

Es. Benefits 131

Chapter 131: Reunion with the Princess Consort_i

The North Prince, leading the soldiers of North City, had crushed the Barbarian Tribe's three hundred thousand cavalry. This news quickly spread throughout the Great Sum from the Capital city, and at the same time, people heard about the Order of Expansion that the Sum Emperor had rewarded the North Prince with, confirming the authenticity of the North Prince's military achievements.

Overnight, the citizens of the Great Sum changed their view of the North Prince.

In everyone's eyes, the North Prince's former reputation for being uneducated and indulging in pleasure-seeking was all an act.

The thought of the North Prince having issued a notice seeking a concubine made countless families start to scheme, wanting to marry their daughters off to the North Prince.

Meanwhile, the rise of the North Prince also put immense pressure on the Great Sum's major Aristocratic Families, just as Situ Ce had speculated. Now, every Aristocratic Family considered the North Prince's fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry to actually be the Sum Emperor's private army.

Because only the Sum Emperor had the ability to create fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry in North City.

To the Aristocratic Families, the North Prince was very likely a significant piece positioned by the Sum Emperor in North City; after all, without being granted the fiefdom of North City by the Sum Emperor, the North Prince would not have been able to achieve such military exploits.

The fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry seemed like a sword hanging over the heads of the Aristocratic Families, unsettling all of them greatly.

Within the core region of the Great Sum, the soldiers and the Aristocratic Families could essentially be bribed with money, and even though the Sum Emperor had reformed the military by revoking military power, some forces within the army still contained the influence of the major Aristocratic Families.

But the soldiers from North City were different.

The major Aristocratic Families didn't even know when the North Prince's fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry came into existence, let alone bribing its soldiers, which is why they suspected that this army had been specially crafted by the Sum Emperor for the North Prince in North City.

Because just beyond North City to the north lies the grasslands, a natural horse pasture perfectly suitable for horse breeding. Moreover, since the Aristocratic Families paid no attention to North City or the North Prince, the sudden emergence of a fifty thousand-strong Heavy Cavalry went completely unnoticed by them.

And now, why would the Sum Emperor want the North Prince to reveal these fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry? In the eyes of the Aristocratic Families, this was because the Sum Emperor was preparing to strike, so he first let these Heavy Cavalry sharpen their blades on the Barbarian Tribe's three hundred thousand-strong army, and then intimidate the Aristocratic Families within Great Sum.

Indeed, the effect of intimidation had been achieved.

Since learning about the fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry in North City, the voice of Aristocratic Families at the court had significantly diminished, and furthermore, they became much more compliant over the next long while.

Several days later.

North City.

The convoy of the North Prince Mansion slowly entered Yan County, and right now Lu Chen was waiting at the city gate.

Not long after, the carriage bearing Mu Zixuan and the others entered the city gate. Seeing Lu Chen personally there to receive them, Mu Zixuan immediately had the coachman stop, then descended from the carriage and ran straight toward Lu Chen, throwing herself into his embrace.

“Prince, your concubine has finally seen you again!”

At this moment, Dazhou and Xiaozhou also came down from the carriage and ran over to Lu Chen, nestling in his embrace.

Lu Chen, with a smile, comforted them, “Alright, alright, so many eyes are upon us. Let’s talk more after we return to the Prince’s Mansion.”

On hearing Lu Chen’s words, Mu Zixuan and Dazhou/Xiaozhou’s faces turned red instantly. Having not seen their man for so long, naturally, they were thinking of certain matters.

As soon as Lu Chen said they would talk, they instantly understood what he meant.

At this time, Chu Yuqin was watching Lu Chen from a distance and did not come closer. After all, her sister was right there watching, and if she approached, no one knew what Chu Qingli would say about her.

If it had been another time, she would have gone straight over. Being stared at so intently by Chu Qingli, Chu Yuqin felt some pressure and a bit guilty.

Seeing Chu Yuqin just looking at him from atop her steed, Lu Chen was suddenly perplexed.

What was going on?

Why had Chu Yuqin become so distant after being separated from him just once? Why wasn’t she coming over to show him concern?

If it had been before, Chu Yuqin would have stripped him bare to inspect his body thoroughly before she would have been assured.

Right then, Lu Chen caught sight of the cold and detached woman beside Chu Yuqin.

Seeing that woman, Lu Chen was momentarily stunned.

The woman's eyes were fixed on him, seemingly filled with animosity towards him?

Lu Chen was somewhat bewildered.

Who was this beautiful young woman?

Why did she look as though she bore some deep grudge against him?

What was she doing beside Chu Yuqin?

Lu Chen immediately used the system to identify her.

[Name: Chu Qingli]

[Status: Adopted daughter of the Chu Family, an assassin trained by the Chu Family, Ninth Grade Martial Artist, 26 years old, Chu Yuqin's non-blood-related sister, who has an abnormal attachment to Chu Yuqin, believing Chu Yuqin belongs to her. She considers the North Prince to have stolen her sister, hence her antagonism toward the North Prince.]

[Rating: 95]

[Favorability: 50 (affected by the ongoing influence of Dragon and Phoenix Tea)]

Seeing the system's introduction in front of him, Lu Chen was taken aback for a moment; he realized why Chu Yuqin was behaving so out of character today, not approaching him. It was due to the consideration of her sister.

But then again, Chu Qingli had also consumed Dragon and Phoenix Tea; his queen was truly thoughtful.

Thinking of this, Lu Chen affectionately tousled Mu Zixuan's hair.

Afterward, Lu Chen said, "Let's head back to the Prince's Mansion first, we can discuss everything later."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, all three ladies said no more.

Following that, Lu Chen and Mu Zixuan and the others boarded the carriage together. Inside the carriage, Mu Zixuan asked with concern, "Prince, are you injured?"

Lu Chen replied, "My love, rest assured, I am alright."

At this point, Lu Chen asked, "By the way, did Miss Chen and her companions come to Yan County with you?"

Lu Chen was a bit worried that Chen Wanrong and Lin Wanyun, knowing his true strength, would have run off. They were both women of extraordinary beauty with very high ratings, and naturally, he didn't want to miss out on them.

Mu Zixuan replied, "They came with us, they are sitting in the carriage behind."

Upon hearing Mu Zixuan's answer, Lu Chen breathed a sigh of relief. It seemed that Mysterious Moon Palace hadn't given up on him yet, and that was for the best.

At this moment, Mu Zixuan suddenly thought of something. She stole a glance at Lu Chen with the corners of her eyes before cautiously saying, "Prince, your concubine made a mistake in Anping City."

Lu Chen asked in confusion, "What mistake did you make?"

Mu Zixuan said, "Your concubine gave the Dragon and Phoenix Tea to Madam Chu's sister to drink."

Instead of getting angry, Lu Chen actually showed a slight smile. Then, with his arms around Mu Zixuan's delicate body, he said, "My beloved concubine is so dedicated in selecting concubines for me, how could that be a mistake."

Seeing Lu Chen say this, Mu Zixuan finally relaxed a bit. She had been worried that Lu Chen might not like Chu Qingli and that she had arbitrarily brought women back for him.

Afterwards, Mu Zixuan nestled into Lu Chen's embrace, just quietly staying there.

Before long, they returned to the Prince's Mansion.

Once everyone had disembarked from the carriages, Lu Chen saw Chen Wanrong and Lin Wanyun again.

With a smile, Lu Chen said to Chen Wanrong, "Miss Chen, Madam Lin, I thought you might find North City too dangerous and never come back to Yan County."

Upon hearing this, Lin Wanyun said, "Prince, we are aware of what happened in North City. With the Prince here, how could North City be dangerous? It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that Yan County is now the safest place in Great Sum."

Lu Chen said, "Madam Lin, you exaggerate. The safest place could only be the Capital city."

At this moment, Lin Wanyun seemed to remember something and continued, "By the way, Prince, our Palace Master intends to open a tavern in Yan County. I wonder if that would be acceptable?"

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen turned his head to look at Chen Wanrong, then said, "Miss Chen wants to open a tavern in Yan County? If it is to make money, shouldn't you open a tavern in the Capital city? Yan County isn't really a place to make money, is it?"

Chen Wanrong replied, "With the Prince here, I believe Yan County will soon become even more prosperous than the Capital city."

Chen Wanrong's voice was crisp and pleasant, like the girl next door, tickling Lu Chen's heart.

Lu Chen, of course, understood what Lin Wanyun and Chen Wanrong meant. They weren't just planning to open a tavern in Yan County; they were probing him.

The presence of a Mysterious Moon Palace tavern in Yan County would signify the palace's power moving into Yan County. In other words, Mysterious Moon Palace planned to support the North Prince and stand by his side.

Lu Chen then said, "Since Miss Chen has so much faith in me, I cannot disappoint Miss Chen. Mysterious Moon Palace can open as many taverns as it wishes in Yan County."

Hearing this, Lin Wanyun and Chen Wanrong were somewhat relieved. They had been slightly worried the North Prince might refuse, but since he had agreed, things would be easier. Now all they needed to do was wait for an opportunity to control the North Prince.

At this moment, Lu Chen glanced at Chen Wanrong.

[Name: Chen Wanrong]

[Identity: Scion of Chen Family, Princess of Chen Nation, Palace Master of Mysterious Moon Palace, 21 years old, Master Realm, came to North City mainly to get close to the North Prince, control him with a Love Worm, and use the Prince's blood to concoct the Subtle Dragon Spell against the Sum Emperor, to avenge Chen Nation; due to some reasons, she has developed complex feelings towards the North Prince]

[Rating: 98]

[Favorability: 80 (She greatly admires your spirit of self-sacrifice in repelling the invasion of the Barbarian Tribe)]

Seeing such a high favorability from Chen Wanrong took Lu Chen by surprise.

Lu Chen then glanced at Lin Wanyun.

[Name: Lin Wanyun]

[Identity: Adopted daughter of the Great Sum Left Minister Lin Gaoyuan, later left the Lin Family to join the Mysterious Moon Palace, Half-step Grandmaster, 31 years old, she followed Palace Master Chen Wanrong to North City, intending to use the blood of the North Prince to concoct the Subtle Dragon Spell against the Sum Emperor; influenced by various factors, she believes the North Prince to be a man of great character and has developed complex feelings for him]

[Rating: 95]

[Favorability: 90]

This...

One at favorability 80, the other at 90.

Lu Chen thought to himself that he was certainly going to be busy from now on.

Just then, a melodious voice rang out from behind Lu Chen.

“Prince, your humble servant has finally seen you.”

Lu Chen turned his head and saw it was Wang Qingci, that bitch.

Wang Qingci immediately came to Lu Chen’s side and threw herself into his arms, saying, “Prince, your humble servant has been thinking of you day and night in Anping City.”

Hearing this, Lu Chen smiled slightly, then said, “You’re probably not thinking of me, but rather other things on my person, right?”

At these words, Wang Qingci coquettishly rebutted, “Prince, when did you become so naughty.”

Lu Chen said, “All right, hurry inside. I’ll have to talk to you all later.”

Wang Qingci said, “Your humble servant will wait for you in the room.”

Having said that, Wang Qingci sashayed her waist into the Prince’s Mansion.

At this very moment, Chu Qingli, watching from a distance as Lu Chen interacted with a group of women, said coldly, “I thought the North Prince was different from what the outside world rumored. It seems I was mistaken; he is still that North Prince!”

Hearing Chu Qingli’s words, Chu Yuqin said, “Qingli, what man doesn’t like beauty? There’s nothing wrong with Chen’er liking pretty girls.”

“If he didn’t like beautiful girls, how would he carry on his family lineage?”

“Come with me, let me introduce you to Chen’er.”

With that, Chu Yuqin walked towards Lu Chen, and Chu Qingli followed reluctantly,

If it weren’t for her need to stay in the Prince’s Mansion to monitor Chu Yuqin and prevent anything from happening between her and the Prince, she would not have come forward to be introduced to the North Prince.

Arriving in front of Lu Chen, Chu Yuqin said, “Chen’er, let me introduce someone to you.”

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Hearing Chu Yuqin's words, Lu Chen smiled slightly; he, of course, knew what kind of person Chu Yuqin intended to introduce to him.

Lu Chen's gaze then fell upon Chu Qingli, who was beside Chu Yuqin.

Chu Qingli had a cold demeanor, dressed in a light blue garment, holding a sword in her hand. Her beauty was striking; tall and slender, with a waist so slight it seemed it could be encircled by one's hands, she was like a fairy from the heavens.

She was similar to Bai Qingqing, both being the type of woman who had a cold aloofness about them.

However, her coldness differed from Bai Qingqing's; Bai Qingqing's was solitary, a coldness devoid of emotional warmth, while Chu Qingli's was more of an arrogant coldness, her exterior icy, but what lay within her heart was uncertain.

Lu Chen looked at Chu Qingli and said, "Madam Chu, is this young lady beside you the one you wish to introduce to me?"

Chu Yuqin responded, "Yes, this is my sister; her name is Chu Qingli."

Hearing this, Lu Chen chuckled and said, "Madam Chu's sister? Should I also address you as 'Aunt' then?"

Chu Yuqin said, "There's no need for that; just call her Qingli."

Although by seniority, it wouldn't be wrong for Lu Chen to address Chu Qingli as 'Aunt', as a Prince, he couldn't possibly call everyone by such a term; a Prince has his own dignity to maintain.

As for Chu Yuqin herself, Lu Chen had been calling her 'Aunt' since he was young, for over a decade, and she had been calling him 'Chen'er' for just as long, so it was acceptable for the two of them to address each other in this manner, but it certainly wouldn't be appropriate for others to do the same.

At that moment, Chu Qingli, somewhat reluctant, approached Lu Chen and performed a curtsy, saying, "This humble girl pays her respects to the Prince." Lu Chen laughed and said, "Qingli, we are all family here; there's no need for such formality."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Chu Qingli inwardly found it amusing, thinking to herself, who would consider this lecher part of their family?

Chu Yuqin then continued, "Chen'er, I would like Qingli to take up the position of Vice Leader of the Internal Guards in the Prince's Mansion; what do you think?"

After all, the Prince's Mansion was Lu Chen's domain, and a position like a Commander would certainly require his approval.

After hearing Chu Yuqin's suggestion, Lu Chen replied without hesitation, "Good, no problem."

"Bai would be perfect as my personal guard, so Qingli can take over Bai's former position."

Originally, Lu Chen had planned for Bai Qingqing to remain the Deputy Commander of the Internal Guards, but since Chu Qingli was coming in, he decided to let her take on that role.

In Lu Chen's view, the more women he had in his inner court, the better, especially ones as beautiful as Qingli.

At that moment, Chu Yuqin gave Lu Chen a look, then glanced at Chu Qingli out of the corner of her eye, before finally asking with concern, "Chen'er, I heard that you led the soldiers of North City in battle against an army of three hundred thousand from the Barbarian Tribe for an entire night. Did you sustain any injuries? Is there anywhere you feel uncomfortable?"

Lu Chen sighed and said, "Ah, Madam Chu, I was fine until you asked; now my Dantian is starting to hurt again."

“I’m not sure if it’s because I’ve used too much of my skill that I’ve been feeling my Inner Strength has not been flowing smoothly these past few days. I feel listless, and I’m even having difficulty breathing.”

Hearing what Lu Chen said, Chu Yuqin’s face immediately showed a worried expression, and then she asked, “Don’t you know how to use that Cultivation Technique to regulate your body? Bai’s skills should be superior to mine; didn’t you ask her to help you with it?”

The Cultivation Technique that Chu Yuqin was referring to was, of course, the Dragon and Phoenix Yin Yang Skill. However, since her sister Chu Qingli was present, she dared not say it out loud; after all, it was a dual cultivation technique, and mentioning it would expose her intimate contact with Lu Chen. Lu Chen then said, “Madam Chu, have you forgotten that Bai is an emotionless being? Operating that Cultivation Technique requires someone who resonates with my heart and mind. No matter how strong she is, it’s useless if that isn’t the case.”

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin seemed to remember that Lu Chen had indeed told her from the beginning that only a woman who harbored thoughts of him could activate the effect of his special Cultivation Technique.

Although Bai Qingqing was Lu Chen’s woman, she lacked emotions, so even if she and Lu Chen were intimate, it was useless for operating his special Cultivation Technique, regardless of whether they had shared a bed.

As Chu Yuqin pondered this, a blush crept across her face. Did this mean that she was the only one who could tend to Chen’er’s needs, and no other woman could?

At that thought, strange feelings arose within Chu Yuqin’s heart, a mix of satisfaction and embarrassment, a complex blend of emotions.

Overhearing the conversation between Lu Chen and Chu Yuqin, Chu Qingli slightly furrowed her brows and looked at them with a suspicious glance.

She always felt that there was an illicit affair between Chu Yuqin and Lu Chen.

What kind of Cultivation Technique required two people to be emotionally connected? That didn’t sound like any orthodox skill.

Realizing her sister's suspicious gaze, Chu Yuqin coughed and quickly said to Lu Chen, "Chen'er, I'll take Qingli back to the Prince's Mansion now to arrange her living quarters. We can discuss the rest later."

Lu Chen replied, "Hmm, okay."

Chu Yuqin then said to Chu Qingli, "Qingli, come with me. I'll show you to your room."

Without further thought, Chu Qingli followed Chu Yuqin into the Prince's Mansion. After all, she was now in the Prince's Mansion, and her sister's every move would be under her surveillance. If her sister had any special relationship with the North Prince, she would eventually find out..

Chapter 133: Mu Zixuan's Inner Worries !

After everyone had entered the Prince's Mansion, Lu Chen also turned around and entered the Mansion.

Once back at the Prince's Mansion, Mu Zixuan immediately handed the child over to the wet nurse and went to bathe herself. It seemed that all the women of the Prince's Mansion had a tacit understanding, as the first thing they did upon returning was to bathe.

By the time Lu Chen arrived at Mu Zixuan's room, she was tidying up her hair. Upon seeing Lu Chen enter, Mu Zixuan quickly got up, intending to salute him, but before she could steady herself, she was pulled into his embrace.

Mu Zixuan's delicate body pressed tightly against Lu Chen's broad chest. Instantly, a man's scent wafted through her nostrils and entered her brain, throwing her into chaos and making her body tremble slightly.

Blushing, Mu Zixuan said, "Prince, my hair is not yet done."

Lu Chen smiled slightly, gently caressing Mu Zixuan's jade back, and then, embracing her, he walked towards the bed, saying as they moved, "It's all right, it's going to get messy later anyway."

Lu Chen had long planned to practice the Dragon and Phoenix Yin Yang Skill with his consorts. Several of his consorts were ordinary people, whose lifespans were around a hundred years at most.

Lu Chen did not really want to witness the day they grew old and died. As his Realm continued to ascend, it was very likely that his consorts and children would all die before him. Therefore, Lu Chen had decided to start having his consorts cultivate as well.

The Dragon-Phoenix Yin-Yang Spell could help those who had not practiced martial arts to possess Inner Strength and continuously improve their power. Once Mu Zixuan and the others obtained a certain level of Inner Strength, he would find suitable Cultivation Techniques for them to practice.

As for how many years they could live, that was up to fate, but Lu Chen would try his best to allow them to live additional years.

After reaching the bed with Mu Zixuan, Lu Chen first attended to the main affair with her and then, when it was nearly time, he used the Dragon-Phoenix Yin-Yang Skill.

Although Mu Zixuan was an ordinary person, when she felt Inner Strength emerge within her, she realized that Lu Chen was transforming her body, and she cooperated with him even more.

[The Host has cultivated feelings with Mu Zixuan once, Qi Refinement Mantra experience value has increased by 20, Rejuvenating Skill experience value has increased by 20, Dragon and Phoenix Yin Yang Skill experience value has increased by 30.1

Meanwhile.

Inside the Prince's Mansion.

After arranging a residence for Chu Qingli, Chu Yuqin took her on a patrol around the inner courtyard. Since Chu Qingli was to be the Guard Commander of the inner courtyard in the future, she needed to familiarize herself with the different areas of the inner courtyard of the Prince's Mansion.

When Chu Yuqin brought Chu Qingli to Mu Zixuan's yard, Chu Yuqin said to Chu Qingli, "Qingli, this yard has three rooms, the one in the middle is the Princess's, where Chen'er also sleeps at night."

"In the room next door..."

Chu Yuqin had not finished speaking when she faintly heard some odd noises coming from the room. As someone who often stayed in the Prince's Mansion, she knew exactly what those sounds meant.

At that moment, Chu Yuqin's face turned a shade of red.

Chu Qingli naturally heard the sound as well.

Being an assassin who often did the Chu Family's dirty work, especially killing men, she understood what the sound was about, even though she was still a virgin.

Chu Qingli snorted coldly and said, "He truly is a lecherous man."

The Princess had just returned to Yan County, tired from the journey, yet that lecherous man assaulted her.

It seemed the rumors outside were absolutely true. The only mistake was that the North Prince, despite being lascivious, did have some abilities – he was not a complete weakling.

If he were a weakling, Yan County could not have been defended, nor could he have commanded an army of fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry.

But even if Lu Chen had strength, this could not change the fact that he was a lecherous man. Chu Qingli worried that if Chu Yuqin stayed in the Mansion, there

might come a day when she too would be caught and brought to the North Prince's bed.

As Chu Yuqin's sister, she would never allow such a thing to happen. She was determined to find a way to rescue her sister from danger.

Chu Yuqin, now feeling awkward, said, "Let's go somewhere else..."

The sounds from Mu Zixuan's room grew louder, and lingering to eavesdrop seemed improper.

Then Chu Yuqin led Chu Qingli to another place.

It was uncertain how much time had passed.

Mu Zixuan got up to dress Lu Chen. She had no intention of keeping Lu Chen to herself for a whole day; after all, Lu Chen had other women to attend to.

Moreover, if Lu Chen really were to stay with her all day, she doubted her body could withstand it.

At this time, Mu Zixuan said, "Prince, I just felt a warm current flow through my body. Is this you infusing me with Inner Strength again?"

Being the daughter of a General, Mu Zixuan understood something about Inner Strength even without having practiced.

Lu Chen replied, "Yes, I have cultivated a special Cultivation Technique that allows us to practice it together while we do certain things."

Turning his head to look at Mu Zixuan, he then caressed her beautiful cheek and said, "My love, you, Youyou, and Xiaoxiao are all ordinary people. If you three do not cultivate, you may live only a hundred years at most. I don't want to see you go before me."

Hearing this, Mu Zixuan's heart trembled. She had never thought about this issue before.

Now thinking about it, ordinary people live at most a hundred years, while Grandmasters and Celestials of the Heavenly Human Realm have lifespans of at least several hundred years..

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That is to say, when Lu Chen was still in the prime of his youth, the three of them would have already become gray and old.

The thought that Lu Chen might lose interest in them once they grew old filled Mu Zixuan's heart with immense anxiety.

She had always been intoxicated by Lu Chen's tender affections, believing that she had married a good Prince and that life could go on like this forever. Now, she realized that although Lu Chen was so good to her at the moment, there might come a day when he would disdain them for growing old.

Even if Lu Chen did not disdain them, the sight of their gray hair and aged appearance against Lu Chen's youthful vigor was distressing, and they would be unable to continue attending to him, which would undoubtedly give rise to all sorts of thoughts in their hearts.

Coming back to her senses, Mu Zixuan said, "Prince, I understand what you mean. I shall start practicing martial arts from tomorrow on."

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen chuckled and then stroked Mu Zixuan's hair, saying, "My beloved doesn't need to deliberately practice martial arts, I will teach you Immortal Law, and you can cultivate with me."

Mu Zixuan was startled for a moment, before saying, "Prince, Immortal Law is not to be imparted lightly. If the Immortals find out that you have taught it to us, it could very well sever your chance for Immortality."

In the eyes of the world, the chance for Immortality was sacred, and imparting the Immortals' knowledge to someone without their consent was a desecration that could provoke the Immortals' punishment. Mu Zixuan was very worried that Lu Chen might be punished by the Immortals as well.

Lu Chen replied, "Beloved, don't worry, the Immortal fate I've received is different from the ordinary ones. Even if I teach you the Immortal Law, the Immortals will not reprimand me; on the contrary, they would appreciate my efforts in passing down the Immortal Law."

With Lu Chen having said this, Mu Zixuan felt relieved, "I understand; I will definitely learn the Immortal Law that you pass down to me with great effort."

With that, Mu Zixuan tied Lu Chen's belt.

After she finished dressing him, Mu Zixuan continued, "Prince, you should go to Xiaoxiao and the others now; they must be waiting for you in their room."

Lu Chen smiled faintly, then embraced Mu Zixuan and kissed her before saying, "I will come to accompany you tonight."

Mu Zixuan's cheeks flushed as she softly uttered a "mm-hmm."

Immediately after, Lu Chen turned and left Mu Zixuan's room.

At this very moment,

Zhou Xiaoxiao was in Zhou Youyou's room, with Zhou Youyou sitting in front of a copper mirror, and Zhou Xiaoxiao behind her, helping to put up her hair.

Zhou Youyou then asked, "Sister, do you think the Prince will come to our place during the day?"

Zhou Xiaoxiao replied, "He probably will."

Zhou Youyou said, "He should be off to accompany Sister Mu."

As Zhou Xiaoxiao arranged Youyou's hair, she said, "Youyou, you know quite well how formidable the Prince is; how could Sister Mu possibly keep the Prince by her side the whole time?"

Hearing Zhou Xiaoxiao's words, Zhou Youyou's delicate body couldn't help but tremble involuntarily.

She remembered the time when Mu Zixuan and Zhou Xiaoxiao were pregnant, during which the Prince came to dote on her daily, making her feel as if her body wasn't her own anymore.

While the two sisters were talking, the door to the room was pushed open.

Seeing Lu Chen enter, the two sisters quickly stood up straight and said, "We've seen the Prince."

Lu Chen, wearing a smile, asked, "Ladies, why do I hear that someone was discussing me just now?"

"Could you be talking behind my back?"

Zhou Xiaoxiao hurriedly said, "Prince, I wouldn't dare."

Lu Chen closed the door behind him and then approached Zhou Xiaoxiao, saying, "What won't you dare? You've talked behind my back not once or twice before, it seems that a good punishment is in order indeed."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, both sisters' faces instantly turned red; Lu Chen wasn't truly accusing them of anything, he simply sought an excuse to "punish" them.

Zhou Xiaoxiao then said, "I am willing to accept the Prince's punishment, as long as the Prince is willing to forgive me."

Lu Chen's gaze fell on the cute and petite Zhou Youyou, who blushed and said, "I know I was wrong, I shouldn't have talked about the Prince behind his back. I am also willing to accept the Prince's punishment."

Lu Chen immediately embraced both women, "Then my punishment begins now."

The two women subsequently fell silent, accepting Lu Chen's punishment..

Chapter 135: Chu Qingli's Confusion_i

Chu Yuqin, accompanied by Chu Qingli, patrolled the inner yard before they headed to the north courtyard.

As they walked, she said, "Qingli, Chen'er is, after all, the Prince, so when you see him in the future, try not to keep such a stern face."

Chu Yuqin was still somewhat worried that Chu Qingli's strong hostility towards Lu Chen could cause greater conflict between Chu Qingli and Lu Chen.

One was her own sister, the other her own Chen'er; Chu Yuqin did not want any conflict between them.

Chu Qingli replied expressionlessly, "Sister, I'm an assassin, this is how I've always been, as you know."

Hearing Chu Qingli's response, Chu Yuqin sighed and said, "Qingli, now that you've left the Chu Family, your identity has changed, and you need to adapt quickly to your new role. You are no longer an assassin and cannot continue to see yourself as one."

"If you keep a stern face and keep everyone at arm's length, what man would marry you? How will you ever marry off in the future?"

Chu Qingli answered indifferently, "I have no plans to marry. Having sister is enough forme."

This...

Chu Yuqin didn't know how to persuade Chu Qingli; Chu Qingli had always been stubborn, and once she set her mind to something, she rarely changed it. It was hard to sway her.

As they talked, they entered the north courtyard, and at that moment, Chu Yuqin said to Chu Qingli, "This is the north courtyard, Zhou..."

"Good brother..."

"Ah, darling, spare me!"

Chu Yuqin hadn't finished speaking when she heard voices coming from a room.

Chu Yuqin stopped mid-sentence.

A look of disgust immediately appeared on Chu Qingli's face.

This was the inner courtyard; those who would do such things here didn't need much consideration.

This guy had just been with Mu Zixuan and now he had come over here.

Does he think of nothing but women all day and night?

What kind of beast is he?

Chu Yuqin coughed and said, "Qingli, let's go look somewhere else first."

As she finished speaking, Chu Yuqin turned and left the north courtyard.

After leaving the north courtyard, Chu Qingli asked, “Sister, the North Prince is a martial artist, right?”

Chu Qingli had sensed the aura of a martial artist from Lu Chen at first glance. Even though Lu Chen didn’t seem like an ordinary martial artist, Chu Qingli, as an assassin, had encountered all kinds of martial artists, and could easily tell if someone was one.

Chu Yuqin replied, “Yes, Chen’er is indeed a martial artist.”

Chu Qingli continued, “Aren’t martial artists supposed to abstain from carnal pleasures? With so many women in his mansion, can he still practice martial arts?”

For most martial artists, indulgence in sensual pleasures could sap their energy considerably, and except for those who followed the demonic path, most would exercise restraint and not frequently indulge in such pleasures.

In this world, some women would rather their husbands be low-level warriors than high-quality warriors, for this very reason.

The higher the quality of the warrior, the stricter they are in abstaining from carnal pleasures. There are many who refrain from touching women for not just a year, but a decade, and marrying such warriors is akin to living a life of celibacy.

Chu Qingli could feel the strong flow of skill in Lu Chen; his strength was at least above the eighth rank, making him a high-quality warrior.

For a high-quality warrior like him to have so many women in his mansion, and for him to appear so unrestrained, Chu Qingli found it puzzling. How could he be so lustful and still manage to become a warrior of above the eighth rank at the age of sixteen or seventeen?

Blushing at Chu Qingli’s question, Chu Yuqin responded, “The martial arts that Chen’er practices are a bit special; they don’t require abstention from carnal pleasures.”

Recalling the Immortal Law that Lu Chen cultivated, which not only allowed for indulgence but might be boosted by interactions with women, Chu Yuqin felt her face grow hot.

Of course, she definitely could not tell Chu Qingli that, lest she think Lu Chen was practicing some evil martial arts.

Upon hearing Chu Yuqin's words, Chu Qingli appeared doubtful. What kind of martial arts didn't require one to abstain from carnal pleasures?

Could it be true?

She had never heard of such martial arts before.

It couldn't be the yin-yang balancing arts, could it?

Without asking any further, Chu Qingli decided to closely observe the situation in the Prince's Mansion, especially the condition of Lu Chen's women.

If it indeed was that type of nefarious cultivation technique, she would instantly recognize the signs in Lu Chen's women.

Yin-yang balancing techniques were extremely harmful to a woman's health, and since several of Lu Chen's consorts were ordinary people, they wouldn't withstand such methods and would soon fall ill.

As long as Mu Zixuan and the others were being harmed in such a way, Chu Qingli would notice signs the next day.

Chu Qingli thought that, if she confirmed the North Prince was using such techniques, she would have to whisk her sister away promptly; she did not want her sister to be harmed by the North Prince.

[Host has cultivated feelings with Zhou Xiaoxiao once, Qi Refinement Mantra experience value increased by 20, Rejuvenating Skill experience value increased by 20, Dragon and Phoenix Yin Yang Skill experience value increased by 30.]

[Host has cultivated feelings with Zhou Youyou once, Qi Refinement Mantra experience value increased by 20, Rejuvenating Skill experience value increased by 20, Dragon and Phoenix Yin Yang Skill experience value increased by 30, Dragon and Phoenix Yin Yang Skill breaks through to the second layer.]

Lu Chen, with Zhou Youyou and Zhou Xiaoxiao in his arms, looked up at the system interface before him and thought that to gain more experience points, it seemed he'd have to find that "bitch."

Zhou Youyou and Zhou Xiaoxiao were, after all, ordinary people, and considering they were so, Lu Chen didn't dare to be too rough with them.

But that "bitch" was different; as someone nearly a half-step Grandmaster, Lu Chen could do as he pleased.

Lu Chen swiped through the system interface and glanced over the Dragon and Phoenix Yin Yang Skill.

After breaking through to the second layer of the Dragon and Phoenix Yin Yang Skill, he was able to infuse more inner strength into his wives and concubines, allowing their realms to be upgraded faster and also accelerate his own cultivation speed.

Combined with the Qi Refinement Mantra, the Dragon and Phoenix Yin Yang Skill should add even more experience points.

Thinking of this, Lu Chen decided to give it a try.

He glanced at Dazhou and Xiaozhou, and seeing that they were already very tired, Lu Chen didn't plan on troubling them further.

Afterward, he slowly got up, preparing to find a certain bitch.

Seeing Lu Chen getting up, the two sisters hurriedly helped him get dressed.

Meanwhile,

In a courtyard brimming with plum blossoms.

The courtyard was very quiet, and there were no maids inside.

Inside the room, a silhouette tepidly stepped into the bath with her jade-like feet.

After soaking in the tub for a while, the graceful figure came out and then, swaying her hips, went back to her beauty couch.

Admiring her long jade-like legs, the beauty sighed and said to herself, “The Young Prince probably won’t come today.”

Lu Chen has three wives and concubines, and all are properly married to him.

Wang Qingci thought that as a mere female slave, and with the princess only just back at the Prince’s Mansion, Lu Chen would naturally want to accompany the princess.

But just then, a familiar voice sounded at the door, “Who says this prince wouldn’t come today?”

As the voice fell, Lu Chen pushed the door open and saw Wang Qingci half-reclined on the beauty couch in light gauze, he chuckled and said, “As this prince’s female slave, you dare call me the Young Prince, Qingci, you have grown quite bold!”

Seeing that Lu Chen had come, not only did Wang Qingci not get up, she instead covered her mouth with her delicate fingers and said with a giggling smile, “Whether the Prince is the Young Prince or not, doesn’t this lowly one know?”

Lu Chen then closed the door and went directly to the front of the bitch, wrapping his arm around her soft waist and flipping her body.

“The Young Prince, huh? This prince thinks you have been away from this prince for too long and need a lesson!”

“You should be properly disciplined, so you know what a female slave should say and what she shouldn’t.”

At that moment, Wang Qingci twisted her head, her brows brimming with flirtation, as she was about to provoke further, she was promptly silenced with a kiss.

“Mmm...”

Chu Qingli had followed Chu Yuqin around the entire inner courtyard and planned to return to the room that Chu Yuqin had arranged for her.

At that moment, as she passed by a courtyard blossoming with plum flowers and noticed such a unique scenery, Chu Qingli subconsciously stopped and lingered for a moment.

However, at that time, she heard some faint sounds.

Not having entered the courtyard, she couldn’t make out exactly what the sounds were.

Out of curiosity, Chu Qingli then stepped into the courtyard and listened carefully.

“Good brother... this lowly one is wrong...”

“You’re not the Young Prince... you are the Great Prince...”

“This lowly one is going to die...”

Chu Qingli’s expression suddenly darkened.

She had initially thought it was some sort of sound, only to realize it was some animal indulging in wicked deeds again after all.

This guy really doesn't do proper work, spending all day in the arms of women, right?

Chu Qingli looked disdainfully at the room the sounds were coming from and then turned to leave.

Not long after Chu Qingli had left, she encountered Mu Zixuan coming out of the courtyard.

Chu Qingli immediately said, "I've seen the princess."

Mu Zixuan gave a slight smile and then asked, "Qingli, did Madam Chu arrange a place for you to stay?"

Chu Qingli replied, "Thank you for your concern, princess. Everything is arranged."

Chu Qingli then said, "Princess, I will go on patrol now."

"Hmm, alright."

Then Chu Qingli continued on her way to her room, passing by Mu Zixuan.

As she walked, Chu Qingli wondered, why did Mu Zixuan not only appear unaffected by Yin-Yang Balance but seemed to have become even more beautiful? Her skin seemed to glow and had become more delicate, as if she had grown younger.

Was it her illusion?

Logically, someone who has been through Yin-Yang Balance should look exhausted and especially haggard, definitely not like Mu Zixuan.

Could it be that the North Prince did not use some Yin-Yang Balance technique?

If there were no Yin-Yang Balance, a martial artist like the North Prince who's always in the arms of women would probably have his strength drained in a matter of days, let alone practicing martial arts.

Strange, how did he do it?

Chapter 136: Breakthrough to the Master Realm, the Ambition of North Prince i

In the small courtyard blooming with plum blossoms, the sound gradually ceased.

In the room, a graceful figure lay on the couch, her delicate body twitching slightly.

Lu Chen looked at the system prompt in front of him, feeling the power that surged within his body, and the corners of his mouth couldn't help but turn up slightly.

Indeed, to enhance my strength, I need to find this bitch who likes to provoke me.

” [Host and Wang Qingci cultivated their relationship once, Qi Refinement Mantra experience increased by too, Rejuvenating Skill experience increased by too, Dragon and Phoenix Yin Yang Skill experience increased by too, achieved an Emotional Crit, all cultivation techniques' experience increased by an additional 200, congratulations to the host for breaking through to the third layer of Qi Refinement Mantra, Realm elevated to Master Realm!]”

A Grandmaster is different from another, the Master Realm is precisely the existence second only to a Grandmaster.

Lu Chen now possessed skill that was infinitely close to a Grandmaster.

At this moment, Lu Chen felt he had inexhaustible strength, and his sensory abilities seemed to have strengthened greatly, most notably his vision and hearing.

He glanced toward the window and actually saw the things outside through the gap, and he could even hear the maids and servants outside discussing what to have for dinner.

Not only was his sensory ability enhanced, but Lu Chen also felt that a certain gas was being released from his skin.

Lu Chen looked down at his palm, where a faint gas began to gather.

Lu Chen couldn't help but think, is this the so-called solid Protective Gang Qi of the Grandmasters?

Afterward, Lu Chen tried to mobilize the Spiritual Energy in his body, letting it form a Protective Gang Qi around him.

Soon after, white smoke began to emit from Lu Chen's body, countless streams of smoke converging to form a thin barrier around him.

At this moment, Wang Qingci, who was still groggy on the beauty couch, snapped to alertness at the sight.

Although she was not a Grandmaster, she recognized at a glance that what Lu Chen was releasing was the Gang Qi of a Grandmaster, and Lu Chen's Protective Gang Qi seemed different from that of ordinary Grandmasters.

The aura emanating from Lu Chen's body was even more commanding than that of a typical Grandmaster, leaving Wang Qingci's mind momentarily stunned.

The Young Prince is actually a Grandmaster!!!

A sixteen or seventeen-year-old Grandmaster?

Although she had known Lu Chen was strong, she didn't know his exact Realm; she had guessed that Lu Chen might be a Grandmaster, but had never had it confirmed.

Now, seeing the Protective Gang Qi Lu Chen emitted, it was almost certain that he was a Grandmaster, and his skill was probably close to that of a Grandmaster.

This...

Could it be that the rumors amongst the maids and servants in the Prince's Mansion are all true?

The Young Prince is really an Immortal Disciple?

Possessed of an Immortal fate?

As Wang Qingci was lost in thought, Lu Chen retracted the Protective Gang Qi from his body. He took a deep breath, then turned his head to look at Wang Qingci, who was staring at him from the couch.

At that moment, Lu Chen was still shirtless. He smiled and said, "Has the bitch recovered?"

Wang Qingci came back to her senses, with a look of resentment, and said, "No wonder the Prince was so fierce, it turns out the Prince is a Grandmaster! If this servant had known, I would have surrendered earlier."

Lu Chen chuckled and said, "Daring to provoke me, even if I were not a Grandmaster, I would still have you know the consequences of provoking me."

Wang Qingci then said, "Prince, didn't you say you'd arrange something for this servant once we return to Yan County? I'd like to know what the Prince plans for me."

Lu Chen slapped her buttocks lightly and asked, "What kind of work do you want to do?"

Wang Qingci moaned softly, "This servant was only an assassin in the past, only knowing how to kill, not how to do anything else."

Lu Chen said, "How about this, I plan to establish an intelligence organization named Rain-listening Pavilion, and you will serve as its Tower Master."

Upon hearing this, Wang Qingci asked doubtfully, “An intelligence organization? Doesn’t the Prince already have an organization called the Brocade Guard?”

Although Wang Qingci didn’t know much about the Brocade Guard, since she often came and went in the Prince’s Mansion, she was already aware of a very powerful intelligence organization there.

This organization could even predict the movements of the Barbarian Tribes in advance, which spoke volumes of their strength.

Since there was already such a powerful intelligence organization, why establish another? Wang Qingci was somewhat puzzled.

Lu Chen said, “Indeed, I already have an intelligence organization, but this one will soon become official. Before long, everyone will know I control the Brocade Guard, and I need a private intelligence organization.”

As time passed, the Brocade Guard was bound to be revealed to the public, maybe without people knowing where their agents were, but still recognizing the organization itself.

Of course, Lu Chen didn’t plan to create another intelligence organization just because the Brocade Guard would be exposed; he had deeper considerations.

Lu Chen continued, “In the future, Rain-listening Pavilion will operate as traders in various countries while gathering intelligence.”

Understanding Lu Chen’s intent, Wang Qingci then said, “All right, then I will serve as the first Tower Master of Rain-listening Pavilion.”

At that time, Lu Chen turned his head and glanced at the enchanting figure of Wang Qingci, then smilingly said, “Mr. Wang, I have prepared such a grand gift for you, don’t you think you ought to thank me?”

Wang Qingci's eyes were brimming with emotion as she softly said, "Prince, didn't I already thank you just now?"

Lu Chen leaned down, looking at her from above, and smiled, "That is still not enough."

Lu Chen was now at the Master Realm, and because he had just made a breakthrough, there was an excess of energy in his body that needed release.

Seeing the naked desire in Lu Chen's eyes, Wang Qingci quickly lifted her delicate hand to stop his broad chest, her expression becoming slightly panicked, "Prince, I have reached my limit, please go to your other wives and concubines?"

Wang Qingci was really afraid of Lu Chen. Although it seemed that Lu Chen knew of a very special treatment method that could instantly heal her minor injuries, she did not want to experience the feeling of her body not belonging to her too often.

She feared that soon her mind would be occupied solely by certain matters, completely succumbing to being a woman who knew only the pursuit of pleasure.

Lu Chen did not heed Wang Qingci's words. He took away her jade-like hand, placed it above her head, and while leaning down whispered in her ear, "This prince is very vengeful. You called me the young prince earlier, and that little punishment from before is definitely not enough. As my female slave, it is necessary for you to understand that the master cannot be insulted."

Wang Qingci's face flushed with embarrassment as she looked into Lu Chen's eyes, about to say something, "Prince... I... mmm mmm mmm..."

That night, Lu Chen returned to Mu Zixuan's room and spent the night in her embrace.

He spent the whole day today accompanying his wives and concubines.

The next morning.

Lu Chen got up early, and just after Mu Zixuan had helped him dress, a maid approached him.

“Prince, someone is looking for you!”

Hearing this, Lu Chen immediately said, “Let him wait for me in the study.”

“Yes, Prince.”

The maid then withdrew.

After the maid had left, Mu Zixuan said gently, “Prince, your concubine has already had breakfast prepared, and it will be brought in shortly. Why don’t you eat before you go?”

Lu Chen lifted his hand and gently stroked Mu Zixuan’s cheek before embracing her with a kiss.

A blush immediately appeared on Mu Zixuan’s face. She didn’t understand why Lu Chen always liked to kiss her even when they were not engaging in that kind of activity.

In Mu Zixuan’s opinion, kissing was only something men and women did during conjugal relations, but Lu Chen was different. He seemed to think of it as an ordinary act.

However, Mu Zixuan didn’t mind this at all, because it was Lu Chen’s way of expressing love; kissing her showed his affection for her.

“My beloved, I will skip breakfast. I need to go see what the Brocade Guard wants, it must be important.”

Wang Qingci said, "I understand, then should I have the servants send breakfast to the Prince's study later?"

Lu Chen said, "Hmm, yes, that's fine."

After the words fell, Lu Chen released Mu Zixuan and turned to leave the room.

As soon as Lu Chen entered the study in the outer courtyard, he found not only Qin Yushan but also Mu Changtian there.

Seeing Lu Chen enter, both of them immediately bowed and said, "Greetings to the Prince!"

Lu Chen nodded and asked, "What's the matter?"

Qin Yushan answered, "Prince, the Barbarian Tribe's General Xiao Pengthian has awakened!"

Hearing this, Lu Chen's eyes slightly narrowed.

Xiao Pengthian still had great use to Lu Chen, so he had no intention of killing him.

At this point, Mu Changtian spoke, "Prince, from what I understand, this Xiao Pengthian has a very high status in the Sky Wolf King's tribal court. His strength and status are second only to the Sky Wolf King. If those barbarian captives find out he is alive, they might cause trouble. I think it's better to just kill him."

Mu Changtian's thinking was sound. Xiao Pengthian was Xiao Hongbo's greatest general, and although there had always been tension between Xiao Hongbo and Xiao Pengthian, outwardly they seemed to get along harmoniously.

In the ranks of the Barbarian Tribe soldiers, Xiao Pengthian held considerable prestige; if he were to escape, returning to the Barbarian Tribe's royal court, it was very likely he'd become the next Sky Wolf King.

Moreover, this could inspire other ideas among the captive Barbarian Tribe members. If the captives were to unite, there would probably be numerous uprisings and attempts to flee North City.

The best solution would be to kill Xiao Pengthian outright, eliminating the backbone of the Sky Wolf King's tribe and preventing them from rallying together again.

However, Lu Chen didn't immediately follow Mu Changtian's advice; instead, he turned to Qin Yushan and asked, "Commander Qin, do you think it's better to kill him, or to keep him alive?"

Qin Yushan answered, "Prince, from what I understand, the highest status in the Barbarian Tribe's royal court doesn't belong to the Sky Wolf King, nor to Xiao Pengthian, but to the Sky Wolf King's queen."

"If we cannot capture the Sky Wolf King's queen, killing Xiao Pengthian won't keep the Sky Wolf King's tribe from quickly recovering."

"My thinking differs from General Mu's. I believe keeping Xiao Pengthian alive could further divide the Sky Wolf King's tribe. It would be best if we recognized Xiao Pengthian as the next Sky Wolf King."

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

Both had valid points, simply considering the matter from different perspectives.

If they kept Xiao Pengthian and declared him the Sky Wolf King, the Barbarian Tribe of the Sky Wolf King's clan would surely not acknowledge him.

They would consider Xiao Pengthian a traitor who had betrayed the Sky Wolf King's tribe, causing a rift among the Barbarian Tribe between those who supported Xiao Pengthian and those who supported the queen.

There was indeed the potential for further division within the Sky Wolf King's tribe.

However...

Whether or not the Sky Wolf King's tribe was divided wasn't of great importance to Lu Chen. He desired more than just the Sky Wolf King's tribe.

At that moment, Lu Chen's gaze fell on the map in his study.

Then he said, "General Mu, are you aware that among the gifts the court bestowed upon me there is the Order of Expansion?"

Upon hearing this, Mu Changtian froze, not because Lu Chen failed to call him "father-in-law," which wasn't an issue since they were discussing official business, but because of the Order of Expansion.

Although the imperial edict had been dispatched to North City, Mu Changtian was unaware of the court's gifts to Lu Chen. Lu Chen knew in advance thanks to the Brocade Guard's carrier pigeons.

Any movement in the Capital, Lu Chen would learn of within a few days, which is why he was well aware of the Order of Expansion among the items bestowed upon him by the Capital.

Regaining his composure, it seemed to Mu Changtian that Lu Chen had a plan in mind. He immediately asked, "Prince, are you intending to annex the entirety of the North Land into North City?"

Although Mu Changtian was surprised that the court would grant the Order of Expansion to Lu Chen, what astonished him even more was Lu Chen's intent.

The expanse of the North Land was unfathomable; if Lu Chen was eyeing the whole region, Mu Changtian couldn't imagine how many soldiers were needed to defend all its territories.

Lu Chen offered a muted smile, then stepped over to his desk and spread out a map drawn by the Brocade Guard.

Looking at the map, he continued, “The North Land is larger than the entirety of Great Sum, and North City simply cannot contain it.”

“What I intend to do is designate the North Land as my fief, then set up additional jurisdictions within it.”

Upon hearing this, both Mu Changtian and Qin Yushan were taken aback once more.

The North Land had always been the domain of nomadic tribes, and occupying the entire area would require driving them out completely or defeating them all.

But the North Land was simply too vast; setting aside the challenge of locating these tribes, even if they were found, the tribes could flee—how could you possibly defend against that?

Was there a plan to build a Great Wall across the North Land?

Considering how large the territory was, constructing such a wall was unimaginable in terms of manpower and resources. Even with ten thousand Slave Soldiers from the Barbarian Tribe at the North Prince’s command, building a wall to encircle the whole North Land during their lifetime was unfathomable.

Chapter 138: Princess, The Sky is Falling!!! _1

After a good while, Mu Changtian and Qin Yushan in the study finally came to their senses, both shocked by Lu Chen’s ambition.

However, Qin Yushan quickly calmed down, after all, in his eyes, Lu Chen was the Son of Destiny, who would one day unify the entire continent.

But Mu Changtian was different, although he had also thought Lu Chen’s ambition was to unify the world, his definition of the world did not include the North Land.

The expanse of the North Land was so vast that even the Barbarian Tribe did not know its full extent, yet Lu Chen actually wanted to include the North Land into his domain.

If Lu Chen truly did that, then the territory he owned would be larger than all the lands of the Great Xia, minus North City, combined.

If a Seignior owned more territory than an emperor, could he still be called a Seignior?

Of course, that wasn't the key point, the key was whether he could actually possess the North Land.

If one merely drew a circle on the map and claimed the North Land belonged to the North Prince, that certainly wouldn't suffice.

Barbarian Tribes wouldn't recognize your map.

At that moment, Mu Changtian tentatively asked, "Prince, if you plan to include the North Land in your fief, how will you defend against the invasions of the Barbarian Tribes?"

"Do you intend to build a Great Wall in the North Land?"

Lu Chen countered, "Barbarian Tribes? What Barbarian Tribes?"

Hearing Lu Chen's retort, Mu Changtian suddenly felt his mind go blank.

There were several Barbarian Tribe clans in the North Land, which the North Prince was surely aware of, and the Sky Wolf King's royal court was also there; how could the North Prince ask him what Barbarian Tribes?

Lu Chen continued, "What Barbarian Tribes are there? They are all my subjects."

This...

Lu Chen glanced at the map of the North Land and continued, "Any Great Wall, no matter how splendid or sturdy, cannot hold back an internal enemy."

“The Great Wall I want to construct is not an external one, but one in the heart, a Great Wall built in the enemy’s heart. One day, I will make the enemy unconsciously retreat the moment they think of stepping into my domain, not daring to take a single step forward.”

Hearing Lu Chen’s words, both Mu Changtian and Qin Yushan were taken aback.

Lu Chen had a strong desire for the land of the North Land. Not to mention that the North Land could serve as pastures to raise horses, cattle, and sheep for their North City, the vast land surely harbored abundant resources.

Such as coal, oil, various metal ores.

Although these things might not yet have a use or have been discovered, the larger the territory, the more likely it is to hold numerous resources; and he would eventually need these resources.

The key was that the North Land was only inhabited by Barbarian Tribes, and even they were not the masters of the North Land.

The North Land could quite honestly be considered ownerless land.

Even the Da Yue Dynasty hadn’t claimed the North Land as their territory.

Lu Chen thought about how the system once hinted that as the number of children born to him increased, the rewards he would receive in the future would become more abundant.

Although many resources couldn’t be explored or mined now, as the rewards provided by the system grew, there would come a day when he would have the means to extract those resources.

In short, the larger the territory, the potentially greater the resources; it was paramount to secure the land first.

As for how to handle the Barbarian Tribes of the North Land, Lu Chen had a simple idea.

Population is also a kind of resource.

It had been quite some time before Mu Changtian recovered from what Lu Chen had just said.

He immediately bowed and said, "Prince, your ambition is great, and I wish to become the sword in the Prince's hand. Wherever the sword points, the army advances, and I am willing to build a Great Wall that the enemies will never be able to surpass for the Prince!"

Lu Chen coughed slightly, then said, "I have already felt General Mu's loyalty. Let's talk about serious matters now."

Lu Chen then said to Qin Yushan, "Commander Qin, continue leading the Brocade Guard to collect intelligence on the Sky Wolf King's royal court. You must always have their movements well in hand."

Qin Yushan replied, "Yes, Prince."

Having said this, Lu Chen thought for a moment and then said, "Let's go see Xiao Pengthian first; I have some words I want to say to him."

Hearing this, Mu Changtian and Qin Yushan promptly led the way for Lu Chen, and soon the three of them arrived at the prison in Yan County, where criminals were held.

Xiao Pengthian sat on the ground, disheveled and listless. He had been medically stripped of his skill by the Brocade Guard and was now no different from an ordinary person.

The prison room where Xiao Pengthian was held was fairly clean, with a bed and blankets, not at all like the filthy and chaotic other cells.

Hearing the door open, Xiao Pengthian sensed someone was coming and looked up to see who was outside the cell.

Seeing the visitor was a young man dressed in a Brocade Python Dragon Robe, with a white jade belt, Xiao Pengthian instantly guessed the man's identity.

Xiao Pengthian scoffed and said, "They say the North Prince is just a greenhorn, lustful and incompetent, a craven at heart. I never expected that in the end, it would be this greenhorn who led a mere tens of thousands of North City soldiers to annihilate our Sky Wolf Clan's army of three hundred thousand."

Lu Chen said, "Before me, you call me a greenhorn, aren't you afraid I'll kill you?"

Xiao Pengthian said with an air of indifference, "What difference is there between me now and if I were dead?"

Xiao Pengthian thought his skill was gone, that he was now a cripple, and with the Sky Wolf Clan's army of three hundred thousand wiped out by the North Prince, he had no face to return to the Sky Wolf Clan..

Chapter 139: Princess, The Sky is Falling!!! _2

Xiao Pengthian continued to ask, "I wonder what brings the North Prince to such a filthy place to see me, is there something you want to extract from my lips?"

Lu Chen offered a faint smile and then said, "This prince may know more about your Sky Wolf King tribe than you do, do you think there is anything I need to learn from your mouth?"

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Xiao Pengthian's mind was instantly filled with the image of one person.

At first, he didn't take it seriously, thinking that Wu Yuan was merely hiding money in secret, but now he had basically understood what was going on. The erroneous

information they had collected about the North Prince mostly came from the trade convoys of Wu Yuan and his associates, leading them to severely misjudge the situation in North City.

If they had known about the roughly fifty thousand heavy cavalry in North City, they would never have dared to charge headlong into Yan County like this, even without those mysterious weapons that could explode, the fifty thousand heavy cavalry alone would be enough to meet their three hundred thousand-strong barbarian army head-on.

Under such circumstances, even if they were to conquer North City, the Sky Wolf King tribe would suffer heavy losses, they might covet the land of North City, but they would never make such a huge sacrifice just for a piece of territory.

With a sneer, Xiao Pengthian said, "Is the North Prince here specifically to witness my plight, to take pleasure in it?"

Lu Chen said, "This prince does not have such a hobby."

"I am here to propose a deal to you."

Xiao Pengthian frowned.

"A deal? What kind of deal?"

Lu Chen asked directly, "Would you like to become the Sky Wolf King?"

Hearing Lu Chen's question, Xiao Pengthian seemed to understand something and then sneered coldly, "Does the North Prince think I would betray the Sky Wolf King tribe just to cling to life? Ridiculous! As a warrior of the Barbarian Tribe, one can only die standing, never living on one's knees!"

Lu Chen was not at all surprised by Xiao Pengthian's response and said indifferently, "Indeed, death is the easier path, but have you considered, if you were to die, what would become of the hundred thousand barbarian captives, your wives and children in the Sky Wolf King tribe?"

“Without those hundred thousand barbarian men, the Sky Wolf King tribe would be left with nothing but the elderly, weak, and sick, wouldn’t it? Ten years from now, it’s hard to say if the Sky Wolf King tribe will even still exist.”

At these words, Xiao Pengthian’s mind shuddered.

Instantly, familiar faces flooded his thoughts.

If he and the hundred thousand barbarian captives were to die, there would truly be no men left in the Sky Wolf King tribe.

While it might appear they had assembled a three hundred thousand-strong Barbarian Army, in reality, excluding the small contingent from the North Fre King, the Sky Wolf King tribe had called up almost all the battle-ready barbarian men to muster that army.

This southern invasion constituted a gamble for them; in the eyes of the Sky Wolf King tribe, if they took North City, according to the queen consort’s vision, they would no longer need to roam for pastures and would have endless supplies of food, never again fearing hunger or cold.

So, almost everyone was particularly enthusiastic about moving south.

They originally thought with the Aristocratic Families of Great Sum and Prince Lu Shuyun restraining the royal court, taking North City would be a piece of cake, but the outcome turned out to be the dire situation they faced now. Additionally, without the men, the winter would be even harder for the Sky Wolf King tribe.

North Land is vast, and the Sky Wolf King tribe is not the only one there.

Without the men, when winter comes, the other tribes will surely plunder the Sky Wolf King tribe.

Especially the North Fre Tribe.

Since the North Fre King was getting on in years, he did not join them in the southward campaign, and he was still alive.

The North Fre King had long coveted the beauty of Xiao Wenyao, and if he learned that the Sky Wolf King's three hundred thousand-strong army was gone, he would likely lead the soldiers of the North Fre Tribe straight to the royal court of the Sky Wolf King.

By then, let alone Xiao Wenyao, even the queen consort might be captured by the North Fre King.

If the Sky Wolf King tribe were to lose even their queen consort, then the tribe would truly be finished.

With that thought, Xiao Pengthian's expression kept changing, and Lu Chen could tell he was struggling internally.

After a long pause, Xiao Pengthian asked, "If I agree to cooperate with you, will you release those hundred thousand barbarian soldiers?"

Lu Chen immediately said, "That's out of the question."

Xiao Pengthian said with a cold laugh, "What's the point of the North Prince telling me all this? Is he trying to amuse himself?"

Lu Chen continued, "Indeed, I have no intention of simply letting those hundred thousand captives go free, but I can relocate the entire Sky Wolf King Tribe to North City. Moreover, if among those captives there are those who perform well, the North Prince would consider allowing them to be reunited with their families."

Upon hearing this, Xiao Pengthian felt a jolt in his heart.

What was the Sky Wolf King Tribe's ultimate goal in attacking North City?

Wasn't it to take over the land of North City?

To relocate there and settle down.

If the North Prince really meant what he said, and that was his true intention, then even if Xiao Pengthian cooperated with the North Prince and became a traitor to the Sky Wolf King Tribe, he wouldn't feel there was anything wrong with it.

Better than starving or freezing to death on the plains or being plundered by the North Fre King.

Xiao Pengthian asked, "How can I be sure you're not luring the Sky Wolf King Tribe to North City just to annihilate us, to cut the grass and remove the roots, to kill us all?"

'It seems that cutting the grass and removing the roots is something you people of Great Sum like to do the most.'

Lu Chen had anticipated Xiao Pengthian's worries and replied directly, "Even if you don't agree to cooperate with us, I can easily find the royal court of the Sky Wolf King. You've heard of Wu Yuan, haven't you?"

Hearing this, Xiao Pengthian's face darkened, and he said coldly, "He is indeed your man! I should have split his head with an axe when I had the chance!"

Lu Chen said, "General Xiao, don't you think it's meaningless to say these things now?"

Xiao Pengthian fell into silence and said no more.

Seeing that the conversation had reached its end, Lu Chen turned around and said, "General Xiao can take some more time to think it over. I have plenty of time. Whenever you come to a decision, let me know. Also, I'd like to remind General Xiao one more thing: winter is approaching, and your tribe doesn't have much time left."

As his words fell, Lu Chen turned and left the prison cell.

Meanwhile.

In the North Land, the royal court of the Sky Wolf King.

The beautiful Yelv Nanyan was reclining lazily on a couch, sighing lightly, “Indeed, no matter how you furnish a tent, it can never match the comfort of a Great Sum bed.”

“Alas, I wonder if the King has taken North City yet.”

Just then, Xiao Wen Yao lifted the tent flap and entered, saying, “Queen, have you received any news about my father and the others?”

Xiao Wen Yao was already planning her escape to Great Sum. The moment North City was taken, she intended to head straight to Great Sum, never to return to the North Land.

She had prepared herself for hardship, preferring to endure in Great Sum rather than marry the North Fre King, the filthy old man who never bathed for life.

Yelv Nanyan answered, “There’s no news for now, but it should be soon.”

Yelv Nanyan remembered their deal with Prince Lu Shuyun. Since the Sum Emperor had to guard against rebellion from the Aristocratic Families within Great Sum, he would likely not send too many soldiers northward. Thus, the thirty thousand-strong army led by the Sky Wolf King could easily take over all of North City.

At that moment, a man’s voice suddenly came from outside the tent.

“Queen, something terrible has happened!!!”

Following the voice, a disheveled Wu Yuan entered the tent, knelt on the ground, and cried out, “Queen, the sky is falling!!!”

Seeing Wu Yuan in this state, Yelv Nanyan immediately had a bad premonition, her eyebrows knitting together as she hurriedly asked, “Wu Yuan, what has happened?”

Choking back tears, Wu Yuan reported, “Our caravan was originally heading to Yan County to receive the King’s spoils of war, but we heard that the King’s army of thirty thousand has been defeated by the North Prince. The King died in battle under the walls of Yan County, twenty thousand soldiers have been killed, and another hundred thousand have been taken captive by the North Prince!!!”

Upon hearing Wu Yuan’s report, both Yelv Nanyan and Xiao Wen Yao were struck with immense shock, their faces turning deathly pale without a trace of color.

Yelv Nanyan collapsed onto the couch, her hand trembling uncontrollably as she murmured to herself, “How... how is this possible...”

Chapter 140: Yelv Nanyan’s Plan t

Hearing Wu Yuan’s news, Yelv Nanyan and Xiao Wen Yao were both stunned for a long while.

At that moment, the thought that her uncle might have also died in battle left Xiao Wen Yao feeling so weak that she plumped down onto the ground.

She felt little for her father, King of the Great Sum, especially since he had sent her to the North Fre King like a tool, so she wouldn’t be overly saddened by her father’s death.

But she felt differently about her uncle, who had always treated her well and had even spoken before setting off of sending her to Great Sum after taking North City.

Alas, now all those plans had vanished into thin air.

Yelv Nanyan muttered to herself, “How could there be a defeat... There shouldn’t have been many soldiers defending North City, even if they couldn’t win, the king and his men shouldn’t have been unable to escape...”

As she spoke to herself, Yelv Nanyan suddenly looked up, staring intently at Wu Yuan, “Are you sure the news you heard is true?”

Still crying, Wu Yuan continued, “My lady, I didn’t just hear it; I also saw Great Sum’s soldiers digging many large pits to bury bodies, and when I entered the city, I saw large numbers of Barbarian Tribe soldiers being tied up and taken somewhere.”

Hearing Wu Yuan’s words, Yelv Nanyan felt her mind go blank.

If what Wu Yuan had said was true, it would be an immense disaster for the Sky Wolf King tribe.

This southern expedition involved most of the tribe’s able-bodied men, and with so many men gone, the Sky Wolf King tribe faced a catastrophic blow.

With so many men gone, the Sky Wolf King tribe would worry less about food, but without men, other tribes on the steppe would certainly target them. Especially the North Fre King’s tribe!

The Barbarian Tribes were not harmonious with each other and often waged wars.

If the Barbarian Tribes were harmonious, they wouldn’t have splintered into several major tribes each with its own royal court.

Although the North Fre King had initially lent tens of thousands of soldiers to the Sky Wolf King’s tribe, which appeared to show a good relationship between the two tribes, it was only because the Sky Wolf King’s tribe had promised many benefits in return, and the North Fre King sent the soldiers symbolically. Now that the Sky Wolf King was gone, and the tribe had lost so many men, the North Fre King would not be polite. He was very likely to lead his people to rob the Sky Wolf King tribe of food or women.

If the North Fre King took all the food from the Sky Wolf King tribe, many of the elderly and children would not survive the winter.

Perhaps by next spring, the Sky Wolf King tribe would no longer exist.

What worried Yelv Nanyan even more was that if the North Fre King brought his troops to plunder the Sky Wolf King tribe, they might capture her and force her to become the North Fre King's woman.

Yelv Nanyan knew well what kind of man the North Fre King was, and she certainly did not want to go to his royal court.

Thinking this, Yelv Nanyan quickly collected herself; they needed to save themselves now.

Regardless of the conditions, they had to redeem the hundred thousand Barbarian Tribe soldiers captured by North City.

Among those soldiers might be men from the North Fre King's tribe, but with a hundred thousand captives, there would undoubtedly be tens of thousands from the Sky Wolf King tribe, even if all of the North Fre King's men survived.

Also, Yelv Nanyan planned to ransom only the soldiers from the Sky Wolf King tribe.

Having regained her composure, Yelv Nanyan immediately said, "Call a meeting of the tribal elders at once!"

"Wu Yuan, you may leave for now; I'll call you if needed."

Wiping his tears with his sleeve, Wu Yuan obeyed, "Yes, my lady."

Yelv Nanyan glanced at the listless Xiao Wen Yao who sat on the ground, let out a sigh, and said, "Yaoyao, you should go out too."

Xiao Wen Yao didn't respond. She slowly got up and left Yelv Nanyan's tent directly. At that moment, Xiao Wen Yao was void of any emotion, her face expressionless, her eyes devoid of any sparkle; she seemed like a walking corpse.

The news brought by Wu Yuan was too devastating for her; so much so, she now forgot how to grieve.

Soon, the elders of the Sky Wolf King tribe appeared inside Yelv Nanyan's large tent.

At this time, the elders did not know what had happened. They had just seen Wu Yuan leaving the lady's tent and thought they were summoned because the Sky Wolf King had conquered all of North City.

The elders sat on the ground inside the lady's tent, and one of them asked, "My lady, may I ask why you have called us? Could it be that the king has taken North City?"

Yelv Nanyan's face was pale, and with a sigh, she said, "You must be prepared for what I am about to tell you."

Seeing that Yelv Nanyan had not answered the question and instead said something so ominous, the elders were stunned and a bad feeling began to grow inside them.

At that moment, another elder pressed, "My lady, what has happened? Please, just tell us!"

Yelv Nanyan then said, "The king has been defeated, and two hundred thousand soldiers have been killed with another hundred thousand captured by North City; the king himself perished under the walls of Yan County."

As soon as these words were spoken, it was like a bolt from the blue. All the elders in the tent were stunned, their minds went blank, reacting just as Yelv Nanyan had when she first heard the news.