to reality and slightly frowned without saying anything.

The growth of the Changhong Trading Team to its current size mainly relied on interstellar trade. Once the technology for manufacturing Immortal Boats of the Daxia Dynasty leaked out, each power would possess Immortal Boats and could go to other Star Domains to buy the resources they needed; this would inevitably impact the Changhong Trading Team's business.

This is indeed not good news for the entire Changhong Trading Team.

Ye Xingteng pondered for a moment and made a decision in his mind.

This technology must be controlled by their Changhong Trading Team.

Being able to establish an empire indicates that the Daxia Dynasty at least has a Great Emperor, whereas their Changhong Trading Team only has a Quasi-Emperor and is not a match for the Daxia Dynasty.

However, warfare has never been the forte of the Ye Family, and Ye Xingteng did not plan to let the Quasi-Emperor of the Ye Family take action; he believed someone would be interested in the affairs of the Daxia Dynasty.

The Imperial Mountain Domain Star Region was not far from the Chiyue Dynasty, and with a new empire emerging right under the eyes of the Chiyue Dynasty, he believed that the Royal Family of the Chiyue Dynasty would certainly have some thoughts upon knowing about the Daxia Dynasty.

In the following days, Ye Xingteng successfully obtained a pass, and they toured various Life Worlds in the Imperial Mountain Domain Star Region.

When they entered those Life Worlds, they were once again shocked by the scenes; they hadn't expected that ordinary people of the Daxia Dynasty lived even better than Cultivators from other Star Domains.

This made Ye Xingteng very curious about the Emperor of the Daxia Dynasty; what kind of Emperor could create such a prosperous empire in a remote Star Domain?

Five thousand years ago when he came to the Imperial Mountain Domain Star Region, it didn't even have Cultivators with complete clothes, but now the Imperial Mountain Domain Star Region has changed so completely, becoming extremely wealthy.

It's unbelievable that within just five thousand years, the Sum Emperor was able to bring such a huge change to the Imperial Mountain Domain Star Region.

Skyfire World.

Inside a private room of a hotel.

Ye Xingteng sat at a window seat, looking out at the flying cars in the sky outside, feeling as if he were in a dream state.

At this moment, a disciple of the Ye Family said, “President, we have purchased a large number of goods used by ordinary people as per your instructions.”

At this point, that disciple of the Ye Family somewhat puzzledly stated: “President, although those items are novel, they are after all used by ordinary people; our clients are all Cultivators, could these ordinary items still be sold when brought back?”

Ordinary people and Cultivators are almost from two different worlds, with few ordinary people possessing Spirit Stones, while the items Ye Xingteng had ordered were mostly used by ordinary people, such as electric lights, cell phones, and the like.

Some Ye Family Disciples truly could not understand, why should they use spirit stones to buy these mundane items and then sell them back to commoners, wouldn’t that be a great loss?

Moreover, most commoners don’t even have spirit stones, and can’t afford these items.

Hearing the doubts of that Ye Family Disciple, Ye Xingteng slightly turned and scanned the people present, chuckling as he spoke, “Items used by commoners?”

“You need to spend spirit stones to use a Sound Transmission Talisman, while a cellphone costs only ten inferior spirit stones and can make continuous calls as long as it’s charged. Do you think cultivators wouldn’t buy such a thing?”

A Sound Transmission Talisman requires two inferior spirit stones each and the key is they soon become invalid after use, but the cellphones from the Daxia Dynasty don’t, they can be used continuously as long as they are charged.

Of course, the cellphones from the Daxia Dynasty are different from those on Earth. The Daxia Dynasty’s cellphones use special materials for antennas, and they can communicate long distances even without satellites or stations.

The technology of the Daxia Dynasty is deeply integrated with cultivation; many technological creations are related to spiritual artifacts. Take, for instance, some of the

Daxia Dynasty's cellphones even have special spiritual power arrays that can directly draw the thunder attribute spiritual power from nature to charge.

At this moment, members of the Changhong Trading Team, having heard Ye Xingteng's words, also felt there was some truth to it. Many things used by commoners are also desired by them, and naturally other cultivators across different star domains would be interested as well.

At this point, Ye Xingteng said, "Now it's a matter of whether the Sum Emperor is willing to sell the starships to us."

Although those ordinary gadgets of commoners somewhat caught Ye Xingteng's attention, what interested him the most were still the starships of the Daxia Dynasty.

As soon as Ye Xingteng finished speaking, his cellphone rang. He immediately took it out, and the call was from an unfamiliar number. After answering, Ye Xingteng asked, "Who might this be?"

Lu Chen said with a smile, "President Ye, our Emperor has agreed to sell the starships, where are you now? Come to the Commerce Department to sign the contract."

Hearing this, Ye Xingteng was momentarily stunned. He originally thought it would take some effort, but the Sum Emperor had agreed so swiftly to sell the starships.

Regaining his composure, Ye Xingteng excitedly said, "Thank you, Lord Lu, we will head to the Commerce Department right away."

"Alright, let's leave it at that then, see you at the Commerce Department later."

Saying so, Lu Chen hung up the phone.

Ye Xingteng immediately stood up and said to the others of the Changhong Trading Team, "Let's go, we're heading to the Commerce Department."

Hearing this, a member of the Changhong Trading Team said worriedly, "President, the Daxia has agreed so easily, could there be a trick to this?"

Ye Xingteng indifferently replied, “If there was a trick, do you think we could still safely be here right now?”

The highest cultivation state among them was Ye Xingteng’s, being at the Guixu Realm Ninth Layer. During their days in the Daxia Dynasty, they had encountered many Saints. If the Daxia Dynasty really wanted to do something to them, they probably would have acted long ago, not waited until now.

After hearing Ye Xingteng’s words, the members of the Changhong Trading Team felt it made sense and didn’t say much further. They immediately headed to the office building of the Skyfire Imperial City Commerce Department.

As soon as Ye Xingteng and his group entered the grand entrance of the Commerce Department building of the Daxia Dynasty, they saw Lu Chen waiting at the entrance. Lu Chen said with a smile, “Welcome, President Ye, to the Daxia Commerce Department.”

Ye Xingteng gave his respects and said, “I have seen Lord Lu.”

Lu Chen continued, “Please follow me.”

## Chapter 1297: Black Gold for Starship

Under the leadership of Lu Chen, Ye Xingteng and his group arrived at a conference room.

Upon entering the conference room, they found people already waiting inside. As soon as they saw Lu Chen come in, everyone in the room promptly stood up and bowed respectfully, saying, “We greet you... Lord!”

Lu Chen waved his hand, “Everyone, please take your seats.”

After that, the members of the Changhong Trading Team and the Cosmic Development Company took their seats on either side of the long conference table, while Lu Chen sat at the head of the table.

Lu Chen spoke to Ye Xingteng, saying, “Let me introduce to everyone, these individuals are the managers of the Cosmic Development Company.”

As soon as Lu Chen finished speaking, the middle-aged man next to him stood up again and said, “My name is Zhao Tian, the manager of the marketing department of the Cosmic Development Company, and I am in full charge of the starship trade this time.”

Hearing Zhao Tian’s words, Ye Xingteng, somewhat confused, asked, “Lord Lu, isn’t the contract for the starship trade supposed to be signed with the Ministry of Commerce?”

Ye Xingteng thought that Lu Chen brought them to the Ministry of Commerce to sign a contract with the Changhong Trading Team, but they hadn’t met any officials from the Ministry upon entering; instead, they were negotiating with the Cosmic Development Company.

Lu Chen replied, “Not exactly. The Ministry of Commerce is only responsible for coordinating, and under normal circumstances, the Ministry does not interfere with the regular operations of Daxia companies, even if the Cosmic Development Company is an imperial enterprise.”

Upon hearing this, Ye Xingteng realized, “So that’s how it is.”

Having spent some time in the Daxia Dynasty, Ye Xingteng had gained some understanding of the empire, including what a company is and its functions.

In his understanding, a company was no different from his Ye Family’s Changhong Chamber of Commerce.

Lu Chen continued, “Alright, now let’s talk about the trade price for the starships. Manager Zhao, President Ye, please begin your discussion.”

Zhao Tian went straight to the point, saying, “President Ye, I wonder what kind of trade method you intend to use to purchase our starships.”

Ye Xingteng replied, “If possible, we would like to use top-grade Spirit Stones as the trading currency, though I believe the Cosmic Development Company may not have much interest in Spirit Stones.”

Although Spirit Stones are a universal currency throughout the cosmos and can be used everywhere to buy things, for certain precious resources, most people would not sell them just for Spirit Stones but rather hold onto them to barter for other valuable resources.

To the Daxia Dynasty, starships might not be considered a rare resource, but to the entire cosmos, they are quite a unique commodity, so Ye Xingteng believed that the Cosmic Development Company would not initially trade starships for Spirit Stones like a regular item.

It is more likely that the Cosmic Development Company would prefer to barter goods for goods.

Furthermore, the Cosmic Development Company is a Royal enterprise. Even though Lu Chen just mentioned that the Daxia Imperial Court does not interfere in the operation of companies, as an imperial enterprise, the Cosmic Development Company inevitably also serves the Royal Family. This means that behind the Cosmic Development Company is the Sum Emperor. As the ruler of the Daxia Dynasty, the Sum Emperor would hardly take an interest in Spirit Stones.

Upon hearing Ye Xingteng's words, Zhao Tian responded, "President Ye is correct; indeed, we are not particularly interested in Spirit Stones. We have heard that President Ye's trading team has brought a substantial amount of Black Gold."

Ye Xingteng was not at all surprised by Zhao Tian's words. Black Gold is a material that can suppress Heavenly Demons and is extremely rare, making it a rather precious resource.

Although there aren't many Heavenly Demons in the universe, their existence is always like a sword hanging over the heads of Cultivators; no one knows when they might encounter one.

And even without the threat of Heavenly Demons, Black Gold also has a suppressing effect on Demon Envoys and Demon Cultivators, so any righteous forces would want to stockpile some Black Gold to forge into weapons.

The unique properties of Black Gold make its price exceedingly expensive. Of course, most of the time, transactions for Black Gold are not made with Spirit Stones, but through bartering.

Ye Xingteng said with a smile, “So the Cosmic Development Company is interested in Black Gold. I just don’t know how much Black Gold the Cosmic Development Company needs?”

Zhao Tian said indifferently, “As much as you have, we will take.”

This...

Ye Xingteng was stunned; the amount of Black Gold they brought this time was not small, as it filled several Immortal Boats.

It must be known that their Immortal Boats, used for transporting goods, are space Spiritual Artifacts capable of carrying a huge volume of cargo, with a single Immortal Boat capable of holding the equivalent weight of hundreds of thousands of people.

After snapping back to reality, Ye Xingteng said, “We have four Immortal Boats’ worth of Black Gold. Manager Zhao, are you sure the Cosmic Development Company needs so much Black Gold?”

Zhao Tian said, “Certainly, as long as President Ye is willing to trade, then our Cosmic Development Company can help President Ye clear out the goods. Afterward, President Ye will be able to bring back more merchandise.”

Regarding the recent large-scale purchasing of Great Sum merchandise by Ye Xingteng and his team, Lu Chen and others were aware. If they cleared out the original cargo of the Immortal Boats, then Ye Xingteng and his team naturally could bring back more merchandise when they return.

Seeing Zhao Tian speaking so assuredly, Ye Xingteng naturally would not refuse. After all, they had no particular use for those Black Gold as they had acquired it through exchange from other Star Domains. If necessary, they could always return to that Star Domain to exchange for more Black Gold.

Ye Xingteng then said, “Good, I agree to trade with Black Gold. However, we require fifteen Tian-class Starships.”



Hearing Ye Xingteng's words, Zhao Tian was taken aback. He glanced at Lu Chen and then coughed before saying, "President Ye, you have been in the Daxia Dynasty for a while now; you should understand the models of Starships."

The Cosmic Development Company's Starships are classified into six ranks: God, Saint, Tian, Earth, Xuan, and Huang, with higher-ranked Starships having more powerful capabilities.

Tian-class Starships are already war Starships equipped by the War Dragon Army; how could the Daxia Dynasty possibly sell such Starships casually.

Ye Xingteng said with a smile, "Of course."

Zhao Tian continued, "Then President Ye should know that Tian-class Starships have complete functions and are combat Starships, only usable by Daxia's War Dragon Army and are not for sale."

Ye Xingteng said nonchalantly, "I believe any item of value, as long as the price is right, can be traded. What's called 'not for sale' simply means the offer isn't high enough yet."

The Ye Family is a business clan; in their view, everything has a specific value. As long as the price is right, anything can be traded.

Zhao Tian thought for a moment, then said, "Tian-class Starships are controlled assets. This is not a decision I can make."

At this point, Zhao Tian looked to Lu Chen and asked, "What does Lord Lu think about this?"

Zhao Tian had no choice but to pass the issue to Lu Chen, as after all, Lu Chen was the Heavenly Emperor, and only he was qualified to approve the sale of Tian-class Starships to other Star Domains.

Lu Chen said with a smile, "President Ye is correct; anything can be traded for the right price. However, first, we need to see how much Black Gold President Ye has brought, then we can provide an answer."

Ye Xingteng said, "Alright, next I will take you all to our Immortal Boats to see the Black Gold."

#### Chapter 1298: He Could Very Likely Be a Prince

Lu Chen and his companions quickly arrived at the spaceport outside the Skyfire World.

At the moment, the spaceport was filled with hundreds of starships and Immortal Boats, presenting a spectacular scene.

Under the lead of Ye Xingteng, Lu Chen and his group boarded one of the Changhong Trading Team's Immortal Boats. As soon as he entered one of the Immortal Boats, Lu Chen saw piles of Black Gold that looked like mountains within the vessel's internal space.

Lu Chen thought to himself, with so much Black Gold, could it be that Changhong Trading Team has discovered an ancient battlefield relic from the Ancient Era?

Black Gold originates from the bodies of Heavenly Demons; it appears in significant amounts and forms Black Gold veins only where Heavenly Demons have gathered. Usually, locations with large amounts of Black Gold are ancient battlefields of the Ancient Era.

When Cultivators engaged in fierce battles with Heavenly Demons, it was coincidentally at the time of a great catastrophe, and those Heavenly Demons were killed instantly, thereafter forming the Black Gold veins.

Afterward, Lu Chen followed Ye Xingteng to several other Immortal Boats that contained Black Gold. The Black Gold loaded within just these few boats could be fashioned into countless Black Gold Weapons.

Even when diluted, Black Gold still has a restraining effect on Heavenly Demons and Demon Envoys. A little Black Gold mixed into the Black Gold Weapons is sufficient; after diluting the vast amount of Black Gold within these Immortal Boats, the resulting Black Gold Weapons could equip all the armies of Great Sum.

Back in the meeting room of the Ministry of Commerce, Ye Xingteng looked at Lu Chen and said, “Lord Lu, as you have seen the Black Gold for yourself, what do you think of this trade?”

In Ye Xingteng’s view, this trade would definitely require the Sum Emperor’s approval, and since Lu Chen was sent by the Sum Emperor, the Sum Emperor must have already made the stakes clear to him. Lu Chen would undoubtedly be well aware of whether the starships of the heavenly tier were for sale or not.

After contemplation, Lu Chen said, “The construction cost of the heavenly tier starships is quite expensive. If it’s just the Black Gold from four Immortal Boats, indeed it’s not enough to exchange for fifteen heavenly tier starships.”

“How about this instead? Ten heavenly tier starships, plus five starships of the earthly tier. I wonder how President Ye feels about this?”

Ye Xingteng did not respond immediately; he fell into silence.

Lu Chen continued, “Although Black Gold is precious, the manufacture of heavenly tier starships requires a lot of Xianjin and resources. And crucially, such starships are only available from the Daxia Dynasty. I believe President Ye should be aware of their value.”

Lu Chen had long seen that Ye Xingteng and his group intended to purchase starships not for use, but for the purpose of technological imitation.

The value of starships that can be made without the need for Xianjin can well be imagined.

After a long silence, Ye Xingteng finally spoke, “Alright then, let’s proceed as Lord Lu suggests.”

Seeing Ye Xingteng’s agreement, Lu Chen turned to Zhao Tian and asked, “Manager Zhao, the Cosmic Development Company has no objections, right?”

Zhao Tian hastily said, “Since Lord... Lu, has spoken, we naturally have no objections.”

Lu Chen continued, “Since both parties have no objections, let’s draft the contract now.”

As soon as the words were spoken, Zhao Tian's group began drafting the contract, which was swiftly printed out, and then both parties signed their names on it.

After the contract was signed, Ye Xingteng respectfully asked, "Lord Lu, may I know when the Cosmic Development Company will be able to deliver?"

Lu Chen said, "You'll have to ask Manager Zhao about that."

Zhao Tian promptly said, "President Ye can rest assured, within one month, the Cosmic Development Company will be able to deliver."

Ye Xingteng replied, "That's good."

At this point, Ye Xingteng looked at Lu Chen, "Lord Lu, I don't know if you have other arrangements today, but I have reserved a lunch banquet at Qingyue Hotel."

Lu Chen replied, "I'm sorry, I must immediately report the details of the trade to His Majesty, another day then."

Ye Xingteng said, "Okay, we'll take the trouble off your hands this time, Lord Lu. We'll be leaving first."

As the sound of his voice faded, Ye Xingteng, along with the Changhong Trading Team, left the Ministry of Commerce. After they had all departed, Zhao Tian looked at Lu Chen with a puzzled expression, "Your Majesty, are we really going to sell the 'Heaven'-class Starship to the Changhong Trading Team?"

After all, the Changhong Trading Team is from another Star Domain, and who could guarantee there isn't an Empire behind them? What if another Empire learns of the Starship's capabilities and decides to attack the Daxia Dynasty?

Lu Chen said, "The contract has been signed, so naturally, we will sell, but the model we are selling is the export version, which will not be equipped with Rune Weapons."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Zhao Tian instantly grasped the meaning; meaning they could suitably "nerf" the Starships sold to the Changhong Trading Team. Even if they acquire the 'Heaven'-class Starships, they would merely be larger in size compared to other Starships.

After the Changhong Trading Team returned to their hotel, within a private room at the hotel, one of the team's members curiously said, "I didn't expect that this Mr. Lu could actually decide whether or not to sell the 'Heaven'-class Starships."

Ye Xingteng laughed and said, "Don't you know the family name of the Daxia Royal Family?"

Reminded by Ye Xingteng, everyone suddenly realized that Mr. Lu was certainly no ordinary person, most likely a royal relative.

Ye Xingteng continued, "He may very well be a Prince. In the future, we need to build good relations with him, which could greatly help our future plans."

A Ye Family member said, "No wonder President Ye invited him to Qingyue Hotel just now."

Ye Xingteng said indifferently, "Unfortunately, he is still cautious of us, but we are not in a hurry. I have a premonition that we will have dealings with him again in the future."

Since the Changhong Trading Team has discovered an Empire here, with so many exotic items, they will certainly establish commercial operations in this place.

If they are to settle in the Daxia Dynasty, they will invariably have to deal with the Empire's Ministry of Commerce. The fact that Mr. Lu was appointed by the Emperor to handle this affair demonstrates the Emperor's immense trust in him, which means the Changhong Trading Team will likely have interactions with Mr. Lu again in the future.

At this time, a Ye Family Disciple said, "President, according to the intelligence I've gathered, the Sixth Prince of Daxia and the Second Princess of Daxia share the same mother, and this Sixth Prince is quite lecherous and never refuses gifts. Among all the princes and princesses of Daxia, he is the easiest one to approach. Should we send someone to try and get close to him first?"

After pondering, Ye Xingteng inquired, “The Second Princess of Daxia, she’s the chairwoman of the Cosmic Development Company, right?”

“Yes.”

Ye Xingteng immediately said, “Find out what the Sixth Prince likes apart from beautiful women.”

“In some time, I will visit him personally.”

Ye Xingteng thought to himself, while they could soon possess a Starship, no one can be certain if there would be problems in the production process.

If they could get in touch with the core secrets of the Cosmic Development Company through the Sixth Prince, it would make constructing a Starship much easier.

Moreover, the products of the Cosmic Development Company are not limited to Starships; they also have all sorts of strange weapons and equipment. If they could plant someone inside the company or bribe employees of the Cosmic Development Company, it would be a chance for the Ye Family to soar once again.

To infiltrate the Cosmic Development Company, the Sixth Prince, Lu Zi’an, is a critical figure.

## Chapter 1299: Gift Rejected

With the aid of Spirit Stones, the Changhong Trading Team quickly learned about Lu Zi’an’s preferences and also discovered a manor he owned in the Skyfire World.

Although they heard that Prince Liu was not in Skyfire World, for a prince like Lu Zi’an, even when he’s away, there would still be people handling all sorts of affairs for him.

Therefore, Ye Xingteng soon had gifts and various beauties prepared, and immediately headed to Lu Zi’an’s manor in the Skyfire World.

Lu Zi'an's manor in the Skyfire World occupied thousands of acres and the buildings within the estate were all of high standard; furthermore, there was a city wall outside with soldiers guarding on it, making the whole manor look like a small fortified city.

When Ye Xingteng arrived at the main entrance, a squad of guards approached, "Who are you!"

Ye Xingteng, with a smile on his face, said: "I have seen several lords, I am the President of Changhong Chamber of Commerce, and I would like to visit Prince Liu. May I know if the lords could pass the message."

At this point, Ye Xingteng subtly turned his head to give a signal to someone beside him, following which the people from Changhong Trading Team brought forward several dozen extremely beautiful women, and Ye Xingteng waved his hand, causing dozens of boxes filled with top-grade Spirit Stones to appear.

Beside the boxes, there were some irregularly shaped boxes that clearly contained some treasures inside.

Seeing so many items, even Xu Kaijun, a widely experienced trusted aide, was stunned.

Xu Kaijun had always followed Lu Zi'an and had witnessed many people delivering gifts to him, but it was the first time he encountered someone delivering so many items from the start.

Xu Kaijun soon recovered and coughed, saying, "I'm sorry, but Prince Liu has already returned to the Tianchen Imperial City and probably won't be back anytime soon."

As a trusted aide of Lu Zi'an, Xu Kaijun naturally knew that Lu Zi'an was under restriction by the Heavenly Emperor, and Lu Zi'an himself had also said that he would dedicate the next ten years to intensive cultivation, and even when the confinement is over, he wouldn't return to the Skyfire World anytime soon.

Hearing Xu Kaijun's words, Ye Xingteng didn't find it strange since they also had information that Prince Liu was not in Skyfire World. Ye Xingteng said, "No worries, we will establish a Chamber of Commerce here in Skyfire World, oh, I mean a company, and if Prince Liu returns in the future, we hope this lord could inform us."

At this point, Ye Xingteng took out a Space Ring and handed it directly towards Xu Kaijun, saying, “Lord, a small token, please accept it with no obligations.”

Xu Kaijun merely glanced briefly at the Space Ring in Ye Xingteng’s hand and chose not to take it.

Xu Kaijun was fully aware of the reason why Prince Liu, Lu Zi’an was confined, and Prince Liu had also ordered his subordinates that from now on, no one is allowed to accept things from outsiders, and anyone discovered doing so would be expelled from his estate.

Even the Heavenly Emperor had personally warned Prince Liu, who would dare to accept gifts at such a time?

Xu Kaijun seriously said, “President Ye, please take these items back. The Prince has ordered that from now on, he will refuse any gifts, no matter who they are from.”

Hearing Xu Kaijun’s words, Ye Xingteng was slightly startled, somewhat confused. According to the intelligence they had gathered, wasn’t this Prince highly greedy and fond of beauties? Why would he refuse?

Ye Xingteng asked, “Lord, is there some misunderstanding here?”

Xu Kaijun said, “There’s no misunderstanding, the Prince truly said so, and we are just carrying out the Prince’s orders.”

Ye Xingteng thought for a moment, and to avoid causing any distaste from Xu Kaijun, he did not insist any further. He glanced at the dozen beauties, “We understand not accepting Spirit Stones and treasures, but surely the Prince might be interested in these beauties?”

“How about leaving them here to serve the Prince?”

Xu Kaijun also glanced at the beautiful women, then said indifferently, “The Prince has said that his mind is now focused on cultivation, whoever sends him beauties again, is simply sabotaging his Dao Heart.”



This...

The members of Changhong Trading Team were dumbstruck.

This was completely different from the intelligence they had gathered.

How could this be?

Why has Prince Liu suddenly changed as if he were a different person?

Xu Kaijun spoke again, "Alright, you all may leave. I will inform His Highness of your visit. If His Highness wishes to see you, he will naturally send someone to fetch you."

"However, His Highness will focus on cultivation for the next ten years, so it is highly unlikely that you will see Prince Liu."

Upon hearing this from Xu Kaijun, Ye Xingteng was bewildered; how could Prince Liu, who was nothing more than a good-for-nothing, think about cultivating?

According to the intelligence they gathered, Prince Liu wasn't the type to engage in cultivation. How could he change his nature just because they came?

Once Ye Xingteng regained his composure, he said with a smile, "Sir, could you please tell me what happened that Prince Liu suddenly decided to retreat for cultivation?"

Xu Kaijun blandly said, "Why ask so many questions? Alright, you can leave now. If His Highness wants to see you, I will naturally send someone to inform you."

Xu Kaijun seemed somewhat impatient now; during this time, many forces have come bearing gifts, and almost everyone asked about Prince Liu.

Of course, he knew why Prince Liu wanted to seclude himself for cultivation, but some things are not meant to be discussed lightly.

Seeing Xu Kaijun getting somewhat angry, Ye Xingteng said with a smile, "I understand, we will leave now."

With that, Ye Xingteng turned to the members of the Changhong Trading Team and said, "Let's go."

Subsequently, they turned around to leave.

Just as they turned, they heard Xu Kaijun's voice once more, "Wait, take all these things with you as well."

Originally, Ye Xingteng and his group intended to feign forgetting the Spirit Stones and various treasures on the ground, as it is customary to show humility during gift-giving by pretending to refuse at first.

But since the gifts were brought and even displayed, it made no sense to take them back, so Ye Xingteng and his group turned to leave while leaving the items where they were.

Turning his head to Xu Kaijun, Ye Xingteng said with a smile, "Sir, there's no reason to take back what has been given away."

Xu Kaijun coldly responded, "If you insist on leaving these items here, then I must tell you that not only will you not meet Prince Liu, but it may also likely displease His Highness."

"That's all there is to say."

Hearing Xu Kaijun say this, Ye Xingteng's eyebrows slightly furrowed, as if he understood, "Thank you for the reminder, sir."

As the words fell, Ye Xingteng immediately collected all the Spirit Stones and treasures from the ground.

After that, Ye Xingteng led the members of the Changhong Trading Team away, including the beauties who were initially meant for Lu Zi'an.

Once they returned to their hotel, a disciple from the Ye Family asked puzzledly, “President, have we really taken back the gifts?”

“Taking back the given gifts could anger Prince Liu if he finds out.”

Ye Xingteng calmly replied, “Did you not hear the guard say that leaving the items would actually displease Prince Liu?”

A person speculated, “That must have been just polite talk, or maybe they thought the Spirit Stones and treasures we offered lacked sincerity?”

They could not believe there was anything wrong with the intelligence they gathered, as everyone knows Prince Liu’s affairs—it’s known across all the major forces of the Daxia Dynasty, how could it possibly be wrong?

Besides, how could someone change so abruptly?

#### Chapter 1300: Borrowing Someone

Seeing that the members of the trade association still didn’t understand why Prince Liu’s subordinates didn’t offer gifts, Ye Xingteng bluntly stated: “It’s not that Prince Liu refuses to accept gifts, but rather, he dares not to accept them.”

Upon hearing Ye Xingteng’s words, the members of the trading team were slightly startled.

Dares not to accept gifts?

Lu Zi’an is the son of the Heavenly Emperor of the Daxia Dynasty; what could he possibly fear?

Their trading team had visited numerous empires, and almost son of every emperor they encountered acted arrogantly and recklessly, above the law. What could the son of a Great Emperor possibly fear to do?

Especially when it’s just a matter of accepting some gifts.

Ye Xingteng continued: “A man who suddenly takes up cultivation and claims he will be in seclusion for ten years, particularly someone who was previously greedy and licentious—do you believe that?”

A member of the Changhong Trading Team said: “Of course not.”

Ye Xingteng continued: “Then, there’s only one possibility: Prince Liu of Daxia has been warned by someone.”

“Judging by the behavior of Prince Liu’s guards, they are exceedingly wary of accepting gifts, and that guard even reminded us that leaving a gift might offend Prince Liu. This proves that he is now afraid of accepting gifts, even more so that this matter might reach the ears of someone he fears.”

“The only person who could make Prince Liu afraid must be that one.”

Ye Xingteng did not explicitly say who it was, after all, one must not insult the Great Emperor. If he outrightly spoke the name, he might be noticed by the Great Emperor. Although their investigation revealed that a Great Emperor stood behind Lu Chen, in their eyes, Lu Chen was most likely a Great Emperor himself.

Hearing Ye Xingteng’s analysis, the members of the Changhong Trading Team immediately caught on.

Ye Xingteng then said: “Normally, a Great Emperor wouldn’t care about his children’s indulgence in luxury, but according to our intelligence, this one is different. He places great emphasis on familial bonds; he probably doesn’t want to see his children ending up as nothing but a waste of space.”

At this moment, a disciple of the Ye Family said: “Then doesn’t that mean our plan is ruined?”

If it was as they speculated, Prince Liu’s so-called ten-year seclusion might very well be a ten-year house arrest imposed by the Heavenly Emperor. Their hopes of meeting Prince Liu in the next ten years would be difficult, and their plan would be spoiled.

Ye Xingteng spoke indifferently: “It’s only a decade; we can certainly wait that long.”

For Cultivators, a decade is not a long time. It takes them many years just to return to the Chiyue Dynasty, and on top of that, they would need some time to spread the news about the Daxia Dynasty’s affairs.

Acquiring those things from the Daxia Dynasty will take more than ten years, so there is no need for them to be too anxious.

Moreover, just the manufacturing method of a starship alone is worth waiting a decade for.

Seeing President Ye saying this, the other members of the Changhong Trading Team no longer said much.

After some time, the Changhong Trading Team completed the transaction with the Cosmic Development Company, and all the traded starships were transferred to the Changhong Trading Team.

But when the members of the Changhong Trading Team saw the numerous buttons on the starship, they were all stunned.

To control an Immortal Boat, they only needed to channel Spiritual Power into the spiritual power core, and for them, operating a starship was exceedingly difficult by comparison.

Indeed, the Cosmic Development Company had also been trying to reduce the number of buttons on the starships, to simplify the control of the starships. Nowadays, the starships of the Daxia Dynasty no longer had that many buttons.

However, the batch of starships sold to Changhong Trading Team were models from a few generations back, hence they had more buttons.

This posed a problem for the people of Changhong Trading Team; they managed to purchase the starships but didn’t know how to operate them.

They could easily take these starships back with them, but after getting them back, it was no good if they couldn’t operate them.

Although their initial intention was to study the construction of these starships, if they didn't even know how to operate them, even if they managed to build them in the future, it would probably be useless.

However, Ye Xingteng quickly thought of a solution and immediately contacted the people from Cosmic Development Company, hoping they could lend them some personnel who knew how to operate starships.

The Cosmic Development Company did not agree immediately but instead directed Ye Xingteng to the Ministry of Commerce to discuss the matter with Lord Lu.

Skyfire World, Great Sum Ministry of Commerce.

In the meeting room, Ye Xingteng sat in an armchair, his gaze out the window.

A Ye Family Disciple beside him said, "President, there are so many people in the Daxia Dynasty who can operate starships; can't we just recruit some of them? Why must we go to the Cosmic Development Company to borrow people?"

Not all starships in the Daxia Dynasty are official; now all major powers possess starships, so it's not just the Daxia soldiers who can operate starships.

In the eyes of some from the Changhong Trading Team, if they wanted to recruit someone to operate starships, they just needed to hire some people from the general populace with a high salary, there was no need to approach the Cosmic Development Company to borrow personnel.

Ye Xingteng gave a glance at that Ye Family Disciple and said, "What do you understand? How many civilians can operate Tian-class starships? Surely you don't think all starships are the same?"

"Since starships vary in rank, naturally, their control methods are also very different."

Most people from the Changhong Trading Team still thought that the logic of operating starships and Immortal Boats were similar; in their eyes, no matter the rank of the Immortal

Boat, the control methods were directly manipulating the central Formation, so they assumed control methods for starships of all ranks should also be universal.

Upon hearing this from Ye Xingteng, the people from Changhong Trading Team were stunned, and one of them said, “President, aren’t they all starships? How can the methods of control be different?”

Ye Xingteng replied, “Starships are not Immortal Boats. As for why the Cosmic Development Company would differentiate the control methods for starships, you’d have to ask them.”

“If we don’t have someone who knows how to operate Tian-class starships, even if we brought these starships back, they might as well be a heap of scrap metal.”

Initially, Ye Xingteng also planned to hire knowledgeable people on starship operation from the Imperial Mountain Star Region at a high price to teach them how to control starships, but the people they hired were completely clueless about the buttons on the Tian-class starships.

Later, Ye Xingteng understood what was going on; Tian-class starships were military vessels used by the War Dragon Army, classified as weapons of war, while those starships used by the civilians in Great Sum were merely cargo ships and didn’t need so many functions, nor did they require so many buttons.

The only ones capable of operating Tian-class starships now were the soldiers of the War Dragon Army and the personnel from the Cosmic Development Company. If the Changhong Trading Team wanted to learn how to operate Tian-class starships, they had to seek assistance from either the Cosmic Development Company or the Daxia Imperial Court.

Just then, a series of footsteps was heard from outside; the room silenced instantly, and soon Lu Chen appeared at the entrance of the meeting room.

Ye Xingteng quickly stood up and said, “My respects to Lord Lu.”

Lu Chen also responded with a smile, “President Ye, long time no see. What brings you to the Ministry of Commerce today?”

Ye Xingteng got straight to the point, “Lord Lu, the thing is, this is our first time dealing with starships, and we’re not sure how to operate them, so we were hoping to borrow some people from the Cosmic Development Company.”

Hearing this, Lu Chen said, “I see, that’s easy to handle.”