## Es. Benefits 1431

Chapter 1431: Lu Yanghua's Counterattack

Lu Chen felt incredulous after hearing the words of the Returning Ruin Realm cultivator in the purple robe.

However, Lu Chen quickly understood what was happening.

How could Emperor Shenwu have perished so easily? Clearly, Emperor Shenwu had found a body for reincarnation and likely succeeded in possessing a certain Prince by now.

Just as Lu Chen was thinking this, someone exclaimed in surprise, "You dare utter the Emperor's name directly?! Could he really have died?"

An Emperor cannot be insulted; when someone utters the Emperor's name, the Emperor can perceive it personally.

For instance, if someone insults Emperor Xia, Lu Chen could immediately sense the insult and determine the person's location.

Therefore, ordinary cultivators wouldn't dare to utter the name of a living Emperor. If someone dared to say the Emperor's name, it suggested the Emperor had indeed fallen and had no deterrent power.

At this point, the cultivator who had announced Emperor Shenwu's death continued, "This news has already spread across the entire Central Star Domain, so it must be true."

A cultivator said, "Isn't this supposed to be a good thing?"

Emperor Shenwu pursued the Slaughter Path to prove Tao. To become stronger and break through to a higher Realm, he needed to kill even more people.

This also meant that Emperor Shenwu would continuously wage wars, bringing disaster and terror to ordinary people, which would, in turn, make the Heavenly Demons stronger.

Emperor Shenwu's death was a good thing for the entire universe.

Hearing this, the cultivator who announced Emperor Shenwu's demise smiled coldly, then lifted the wine jar on the table and drank it all in one go.

"If he was merely dead, it would indeed be good news."

"But according to the information, the new Emperor of the Shenyue Dynasty also follows the Slaughter Path. On her first day of ascension, she massacred the entire Royal Family, killing all her siblings."

Upon hearing this, everyone gasped in shock.

The person continued, "But that's not the most crucial thing. The key is that she also cultivates a technique called the Heaven Stealing Technique, which is said to rob Qi fortune and creation through slaughter."

"To quickly enhance her power, the new Emperor will undoubtedly launch large-scale wars, cultivating the Heaven Stealing Technique while proving Tao through slaughter. The entire Shenyue Dynasty is said to be in a state of war readiness now."

Upon hearing this, a cultivator inquired in confusion, "Isn't the new Emperor of the Shenyue Dynasty supposed to be the Fifth Prince? Didn't he just break through to the Saint Realm a few years ago? Why would the Dynasty's Great Emperor listen to him?"

The cultivator in the purple robe said, "I don't know either, nor do I know what methods he used. It is said that even the Great Emperor of the Shenyue Dynasty follows his orders, and when Emperor Shenwu died, there wasn't even a hint of unrest in the Shenyue Dynasty."

The cultivators fell into silence. If it was as the cultivator in the purple robe said, it meant that a war sweeping the entire universe was indeed coming.

Hearing these people's conversation, Lu Chen also fell into deep thought. The Fifth Prince was most likely the object of Emperor Shenwu's possession, and Emperor Shenwu had probably succeeded in reincarnation. To quickly regain his strength, he must wage external wars.

Thinking of how Lu Yanghua once sent people to assassinate him, and how he hadn't yet avenged himself before Lu Yanghua was gone, Lu Chen felt a little regretful.

Could this be the so-called "even hateful people have pitiful aspects"?

But then again, is this not the best time to reclaim the Sky Evolution Stone?

Now that Emperor Shenwu's strength hasn't fully recovered, he probably can't even beat his Quasi-Emperor clone. If he could get close to Emperor Shenwu now, he might be able to take back the Sky Evolution Stone directly from him.

Once the Reincarnation Stone is complete, unexpected things might happen, or perhaps more memories of past lives would be unlocked.

However...

The biggest problem now is how to get close to Emperor Shenwu. As the cultivator in the purple robe just mentioned, the Shenyue Dynasty is very stable now, without any sign of unrest, and those Great Emperors are still on Emperor Shenwu's side.

With so many Great Emperors protecting Emperor Shenwu, it might not be an easy task to approach the Seizing Body of Emperor Shenwu.

Thinking of this, Lu Chen dismissed the idea of reclaiming the Sky Evolution Stone for now. He wasn't in a hurry.

With the speed of his cultivation state improving, it might take less than a thousand years to break through to become a Heavenly Emperor. By then, retrieving the Sky Evolution Stone would be an easy task.

Moreover, his cultivation technique, the Creation Dao, is the starting point of countless Daos. Even though Emperor Shenwu follows the Slaughter Path, he has no advantage before Lu Chen, as Lu Chen's Power of Dao restrains Emperor Shenwu.

Of course, going to the Central Star Domain to have a look now isn't a bad idea. The universe is becoming increasingly chaotic, and he can just go to the Central Star Domain to gather some intelligence about it.

He could also see if there's a chance to get close to Emperor Shenwu.

Meanwhile.

Shenyue Dynasty, Imperial Palace on the Emperor Star.

Lu Yanghua stood at the edge of the Heavenly Palace, gazing down at the Imperial Capital. Viewing the scenery in front of him, Lu Yanghua's lips couldn't help but curl up slightly.

"Father, oh father, you didn't expect, did you, that all your preparations were actually for me?"

"I will absorb all your power and become even stronger."

Lu Yanghua had known about Emperor Shenwu's reincarnation plan for a long time since he had three Great Emperors from Tianji Pavilion by his side.

As for the cooperation between Tianji Pavilion and the Shenyue Dynasty, it was merely to lower Emperor Shenwu's guard.

Tianji Pavilion needed obedient puppets, not so-called collaborators.

Emperor Shenwu, a Great Emperor who climbed step by step out of mountains of corpses and seas of blood, could never be obedient, but Lu Yanghua was different.

Although Lu Yanghua also followed the Slaughter Path, his foundation was unstable, and to escape Emperor Shenwu's possession, he needed the cooperation of Tianji Pavilion. Such a pawn would be obedient.

Emperor Shenwu never expected that when he possessed Lu Yanghua, he would be trapped by the Great Emperors of Tianji Pavilion using a formation, and his possession technique would be reversed. Not only did he fail to possess successfully, but a large portion of his power was absorbed by Lu Yanghua, ultimately leading to his Divine Soul's destruction.

After gaining part of Emperor Shenwu's power, Lu Yanghua, with the assistance of Tianji Pavilion, quickly stabilized the Shenyue Dynasty. Although his strength was far inferior to Emperor Shenwu's, due to the existence of the Power of Slaughter, ordinary Great Emperors were no match for Lu Yanghua.

Additionally, he cultivated the Heaven Stealing Technique, a method that allowed him to gain someone's Qi fortune and skill through killing. In such a situation, no one dared anger Lu Yanghua.

Lu Yanghua was already the new Emperor Shenwu.

Although Lu Yanghua suddenly had supreme power, he still felt as if something remained unfinished for some reason.

At that moment, Lu Chen's image appeared in Lu Yanghua's mind. He wasn't exactly mortal enemies with Lu Chen, but the thought of how Lu Chen once surpassed him in everything.

Moreover, he needed to recover the Dynast Qi Fortune from Lu Chen so that the entire Shenyue Dynasty's Qi fortune would accumulate onto himself, making him eager to kill Lu Chen.

At this point, Lu Yanghua spoke to someone behind him, "Shadow Kill, go personally to Tianchen World and deal with Lu Chen."

Chapter 1432: The Threat of Shadow Kill

Lu Yanghua was not sure whether Lu Chen had returned to the Tianchen World after escaping the Shenyue Dynasty, but he planned to send someone to check the situation first.

After hearing Lu Yanghua's order, a middle-aged man slowly emerged from the shadow behind Lu Yanghua. The man was dressed in a black robe, exuding a strong black evil qi.

He was Shadow Kill, the Great Emperor sent by Tianji Pavilion to protect Lu Yanghua. Of course, he was just one of them.

After listening to Lu Yanghua's words, Shadow Kill said, "Your Majesty, Lu Chen may not have returned to the Tianchen World. Why not have the Elders of Tianji Pavilion deduce his whereabouts?"

Lu Yanghua said, "No need, I have a premonition, he should still be in the Tianchen World now."

Lu Yanghua couldn't say where this feeling came from; he just felt that Lu Chen was still in the Tianchen World. He suspected it was a bloodline connection.

Of course, Lu Yanghua did not know that there was no longer any bloodline connection between him and Lu Chen; Lu Chen's body was created by himself using the Creation Dao.

After hearing Lu Yanghua's words, Shadow Kill said, "Understood, I shall head to the Tianchen World now."

Tianji Pavilion has countless branches across the universe. These branches possess Heaven Rank Transmission Arrays, allowing one to transmit from one Star Domain Group to another. To reach the Tianchen World, it would not take even ten days, and soon the result would be known.

In the next moment, Shadow Kill's body vanished on the spot.

A faint smile appeared on Lu Yanghua's face again, and he then muttered to himself, "Once Lu Chen is dead, only Lu Yuanzheng will be left."

"Lu Yuanzheng, oh Lu Yuanzheng, where on earth are you hiding? It's really hard for me to find you!"

Lu Yuanzheng was the first to detect Emperor Shenwu's reincarnation plan besides Lu Chen. With the Heavenly Mystery Maiden's protection, finding Lu Yuanzheng was not an easy task.

However, Lu Yanghua did not give up on finding Lu Yuanzheng. Only by killing all of Emperor Shenwu's offspring could he fully control the Qi Fortune of the Shenyue Dynasty.

So just like Lu Chen, Lu Yuanzheng too must die.

Ten days later.

Fengyang Star Domain.

After Shadow Kill reached the outskirts of Fengyang Star Domain, he felt an invisible force barring his way, preventing him from advancing further.

Seeing the strange Immortal Boats coming and going before his eyes, Shadow Kill frowned.

How could such a prosperous scene exist in a fringe Star Domain?

What were those black Immortal Boats?

A fringe Star Domain with so many Immortal Boats?

No, those black flying boats don't seem to be Immortal Boats. There was no spiritual power flowing on them. Although there were formations on their surfaces, the black flying boats' propulsion did not rely on spiritual power.

Moreover, only the formations on each black flying boat used Xianjin, and the amount of Xianjin used was very minimal. Most of the flying boat was made of that black metal.

Something seems amiss here.

After thinking for a moment, Shadow Kill finally took action, slamming a palm toward the Fengyang Star Domain.

As soon as the handprint emerged, it instantly inflated to countless times its size. Soon, the palm he swung became larger than a star. However, when this enormous palm hit the Fengyang Star Domain, it collided with a transparent barrier and vanished instantly.

Seeing the palm dissolve into light spots, Shadow Kill stood frozen in the starry sky.

He was a Great Emperor, yet a Great Emperor's palm couldn't break the prohibition outside Fengyang Star Domain?

Who set up this prohibition?

At this moment, a Quasi-Emperor appeared on the other side of the barrier.

Jiang Qingfeng, having witnessed the gigantic palm attack the Fengyang Star Domain from inside the barrier moments ago, rushed over, intending to stop it, only to find the palm vanish instantly.

This reminded him of a past scene where an Empress exerted all her efforts outside the Fengyang Star Domain, and in the end, her rage was futile.

Seeing someone approach, and realizing it was only a Quasi-Emperor, Shadow Kill immediately threatened, "I am sent by the Shenyue Emperor, remove the prohibition immediately, or face the consequences!"

Upon hearing this, Jiang Qingfeng paused for a moment, then laughed and said, "Senior, this prohibition was not set by me. I am just a minor Quasi-Emperor; how could I possibly lift such a high-level prohibition."

Shadow Kill asked with a dark expression, "Which Empire rules this place? Summon your Emperor immediately!"

Jiang Qingfeng was about to say something but suddenly sensed a presence beside him. He turned to see Lu Chen's Returning Ruin Realm clone, and hurriedly saluted, "Greetings, Your Majesty the Heavenly Emperor!"

Hearing this title, Shadow Kill was momentarily stunned.

Heavenly Emperor?

What a joke!

Someone dares to claim the title of Heavenly Emperor!

Coming back to his senses, Shadow Kill smirked and said, "Such audacity, merely a cultivator of the Returning Ruin Realm, yet you dare call yourself the Heavenly Emperor. What gave you this courage?"

Lu Chen glanced at Shadow Kill, and in the next moment, a system interface popped up.

[Name: Shadow Kill]

[Identity: Member of Tianji Pavilion, Bodyguard of Shenyue Emperor.]

[Strength: Great Emperor First Layer]

[Loyalty: 0]

Lu Chen was momentarily surprised. How did a member of Tianji Pavilion become the bodyguard of the Shenyue Emperor?

The Shenyue Emperor must refer to Lu Yanghua, right?

When did Lu Yanghua become a Great Emperor?

Wasn't he only at the Saint Realm?

Could his cultivation of the Heaven Stealing Technique be so exaggerated that he became a Great Emperor in such a short period?

Seeing Lu Chen remain silent, Shadow Kill grew impatient, threatening once more, "Remove the ban immediately, or the Shenyue army will besiege, and your Star Domain will run with rivers of blood!"

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen chuckled softly, "Let our Star Domain run with rivers of blood? Then I shall wait here and see if your Shenyue Dynasty has the ability to make our Star Domain run with rivers of blood."

This...

For a moment, Shadow Kill was taken aback; he never expected someone to speak to him in such a manner, especially after he had unfurled the Shenyue Dynasty's banner, yet the other party remained disdainful?

Even now, super forces at the Holy Land level feared the Shenyue Dynasty waging war, yet the Emperor of a mere fringe Empire, who was only at the Returning Ruin Realm, dared to directly challenge the Shenyue Dynasty to attack them?

Shadow Kill began to wonder if he had crossed into another universe.

Since when did people of the fringe Star Domain become so arrogant and unruly?

Could it be that this person is just a clone and has a more powerful figure behind them?

Shadow Kill quickly calmed down, thinking carefully. Someone capable of setting up a prohibition that even a Great Emperor couldn't easily break couldn't possibly be just a Returning Ruin Realm cultivator.

Even if the Emperor of this Empire is indeed only a Returning Ruin Realm cultivator, there must be an extremely powerful Great Emperor backing this Returning Ruin Realm cultivator. Otherwise, how could they be so brazen?

However, regardless of what kind of strong individual is backing them, or how strong their background is, daring to provoke the current Shenyue Dynasty is courting death.

Shadow Kill did not intend to waste words; since he couldn't break through this Star Domain's prohibition and reach the Tianchen World, and since the Shenyue Dynasty was preparing to wage war externally, this empire would serve as a good starting point.

Shadow Kill then turned and said, "I hope next time we meet, you can be just as arrogant as today."

With these words, Shadow Kill left decisively.

Chapter 1433: Convey My Order, Immediately Dispatch Troops to Tianchen World

Seeing Shadow Kill leave, Jiang Qingfeng turned to Lu Chen and asked worriedly: "Your Majesty, that person is, after all, a messenger from the Shenyue Dynasty. By offending them like this, I'm afraid..."

Jiang Qingfeng didn't dare continue, as he knew about the Shenyue Dynasty — the dynasty that has waged the most wars within the Central Star Domain and whose fame has spread across the entire universe.

Hearing Jiang Qingfeng's words, Lu Chen simply replied indifferently: "Since all of you call me the Heavenly Emperor, you shouldn't be worried about these matters."

These words left Jiang Qingfeng stunned. Honestly, to him, the title of Heavenly Emperor was just a term, and apart from the people of the Skyfire Clan, no one truly believed Lu Chen was the Heavenly Emperor. But now, with the Heavenly Emperor saying this, does it mean his cultivation might truly reach the Heavenly Emperor level in the future, or has he already become the Heavenly Emperor? Otherwise, he wouldn't speak to the Great Emperor of the Shenyue Dynasty like that. The thought of this possibility made Jiang Qingfeng's breath quicken, as that would mean the Heavenly Emperor! The realm that many Great Emperors in the universe dream of — a step seemingly never taken before. Lu Chen continued: "Alright, keep an eye on Fengyang Star Domain. I shall return." As his words fell, Lu Chen's clone turned and left directly. Jiang Qingfeng snapped back, hurriedly saying to the void: "Safe travels, Your Majesty!" Six days later. Shenyue Dynasty. Heavenly Palace.

Lu Yanghua stood on the edge of the Heavenly Palace, back facing Shadow Kill, looking at the scenery below.

After hearing Shadow Kill's report, Lu Yanghua chuckled coldly, "It seems any riffraff dares to disregard the Shenyue Dynasty nowadays."

"Do they really think that after my father fell, the Shenyue Dynasty has declined and we can't do anything?"

"A sovereign of a dynasty from the universe's fringe dares to act so arrogantly, very well!"

"It seems the time has come."

"Send my order to immediately dispatch troops to the Tianchen World, sweeping away every dynasty encountered on the way."

Lu Yanghua believed that if even a dynasty from the universe's fringe dared to look down on the current Shenyue Dynasty, more dynasties probably felt similarly.

Thus, he urgently needed to launch a war to awaken those who looked down on the Shenyue Dynasty and him.

Besides, he needed to grow stronger through the Slaughter Path and Heaven Stealing Technique; external warfare was imperative.

Upon hearing Lu Yanghua's words, Shadow Kill promptly replied: "Yes, Your Majesty!"

Soon, various star domains under the Shenyue Dynasty's rule began frantic conscription; the number of Immortal Boats and troops surged, surpassing even the dynasty's peak period within no time.

The sudden large-scale troop mobilization by the Shenyue Dynasty made super forces across the universe tense, with even Holy Land-level super forces starting war preparations.

These super forces didn't underestimate the Shenyue Dynasty despite Emperor Shenwu's fall, knowing much more than ordinary powers.

The currently Shenyue Dynasty, backed by the Tianji Pavilion, along with the new emperor having elevated to the Great Emperor Realm through unknown means, coupled with Lu Yanghua treading the Slaughter Path and cultivating Heaven Stealing Technique, posed a threat far greater than any super force in the universe.

Some super forces even believed the Shenyue Dynasty to be more terrifying than the Heavenly Demons now.

Central Star Domain.

Heavenly Origin World.

A man wearing a black cloak and a bamboo hat walked through the bustling street.

At this moment, cultivators all around the street discussed the upcoming war initiated by the Shenyue Dynasty.

"The Shenyue Dynasty indeed went to war."

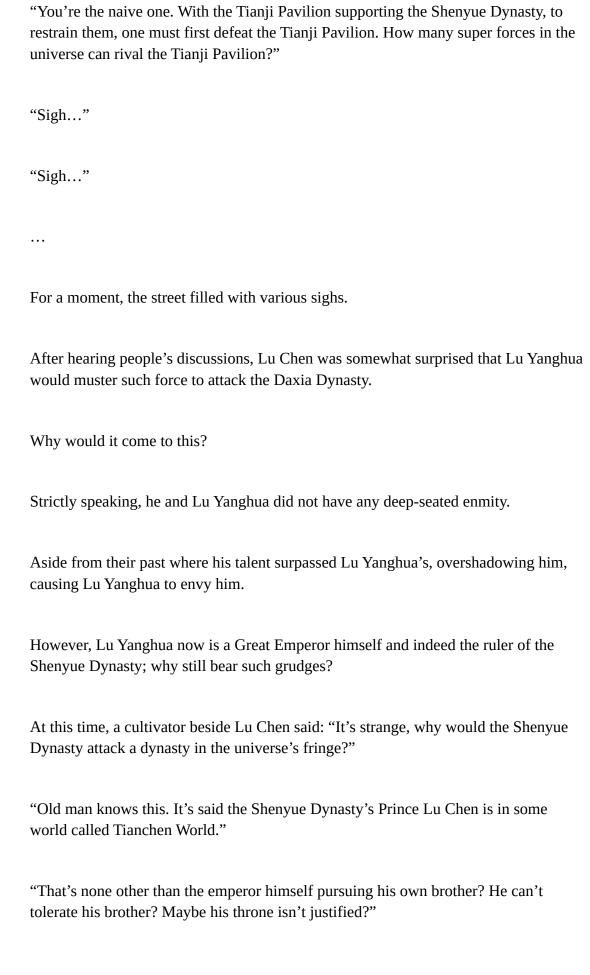
"Wolfish ambition, this was long anticipated by our Palace Master."

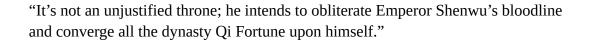
"The new emperor of the Shenyue Dynasty is indeed impatient."

"How could he not be in a rush? He cultivates the Slaughter Path alongside some Heaven Stealing Technique, and to enhance his strength, he must wage war."

"Fortunately, this time he's attacking just a dynasty in the universe's fringe, reportedly mainly targeting a world called Tianchen World, should not affect us for now."

"You're so naive, we and the Shenyue Dynasty are both in the Central Star Domain — eventually, the war will reach us. Super forces should join hands to nip this threat in the bud."





"I see."

...

Upon hearing these cultivators' discussions, Lu Chen realized why Lu Yanghua was intent on causing him trouble; it was for the dynasty Qi Fortune.

However, speaking of this, Lu Yanghua likely didn't know that when he became a Great Emperor, the Qi Fortune related to the Shenyue Dynasty had all transformed to the Qi Fortune of the Daxia Dynasty.

Killing him wouldn't gain the Shenyue Dynasty's Qi Fortune, only the Daxia Dynasty's Qi Fortune.

Unfortunately, Lu Yanghua might find killing him isn't easy.

With the Immortal Spirit Umbrella, unless Lu Yanghua's side presents a Heavenly Emperor, they can't even enter the star domain governed by the Daxia Dynasty, let alone kill him.

Though he knew Lu Yanghua would ultimately be helpless against the Daxia Dynasty, Lu Chen intended to prepare nonetheless.

If Lu Yanghua personally came to attack the Daxia Dynasty, he might seize an opportunity to catch Lu Yanghua alone and reclaim the Sky Evolution Stone from him.

It just remained uncertain whether the Sky Evolution Stone was still in Lu Yanghua's possession.

Thinking this, Lu Chen's main body at Tianchen World disengaged from Chu Yunzhi and immediately convened a Daxia Dynasty cultivator meeting.

When the quasi-emperors of the Daxia Dynasty heard a super force intended to attack them, they all looked anxious.

But soon they realized they also had a Great Emperor who mastered the Slaughter Path, and if a conflict ensued, the Daxia Dynasty might not be inferior to the opposition.

Chapter 1434: Shuhua, Become My Woman

Although the Daxia Dynasty was created by Lu Chen, for most cultivators in power, they are more inclined to believe in the strength of Empress Tianhong.

After all, Empress Tianhong possesses the Slaughter Path.

However, Lu Chen doesn't mind these things. Whether or not the people of the Daxia Dynasty are willing to believe in him doesn't matter; after all, Empress Tianhong is also his woman.

They are one as husband and wife, and believing in Empress Tianhong is the same as believing in him.

Of course, with the Immortal Spirit Umbrella, even if they don't believe in him and want to betray the Daxia Dynasty, they can't leave.

Lu Chen had already mobilized the power of the Immortal Spirit Umbrella to separate the Daxia Dynasty from other Star Domains. To go out or come in, one must break through the barrier constructed by the Immortal Spirit Umbrella, otherwise, they can only stand before it with a blank stare.

In the great hall.

Lu Chen glanced at the people attending the meeting, then said, "If any of you have anything to say, you can bring it up now."

Upon hearing this, one Quasi-Emperor immediately said, "Your Majesty, should we take the initiative to attack or prepare defenses and wait for the enemy to come to us?"

With a Great Emperor skilled in slaughter within the Daxia Dynasty, many have some confidence, and some are even thinking of launching an offensive.

Upon hearing this question, Lu Chen said indifferently, "Naturally, we should focus on passive defense. The Shenyue Dynasty has over a dozen Great Emperors publicly and probably more secretly. There is no need to clash with them head-on."

"As long as we stay within the Daxia Dynasty, without a Heavenly Emperor, the Shenyue Dynasty cannot break the restrictions I have set."

Speaking of restrictions, Lu Chen paused for a moment, then asked, "I guess you're all aware of the restrictions around the Daxia Dynasty by now?"

Everyone in the great hall looked around at each other, finally turning their eyes to Lu Chen.

They had indeed noticed the existence of this restriction. Currently, except for the soldiers of the War Dragon Army, no one can leave the Daxia Dynasty, and outsiders cannot enter either.

At this moment, Pei Shuhua, seated on the right side of the hall, asked, "Your Majesty, can this restriction really withstand a Great Emperor's attack?"

Lu Chen replied calmly, "To be precise, it can block any Great Emperor's attack, unless the opponent is a Heavenly Emperor, otherwise it's impossible to threaten the safety of the Daxia Dynasty."

With these words, the entire hall fell silent, with expressions of disbelief on everyone's faces. If what the Heavenly Emperor said is true, hasn't the Daxia Dynasty already become undefeatable?

But can Emperor Xia truly set such a formidable restriction?

At this time, Jiang Qingfeng spoke, "The restriction set by Your Majesty has already been tested. Two Great Emperors have attempted to break through it, trying all sorts of methods, yet they couldn't breach the barrier."

As he spoke, Jiang Qingfeng raised his hand, and a projection appeared in the hall.

In the image, an Emperor Dharma Form relentlessly attacked the Fengyang Star Domain, but every attack seemed to be blocked by a blue barrier, which remained unharmed.

The scene then shifted, showing a black-robed Great Emperor attacking the Fengyang Star Domain, but again the result was the same; the barrier remained unaffected.

Seeing the efficacy of this barrier firsthand, the people in the hall felt more confident about defeating the Shenyue Dynasty.

After Jiang Qingfeng withdrew the projection, Lu Chen asked once more, "Does anyone have any other thoughts? If not, go back and prepare."

Once again, everyone looked at each other. Seeing there were no more comments, they all stood up in unison and said:

"Your subjects take their leave!"

After the formalities, they began to leave one by one. However, just as everyone turned to exit, one person looked back in Lu Chen's direction.

At this moment, just about to leave, Pei Tianlu seemed to notice something, so he glanced over, finding Pei Shuhua looking conflictedly at Lu Chen.

Seeing this scene, Pei Tianlu immediately understood what was going on. With a smile, he turned and quickly left the hall.

Once everyone had left, only Lu Chen and Pei Shuhua remained in the great hall. Pei Shuhua continued to gaze at Lu Chen without speaking.

Seeing Pei Shuhua staring at him, Lu Chen understood that his main body would soon be busy.

Today, Pei Shuhua wore a green silk gown, with an exquisite lotus belt encircling her waist, accentuating her voluptuous figure.

The silk gown clung to her body, hinting at the skin beneath. Her hair was styled in a bun, with strands flowing over her fragrant shoulders, giving her a gentle and graceful look.

With a smile, Lu Chen asked knowingly, "Shuhua, is there something on your mind?"

Pei Shuhua did not immediately respond; her expression showed a hint of struggle. To be honest, she wasn't sure of her feelings towards Lu Chen.

If it was love, she felt it wasn't; it was more gratitude.

She had been pondering for years whether she should offer herself to Lu Chen as a way to repay his immense help.

At her level, romantic affairs weren't particularly important. Being close with Lu Chen wasn't something she resisted deep down.

But she felt unsure and conflicted, considering Lu Chen had many women and didn't need another like her. Was it necessary to willingly submit herself?

Lu Chen knew that Pei Shuhua's inner resolve was wavering and that she merely needed a bit of courage. At this moment, someone needed to give her a push.

With this in mind, Lu Chen didn't hesitate for a moment. Flashing forward, he appeared right in front of Pei Shuhua.

His abrupt appearance left Pei Shuhua momentarily stunned. Instinctively wanting to retreat, but Lu Chen suddenly reached out, firmly pulling her soft body into his embrace.

Pei Shuhua tried to struggle but found herself unable to resist.

Lu Chen's strong hand wrapped around her willow waist, leaving her powerless to push him away.

Lu Chen slightly lowered his head, his determined gaze meeting Pei Shuhua's eyes. "Shuhua, become my woman."

Lu Chen avoided grandiose words, knowing he only needed to be slightly proactive with Pei Shuhua, and she would agree.

Coming back to her senses, Pei Shuhua looked calmly at Lu Chen and asked, "Is this an order from Your Majesty?"

Lu Chen smiled and replied, "You can think of it that way."

Pei Shuhua said, "In that case, I have no choice."

Lu Chen said, "You're correct. The moment I laid eyes on you, you could no longer escape from my grasp."

Pei Shuhua said, "Your Majesty truly is domineering. Your Majesty's women must have been seized in the same manner."

At this moment, Lu Chen's hand slowly moved along Pei Shuhua's waist, gradually moving downwards.

"Some are, some aren't."

Chapter 1435: Is Your Majesty the Main Body at this Moment?

After sensing Lu Chen's subtle movements on her hand, Pei Shuhua's face flushed slightly. Even though she was indifferent to love, her body still reacted to Lu Chen's intimate touch.

But she continued to look directly into Lu Chen's eyes. At this moment, she saw the burning possessiveness in his gaze. From his eyes, she understood that today, she couldn't escape.

Since she chose to stay, there was only one outcome.

Pei Shuhua fell silent at this moment, but her gaze remained locked with Lu Chen's. After a moment, Lu Chen spoke, "Let's go somewhere else."

Before Pei Shuhua could say anything, the next moment, Lu Chen used the Space Teleportation Skill, and quickly they arrived at a palace shrouded in smoke.

For people of their realm, the smoke in the room wouldn't be suffocating. The smoke lingered between the gaps of the curtains, making the entire room dreamlike.

In one corner of the room, there was a large bed made of Xianjin, inlaid with numerous gems, glistening. Occasionally, the light emitted by these gems in the smoke made the entire palace even more ethereal.

Just by being in such an environment, Pei Shuhua felt slightly dizzy. At this moment, Lu Chen still held Pei Shuhua's slender waist, and the two bodies were getting closer, the atmosphere increasingly ambiguous.

Seeing Lu Chen's lips about to touch her own, Pei Shuhua suddenly spoke, "Is Your Majesty's main body here now?"

Although Pei Shuhua didn't care about engaging in intimacy with Lu Chen, she chose his main body. She didn't want to be deceived by Lu Chen.

Hearing this question, Lu Chen was taken aback. He hadn't expected Pei Shuhua to ask this question.

To him, it didn't matter whether it was the main body or a clone; it was just a way to differentiate the cultivation state of his body.

His bodies were all created using the Creation Dao, so there wasn't really a main body or clone; they could all be considered as the main body.

Then Lu Chen answered, "You're asking if this body of mine is the one with the highest realm, right?"

Lu Chen looked at Pei Shuhua with a half-smile.

With Lu Chen gazing at her so meaningfully, Pei Shuhua felt somewhat ashamed.

She also heard the implication in Lu Chen's words. The higher Lu Chen's realm, the stronger his power, and naturally, his ability during such activities would also be quite formidable.

Pei Shuhua gently uttered a soft "Hmm."

Lu Chen raised his right hand, caressing Pei Shuhua's jade cheek, saying, "Don't worry, if you need the main body for dual cultivation, I will always use the main body for dual cultivation with you."

Most of Lu Chen's women wouldn't overly differentiate Lu Chen's main body and secondary body. In fact, they preferred that Lu Chen wouldn't use the main body for dual cultivation with them.

The main body's realm was too high, and its strength was too strong. During dual cultivation, the spiritual power within the body was too abundant. When both parties' spiritual power collided, theirs would be dragged by Lu Chen's main body's spiritual power, racing wildly, like surfing on the sea, making it hard for them to endure.

So most of Lu Chen's wives and concubines actually preferred dual cultivation with Lu Chen's secondary body, the one with weaker cultivation.

Among the bodies created by Lu Chen, the most popular with his wives and concubines was the Returning Ruin Realm body, which ensured physical strength and capability. It also facilitated good cultivation effects without being overly taxing on them.

Of course, there are exceptions. Like Empress Tianhong and Chu Yunzhi, they actually preferred cultivating with Lu Chen's main body.

After all, one needed long-term dual cultivation with Lu Chen for the Slaughter Path, which required certain demands on Lu Chen's body strength and power. The other practiced the Path of Love; the more powerful Lu Chen became, the more stable her cultivation path.

Hearing Lu Chen's response, Pei Shuhua's jade cheeks grew even hotter.

In such a smoky environment, facing Lu Chen, this handsome savior, even as a Great Emperor, it was hard for Pei Shuhua not to be moved.

Seeing the atmosphere of ambiguity reaching its peak, Lu Chen did not prolong things. He directly leaned in closer.

"Shuhua, let me assist you in your cultivation..."

In the next moment, Lu Chen's lips touched Pei Shuhua's soft lips, their lips connected, and Pei Shuhua's mind went blank.

"Mm, mm..."

Under Lu Chen's guidance, soon Pei Shuhua was limp in Lu Chen's embrace. Without Lu Chen holding her, she would have collapsed to the ground in the next moment.

Seeing the timing was ripe, Lu Chen held her and took her to the soft couch, gently placing her in the middle of it.

At this moment, Pei Shuhua's starry eyes sparkled, her entire jade face dominated by a blush, staring at Lu Chen looking down at her, unknowingly releasing her Dao Charm.

Lu Chen was slightly stunned. Pei Shuhua followed the Guardian Path, not Chu Yunzhi; why would her Dao Charm release itself under such circumstances?

Though curious about why Pei Shuhua's Dao Charm released at this moment, Lu Chen didn't ask. Now wasn't the time to speak about such things; to inquire about Dao Charm at this moment would spoil the mood.

In the next moment, a sound echoed in the room.

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"Rip... Tear..."
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Feeling her clothes gradually disappearing, Pei Shuhua instinctively tried to cover herself, but Lu Chen caught her wrist with one hand.

Pei Shuhua tried to control her emotions, attempting to calm herself down; after all, it's just dual cultivation, nothing major.

She was a Great Emperor, after all; why should she fear this?

As Pei Shuhua comforted herself internally, Lu Chen lowered himself again, kissing her warm lips once more.

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"Mm…"
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"Mm!"

. . .

Lu Chen found that as their cultivation time increased, Pei Shuhua's Dao Charm became more intense, and it seemed highly compatible with him.

The Dao Charm of the Guardian Path enhanced his cultivation speed to some extent. The original effects of dual cultivation were negligible for him, but this time with Pei Shuhua, his realm was showing vague signs of breakthrough.

Quickly, Lu Chen understood the reason. After fully possessing Pei Shuhua, he became someone Pei Shuhua felt she must protect, solidifying her Dao Heart, and her Guardian Path became more complete.

Previously, she only wanted to protect the common people of the Chiyue Dynasty. Now, there's one more person she wants to protect, and this person is more important to her.

Unfortunately, the Guardian Path, after all, is the Guardian Path, unlike the Slaughter Path or the Path of Love. Pei Shuhua's first cultivation session, directly with Lu Chen's main body, posed a significant challenge to her.

When faced with women encountering this type of cultivation for the first time, Lu Chen never showed mercy.

At this moment, Pei Shuhua supported herself against Lu Chen's chest with both hands, speaking in a weakened tone, "Your... Your Majesty, I... I will not delay your... your time any longer."

"Just... Just leave a Returning Ruin Realm.. a clone is enough... Ah!"

Chapter 1436: The Disappeared Guiyi Sect

Hearing Pei Shuhua's request, Lu Chen chuckled softly. It was she who had proactively suggested cultivating with his main body earlier.

This was not his fault.

Since it had already begun, how could it possibly end just like that?

While getting on with it, Lu Chen said, "There's no need. Right now is the perfect time for you to break through; I'll help you with that first."

Hearing this, Pei Shuhua almost rolled her eyes, as Lu Chen also began to apply intensity on her.

Both being Great Emperors, Lu Chen's movements were neither gentle nor restrained.

The soft couch originally made of Xianjin not only had its cushions pressed in but even the bedboard made from Xianjin was dented.

Pei Shuhua's entire spiritual power gathered at her points of contact with Lu Chen. Whenever Lu Chen channeled the spiritual power within his body or made any movement, her entire spiritual power would be tugged along.

Whenever the spiritual power in Pei Shuhua's body was pulled by Lu Chen, her entire divine soul would feel a sensation of tugging, accompanied by a feeling of numbness.

Suddenly, Pei Shuhua felt some regret. Why had she been so impulsive? She should have first inquired with Lu Chen's confidantes about him.

She had directly chosen the strongest main body, which she couldn't possibly resist. Pei Shuhua was on the verge of tears, and could only attempt to channel the Power of Dao, hoping to achieve a breakthrough in Realm as soon as possible.

If she didn't break through, with Emperor Luchen's strength, they could easily cultivate in seclusion together for a hundred years.

After all, both were Great Emperors; not to mention a hundred years, even a thousand or ten thousand years of secluded cultivation together would be no problem.

Of course, with the Era Tribulation approaching, it was impossible for them to cultivate in seclusion together for ten thousand years, but a few decades would still be feasible.

The thought of possibly being toyed with by Lu Chen for decades frightened Pei Shuhua internally.

Lu Chen paid no mind to how Pei Shuhua felt. He knew well that for a Great Emperor, the minor actions he was making would still be bearable.

Lu Chen had many women, each as beautiful as a heavenly immortal. Yet, every time he cultivated with a new woman, the experience always felt different.

At this moment, cultivating with Pei Shuhua brought him a novel sensation, making him more vigorous, aiming to help Pei Shuhua break through sooner.

As for whether Pei Shuhua would fall for him and bear his child, Lu Chen no longer hoped for such things. Over the years, despite dual cultivating many times with his wives and concubines, none had conceived.

Seeing Lu Chen being so vigorous, Pei Shuhua felt bitter in her heart. The man she wanted to cherish was so ruthless, she would have much to suffer in the future.

...

While Lu Chen was dual cultivating with Pei Shuhua, the Shenyue Dynasty had also mobilized a massive army. Besides the Shenyue Dynasty's Divine Dragon Army, countless powerhouses from various forces within the Shenyue Dynasty joined the military campaign.

Lu Yanghua stood in the Heavenly Palace, gazing into the void at rows of giant Immortal Boats. At this moment, he truly felt the taste of controlling everything.

But just then, Shadow Kill suddenly appeared beside Lu Yanghua, and he asked, "What is it?"

Shadow Kill said, "Your Majesty, the Guiyi Sect hasn't sent anyone."

Upon hearing this, Lu Yanghua's face instantly darkened. After he decreed the attack on the Tianchen World, various forces of the Shenyue Dynasty swiftly expressed their support, but the Guiyi Sect showed no response whatsoever.

Moreover, the Guiyi Sect hadn't even sent anyone to attend his enthronement ceremony. Now with the Shenyue Dynasty's army about to set out, the Guiyi Sect still didn't respond to the call, not to mention sending powerhouses, there wasn't even a shadow of a person.

What was the Guiyi Sect up to? Planning a rebellion?

Lu Yanghua snorted coldly, saying, "It seems there's still someone within the Shenyue Dynasty who doesn't submit to me!"

"In that case, don't blame me."

"Spread the word, when the army departs, head to the Guiyi Sect first."

Lu Yanghua did not take the Guiyi Sect seriously. In his eyes, the Guiyi Sect could be crushed with a mere wave of his hand.

Although the Guiyi Sect has a relatively long history, no powerful figures have ever emerged from it.

Back when Emperor Shenwu wanted the Saintess from the Guiyi Sect, the Guiyi Sect obediently handed her over. Now, with him ascending as the new emperor, the Guiyi Sect dares to ignore him, completely oblivious to its own fate.

As Lu Yanghua's words fell, the army led by Thunderbolt Emperor headed for the Guiyi Sect.

Soon, the Divine Dragon Army led by Thunderbolt Emperor arrived in the star domain ruled by the Guiyi Sect, and for a time, the entire star domain was surrounded by the Immortal Boats of the Divine Dragon Army.

Standing in the void, Thunderbolt Emperor loudly transmitted a message to the Guiyi Sect's main star, "Guiyin Sect Leader, come out immediately!"

Once the words fell, the entire star domain remained silent. At this moment, a Quasi-Emperor hurriedly came to the front of Thunderbolt Emperor.

"General, what are you doing here?"

Thunderbolt Emperor gave the Quasi-Emperor in front of him a sweeping glance, with arcs of electricity jumping all over him, seemingly threatening the Quasi-Emperor.

Thunderbolt Emperor snorted coldly, saying, "By the order of His Majesty, the Guiyi Sect has betrayed the Shenyue Dynasty. From this day forward, there will be no Guiyi Sect in this world."

Hearing this, the Quasi-Emperor's face instantly turned ashen, and he hurriedly said, "General, before you came, the main star of the Guiyi Sect was already empty."

Thunderbolt Emperor paused for a moment.

Empty?

What kind of joke is this?

Thunderbolt Emperor ignored the Quasi-Emperor and flew directly to the main star of the Guiyi Sect.

Then he used his Divine Sense to scan the entire main star, and discovered that there indeed wasn't a single soul on the Guiyi Sect's main star.

Thunderbolt Emperor could hardly believe it.

Even though the Guiyi Sect couldn't be considered a Super Force, it still possessed significant power within the Shenyue Dynasty, only being suppressed by the likes of Emperor Shenwu.

Thunderbolt Emperor thought the Guiyi Sect's dismissal of Lu Yanghua stemmed from its lack of fear rather than any allegiance.

But the true reason turned out to be the Guiyi Sect had fled?

Did the Guiyi Sect anticipate this day might come and decided to escape the Shenyue Dynasty altogether?

However, for such a sizeable Guiyi Sect to leave the Shenyue Dynasty, surely Lu Yanghua would've caught wind of it, right?

After all, Lu Yanghua is now the Emperor, controlling the entire Shenyue Dynasty—he should theoretically be aware of everything happening within his domain.

If Lu Yanghua knew the Guiyi Sect had already fled, he wouldn't have dispatched him to attack it.

Thinking of this, Thunderbolt Emperor ordered the soldiers of the Divine Dragon Army, "Search the entire star domain, and report immediately if any trace of the Guiyi Sect is found!"

Subsequently, the soldiers of the Shenyue Dynasty began searching the entire star domain, yet after more than ten days, not a single disciples of the Guiyi Sect was found.

Not even any traces indicating the Guiyi Sect once existed on the main star were discovered—the Guiyi Sect seemed to have vanished entirely all of a sudden.

Thunderbolt Emperor couldn't fathom what was going on; since it had nothing to do with him, he stopped further investigation and directly sent someone back to report.

Chapter 1437: Oh? What Exactly is the Situation of the Daxia Dynasty?

Shenyue Dynasty, Heavenly Palace.

Lu Yanghua's blood aura emanated, distorting the surrounding time and space with thick blood energy. At this moment, his face was gloomy, filled with intense anger.

"What did you say, the Guiyi Sect disappeared into thin air?"

To Lu Yanghua, the Guiyi Sect was nothing more than an ant. However, the force he intended to annihilate vanished just like that, leaving him somewhat uneasy.

The key issue was that the Guiyi Sect disappeared within the Shenyue Dynasty. Now, the entire Shenyue Dynasty was under his control, yet the Guiyi Sect vanished without him noticing at all.

This gave Lu Yanghua a strong sense of crisis; such a large force disappeared without his knowledge. If something happened that could threaten his life without him knowing, it would be troublesome.

How exactly did the Guiyi Sect manage to disappear right under his nose?

Lu Yanghua then coldly said, "Investigate! Immediately find out the whereabouts of the Guiyi Sect and how they escaped from the Shenyue Dynasty for me!"

If he could not discover how the Guiyi Sect disappeared, Lu Yanghua would be restless.

Soon, the entire Shenyue Dynasty began to investigate the whereabouts of the Guiyi Sect disciples.

In the blink of an eye, several months passed, and the Shenyue Dynasty still hadn't found where the Guiyi Sect went.

Meanwhile.

Daxia Dynasty, Fengyang Star Domain.

Jiang Qingfeng fell into silence upon seeing nearly a hundred massive Immortal Boats before him.

These Immortal Boats did not seem to come with hostile intent; they had been parked outside the Fengyang Star Domain since their arrival, and no one had attempted to break the barrier.

Jiang Qingfeng came to the blue barrier created by the Immortal Spirit Umbrella, looked at the Immortal Boats outside the Star Domain, and asked, "Who are you people?"

At this moment, an elderly man with white hair and a beard appeared out of nowhere in front of the barrier. The old man was dressed in a white Daoist robe, his white hair did not diminish his celestial demeanor, and he appeared kindhearted.

The old man politely said, "We are from the Guiyi Sect, here to seek refuge with the Daxia Dynasty. Our Saintess is the couple of the Emperor of the Daxia Dynasty."

Upon hearing these words, especially the last sentence about Emperor Danyang, Jiang Qingfeng instantly understood and his face softened considerably.

"So, it's the esteemed members of the Guiyi Sect; Your Majesty is aware of your arrival. You only need to wait for His Majesty to open the barrier."

Lu Chen learned from Chu Yunzhi that the Guiyi Sect wanted to ally with the Daxia Dynasty, so he sent a message to Jiang Qingfeng, asking him to keep an eye on the people from the Guiyi Sect.

Of course, as the true ruler of the Daxia Dynasty, Lu Chen already knew everything happening here.

At this time, Tianchen World, Yancheng Imperial Palace.

Emperor Luchen's clone was panting heavily, speaking to Chu Yunzhi, "Phew... they've arrived. How do you plan to settle them?"

At Lu Chen's sudden words, Chu Yunzhi immediately understood whom Lu Chen was referring to. Just as she was about to say something, Lu Chen's actions became suddenly fierce.

"Sigh~"

Lu Chen continued, "Why not... I give them... phew... a Star Domain..."

Chu Yunzhi softly moaned and directly said, "Okay."

Now, Lu Chen was her everything. Whatever Lu Chen said was what mattered.

Although the Guiyi Sect was her creation, she belonged to Lu Chen, so naturally, the Guiyi Sect also belonged to Lu Chen. Whatever Lu Chen wanted to do with it was up to him.

The next moment, one of Lu Chen's Saint clones appeared in front of Jiang Qingfeng.

Upon Lu Chen's sudden appearance, Sect Hierarch Emperor Danyang immediately bowed, "Greetings, Your Majesty!"

In the next moment, all members of the Guiyi Sect bowed to Lu Chen, "Greetings, Your Majesty!"

Lu Chen, with a smile on his face, asked, "You know me?"

Emperor Danyang said, "When I sent the Saintess to the Shenyue Palace, I once met Your Majesty."

Lu Chen chuckled, glancing at Emperor Danyang, "Oh, so it was you who personally sent Yunzhi to the Shenyue Palace?"

Emperor Danyang, hearing the slight displeasure in Lu Chen's tone, immediately said, "It was all at the Saintess's will, or rather, it was the Old Ancestor's will."

Chu Yunzhi was the Saintess of the Guiyi Sect, and also its Old Ancestor. Whatever the Old Ancestor said, Emperor Danyang naturally had to obey.

Lu Chen was too lazy to pursue Emperor Danyang's responsibility further. He directly controlled the Immortal Spirit Umbrella, opening a gap in the barrier, "Come in. I have prepared a Star Domain for you. From now on, the Solitary Lamp Star Domain will be managed by the Guiyi Sect."

Emperor Danyang bowed again and said, "Thank you, Your Majesty!"

The Elders and disciples of the Guiyi Sect also bowed in unison, saying, "Thank you, Your Majesty!"

Subsequently, the Immortal Boats of the Guiyi Sect slowly flew into the barrier.

As the Guiyi Sect's Immortal Boats just entered the barrier, a dozen or so Immortal Boats suddenly appeared in the distance. Compared to the Guiyi Sect's Immortal Boats, those seemed more dilapidated and smaller in size.

Lu Chen looked at the Immortal Boats in the distance and asked, "Are those also your Guiyi Sect's Immortal Boats?"

Emperor Danyang replied, "In response to Your Majesty, our Immortal Boats have all entered the barrier, those are not the Guiyi Sect's Immortal Boats."

Without hesitation, Lu Chen closed the barrier, but he did not leave; he wanted to see who these newcomers were.

Soon, those dozen Immortal Boats also flew to the front of the barrier.

At this moment, on the deck of the leading Immortal Boat stood a man in a red brocade robe. Discovering hundreds of Immortal Boats parked ahead, he hurriedly instructed his Immortal Boat to stop.

The next moment, the man flew to the front of the barrier, glanced at Lu Chen, then looked at the hundreds of massive Immortal Boats of the Guiyi Sect behind him, his face instantly covered in sweat.

Jiang Qingfeng asked, "Who are you people, and why are you here at the Daxia Dynasty?"

The Silver Moon Quasi Emperor swallowed hard, "I am the Silver Moon Quasi Emperor of the Yangyan Dynasty, may I have an audience with the Emperor of the Daxia Dynasty?"

Lu Chen looked at the Silver Moon Quasi Emperor and asked, "I am the Emperor of the Daxia Dynasty. What's the matter? Speak directly."

Hearing this, the Silver Moon Quasi Emperor was momentarily stunned, showing a hint of skepticism on his face.

The Emperor of the Daxia Dynasty is a Saint?

No, it should just be a clone.

Thinking of this, the Silver Moon Quasi Emperor respectfully said, "I come on behalf of the Yangyan Dynasty and the Yangyan Emperor."

Lu Chen continued to ask, "Yangyan Dynasty? I don't recall the Daxia Dynasty having any engagements with your Yangyan Dynasty."

The Silver Moon Quasi Emperor said, "Are you aware of the current situation of the Daxia Dynasty?"

Lu Chen retorted, "Oh? Why don't you tell me the current situation of the Daxia Dynasty?"

The Silver Moon Quasi Emperor said, "Perhaps His Majesty is unaware, but the Emperor of the Shenyue Dynasty has decided to attack the Daxia Dynasty, and it won't be long before the Shenyue Dynasty's army will be at the gates of the Fengyang Star Domain."

"At that time, the entire Daxia Dynasty will be awash with blood and will cease to exist."

Hearing these words, Lu Chen laughed and asked, "So that's what this is about. But speaking of which, what does this have to do with your Yangyan Dynasty?"

Lu Chen at this moment remembered the location of the Yangyan Dynasty, which was along the inevitable path of the Shenyue Dynasty's advance towards the Daxia Dynasty.

Chapter 1438: You mean to hand me over?

Lu Chen had already roughly guessed why the Yangyan Dynasty sent someone here.

At this moment, the Silver Moon Quasi Emperor continued speaking: "The Shenyue Dynasty intends to attack the Daxia Dynasty, and it won't just be the Daxia Dynasty they target. Wherever the Shenyue Army passes, devastation will surely follow—any dynasty in their path will be annihilated by the Shenyue Army."

After saying this, the Silver Moon Quasi Emperor paused for a moment, observing Lu Chen's reaction. Seeing Lu Chen deep in thought, the Silver Moon Quasi Emperor cautiously continued, "So..."

"Our Majesty's intention is that the target of the Shenyue Dynasty is that prince of theirs. If the Daxia Dynasty can hand over that prince..."

At this point, the Silver Moon Quasi Emperor paused again and glanced at Lu Chen's reaction, only to find him smiling broadly.

Deep down, the Silver Moon Quasi Emperor felt something was amiss.

Currently, very few in the universe know that the Ninth Prince of the Shenyue Dynasty is the Emperor of Daxia.

So, to some empires, the so-called Ninth Prince is merely hiding within the Daxia Dynasty, relying on the Daxia Dynasty's shelter.

If the Daxia Dynasty could hand over the Ninth Prince, the Shenyue Army wouldn't have to make a personal trip, sparing the star domains along the way from suffering because of the Shenyue Dynasty's Ninth Prince.

Of course, this is their wishful thinking. Even without Lu Chen in the picture, Lu Yanghua would initiate the war—it's simply a matter of time.

Lu Chen directly stated, "I am the Ninth Prince of the Shenyue Dynasty. Is it your intention to hand me over?"

The Silver Moon Quasi Emperor's heart skipped a beat.

It's over...

They've run into the true master.

The intelligence mentioned that the Ninth Prince of the Shenyue Dynasty merely had the cultivation state of a Saint...

Considering this, the Silver Moon Quasi Emperor glanced at Lu Chen once more. Indeed, the person before him appears to have only a Saint's cultivation state.

However, the individual could become the Emperor of a dynasty—how could be be just a Saint?

The Silver Moon Quasi Emperor promptly said, "I need to report this matter to our Majesty, so I won't disturb you further."

With that, the Silver Moon Quasi Emperor left with the dozen or so immortal boats behind him, departing in a particularly flustered manner, looking for all the world as if they were fleeing for their lives.

Watching their retreating figures, Emperor Danyang commented beside him, "Your Excellency, that person offended you; how about I eliminate them all?"

Lu Chen replied blandly, "No need, let them take the message back."

Lu Chen had already anticipated what the other empires would do next, which was to attack the Daxia Dynasty before the Shenyue Army arrives and hand him over to the Shenyue Dynasty, thereby avoiding the Shenyue Dynasty's military action against them.

An admirable thought—now we will see if they possess the strength to conquer the Daxia Dynasty before the Shenyue Army reaches their realms.

Lu Chen turned to glance at Emperor Danyang, then spoke to Jiang Qingfeng, "Take the Guiyi Sect to the Solitary Lamp Star Domain."

Jiang Qingfeng saluted and said, "Yes, Your Majesty!"

As his voice faded, Lu Chen disappeared on the spot, and Emperor Danyang, with the members of the Guiyi Sect, saluted towards the void, "Farewell, Your Excellency!"

Immediately after, Jiang Qingfeng led the Guiyi Sect to the Solitary Lamp Star Domain.

Along the way, Emperor Danyang kept probing about Chu Yunzhi, considering she is the ancestor of the Guiyi Sect. The higher her status with Lu Chen, the higher Guiyi Sect's standing in the Daxia Dynasty.

Emperor Danyang smiled and politely asked, "May I know your name?"

Jiang Qingfeng quickly replied, "The junior's name is Jiang Qingfeng; you can call me Xiaojiang, elder."

Although Jiang Qingfeng wasn't particularly familiar with the Guiyi Sect, anything that could warrant a personal reception from Emperor Xia must be of significance.

Moreover, the presence of so many immortal boats behind the Guiyi Sect, coupled with the multiple Great Emperor auras he sensed, indicated that the Guiyi Sect's

overall strength might be comparable to the Daxia Dynasty. In front of the sect hierarch of the Guiyi Sect, Jiang Qingfeng naturally needed to lower his posture.

Emperor Danyang didn't actually call Jiang Qingfeng Xiaojiang, as it would be somewhat inappropriate given Jiang Qingfeng was already a Quasi-Emperor.

Emperor Danyang then said, "Qingfeng, have you heard of Chu Yunzhi?"

Upon hearing this, Jiang Qingfeng immediately said, "You mean Noble Consort Chu? The junior has definitely heard of her."

Upon hearing the term "Noble Consort," Emperor Danyang was slightly taken aback —just a Noble Consort?

Shouldn't it be Empress?

It seems her ancestor doesn't hold a high status with Lu Chen.

Emperor Danyang continued asking, "What are Your Majesty's feelings toward Noble Consort Chu?"

Jiang Qingfeng skeptically glanced at Emperor Danyang and then countered, "Why is the elder inquiring about this matter?"

Emperor Danyang replied, "Noble Consort Chu is our Guiyi Sect's ancestor, reborn again as our sect's Saintess; naturally I am concerned about her affairs."

Jiang Qingfeng said, "I see."

"Elder, no need to worry; all of His Majesty's women share loving relationships with His Majesty."

"Furthermore, His Majesty has many clones, preventing rivalry among his wives and concubines; the harem is very harmonious."

Emperor Danyang continued to inquire, "What cultivation state does the Daxia Dynasty's Empress possess?"

Jiang Qingfeng answered, "Elder, you should be asking about the Empress Dowager, right?"

Emperor Danyang asked in confusion, "Empress Dowager?"

Jiang Qingfeng explained, "Currently, the Emperor of the Daxia Dynasty is, officially, the eldest son of His Majesty; Emperor Xia is now the Overlord. However, the Heavenly Emperor, as the founder of the Daxia Dynasty, still controls the dynast qi fortune."

Emperor Danyang immediately understood, "I see, then what cultivation state does the Empress Dowager possess?"

Jiang Qingfeng saw through Emperor Danyang's intentions and quickly said, "To avoid power struggles within the harem, the Heavenly Emperor abolished the position of Empress; nowadays, only Noble Concubines and an Imperial Noble Consort exist in His Majesty's harem."

At this point, Jiang Qingfeng advised, "Elder, the Heavenly Emperor strongly dislikes interference with the throne."

Hearing this, Emperor Danyang smiled slightly, "I was just casually asking."

It was not that Emperor Danyang cared about whether Chu Yunzhi was an Empress; what concerned him was whether she might encounter trouble from those managing Lu Chen's harem.

Since Chu Yunzhi held a reasonably high status in Lu Chen's harem, he had nothing to worry about.

. . .

The opulent and grand hall was silent, the law manifestations of each Great Emperor stood in the center, watching the projection from the Shadowcatch Stone, displaying the scene of Silver Moon Quasi Emperor's conversation with Lu Chen in the void.

Having watched the entire interaction between Lu Chen and the Silver Moon Quasi Emperor, one Great Emperor frowned and said, "This is troublesome; who would have thought the Emperor of Daxia was actually the Ninth Prince of the Shenyue Dynasty."

Their initial plan was to force the Daxia Dynasty to hand over the Ninth Prince of the Shenyue Dynasty, so the Shenyue Dynasty wouldn't attack them.

Handing him over would naturally negate the need for the Shenyue Dynasty to dispatch troops to such marginal places as theirs.

They believed that by banding together, their ten dynasties could easily intimidate the Daxia Dynasty.

However, if the Emperor of the Daxia Dynasty was Lu Chen, that changed everything.

Lu Chen surely knew the Shenyue Dynasty sought to kill him, so he would inevitably resist desperately.

At this moment, the Yangyan Emperor of the Yangyan Dynasty coldly hummed and said, "Since he himself is the emperor, there's nothing to discuss; prepare for war!"

Chapter 1439: Cross-border Stone

The Shenyue Dynasty's army has already gathered, and once the Shenyue Dynasty's forces launch an attack, even if the ten great dynasties join together, they won't be able to stop them.

Thus, the Yangyan Emperor's plan is simple: quickly defeat the Daxia Dynasty, capture Lu Chen, and deliver him to the Shenyue Dynasty.

Only by doing this can they possibly avoid disaster.

Upon hearing the words of the Yangyan Emperor, an emperor in the corner, with an ice silkworm atop his head, said, "Yangyan is right. With the ten dynasties united, destroying the Daxia Dynasty is a piece of cake. Everyone, immediately deploy your forces against the Daxia Dynasty."

At this moment, the Mingxin Emperor spoke, "Deploying forces is inevitable; our Heavenly Bright Dynasty has already assembled the army and is on the way to the Daxia Dynasty."

"But before that, please take a look at the projection."

Upon hearing this, the Emperor Dharma Forms in the hall all turned to look at the projection simultaneously. One emperor asked puzzledly, "What else is there to see? Do you doubt he's not the ninth prince of the Shenyue Dynasty?"

The Mingxin Emperor crossed his arms over his chest, with one hand rubbing his chin, posing a thoughtful expression, "This blue light wall should be some kind of barrier, right?"

Upon hearing this, the emperors noticed a faint blue light wall between Lu Chen and the Silver Moon Quasi Emperor.

The Yangyan Emperor disdainfully said, "Isn't that just a barrier? What's the big deal? With our ten dynasties united, can't we break a mere barrier?"

The Mingxin Emperor replied, "That's true."

The Yangyan Emperor said, "Since the ninth prince of the Shenyue Dynasty already knew the Shenyue Dynasty had sent an army to attack him, it's natural for him to be prepared, setting up formations and barriers beforehand is not surprising."

"But as long as we unite, no matter how strong those formations and barriers are, they won't last long."

Adding together the ten great dynasties, the emperors numbered at least ten, and in some dynasties, there was more than one emperor.

If the emperors of the ten dynasties joined forces, it would be considered a Super Force in the universe, nothing too demanding against an empire on the edge of the cosmos.

The Yangyan Emperor continued, "All right, let's not waste any time, deploy the forces now, we'll meet at the Daxia Dynasty."

As the Yangyan Emperor's words faded, the Emperor Dharma Forms in the hall dispersed one after another.

Shortly afterwards, the ten great dynasties dispatched hundreds of Immortal Boats, dozens of Quasi-Emperors, and over a dozen Great Emperors, advancing mightily towards the Daxia Dynasty.

Although Lu Chen anticipated the deployment of the Yangyan Dynasty and other dynasties, he was not bothered by it.

As long as no Heavenly Emperor was present, the Immortal Spirit Umbrella suffices against all attacks.

Of course, Lu Chen still made some preparations, but these preparations were to counter the possible crisis of Heavenly Demons.

Now, within the Daxia Dynasty, the War Dragon Army was training with urgency, not only to fight the Shenyue Dynasty but also generally to look at top combat strength in confrontations between Super Forces.

Currently, most soldiers in the War Dragon Army have Cultivation States either in Divinity Transformation Realm or All Law Realm, with few in Returning Ruin Realm.

These soldiers might at most restrain the ordinary soldiers of the Shenyue Dynasty and deal with potential Heavenly Demons.

Lu Chen had a premonition that once the Shenyue Dynasty pushed its way to the Daxia Dynasty, countless lives would be lost along the way. The pain brought by wars would lead to more Heavenly Demons emerging in the universe.

By then, the most significant problem Daxia would face would be handling these Heavenly Demons rather than the Shenyue Dynasty's army being the main enemy of the War Dragon Army.

Inside a certain bedchamber.

Lu Chen's main body laid on Pei Shuhua's soft body, their bodies sunk into the recessed part of the Immortal Gold Bed. Fortunately, the bed board made of Xianjin had good elasticity, it didn't collapse even as the bed edges nearly touched the ground.

Lu Chen glanced at the system panel.

[Congratulations to the host for acquiring a spouse, reward: One Cross-border Stone.]

Upon seeing the reward, Lu Chen felt curious about the Cross-border Stone and its purpose.

With a mind's touch, he opened the system's introduction about the Cross-border Stone.

[Cross-border Stone: Can aid the host in traversing Boundary Sea, no grade.]

Seeing the description, Lu Chen was confused once again.

Boundary Sea?

What kind of place is that?

Although he had recovered many memories from his previous or pre-preceding life, he had never heard of a Boundary Sea.

Could the Boundary Sea be in the Outer Domain?

Lu Chen asked the system, "System, where is the Boundary Sea?"

The system replied, "Once the host breaks through to the Heavenly Emperor Realm, the Boundary Sea shall be visible."

Lu Chen thought to himself, breaking through to the Heavenly Emperor Realm would allow seeing the Boundary Sea? Does this mean the Boundary Sea relates to cultivation?

Does the end of the path of cultivation hold a Boundary Sea? Can higher realms be reached only by crossing the Boundary Sea?

Or is this universe layered, revealing boundaries only to those who achieve higher cultivation states?

That's not right!

He was in the Heavenly Emperor Realm during the last era but had never seen any socalled Boundary Sea.

Just as Lu Chen was about to ask further, the system repeated, "Once the host breaks through to the Heavenly Emperor Realm, the Boundary Sea shall be visible."

Lu Chen immediately realized that the system wasn't planning to reveal anything about the Boundary Sea.

Regardless, perhaps in this lifetime, he truly could unravel the mystery of his origins.

With the Boundary Sea mentioned—a term he hadn't heard in the last era—it proved he was much closer to the truth this time.

At least closer than he had been in the last era to the secrets of his past.

With these thoughts in mind, Lu Chen stopped pondering further, and he slightly lowered his head, glancing at the woman beneath him.

Then he rose, pulling Pei Shuhua out of the recessed bed area. With a wave of his hand, the entire bed instantly returned to its state before their dual cultivation.

Seeing Lu Chen stop, Pei Shuhua, regaining her clarity, finally let out a breath of relief. She thought Lu Chen would truly wait until she broke through before releasing her, but he was merely teasing.

Thankfully, thankfully.

Pei Shuhua turned her head, looking at Lu Chen with dreamy, enchanting eyes, "Your Majesty, I'm sorry to disappoint you; I couldn't break through..."

Lu Chen raised his hand and gently caressed her jade-like cheek, looking into her eyes, saying, "It's okay, we have plenty of time. I can continue helping you cultivate."

Pei Shuhua's heart skipped a beat, and she quickly said, "Your Majesty, dual cultivation is no longer effective for me. I'll continue to stabilize my cultivation state for a while."

Pei Shuhua was genuinely afraid Lu Chen would pressure her again.

Lu Chen said, "No effect? Really? I see the Dao Charm emanating from you is quite intense."

Upon hearing this, Pei Shuhua realized that her Guardian Path had bound to Lu Chen to some extent, so during dual cultivation, the Dao Charm naturally emanated from their bodies.

The continuous release of Dao Charm clearly indicated her cultivation had indeed improved, though breaking through was never easy at the Great Emperor Realm.

Chapter 1440: What Kind of Barrier is This?

Pei Shuhua saw that Lu Chen had already seen through her lies, and her cheeks, already painted in rosy blush, turned even redder, as if one touch could squeeze out water.

Originally dignified and noble, Pei Shuhua now brimmed with the charm of a young wife.

Seeing Pei Shuhua in this state, Lu Chen's heart stirred, and he had some thoughts.

However, Lu Chen didn't pounce on her, knowing that Pei Shuhua wasn't as resilient as Empress Tianhong and Chu Yunzhi. He gently pinched Pei Shuhua's delicate nose and smiled.

"Alright, I won't tease you anymore. You should rest for a while now."

Recognizing Lu Chen's act of mercy, Pei Shuhua quickly said, "Thank you, Your Majesty!"

Lu Chen suddenly chuckled, "Still calling me Your Majesty?"

Pei Shuhua's mind froze slightly; Lu Chen was originally the emperor of the Daxia Dynasty, so even as his woman, calling him Your Majesty didn't seem wrong.

Yet...

She suddenly recalled during their Dual Cultivation sessions, Lu Chen insisting she called him darling and good brother, and similar terms.

Pei Shuhua suppressed her thoughts about past events, quietly murmuring, "Dar... darling..."

Lu Chen leaned in, gave Pei Shuhua's lips a heavy kiss, then said, "That's more like it."

"Alright, I have things to do, I'll go now. This will be your palace in Tianchen World from now on. If you don't wish to stay here, you may return to the Chiyue Dynasty's former main star. When you miss me, just contact me through the wooden puppet I gave you."

Upon hearing this, the newly-wed young woman's face blushed deep red again, instantly understanding what Lu Chen meant by "missing" him, after their time cultivating together.

Without further teasing her, Lu Chen's figure vanished from the room, leaving Pei Shuhua feeling a sudden emptiness, somewhat unaccustomed.

She lifted her lovely head, glancing around the palace, recalling the scenes of their Dual Cultivation repeatedly in her mind.

Unknowingly, the corner of Pei Shuhua's mouth slightly lifted into a happy smile, one she hadn't noticed herself.

...

The speed of the Ten Great Dynasties was extremely fast, since they originally were within the same Super Star Domain Group as the Daxia Dynasty, not really too far away.

Additionally, in order to annihilate the Daxia Dynasty before the Shenyue Dynasty's army arrived, the forces of the Ten Great Dynasties were advancing towards Daxia Dynasty at maximum speed.

Now, outside the Fengyang Star Domain, the skies were densely packed with Immortal Boats from various dynasties.

In contrast, on Daxia Dynasty's side of the Fengyang Star Domain, there were only a sparse dozen or so Starships.

At this time, all the emperors of the Ten Great Dynasties had gathered outside the Fengyang Star Domain. The Ice Silkworm Emperor arrived last, seeing the other

emperors watching amid the void without action, he came over and asked, "What's going on, why haven't you started the attack?"

The Yangyan Emperor didn't answer the Ice Silkworm Emperor's question, but glanced at those dozen Starships within the Fengyang Star Domain, "These Immortal Boats of the Daxia Dynasty are rather special, they don't rely on Spiritual Power for activation."

Emperor Poshan said, "Once we annihilate the Daxia Dynasty, the blueprints for these Immortal Boats will naturally fall into our hands, and then we too can manufacture them in large quantities."

Listening to the two's conversation, the Ice Silkworm Emperor impatiently said, "Then why don't you all hurry up and take action?"

The Mingxin Emperor stated, "Strange, why does the opponent seem completely unprepared?"

Although Daxia Dynasty was on the fringes of the universe, it was still an empire. How could an empire have only a dozen Immortal Boats?

With the Ten Great Dynasties pressuring the borders, even emperors had arrived, yet the Daxia Dynasty showed no defenses at all, clearly not taking the Ten Great Dynasties seriously.

The Ice Silkworm Emperor said, "Forget it, let's break this barrier first."

As he spoke, the Ice Silkworm Emperor's aura surged. In the next moment, a huge Ice Silkworm Law Manifestation appeared in the void.

The Ice Silkworm's glistening transparent wings fluttered slightly, countless Ice Meteors spawned in the void, following which these Ice Meteors madly bombarded the blue barrier.

Everyone's eyes were fixed on the area being struck by Ice Meteors, eager to assess the strength of the barrier.

An hour passed quickly, and under the Ice Silkworm Emperor's Law Manifestation's bombardment, the blue barrier remained unmoved, without even the slightest unsealing.

The Ice Silkworm Emperor then withdrew his hand, frowning at the blue barrier ahead, knowing he had used eighty percent of his power.

Using eighty percent of his power and not even causing a crack; this Formation was likely quite extraordinary.

At this moment, the Yangyan Emperor said, "That person is, after all, Prince Lu Chen of the Shenyue Dynasty, arranging a High Tier Formation is not unusual. Let's act together."

After hearing the Yangyan Emperor's words, the emperors beside him hesitated no longer, each revealing their Law Manifestations and pouring all their Spiritual Power into Yangyan Emperor's Law Manifestation.

The Yangyan Emperor shouted, "Sunset Break!!!"

In an instant, a sunset stretched one light-year behind the Yangyan Emperor's Law Manifestation, followed by a pillar of fire-red light racing towards the blue barrier outside the Fengyang Star Domain.

As the fire-red beam was about to collide with the blue barrier, it instantly transformed into a Phoenix engulfed in blazing flames, with its sharp beak striking fiercely against the protective barrier created by the Immortal Spirit Umbrella.

However, everyone quickly realized the barrier was still intact. The Yangyan Emperor immediately urged the emperors behind him, "Increase your strength!"

Immediately, the emperors' auras surged again, and to their utmost limit, they infused Spiritual Power into Yangyan Emperor, making the Phoenix striking the blue barrier grow even larger.

Thus, a month passed...

In the cosmos, battles between emperors typically last months, years, or even decades.

So one month was nothing.

But seeing no cracks on the blue barrier, the emperors present were a bit anxious.

They were pressed for time; if they didn't annihilate the Daxia Dynasty soon, they'd be the ones obliterated.

The Ice Silkworm Emperor cursed, "What kind of hellish barrier is this? It's been a month and not even a single crack!"

The Mingxin Emperor remarked, "No wonder the Daxia Dynasty hasn't taken us seriously; think about it, since Prince Lu Chen knew the Shenyue Dynasty was dispatching troops to crusade against him, why would he dare stay here, unless he had something to rely on."

The Ice Silkworm Emperor said, "Whatever his reliance is, if this barrier doesn't break, we're the ones who'll have to flee!"

Typically, an emperor wouldn't easily abandon the empire they built, as an empire could be the result of a lifetime's effort, and the empire's Qi Fortune bolstered their current prowess. Abandoning their empire to flee would certainly greatly reduce their strength.

The Era Tribulation is approaching; now, with reduced strength, the consequences are evident.