

## Es. Benefits 611

### Chapter 611: The Prince Isn't Pretending At All\_1

Wu Ming returned to the Great Wu embassy where he stayed and flew into a violent rage, crazily smashing things around.

"Idiots! A bunch of idiots!!!"

"Don't they know I'm still in North Country? Who gave them the courage to launch a sneak attack on North Country soldiers at this time!!!"

"Are they trying to get me killed!!!"

As a prince, he was still in another nation's territory, and yet the armies of his own dynasty had initiated an attack on that country. If this angered North Country, he might just be killed outright by them.

Wu Ming now seriously suspected that there were people within the Great Wu dynasty who wanted him dead, so they deliberately let those twenty thousand heavy cavalry attack North Country's military camp, thereby infuriating the North Prince, and thus achieving their purpose of killing with a borrowed knife.

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After the first round of negotiations ended, Lu Chen returned to the inner court of the Prince's Mansion. He knew that Wu Ming must have already learned about the attack by Great Wu's heavy cavalry on North Country's military camp, which was why he was so eager to leave the Hall of Political Affairs earlier.

In the matter of negotiations, North Country was the least in a hurry; talking for a few months was not a problem. It all depended on whether Great Wu could withstand the pressure of North Country's army.

The longer the negotiations dragged on, the more disadvantageous it was for Great Wu. As the situation became increasingly unfavorable for Great Wu, North Country would surely gradually increase its demands.

On this sunny day, after Lu Chen returned to the inner court, he joined his wives and concubines for tea and chat. At this moment, Lu Chen noticed Yelv Nanyan holding a needle and thread, sewing something together.

Lu Chen asked curiously, "Nanyan, are you sewing clothes?"

The clothes of the Prince's Mansion were all made by a dedicated tailor, so there was no need for the people of the Prince's Mansion to sew themselves. Moreover, North Prince Mansion had already established a clothing factory, which could provide whatever clothes were needed.

Upon hearing Lu Chen's question, Yelv Nanyan put down her needlework and then replied, "Prince, this concubine thought of making one or two garments for the children while I do not yet have any of my own."

Hearing this, Lu Chen smiled slightly and said, "If you want any clothes, just tell the clothing factory. There's no need for you to sew them by hand."

Yelv Nanyan replied, "This concubine knows, but I am idle nonetheless."

Yelv Nanyan, who originally managed the treasury, had gradually transferred her power to the officials arranged by Lu Chen, leaving her with little to do. So, she thought that since she would eventually bear children for Lu Chen, why not use this idle time to hand-make a few sets of clothes for the children.

Although she had not yet conceived Lu Chen's child, she believed that with enough persistence, she would eventually become pregnant with his child, especially since Chu Yuqin and Wang Qingci, the two martial artists, already had Lu Chen's children.

At that moment, Chu Yuqin, not far away, said, "Chen'er, the clothes we sew ourselves can't be compared with those from the clothing factory. Moreover, it's a mother's sentiment."

Chu Yuqin, as a mother, had experienced the sense of achievement that comes with sewing clothes for her child and knew that this feeling was something Lu Chen, as a man, could not understand.

Mu Zixuan smiled gently from the side and then said, "Prince, Sister Nanyan has even prepared clothes for the children. You should try a bit harder."

Hearing this, a blush suddenly appeared on Yelv Nanyan's face.

Seeing the beautiful woman blush, Lu Chen laughed and said, "Nanyan, I will make an effort to visit your room more often in the coming days."

Yelv Nanyan, not knowing what to say, could only reply, "Yes, Prince."

Just as everyone was joking, at this time a maid entered the inner court saying, "Prince, Miss Murong requests an audience."

As the maid's voice fell, even before Lu Chen could speak, Mu Zixuan said to him, "Prince, Miss Murong's courtyard has long been prepared. The maids have also been selected, but no one has yet moved in."

"Why don't you talk to her, and ask her to move into the North Prince Mansion from now on."

Lu Chen replied, "Alright, I'll talk to her about this matter later."

"Take your time chatting, I'll be back shortly."

Having said this, Lu Chen stood and went directly to the study.

As Lu Chen entered the courtyard of the study, he saw that ice-cold stunning woman, Murong Xue'er, silently standing at the entrance of the study, like a snow lotus on a snowy mountain. Seeing Murong Xue'er's frosty appearance, Lu Chen instantly became intrigued.

As he walked towards the entrance of the study, he said, "Xue'er, you've become more and more proactive lately."

Hearing Lu Chen's voice, Murong Xue'er slightly turned her head to look at him, and her heart trembled a little when she saw Lu Chen, this tall, handsome man.

For some reason, she felt that having not seen him for a few days, Lu Chen seemed to have become more handsome, and the masculine aura about him had also grown stronger.

In Murong Xue'er's mind, suddenly the image of her first meeting with Lu Chen emerged. Although he already possessed the demeanor of a leader back then, he still had a youthful air, but the Lu Chen of today exuded the mature charisma of a grown man, no longer carrying that youthful air.

This made Lu Chen all the more charming. Murong Xue'er felt that she was becoming meaner by the day; just a few days without seeing Lu Chen, and upon seeing him again, her body began to stir with restlessness.

She now doubted whether she could ever leave this bad man.

Murong Xue'er stated directly, "His Majesty has sent a Pigeon Letter to me, urging me to hasten and become your woman, preferably before the arrival of Princess Wu from Great Wu."

As Murong Xue'er's words ended, Lu Chen came in front of her. One of his large hands wrapped around her soft waist, pulling her toward the inside of the study while walking and saying, "It seems your Emperor is afraid of what I might do to the Princess from Great Wu, huh?"

"I've always been quite curious about the relation between the Yue Emperor and Wu Junwan. Come in and tell me exactly what sort of relationship they have."

Upon hearing this question from Lu Chen, Murong Xue'er did not directly answer.

After Lu Chen, with Murong Xue'er's waist in his arms, entered the study, a wave of his hand closed all the doors and windows on their own.

In an instant, the study took on an amorous atmosphere.

Without any hesitation, Lu Chen wrapped his arms around Murong Xue'er's slender waist, and before she could say a word, he bent down and claimed her red lips with his.

Lu Chen was already well accustomed to such things, and Murong Xue'er did not struggle. She lifted her jade arms and wrapped them around Lu Chen's neck, cooperating with him as they kissed for a moment.

Murong Xue'er had lost her former shyness. She had wholeheartedly accepted everything; after all, she had become Lu Chen's woman, and to her, there was no difference between doing such things once or countless times.

After kissing for a while, Lu Chen turned Murong Xue'er around, making her face away from him. Then he reached his arms under her armpits to hug her slender waist from behind, his chest pressing against her jade back, and gently pushed her toward the study's resting room.

Murong Xue'er then said coldly, "Prince, you're hardly being discreet at all."

Previously whenever she came to the Prince's Mansion, Lu Chen would beat around the bush and chat about this and that before taking her to bed.

This time, she came and Lu Chen started with his hands and mouth right away, without any prelude whatsoever.

Chapter 612: How Good Exactly is the Relationship Between Yue Emperor and Wu Junwan\_1

Hearing Murong Xue'er's words, Lu Chen gave a faint smile and whispered beside her delicate ear, "Since you're already mine, what need have I to pretend?"

As cold as frost, Murong Xue'er said, "Prince, don't forget that all of this is a transaction."

Lu Chen spoke carelessly, "Of course."

As they spoke, Lu Chen wrapped his arms around Murong Xue'er and brought her to the study's resting room.

Upon entering the resting room, Lu Chen laid Murong Xue'er down on the bed, then pressed himself on top of her and continued to kiss her.

After a while, with hazy eyes, Murong Xue'er seemed to be emotionally moved by Lu Chen, but he did not continue further. He lifted his chest and, looking into Murong Xue'er's eyes, asked, "I heard that the Yue Emperor and Wu Junwan are sworn sisters? They were once disciples of a Sect? Have they ever joined any Sect?"

Seeing Lu Chen stop at such a moment, Murong Xue'er couldn't help but wriggle her body, lifting her jade hand up to grope around on Lu Chen's body as if searching for something.

Lu Chen grabbed Murong Xue'er's wrist, and the next moment, her other hand began to wander. He then caught that wrist as well and placed Murong Xue'er's hands above her head, continuing to press them down with one hand as he looked down at her dominantly.

At that moment, the icy beauty, Murong Xue'er, said coquettishly, "Let... Let's talk about those things later, don't torture me..."

Lu Chen chuckled lightly and then said, "If you don't tell me, I won't continue."

Hearing this, Murong Xue'er grew slightly more lucid and said coldly, "You... You're truly a despicable man!"

Murong Xue'er was beginning to suspect that Lu Chen was afraid she wouldn't tell the truth, so he deliberately held her in suspense like this, questioning her each time, and then continuing with certain activities after she answered.

This was not the first or second time, Lu Chen had used similar tactics during her previous visits to the Prince's Mansion. To her, Lu Chen's actions were almost indistinguishable from torture.

Lu Chen said, "If I weren't despicable, how could I have won over a great talent from the Da Yue Dynasty like you?"

As he spoke, Lu Chen lifted his hand and pinched Murong Xue'er's beautiful chin.

Murong Xue'er forcefully turned her head, breaking free from Lu Chen's hand, her gaze averted to the side as she said, "The Yue Emperor and Wu Junwan were indeed disciples of some Sect, but the Sect they joined is in the Extreme Western Region, a place seldom visited by others.

Not many understand the Extreme Western Region, and apart from the Yue Emperor and Wu Junwan, almost no one knows which Sect they initially joined."



Hearing Murong Xue'er's answer, Lu Chen paused, surprised to learn that communication between the west and the east of this continent was so poor. What the west was like, almost no one in the eastern dynasties knew.

He had already ordered the Brocade Guard to investigate the Extreme Western Region, but according to their findings, it seemed that to the west of the Black Dragon Country lay a Misty World, where anyone who entered risked becoming lost. As for what lay beyond the mist, only those who had entered and emerged could know.

Wu Junwan and the Yue Emperor were people who had gone into the mist and come out alive, so they surely knew what was inside.

Lu Chen thought to himself that once Wu Junwan arrived in the North Country, he must inquire in detail to find out what exactly was in the west.

With that thought, Lu Chen reached out and with a forceful tug, Murong Xue'er's black and white dress was torn off. Murong Xue'er was stunned, then turned her head to look at Lu Chen, "You!"

Murong Xue'er wanted to speak but stopped, feeling somewhat angered by Lu Chen's behavior. He had torn her clothes; how was she to return later?

But with Lu Chen tearing off her clothes, it was clear he intended to proceed to the next step. She was already in discomfort and did not want to endure any longer, so she said nothing.

Seeing Murong Xue'er simmering with frustration, Lu Chen said with a smile, "I? What about me?"

Murong Xue'er just huffed and remained silent.

At that moment, Lu Chen placed his hand on Murong Xue'er's stomach, stroking it as he said, "This Virgin Mark has faded quite a bit, it seems I'll have to redraw it for you later."

Murong Xue'er didn't speak, her heart anticipating Lu Chen's bad deeds, and yet at that moment, he made no move to act, instead continuing to question, "Just how close are the Yue Emperor and Wu Junwan?"

Hearing this, Murong Xue'er bit her silver teeth.

This damned man!

"Asking this and that, can't you just cut to the chase?"

"You've torn her clothes already, yet here you are asking such irrelevant questions."

Although she felt somewhat dissatisfied with Lu Chen in her heart, Murong Xue'er still replied, "Very well, every time Wu Junwan goes to the Great Jue, she shares meals, a residence, and even sleeps with the Yue Emperor."

"I faintly sense that the Yue Emperor has a special kind of feeling for Wu Junwan. When I serve the Yue Emperor, she often holds me and calls out Wu Junwan's name."

"And she also..."

At that point, Murong Xue'er's words came to an abrupt halt.

Just as Lu Chen was listening with great interest, Murong Xue'er's sudden pause made him itch with curiosity, and he immediately urged, "And what else did she do?"

Murong Xue'er hesitated for a moment but didn't continue.

Lu Chen, with a smile, asked, "Don't you want to cooperate with me? Then why are you helping the Yue Emperor keep secrets from me?"

Murong Xue'er then said, "And she would often pin me down beneath her, just like you... and do those things."

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen was momentarily stunned.

Apparently, he had heard something quite scandalous.

So the Yue Emperor was that kind of person...

Filled with curiosity, Lu Chen asked, "She's the Empress, she could have any man she wants. Why would she do such things with a mere servant like you?"

Murong Xue'er answered, "This seems to be related to the cultivation technique she practices; she cannot engage in the acts of men and women."

Lu Chen thoughtfully said, "Which is to say, the Yue Emperor might still be a virgin to this day?"

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Murong Xue'er felt a bit weird. She looked at him with a strange expression, "Why do I feel like you're excited? Could it be that you're interested in the Yue Emperor too?"

Lu Chen snapped back to reality, and with a smile said, "Is Xue'er jealous?"

Murong Xue'er didn't reply.

At that moment, Lu Chen released the restrictions on Murong Xue'er's hands. Seeing Lu Chen release her, Murong Xue'er suddenly wrapped her arms around Lu Chen's waist, and with a swift roll, she flipped Lu Chen under her. Now it was Murong Xue'er's turn to look down on Lu Chen from above.

Murong Xue'er was feeling quite unsatisfied with Lu Chen at this point.

This despicable man was dilly-dallying, she might as well take matters into her own hands.

Lu Chen lay on the bed, gazing at Murong Xue'er's face which was cold yet tinged with a hint of a blush, and made no move.

If it came to physical strength, Murong Xue'er was definitely no match for Lu Chen, but he had no plans to do anything, letting Murong Xue'er have her way.

Right then, Murong Xue'er began to undress Lu Chen.

Lu Chen teased, "Look at you, Xue'er, getting more and more impatient; not at all like the talented woman you used to be."

Murong Xue'er blushed and paid no mind to Lu Chen's mocking words. She quickly stripped him of his clothes and then leaned down to initiate a kiss with Lu Chen.

She was no longer her past self. Although she still felt a bit of shame in front of Lu Chen, the desires within had driven her to recklessness.

Chapter 613: Just Take What You Need\_1

Great Xia Dynasty.

Capital city, Sum Emperor's sleeping chambers.

The Sum Emperor sat cross-legged on the empty bed with eyes closed, meditating and cultivating.

In front of the Sum Emperor was a bead emitting a green glow.

If Lu Chen had been there, he would have found that the concentration of spiritual energy in the Sum Emperor's sleeping chambers was hundreds of times denser than outside.

The spiritual energy in this world was very thin, so, in theory, there should not be a place with such a concentration of spiritual energy.

The reason why the Sum Emperor's sleeping chambers had such intense spiritual energy was mainly due to the bead in front of him, which was frantically absorbing the world's spiritual energy.

After an indeterminate amount of time, the Sum Emperor suddenly opened his eyes, and the next moment, a shadow entered the sleeping chambers.

"Your Majesty, The Master of Divine Communication and the Eternally Mysterious Taoist have already arrived in the North Country. They are being cautious and have not directly made a move against the North Prince. They even skipped New City altogether and instead stayed in the Old City."

Although Yan County had built a New City, the Old City had not been demolished, so there were still quite a few common people living in the Old City, which was as prosperous as the New City.

After arriving in the North Country, the Eternally Mysterious Taoist and The Master of Divine Communication went straight to the Old City and did not directly head for the New City. The two did not dare to act rashly before they were certain of the real strength of the North Prince Mansion.

Especially after hearing that the North Country possessed secret weapons that defeated the Great Wu Dynasty, they became even more cautious. No one was sure whether the North Country might have even more powerful weapons.

Upon hearing the shadow's words, the Sum Emperor let out a cold laugh, then said, "Those two wouldn't be afraid of Zhuge Zhongguang, would they?"

At that moment, the shadow said, "The mysterious weapons that appeared in the North Country have made them somewhat wary of the North Prince. They fear the North Prince might have more powerful weapons."

The Sum Emperor fell into silence. Not just those two old fellows, he too was incredibly shocked and felt some fear towards the North Country when he heard that they had easily defeated Great Wu with those mysterious weapons, to the extent that Great Wu could only send an envoy to the North Country to seek peace.

And even now, he could not fathom from where the North Country had obtained those mysterious weapons.

After a long silence, the Sum Emperor said, "Find a way to slip someone into Mysterious Moon Palace to check on what they've been doing lately."

Hearing this, the shadow said, "Your Majesty, I'm afraid that will be difficult. The spies we previously sent to Mysterious Moon Palace were almost always discovered soon after they entered."

The Sum Emperor said indifferently, "Since it's not easy to send people in, then find a way to buy off the disciples of Mysterious Moon Palace. Everyone has desires, and I don't believe those who joined the Mysterious Moon Palace are truly doing it to attain enlightenment and become immortals."

The shadow immediately said upon hearing the Sum Emperor's words, "Yes, Your Majesty, I will handle it at once."

The Sum Emperor then waved his hand, and the shadow continued, "I take my leave, Your Majesty."

Soon after, the shadow gradually moved away from the room, and once the shadow had left, the Sum Emperor rose from the dragon bed.

He walked to the window and looked out at the scenery, muttering to himself, "Could the North Country's weapons come from Mysterious Moon Palace? If they indeed come from Mysterious Moon Palace, then exterminating the Mysterious Moon Palace in the future will not be easy..."

The Sum Emperor recalled that last year, the Palace Master of Mysterious Moon Palace left the mountain to spend a considerable amount of time in Yan County. A Palace Master abandoning their own sect to stay so long in the North Country was suspicious in itself.

Now, the prime suspect was Mysterious Moon Palace. If everything the North Country possessed came from Mysterious Moon Palace, then the Mysterious Moon Palace might have even stronger weapons.

With this thought, the Sum Emperor clenched his fist, a cold light flashing in his eyes, "No matter if the North Country's weapons come from Mysterious Moon Palace or not, I will one day exterminate all the sects within the Great Xia boundaries. The Great Xia is my Great Xia!"

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Lu Chen did not know that The Master of Divine Communication and the Eternally Mysterious Taoist had already come to the North Country. Although he had the Brocade Guard keep an eye on



them very early on, these two were Pseudo Celestials after all, and it would be very easy for them to avoid surveillance and tracking by the Brocade Guard.

Up to now, the Brocade Guard still have no information about those two leaving the Capital city; they still think the pair is in the Capital city.

Nevertheless, that doesn't matter. The hesitation of Eternally Mysterious Taoist and the Master of Divine Communication caused them to miss the best opportunity to act, as Xuanyuan Chaoge has already returned to Yan County from Youping County.

As long as the two Pseudo Celestials enter the new city, with Xuanyuan Chaoge's Celestial powers of perception, he will inevitably sense their presence.

At this moment, Lu Chen lay on the bed with his eyes slightly narrowed, staring straight at Murong Xue'er.

Under the active circumstances from Murong Xue'er, it didn't take long for her to become exhausted. Suddenly, she lay down, resting her entire body on Lu Chen's chest, her hurried breathing ringing in Lu Chen's ears nonstop.

Lu Chen raised his hand, gently stroking Murong Xue'er's jade back, then smiled and said, "Miss Murong, why do I feel like you've turned me into your pet macaque?"

After taking a few deep breaths, Murong Xue'er then coldly said, "We each take what we need."

Lu Chen chuckled lightly; it seemed Murong Xue'er had thoroughly let herself go.

Just then, Lu Chen suddenly embraced her willowy waist, flipped over, and placed her beneath him, looking down at her from above.

Murong Xue'er's face was flushed, her eyes misty, her body exuding an incredibly seductive fragrance, and Murong Xue'er put up no resistance whatsoever.

Lu Chen then said, "Now that Miss Murong's affairs are settled, it's time to help me with my writing practice."

While he spoke, the writing brush and inkstone in the study flew straight to Lu Chen's side, and Murong Xue'er turned her head away, adopting a posture of willing submission.

Lu Chen picked up the writing brush, dipped it in ink, and began to write on her body. At that moment, Murong Xue'er thought of something, "After Wu Junwan arrives in the North Country, how will the Prince handle her?"

While writing, Lu Chen said, "Handle her? Why would I handle her?"

Murong Xue'er continued, "Wu Junwan is beautiful and dignified, enchanting in her grace. If she comes to the North Country as a Hostage, surely the Prince wouldn't pass her by."

The corners of Lu Chen's mouth curled up slightly, "Is Xue'er feeling jealous?"

All of a sudden, Murong Xue'er let out a small "yelp" and then replied, "I was just asking casually."

Lu Chen then said, "Indeed, I won't let her go. I will make her a member of my Harem, and then she'll bear my children."

Upon hearing this, Murong Xue'er said, "She's a woman with ambition, and she actively agreed to the Martial Emperor to come to the North Country as a Hostage. If she enters the Prince's Harem, aren't you afraid that she'll turn the North Prince Mansion upside down?"

At that moment, Lu Chen lifted Murong Xue'er's leg, wrote the character "Straight" on it, and then casually said, "This spy sent by the Yue Emperor is daringly placed within the Prince's Mansion, do you think I would worry about her doing something detrimental to the North Country?"

Murong Xue'er said, "Wu Junwan is not me, nor is she like me, and I don't have the same level of ambition she does."

"I've already warned you, if you end up being tripped up by a woman, don't blame others."

Lu Chen looked at Murong Xue'er's coldly beautiful face and said with a smile, "I didn't expect Xue'er to start worrying about me proactively, how gratifying."

Murong Xue'er snorted coldly, without continuing the conversation.

Then Lu Chen flipped Murong Xue'er's body over and continued to write on her jade back.

After a while, Lu Chen suddenly thought of something, then said, "Right, in a few days come to the Prince's Mansion to assist the tailor in making a Phoenix Robe that the Yue Emperor usually wears to court."

Curious, Murong Xue'er asked, "Phoenix Robe? What do you want a Phoenix Robe for?"

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Doesn't Wu Junwan aspire to be an Empress? I'll make her dreams come true."

#### Chapter 614: Then Go Back and Have a Good Discussion\_1

After some time spent waiting, Wu Ming finally received a message from the court of Great Wu, as well as the imperial edict from his own father, the Emperor.

However, to Wu Ming's surprise, the court of Great Wu hadn't really discussed the issue of how much the reparations should be. Without discussion, it meant that the amount of reparations was entirely based on whatever treaty the Great Wu delegation could reach with North Country.

It seemed like the Great Wu delegation was given a lot of authority, allowing Wu Ming to make his own decisions, but on the other hand, if the reparations were too hefty, once Wu Ming returned to Great Wu, all the responsibility would fall solely on him.

Seeing that the imperial edict sent from Great Wu didn't mention anything about the amount of reparations, not even a mention, Wu Ming was furious on the inside. His father, the Emperor, had shifted all the pressure onto him.

At the very least, he should have been given an idea of the bottom line for the reparations. To say nothing at all, leaving him completely on his own in the negotiations, if the reparations negotiated were below the Martial Emperor's expectations, that would be one thing. But if they exceeded his expectations, and by a large amount, he might very well lose his chance at the Crown Prince title.

Although agitated, Wu Ming nevertheless started the negotiations again. The North Country army already showed signs of continuing their push south. The war needed to end as soon as possible, which was also the intent of his father, the Emperor's edict.

Wu Ming had originally planned to keep stalling, but now with his father, the Emperor's edict arriving, there was no way he could keep dragging his feet.

North Country.

Hall of Political Affairs.

At the start of today's negotiations, the members of the Great Wu delegation proposed to reduce the indemnity. Upon hearing their suggestion, the officials of North Country immediately vetoed the proposal, believing that since Great Wu ambushed the North Country camp, the indemnity could only increase, not decrease.

After a bout of commotion in the Hall of Political Affairs akin to that of a marketplace, Lu Chen finally spoke, "Thirty million taels of silver and five million taels of gold are non-negotiable. If Great Wu is unwilling to pay such an amount, then the North Country army will have to personally make a trip to Great Wu for the money."

Upon hearing this, the grand hall instantly fell silent, and the members of the Great Wu delegation instantly lost their spirits. With the North Country army already intending to move south, aggravating the North Prince now could really lead to him sending troops southward, potentially causing even greater losses for Great Wu.

Wu Ming, with a dark expression, said, "Fine, we will adhere to the North Prince's terms. Great Wu will pay North Country the thirty million taels of silver plus five million taels of gold, but this money will not be delivered in one single payment."

Lu Chen had anticipated that Great Wu would propose to pay in installments, and responded, "The first installment will be twenty million taels of silver plus three million taels of gold. The rest must be paid off by Great Wu within two years; otherwise, the North Country army will personally head south to seek the Martial Emperor for payment."

Wu Ming clenched his fists and said, "Thank you, North Prince."

Lu Chen continued, "Since the matter of money is settled, let's now discuss the matter of land."

"To prevent Great Wu from attacking the North Country again, I have decided to include Youping County and Lingtu County within the territory of North Country."

Hearing this, Wu Ming immediately protested, "North Prince, North Country has already occupied Youping County. Why claim Lingtu County as well? Do you not think your appetite is a bit too large?"

Lu Chen replied indifferently, "At the beginning, I indeed had no designs on Lingtu County. However, Great Wu soldiers took advantage of the night to ambush the North Country camp, resulting in heavy casualties for our soldiers and causing huge losses to North Country. That I have not demanded reparations is already the extent of my leniency."

Upon hearing this, Wu Ming cursed the Great Wu Heavy Cavalry once again in his heart. They just had to ambush the North Country camp during the peace talks, and now another county had been lost.

All the important cities of Lingtu County were already occupied by the North Country soldiers, and even if they didn't agree to cede Lingtu County, it would only be a matter of time before North Country took over the entire county. It was not up to them at all.

In order to end the negotiations as quickly as possible, Wu Ming conceded, "Alright, Great Wu agrees to cede Youping County and Lingtu County."

Seeing Wu Ming agree so quickly this time, Lu Chen gave a faint smile and then asked, "Prince Wu Ming agrees so readily? Don't you need to consult the Martial Emperor before making a decision?"

Wu Ming responded, "My father, the Emperor has entrusted the entire negotiation to me; I have the authority to decide."

Lu Chen remarked, "Since Prince Wu Ming has the authority to decide, I won't belabor the point."

Immediately, Lu Chen said to the Jinyiwei Guard beside the throne, "Pass the trade port treaty to Prince Wu Ming for his perusal."

Since the conditions of trade were numerous, Lu Chen had already written them down on paper from the start.

When the trade treaty reached Wu Ming's hands, he began to read it earnestly, and his expression became extremely solemn upon seeing the clauses.

To be honest, he was not particularly clear about the potential consequences of these clauses, such as settling trade transactions with North Country currency, or allowing North Country merchant

caravans into Great Wu. He could only surmise that the North Country might send spies into Great Wu, but he was unable to fathom their deeper intentions.

Although Wu Ming did not understand the potential outcomes these clauses might bring forth, he was no fool. He promptly passed the trade treaty in his hands to the members of his entourage to review.

The members of his entourage were all high-ranking ministers from Great Wu's imperial court, and they would surely know what consequences these clauses could lead to.

After the members of Great Wu's entourage read the trade treaty, their expressions grew serious. At that moment, a member of the entourage whispered something into Wu Ming's ear.

Then Wu Ming said to Lu Chen, "The trade treaty is too impactful, I must consult with my father, the Martial Emperor."

In his mind, Lu Chen thought that there were indeed smart people in the Great Wu delegation; they probably had already discerned that the North Country intended to control Great Wu economically.

Lu Chen then said, "Very well, we will skip over this clause for now. Let us discuss the matter of the hostage."

"I believe Prince Wu Ming has already heard that I intend for Great Wu to send a hostage to the North Country."

Wu Ming feigned ignorance, asking, "I wonder which prince does the North Prince intend to take as hostage?"



Lu Chen said with a smile, "I have heard that Prince Wu Ming has been frequenting the Flower Moon Building lately and is quite fond of the girls from the North Country. Since Prince Wu Ming likes the girls from the North Country so much, why doesn't Prince Wu Ming consider staying as a hostage in the North Country?"

Hearing this, Wu Ming's face instantly turned pale.

He did not want to be a hostage in the North Country; if he stayed as a hostage in the North Country, he would forever lose his chance at becoming the Crown Prince.

Wu Ming immediately responded, "North Prince, my status in Great Wu is not high, and if you make me a hostage in the North Country, I'm afraid I won't serve the intended purpose of a hostage. Perhaps the North Prince should reconsider?"

Seeing Wu Ming's apparent panic, the corners of Lu Chen's mouth curved slightly upward.

Seeing Wu Ming flustered and speaking without reserve, a member of the Great Wu entourage quickly stepped forward and said, "North Prince, the foreign minister requests that today's negotiation end here, so that we may return and report the matter of the hostage to His Majesty the Martial Emperor."

Lu Chen said with a laugh, "Prince Wu Ming just said earlier that he has autonomy over this negotiation. It seems now that Prince Wu Ming cannot make decisions on his own."

Hearing this, Wu Ming said, "The trade treaty proposed by the North Prince is too complicated, we need to discuss it before making a decision."

Lu Chen said indifferently, "Very well, then go back and have a good discussion."

"Two days from now, I expect a definitive response, the families of my fallen soldiers are still waiting for the compensation from Great Wu."

Wu Ming and the members of the Great Wu delegation subsequently left the Hall of Political Affairs. Watching their departing figures, Lu Chen smiled lightly.

He believed that Wu Ming would soon seek him out, to make a deal in private.

Chapter 615: Trade\_1

After the negotiations were paused, Lu Chen briefly discussed some recent affairs of the North Country with its officials before ending the brief court session.

Just as Lu Chen had expected, hardly had he returned to the Prince's Mansion when a guard came looking for him, reporting that Prince Wu Ming requested a private audience.

Naturally, Lu Chen knew the reason Prince Wu Ming wished to see him, so he directed someone to bring Wu Ming to his study.

Once Wu Ming entered the study, Lu Chen greeted him with a smile, "Prince Wu Ming, please take a seat."

As the words left his mouth, Lu Chen moved to the area of the study reserved for rest and tea drinking, and Wu Ming promptly sat down at the tea table as well.

At this time, Lu Chen addressed the maid at the door of the study, "Xiao Qin, brew the tea."

Having said this, Lu Chen's gaze fell upon Wu Ming, and with a smile, he asked, "May I inquire what matter brings Prince Wu Ming to seek a private audience with me?"

Wu Ming spoke directly, "I want to ask the North Prince if he truly intends to have me remain in the North Country as a hostage."

Earlier, in the Hall of Political Affairs, Wu Ming had referred to himself as "this prince," but now, in front of Lu Chen, he was simply using "I," markedly lowering his stance.

Hearing Wu Ming's tone, Lu Chen chuckled softly, then replied, "Prince Wu Ming holds significant influence in Great Wu and is one of the contenders for the Crown Prince. When choosing a hostage, naturally, one must select someone important to Great Wu."

"In my view, you are the most suitable."

Upon hearing this, Wu Ming quickly responded, "The North Prince flatters me too much. Although there are some ministers in Great Wu's court who support me, compared to Prince Lu Yi, I'm truly insignificant."

"My imperial father sent me here to the North Country; it's clear he doesn't wish to tarnish Prince Lu Yi's reputation, proving that he is the most important in my imperial father's heart."

"If the North Prince wishes to select a prince as a hostage, it ought to be Prince Lu Yi. If I were chosen, I fear I would not effectively serve the purpose of a hostage."

Lu Chen pondered for a moment and then said, "Oh? Is that so?"

"But then again, if I were to choose Prince Lu Yi as a hostage, the Martial Emperor likely wouldn't agree, would he?"

"After all, you've said that he is the most important in your imperial father's heart."

When Wu Ming heard Lu Chen's response, he was slightly taken aback.

"This..."

After collecting his thoughts, Wu Ming stated, "Given that the North Country's army is at our borders, I believe my imperial father would agree to any conditions you, North Prince, propose."

Lu Chen then inquired, "Does that mean your imperial father would also agree to the trade agreement?"

Wu Ming was momentarily confused; what did this have to do with the trade agreement? Weren't they discussing the issue of the hostage?

While Wu Ming was muddled, he suddenly realized the connection.

Subsequently, Wu Ming suggested, "If the North Prince chooses another prince as a hostage, I believe my imperial father would definitely agree to the trade agreement proposed by the North Country."

Wu Ming didn't know what impact the trade agreement might have on Great Wu.

However, representatives from the Great Wu delegation had reminded him that, in the current negotiation terms, the trade agreement proposed by the North Country appeared less obviously harmful than a loss of territory or financial indemnity, but its hazards were considerably greater, and it was very likely that the Martial Emperor would not consent.

No wonder when they first came to the North Country, the newspapers had announced that Princess Junwan would be the hostage, only for there to be a sudden change to him, Prince Wu Ming. It turned out the North Prince wanted to leverage his power to gain his imperial father's approval for the trade agreement.

It was essentially a trade— if the trade agreement failed to pass, then he could likely be the hostage; if the trade agreement was ratified, another person would serve as the hostage.

After hearing Wu Ming's answer, Lu Chen picked up his tea cup, took a gentle sip, and then stated, "If Prince Wu Ming can persuade the Martial Emperor to agree to the trade agreement, then I shall choose your Princess Junwan as the hostage. However, if Prince Wu Ming is unsuccessful, then please remain in the North Country."

Wu Ming immediately said, "North Prince can rest assured, I will definitely persuade Great Wu's entire court and my father, the Martial Emperor."

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Then I will wait for the good news from Prince Wu Ming. I hope Prince Wu Ming can act quickly, after all, the families of North Country's soldiers are still waiting for their pension."

Wu Ming then said, "Please give me one more month, North Prince. After one month, I will definitely give you a satisfactory response."

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Alright, I will give Prince Wu Ming one more month's time. I hope Prince Wu Ming does not make me wait in vain for a month."

Wu Ming said with a sycophantic smile, "Of course."

"If the North Prince has no other matters, I will take my leave for today."

Having said that, Wu Ming got up directly from his chair, and Lu Chen also immediately stood up and said, "Alright, Prince Wu Ming, please take your time. I will not see you out."

Without any further ado, Wu Ming stood up and left.

...

Several days later.

In the Great Wu court.

When the commercial treaty proposed by North Country was relayed back to Great Wu, it instantly caused a stir in the Great Wu court.

Though most of the ministers in the Great Wu court were typically inactive, they were not fools.

Being the cunning veterans that they were in political circles, the ministers immediately saw through North Country's intent. North Country was asking Great Wu not only to fully open all markets but even to conduct trades using North Country's currency.

What a joke, to use North Country's currency! Imagine if North Country goods flooded in en masse,---d merchants would then need to use North Country currency to buy North Country goods. Should the volume of goods increase, people might likely abandon Great Wu's currency in favor of North Country's.

At this point, Chai Jiliang stood up and spoke, "Your Majesty, Great Wu must not agree to this condition from North Country. Although North Country has not yet issued its own currency, their proposal of this treaty proves that they will release new currency before long."

"Once North Country's goods and currency flood into Great Wu, it will be rare for people to use the currency issued by Great Wu."

Chai Jiliang, now reinstated to his former office, had once again become Great Wu's Prime Minister. The main reason Martial Emperor reinstated him was to stabilize Wu Junwan.

The Martial Emperor needed Wu Junwan to infiltrate North Country, and to raise her morale, he had to show her a glimmer of hope.

The Martial Emperor knew his daughter was intelligent; if her faction ministers were removed and she lost her voice in the court, she might suspect he was leading her on with false promises.

Therefore, he immediately reinstated Chai Jiliang, an important figure from Wu Junwan's faction, to his former office.

As Chai Jiliang's speech concluded, another minister stood up and said, "Yes, Your Majesty, the North Prince harbors ulterior motives. This treaty will harm Great Wu's long-term interests and must not be agreed upon."

Subsequently, a succession of ministers stood up to oppose the commercial treaty proposed by North Country.

After the opposing ministers' voices had somewhat subsided, Martial Emperor scanned the great hall's ministers and then spoke, "Does any other minister have a different opinion?"

As Martial Emperor's words fell, a minister from Prince Wu Ming's faction stood up and said, "Your Majesty, I believe Mr. Chai's statement is completely unfounded. In my opinion, this commercial treaty will not harm Great Wu but is actually beneficial."

"I believe everyone present here has used some products from North Country. Take white paper, for example. With white paper, Great Wu will no longer need to use bamboo slips and animal skins."



As the minister finished speaking, the ministers from Prince Wu Ming's faction, as if on cue, stood up and expressed their support for the trade agreement, claiming that North Country's currency would not pose any harm to Great Wu.

Chapter 616: Chen'er, What Are You Making the Phoenix Robe For?\_1

Seeing so many people in the court actually agreeing to the trade treaty proposed by the North Country, Chai Jiliang's face darkened.

He glanced at those who stood up to agree with the North Country's trade treaty and found that most of them were from Prince Wu Ming's faction and other ministers without faction affiliation, while the ministers from Prince Lu Yi's faction had almost remained silent.

Now that Prince Wu Ming was still in North Country, and the ministers of his faction had agreed to the trade treaty proposed by the North Country, it suggested that there was likely some deal between Prince Wu Ming and the North Prince, which accounted for the situation in court.

At this time, the Martial Emperor looked at the ministers below but did not immediately make a decision. After a long time, the Martial Emperor finally spoke, "Now that the North Country's great army has already moved south into Lingtu County, if we do not agree to this treaty, I fear the North Country's army will continue to press south."

While saying this, the Martial Emperor's fingertips tapped continuously on the Dragon Throne, and after a while, he said, "The goods from the North Country are indeed of great use to Great Wu. With North Country in its prime, even if I do not agree to this trade treaty, the North Prince will not easily give up."

"Given this, I shall agree to this treaty and put an end to this war as soon as possible."

Seeing the Martial Emperor actually saying such words, Chai Jiliang could hardly believe it. The Martial Emperor had always been a hard-liner, someone who belonged to the war faction, the type who would not turn back until hitting a wall. How could he capitulate so quickly today?

In fact, the Martial Emperor also had his own considerations; he wanted to quickly conclude the peace talks and then send Wu Junwan to the North Country.

As long as Wu Junwan managed to obtain the manufacturing methods and blueprints of the North Country's weapons, Great Wu would soon be able to restore its strength. By then, all they had lost, he would personally snatch back.

He was still in his prime, with plenty of time, and he had a great chance to avenge the past humiliations.

...

Soon, the news that the Martial Emperor agreed to the trade treaty reached the North Country.

With this, the peace negotiations between North Country and Great Wu were almost completed, with only the issue of the hostage remaining.

In the Hall of Political Affairs of the North Country.

Prince Wu Ming looked nervously at Lu Chen.

Truth be told, he was not entirely certain that Lu Chen would keep his word.

After all, his emperor father had already agreed to the trade treaty, and the North Prince could very well renege at this moment and continue to keep him as a hostage.

At this time, Prince Wu Ming said, "North Prince, now that the terms of the peace talks have been negotiated, should we not sign a pact?"

What Prince Wu Ming called a pact was naturally not an alliance pact but a treaty of reparations. The term "pact" was used merely for sounding more pleasant.

Lu Chen, sitting on his throne, smilingly said, "Of course we can."

Then, Lu Chen said to the Jinyiwei Guard next to him, "Bring out the prepared pact."

Speaking of this, Lu Chen turned to Prince Wu Ming standing in the great hall and said, "Prince Wu Ming, please be seated."

Prince Wu Ming and the members of the Great Wu delegation had been standing for many days now, always on their feet during negotiations, but today, since the treaty was to be signed, they couldn't be kept standing—it's impossible to write while standing.

As Lu Chen's words fell, the officials of North Country on the left of the great hall immediately vacated their seats, and then Prince Wu Ming and the people of the Great Wu delegation took their places.

Soon, the Jinyiwei Guard brought two copies of the already drafted pact to Lu Chen and Prince Wu Ming respectively.

When Prince Wu Ming saw that the name listed in the hostage section of the scroll was Wu Junwan, he finally breathed a sigh of relief. Thankfully, the North Prince had honored the agreement and allowed Wu Junwan to be the hostage in North Country.

At that moment, Prince Wu Ming's long-suppressed emotions seemed to relax, and the corners of his mouth involuntarily curved upward slightly.

This woman was finally out of the game!

He only needed to bring down Chai Jiliang, the core figure of Wu Junwan's faction, and then Wu Junwan's influence in Great Wu's court would be utterly shattered, and she would never have a chance for a comeback.

Thinking of this, Prince Wu Ming felt an immense sense of satisfaction, and after glancing over the other terms of the treaty and finding no issues, he immediately signed and stamped it.

Meanwhile, Lu Chen, while signing the scroll, said, "Prince Wu Ming, I hope that upon your return, you will be able to send the hostage promptly."

Prince Wu Ming smilingly said, "Please rest assured, North Prince, within a month, my royal sister will appear in Yan County."

Lu Chen said, "It would be for the best."

Once the treaty was signed and all procedures completed, Prince Wu Ming immediately rose from his seat and, bowing with his hands clasped, said, "Then we will take our leave."

Lu Chen smilingly said, "Prince Wu Ming, you seem to fancy the ladies of North Country so much, don't you plan to stay in North Country for a while?"

Wu Ming said, "Thank you for the kind offer, North Prince, but I need to return to Great Wu to report to my father, the Martial Emperor, so I won't stay for too long."

Lu Chen replied, "Very well, safe travels."

As soon as Lu Chen finished speaking, Wu Ming swiftly left Yan County with the delegation from Great Wu.

Wu Ming couldn't wait to leave Yan County, not wanting to stay a moment longer than necessary.

After signing the treaty, Lu Chen returned to the inner court. He planned to rest well for the next few days before hurrying to father more children, hoping to have several more within a year as he was preparing to head south and seize the throne next year.

When Lu Chen returned to the inner court, he was surprised to find Murong Xue'er also there in the Wind Cloud Court. He stood momentarily stunned upon seeing Mu Zixuan and the others chatting with Murong Xue'er.

When did Murong Xue'er get along so well with Mu Zixuan and the others?

In the past, whenever Murong Xue'er visited the Prince's Mansion, she would rarely enter the inner court and would usually just go to the study to engage in intimate relations with him.

Today, in his absence, Murong Xue'er not only entered the inner court on her visit to the Prince's Mansion but also struck up a conversation with his wives and concubines.

At this moment, the women noticed Lu Chen's return. They immediately rose to their feet and said, "Greetings, Prince."

Lu Chen smiled at Murong Xue'er and inquired, "Miss Murong, what brings you here?"

Before Murong Xue'er could speak, Mu Zixuan interjected, "Prince, didn't you ask Miss Murong to help the Mansion's tailors make a few Phoenix Robes? Miss Murong is here today for that very reason."

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen realized what the situation was about.

Then, Chu Yuqin asked, puzzled, "Chen'er, why are you having Phoenix Robes made? I heard that the robes you're commissioning are to be made after the style worn by the Yue Emperor."

All the women turned their gazes to Lu Chen, curious about the issue. As a man, if he was interested in that position in the Capital City, it would be logical to have Dragon Robes made in preparation. What use would there be in having red Phoenix Robes made?

Lu Chen replied with a light smile, "I've noticed that among my women, quite a few thirst for power and aspire to be Empress. So I thought I'd give them a chance to experience the joy of being an Empress."

As he said this, Lu Chen's gaze fell on Yelv Nanyan, who went briefly blank. She quickly spoke up, "Prince, I now only wish to bear sons and daughters for you, and have no other aspirations."

Yelv Nanyan thought Lu Chen was hinting that she should be more content with her lot.

Lu Chen said, "Nanyan, you've misunderstood my intention."

Before Lu Chen could explain further, Wang Qingci chuckled and then questioned, "The joy of being an Empress that the Prince speaks of, it wouldn't happen to be an experience shared in bed, would it?"

Lu Chen's eyes landed on Wang Qingci, and he chuckled internally, finding that the wily vixen understood him well.

Hearing Wang Qingci say this, the other women grasped Lu Chen's meaning, their cheeks reddened, and they looked at him with a blend of embarrassment and intrigue.

Lu Chen cleared his throat and said, "Wu Junwan is Princess Junwan and is greatly fixated on the idea of becoming an Empress. To ensure she remains content in North Country, her wish has to be fulfilled. And Rongrong is also a princess. Though she is currently in Mysterious Moon Palace, she too harbors dreams of being an Empress.

As her darling, it's only right for me to help realize her dreams, isn't it?"

Chu Yuqin gave Lu Chen a reproachful look. "You're not doing it for them. I think you're just fixated on the Empress Great Jue, so you want others to wear her Phoenix Robe and play her role."

Lu Chen said, "Madam Chu, I swear, I have no such intentions."

Standing by, Wang Qingci said with a sly smile, "The Prince loves role-playing, after all. Look, you already have children and yet you still call her 'Madam.'"

Lu Chen snorted and replied, "Oh, so you're ganging up to slander me, are you?"

"Qingci, tonight, you're to come to Madam Chu's room! I need to have a good talk with the both of you."

Before Wang Qingci could say anything, Chu Yuqin immediately protested, "No way!"

She and Wang Qingci had always had a poor relationship; she didn't want to share Lu Chen's attention with that wily vixen.

Wang Qingci, covering her mouth and laughing, said, "I would indeed like to admire Madam Chu's charm, but unfortunately, Madam Chu will not agree."

Lu Chen said, "It doesn't matter whether she agrees or not, you must come tonight."



Chu Yuqin's cheeks flushed crimson as she exclaimed, "Chen'er, you!"

At that moment, a female guard entered the yard and said, "Prince, Master Xuanyuan requests an audience!"

Lu Chen no longer continued his flirtatious banter with his wives and concubines. Instead, he immediately went to the study.

Chapter 617: They Are Preparing to Make a Move Against You\_1

Lu Chen had not yet reached the study when, having just left the inner courtyard, he saw Xuanyuan Chaoge.

Upon seeing Lu Chen, Xuanyuan Chaoge first paid his respects and then immediately said, "Prince, there's been a situation in the old city!"

Hearing Xuanyuan Chaoge's abrupt statement caught Lu Chen slightly off guard.

A situation?

What kind of situation?

Xuanyuan Chaoge also realized that his statement was too vague, so he hurriedly explained, "This old official chanced upon two powerful auras in the old city, so I took a stroll there, only to discover that there are many martial artists above the Master Realm, and even two individuals whose auras surpass that of a Grandmaster."

Hearing this, Lu Chen was startled for a moment, auras surpassing a Grandmaster?

Celestials? Or Pseudo Celestials?

Lu Chen immediately asked, "Their martial presence is stronger than yours?"

Xuanyuan Chaoge replied, "Their auras are actually much weaker than this old official's."

At this point, Xuanyuan Chaoge suddenly thought of something and continued, "The aura they carry is very similar to that of Great Scholar Zhuge."

Upon hearing this from Xuanyuan Chaoge, Lu Chen suddenly thought of two people and said thoughtfully, "So, these two individuals are Pseudo Celestials?"

Xuanyuan Chaoge said, "It's highly probable. I was worried there might be a Celestial behind these two, so I came back to report to you first."

After becoming a Celestial, Xuanyuan Chaoge could subtly communicate with the heavens and earth, perfectly blending his aura into the environment, making it impossible for others to detect his true Realm.

In his opinion, other Celestials should also possess this ability, so whether or not there are real Celestials behind these two Pseudo Celestials, he couldn't be certain. Therefore, he did not act rashly but chose to report the situation to Lu Chen first.

Hearing Xuanyuan Chaoge's words, Lu Chen fell into deep thought and, after a long while, he finally said, "This Prince has an idea of who these two might be."

Then, addressing Xuanyuan Chaoge, Lu Chen said, "Have the Jinyiwei work with you to investigate their identities in the old city later. Once their identities are confirmed, don't do anything rash, just come back and report to me first."

Lu Chen had a system, and confirming those people's identities was actually quite simple; he merely needed to take a walk in the old city to ascertain them.

But if he did that, he might well alarm them, so he planned to have Xuanyuan Chaoge and Liang Zong confirm those individuals' identities.

Subsequently, Lu Chen said to the female guard at the door, "Go and call Commander Liang."

As he spoke, Lu Chen walked towards the study, continuing, "Come with me to the study and wait for Commander Liang there."

Then, Lu Chen, accompanied by Xuanyuan Chaoge, went to the study to await the arrival of Liang Zong.

A moment later, Liang Zong hurried to the study and seeing Xuanyuan Chaoge there as well, he became curious about what matter Lu Chen wanted to discuss with him.

"Paying respects to the Prince!"

Lu Chen said, "There have been auras of two Pseudo Celestials detected in the old city. Have your men work with Lord Xuanyuan to investigate the situation in the old city and find out if the people from Four Directions Mountain and Fixed Wind Mountain have arrived."

Hearing this, Liang Zong was taken aback.

The Brocade Guards of the capital city had been keeping a close watch on where those two old men resided and had not noticed them leaving the capital.

If they had left the capital, intelligence from the Brocade Guards should have reached Yan County much earlier, surely not leaving them without any news at present.

Just then, Liang Zong suddenly thought of something; some time ago, a Jinyiwei guard had reported to him that the number of people from the capital city who came to do business in Yan County had increased suddenly, and at that time, he had only conducted a rough investigation.

Now that he reflected on it, it was likely that the others had disguised themselves as a merchant caravan when they arrived in Yan County, and they were very clever by only going to the old city instead of coming directly to the new city.

The inspections in the new city were extremely stringent with Jinyiwei agents among the crowd. Although there were also some soldiers patrolling the old city, those soldiers were not as strict. As long as there were no violent fights or murders, the soldiers in the old city generally did not interfere much.

Liang Zong then said, "I will take some men and join Master Xuanyuan to the old city promptly."

Lu Chen continued, "Be discreet and avoid startling them."

Liang Zong immediately bowed and said, "Understood."

Afterward, Xuanyuan Chaoge and Liang Zong set off for the old city, and as they approached it, they disguised themselves as a merchant caravan before entering the old city under that guise.

In the following two days, Xuanyuan Chaoge and the Brocade Guard devised ways to gather information about the two individuals, although they did not do so overtly. Posing as merchants and conducting transactions with some of the businesses in the old city, they probed indirectly through their conversations.

The disciples from Four Directions Mountain and Fixed Wind Mountain were particularly adept at disguising themselves. They did not stay in the inn all the time; if they had, they might have aroused suspicion since, being there for business, it was not plausible to stay inside the inn without engaging in any activities.

To avoid arousing suspicion about their identities, the disciples from Fixed Wind Mountain and Four Directions Mountain even opened a tavern in the old city.

Using methods to hide his presence, Xuanyuan Chaoge had approached the two Pseudo Celestials and discovered that they hardly spoke anything about North Prince Mansion. Their daily conversations revolved around how great the products from North Country were or how good the wine tasted, as if they were truly merchants.

The conversations between these two old men made Xuanyuan Chaoge doubt at times whether he had been discovered.

After waiting two days without receiving any news from the Brocade Guard, Lu Chen was perplexed.

Was it not just about confirming the identities of those individuals? Why couldn't it be determined even after two days?

Inside the study, Lu Chen directly addressed the maid at the door, "Xiao Rou, fetch a Jinyiwei Guard."

Just as the maid was about to confirm, Liang Zong entered the courtyard, "Prince, Commander Liang requests an audience!"

Lu Chen immediately said, "Xiao Rou, you needn't go."

"Yes, Prince."

The next moment, Liang Zong entered the study. Before Liang Zong could even bow, Lu Chen asked, "Why has it taken two days to confirm their identities?"

Seeing that Lu Chen seemed a bit angry, Liang Zong hurriedly explained, "Prince, they have concealed themselves exceptionally well. They didn't wear the garments of Four Directions Mountain and Fixed Wind Mountain disciples, and they never talk about North Prince Mansion. Their identities are completely indiscernible."

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen frowned, "Does this mean their identities are still unconfirmed?"

Liang Zong continued to reply, "They are confirmed. Last night, one of their disciples, while visiting a brothel, got drunk and got into a conflict. He couldn't restrain himself and fought using Fixed Wind Mountain's cultivation technique."

Lu Chen was filled with question marks. They had hidden themselves so well, yet they were exposed because a disciple visited a brothel?

Could this be too much of a coincidence?

At that moment, the maid's voice once again resonated from the doorway.

"Prince, Master Xuanyuan requests an audience!"

"Come in!"

Immediately after, Xuanyuan Chaoge entered the study.

"Greetings, Your Highness!"

Lu Chen nodded in acknowledgment.

Xuanyuan Chaoqe continued, "Your Highness, the two Pseudo Celestials are deeply concealed. This old official hasn't seen them mention anything about the North Prince Mansion."

After some contemplation, Lu Chen then addressed the maid at the door, "Xiao Rou, summon the Great Scholar here."

"Yes, Prince."

Shortly after, Zhuge Zhongguang appeared in the study.

"Greetings, Prince!"

Lu Chen immediately said, "Two Pseudo Celestials have appeared in the old city, suspected to be the old ancestors of Fixed Wind Mountain and Four Directions Mountain. Great Scholar, what do you think should be done about this?"

Zhuge Zhongguang was taken aback, then asked, "Prince, have their identities been confirmed?"

Lu Chen replied, "It's not certain yet. They are well hidden. I've tasked Commander Liang and Lord Xuanyuan to investigate and they've only found some traces."

Zhuge Zhongguang turned to look at Liang Zong, "May I ask how Commander Liang verified their identities?"



Liang Zong answered, "One of their disciples went to a brothel to drink. When he became drunk, he ended up fighting and used a technique from Fixed Wind Mountain."

After listening to Liang Zong's reply, Zhuge Zhongguang stroked his beard, contemplating for a while before speaking to Lu Chen, "Prince, it seems those people have realized that their identities have been exposed. They are likely preparing to take action against you."

Chapter 618 - Stay Safe, I'll Wait for You to Come Back\_1

Hearing Zhuge Zhongguang's words, everyone else in the study was stunned for a moment. Lu Chen recovered his wits and asked, "Why does the Great Scholar think so?"

Zhuce Zhongguang replied, "Xuanyuan senior can conceal his presence so that others cannot detect it, but Commander Liang is different. The murderous aura on Commander Liang is too strong. Even if he uses Disguise Skills and others cannot recognize who he is, they can still tell by the murderous aura that he is a Grandmaster."

"Those people have concealed themselves so well, yet they were exposed because of a Disciple. This is very likely because they discovered that the North Prince Mansion was investigating them, so they simply exposed themselves deliberately and then lured people to the old city to deal with them."

"This old official speculates that they plan to use the strategy of luring the tiger away from the mountain, drawing the skilled experts from the new city to the old city, and then they will directly enter the new city to attack the Prince's Mansion!"

Hearing Zhuge Zhongguang's reasoning, Lu Chen realized and said that these people had concealed themselves so deeply; how could they allow their Disciples to go to the brothel to drink and even get into a fight with others, using their power's Cultivation Technique.

So, they were deliberately revealing their identities.

In that case, were these people really planning to make a move on him?

Of course, it could also be a coincidence, but the possibility Zhuge Zhongguang mentioned did seem more likely.

After thinking for a moment, Lu Chen continued to ask, "Then what does the Great Scholar think we should do?"

Zhuge Zhongguang answered, "If Fixed Wind Mountain and Four Directions Mountain are indeed targeting you, Prince, as long as North Prince Mansion sends people to encircle them, they will definitely leave someone in the old city to delay time, allowing another to bring people to the new city to attack the Prince's Mansion."

"Therefore, Prince, you could let this old official go to the old city to probe, while you and Xuanyuan senior stay in the new city waiting for them to come."

After hearing this, Lu Chen thought for a moment and then said, "Alright, let's do that."

"We'll make our move tonight."

Lu Chen didn't want someone constantly threatening his safety. Although he had the strength of a Pseudo Celestial, the wives in his Prince's Mansion were not strong.

If someday these people attacked his wives, they could very likely get hurt, so it was best to eliminate the threat in advance.

Then, Lu Chen and Xuanyuan Chaoge began planning.

At dusk.

During dinner, Lu Chen suddenly said to Wang Qingci at the dining table, "Qingci, I need to go out tonight, so you don't have to go to Madam Chu's room."

Upon hearing this, all the women at the table were taken aback.

Go out?

And at night?

What was he going out for at night?

Lu Chen rarely went out at night; even if he wasn't in the inner court, he would surely be in the study.

Had something happened again?

Or was Lu Chen going out to secretly meet a lover?

Lu Chen had done similar things before, going out at night and not returning for a whole day, causing his women to worry immensely, only to find out later that he had gone to have a private meeting with Chen Wanrong.

At this moment, Wang Qingci asked with a smile, "Prince, whose beauty has caught your eye this time?"

Lu Chen smiled and then said, "You'll know in a few days."

Lu Chen did not directly tell them what he was going to do tonight; he didn't want them to worry. Since Wang Qingci had misunderstood, he let the misunderstanding continue, so they wouldn't worry.

Those assassins had come to kill him at the Prince's Mansion before; this time, Lu Chen intended to take care of the assassins outside the city, so they would not come and frighten his wives and children.

Although Lu Chen said so, Chu Yuqin clearly felt something was off; Lu Chen did not seem like he was going out to meet some woman but instead had something important to do.

Even though she had guessed that something significant would happen tonight, Chu Yuqin did not ask directly. She spoke up, "Chen'er, remember to come back early."

Lu Chen responded indifferently, "Alright, I'll be back early in the morning."

Then everyone continued with their meal.

After dinner, Lu Chen took a bath and put on the Golden Silk Soft Armor that he had obtained from the hands of assassins. Then he prepared to head to the military camp in the new city.

Lu Chen had just reached the door when he noticed the silhouette of a beautiful woman; Chu Yuqin stood under the lantern, seemingly waiting for his arrival.

Seeing Chu Yuqin at the door, Lu Chen asked, "Madam Chu, why are you standing here?"

Chu Yuqin asked directly, "Chen'er, has something happened?"

Lu Chen didn't plan to keep Chu Yuqin in the dark any longer, so he replied, "Assassins have come to Yan County; I plan to deal with them outside the city."

"I thought as much," Chu Yuqin said.

She had known Lu Chen wouldn't be absent from the Prince's Mansion at night without good reason.

Chu Yuqin then said, "Be careful; I'll be waiting for your return."

She didn't ask further, knowing what Lu Chen was going out to do was enough.

Lu Chen then said, "Madam Chu, I'll have to trouble you to keep an eye on the Prince's Mansion tonight."

The main reason Lu Chen chose to tell Chu Yuqin about his plans for the night was to ensure she'd be alert; although he believed they could easily take care of the assassins, there was also the possibility that some might slip through and launch a sneak attack on the North Prince Mansion.

Now a Grandmaster, Chu Yuqin could be trusted to watch over the North Prince Mansion; Lu Chen felt somewhat more at ease knowing she was there.

With a slight smile, Chu Yuqin said, "Don't worry; I'll protect the North Prince Mansion."

Afterward, Lu Chen headed straight for the entrance of the Prince's Mansion.

Yan County's night was bustling with activity. There was no curfew, with people and carriages coming and going.

Just then, a squad of soldiers rode out from the military camp outside the city, heading straight for the old part of town.

Yan County, the old town.

Inside a certain tavern.

The Master of Divine Communication and the Eternally Mysterious Taoist were sitting face to face.

The Master of Divine Communication asked, "Are you sure they will fall for it?"

Stroking his beard and smiling, the Eternally Mysterious Taoist replied, "Since they have already sent people to investigate, that means they are aware of our existence; they will surely send someone to wipe us out."

"Zhuge Zhongguang is equal to us in strength; he won't fail to come. As long as one of us can hold off Zhuge Zhongguang, the other can easily enter the new district and wipe out the North Prince Mansion."

They had almost confirmed through their investigation that there was no one stronger than Zhuge Zhongguang in Yan County.

Originally their plan was to join forces to deal with Zhuge Zhongguang, then make their move against the North Prince Mansion.

But then they thought, there was no need for such trouble.

Their target was the North Prince; why bother with the complicated task of dealing with Zhuge Zhongguang? Although, like them, he was only one step away from becoming a Celestial, that step was no easy feat.

The conditions for the two of them to become Celestials were quite stringent, so they didn't believe Zhuge Zhongguang could merge with the Dao and become a true Celestial in a short time.

After listening to the Eternally Mysterious Taoist, the Master of Divine Communication pondered for a moment and then said, "Who will go, you or this old man?"

The Eternally Mysterious Taoist replied, "Naturally, this old man should go. You are stronger than this old man; do you really expect me to hold off Zhuge Zhongguang?"

The Master of Divine Communication snorted and said, "You're quite clever, making this old man fight to death, while you take on such an easy task."

With a casual tone, the Eternally Mysterious Taoist said, "Zhuge Zhongguang is just a scholar who entered the Dao through literature; how strong could he be? Are you, a Martial Artist, afraid of a scholar?"

The Master of Divine Communication replied, "You don't need to provoke this old man; once you've dealt with the North Prince, hurry back to help me. Zhuge Zhongguang has never made a move; no one knows the extent of his strength."

"Alright," said the Eternally Mysterious Taoist.

Just then, a man's voice came from outside, "Elders, there's trouble—the soldiers from Yan County are coming!"

Chapter 619 -This Person is Actually the North Prince!\_1

Hearing the commotion outside, the Master of Divine Communication immediately rose to his feet. With a lift of his hand, a large saber by the table flew into his grasp, "Alright, now that the fish has bitten the hook, let's make our move. Once the North Prince is dead, the Sum Emperor should have no obstacles left in becoming a Celestial."



The Eternally Mysterious Taoist spoke, "I will take people to the new city immediately. Master of Divine Communication, I'll leave this place in your hands."

The Master of Divine Communication replied, "Stop with the motherly concern and hurry up and kill the North Prince."

The Eternally Mysterious Taoist didn't waste any more words. He promptly left the tavern and, taking his disciples, exited through the North City gates and headed straight for the new city.

Before long, the tavern where the Master of Divine Communication was located became surrounded by the soldiers of the North Country, but by this time, the Eternally Mysterious Taoist had already taken some disciples towards the new city.

As soon as Zhuge Zhongguang surrounded the tavern, he immediately waved his hand and commanded, "Prepare to attack!"

No sooner had the words left his mouth than the artillery and mortars of the soldiers were aimed at the tavern.

At this moment, the voice of the Master of Divine Communication came from inside the tavern. He laughed loudly, "The ways of the world are truly unpredictable, a Literature Saint has actually become the North Prince's dog."

Hearing this, Zhuge Zhongguang didn't get angry. Stroking his beard, he said with a smile, "Visitors are guests, why don't the two inside come out and meet us?"

Zhuge Zhongguang had already guessed that the other person might have left the old city for the new city, intending to assassinate the North Prince, but he wasn't worried about the situation there in the slightest.

He also realized that the Master of Divine Communication intended to stall for time, so let him stall. Zhuge Zhongguang actually hoped the people inside could delay a little longer.

Zhuge Zhongguang was a scholar. Although he had entered into Dao through literature, his strength might still fall short when compared to a martial artist, and he wasn't sure he could defeat the Pseudo Celestial inside.

It would be best to wait for the matter with Lu Chen to conclude, and then have Xuanyuan Chaoge, a Celestial, come over.

After hearing Zhuge Zhongguang's words, the Master of Divine Communication laughed even harder, "If the Literature Saint truly considers us guests, why would he bring so many soldiers to completely surround our tavern?"

Zhuge Zhongguang replied, "The two inside, the North Prince has been informed of your arrival in the North Country, and has specifically asked me to invite you to the North Prince Mansion. Could it be that the two of you won't even grant the North Prince this courtesy?"

The Master of Divine Communication disdainfully said, "He's but a mere child with a gilded mouth. What qualifications does he have for us to give him any face?"

Seeing Zhuge Zhongguang and the Master of Divine Communication engaging in a war of words, Liang Zong, who was beside Zhuge, couldn't help but say, "Great Scholar, are we not going to take action?"

To suppress the assassins from Four Directions Mountain and Fixed Wind Mountain, they had even launched the heavy weaponry like artillery, with cannonballs already loaded, yet Zhuge Zhongguang was engaging in a war of words with their enemy instead.

Liang Zong felt that talking to those inside was purely a waste of time.

Zhuge Zhongguang said indifferently, "No need to rush, let's wait for Xuanyuan, our senior, to come first."

Upon hearing Zhuge Zhongguang's words, Liang Zong was taken aback for a moment, but he instantly understood Zhuge's intention. After that, Zhuge Zhongguang continued to verbally spar with the Master of Divine Communication inside the tavern.

Meanwhile.

The Eternally Mysterious Taoist, leading the disciples of Fixed Wind Mountain, soon reached the new city. However, just as they arrived in a forest far outside the city gates, the sound of horse hooves reached their ears.

The Eternally Mysterious Taoist instantly realized something was amiss, but it was already too late. In no time at all, countless soldiers wielding torches had surrounded them.

Seeing this scene, the Eternally Mysterious Taoist's brow furrowed as he immediately understood the situation.

Apparently, the North Prince had long been aware of their diversionary tactic.

But...

Did that matter?

No, it didn't!

The North Country had only one Pseudo Celestial, Zhuge Zhongguang.

Zhug Zhongguang could only deal with one location at a time. If Zhuge Zhongguang was here, then the battle in the old city would end quickly, and then the Master of Divine Communication would swiftly lead the disciples from Four Directions Mountain to support them.

And if Zhuge Zhongguang went to the old city, then the new city would be without a Pseudo Celestial to preside over it. Just relying on these soldiers, they wouldn't be able to stop their advance.

Thinking this, the Eternally Mysterious Taoist instantly raised his hand and, with two fingers together, made a spell-casting gesture. The next moment, countless flying leaves in the forest converged.

...

But just at that moment, a young man wearing a python dragon robe appeared in front of those North Country soldiers.

Seeing this scene, Eternally Mysterious Taoist hesitated for a moment.

Because he sensed that the young man's strength was comparable to his own, and even the young man's aura faintly seemed to be surpassing his.

Eternally Mysterious Taoist's face darkened instantly.

A Pseudo Celestial?

Does North Country actually have more than one Pseudo Celestial!

How is this possible?

They had stayed in the old city for so long just to gather clear intelligence on North Country, and after their investigations over this period, they had confirmed that Zhuge Zhongguang was the only Pseudo Celestial there. How could there be another one now?

And this Pseudo Celestial was so young, with a glance, Eternally Mysterious Taoist roughly guessed that the man in front of him was definitely not older than thirty.

What a joke?

A Pseudo Celestial not over thirty years old?

Is there really a martial artist with such terrifying Martial Arts Talent?

All these old foxes had practiced martial arts for decades and had barely entered the Unity Realm to become a Pseudo Celestial, yet someone under thirty had achieved it.

The heavens are too unfair!

At this moment, Eternally Mysterious Taoist was cursing the heavens for their injustice in his heart!

Just then, Eternally Mysterious Taoist asked cautiously, "Who are you? Why has this old man never heard of a martial artist who can enter the Unity Realm before the age of thirty in this world!"

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen smiled faintly and then said, "You came to kill me, yet you do not recognize me. I really wonder why my father, the Sum Emperor, would send people like you."

Upon hearing this, Eternally Mysterious Taoist and the disciples from Fixed Wind Mountain immediately became as guarded as if facing a formidable enemy.

North Prince!!!

This person is actually the North Prince!!!

How could the North Prince possess such high Martial Arts Talent!!!

Considering his age, the North Prince seems not to have even reached twenty years old yet!

He has actually entered the Unity Realm! Become a Pseudo Celestial!

Eternally Mysterious Taoist was stunned for a moment; he had not expected that the young man he was facing was actually the target of their mission!

After a while, Eternally Mysterious Taoist finally came back to his senses, thinking to himself.

Although the North Prince possesses such high Martial Arts Talent, his realm has risen too quickly, which could mean that his foundation is unstable, and may not be able to exhibit the strength of a Pseudo Celestial. In which case, he could not possibly be a match for me.

With this thought, Eternally Mysterious Taoist breathed a sigh of relief, he had almost been intimidated by the North Prince.

Eternally Mysterious Taoist then said, "It is unexpected, Your Highness, that you possess such high Martial Arts Talent, but unfortunately, a genius must be alive to be called a genius."

Lu Chen, with a neutral tone, said, "Does that mean, Eternally Mysterious Taoist, that you believe I am bound to die tonight?"

Upon hearing Lu Chen directly stating his name, Eternally Mysterious Taoist was taken aback once again. He knew North Country had an intelligence agency named the Brocade Guard, but he had not expected them to be so capable as to have already learned his name.

In fact, the Brocade Guard had nothing to do with it, for Lu Chen had identified Eternally Mysterious Taoist the moment he saw him with the help of his system.

Now, Eternally Mysterious Taoist did not intend to waste any more words. The leaves around him continued to gather, and then he shouted, "Let this old man test how strong Your Highness really is!"

In the midst of speaking, countless flying leaves rushed towards Lu Chen.

Chapter 620: Used Less Than 10% of Strength\_1

Seeing these flying leaves, Lu Chen was unimpressed.

Just as the leaves were about to touch Lu Chen's body, the surrounding space-time suddenly paused, and the leaves all hung in mid-air.

A moment later, the leaves wilted down, fluttering through the sky before slowly falling to the ground.

Seeing this, Eternally Mysterious Taoist's face darkened.



He hadn't expected Lu Chen to block his attack so easily; he hadn't even seen how Lu Chen made his move.

No, to be precise, Lu Chen didn't make a move at all!

What was going on?

For a moment, Eternally Mysterious Taoist felt a strong sense of crisis.

At this moment, the forest suddenly became eerily quiet, so quiet that it seemed one could hear their own heartbeat.

Just then, Eternally Mysterious Taoist suddenly made a move again. Countless flying leaves merged into one, and a tangible current of air echoed around his body, swirling the leaves into more than a dozen tornadoes.

The leaves spun steadily in the tornadoes, and soon sword lights appeared.

Eternally Mysterious Taoist didn't believe that Lu Chen could block his attack this time. Seeing Eternally Mysterious Taoist use this move, the disciples of Fixed Wind Mountain exclaimed one after another.

"Whirlwind!"

"This is the old ancestor's signature move!"

"I don't believe that the North Prince can block it this time!"

"Such terrifying power... I never thought I'd see the old ancestor use Whirlwind in my lifetime!"

...

After the tornadoes flew towards Lu Chen, the sword lights inside trembled non-stop, and the power of the tornadoes was terrifying. Everywhere it passed, it ground trees into powder.

This move indeed had great power, but Lu Chen still stood in place, unmoving.

Seeing Lu Chen still standing, Eternally Mysterious Taoist was puzzled.

He couldn't believe anyone could easily catch this move. Even if the other party was a Pseudo Celestial, even the Master of Divine Communication wouldn't dare to face this move head-on. Yet the North Prince was just standing there, unmoved!

Could it be that the North Prince was so intimidated by this move that he forgot to dodge at first?

While Eternally Mysterious Taoist was in a state of confusion, suddenly an elder walked up to Lu Chen's side.

Only then did people realize that there was an old man who looked like an ordinary person next to Lu Chen.

This...

What was this old man doing here?

Just as Eternally Mysterious Taoist and the disciples of Fixed Wind Mountain were baffled, they saw the elder slowly raise his hand, and the next moment, an immense pressure released from the elder's body.

Immediately after, a tangible force of Spiritual Power transformed into a huge palm print that shot toward those tornadoes.

Eternally Mysterious Taoist's face changed dramatically!

This wasn't good!

Before he could warn the people of Fixed Wind Mountain to take cover, the palm print had already quelled the Whirlwind. But it wasn't over; the palm print did not dissipate.

In an instant, Eternally Mysterious Taoist felt an overwhelming sense of despair. He wasn't a fool. Anyone who could so easily block his Whirlwind and unleash such a terrifying pressure was definitely not an ordinary person, and certainly not a Pseudo Celestial like them. This elder's strength was undoubtedly Above Celestials.

What realm is Above Celestials? That would be a Celestial!

North Country actually had a Celestial!

How was that possible!

After the incident with Zhuge Zhongguang, people thought that North Country was merely bluffing under the guise of a "Celestial," that North Country couldn't possibly have a Celestial, which is why they dressed up Zhuge Zhongguang as one.

The Celestial had actually appeared before them!

If they had known that North Country possessed a Celestial, they would have never come to North Country, let alone cooperate with the Sun Emperor, or even leave the mountains in the first place.

For a moment, Eternally Mysterious Taoist was filled with immense regret; they should never have come to North Country.

Eternally Mysterious Taoist clenched his teeth and immediately circulated his full skill throughout his body.

So what if it's a Celestial!

He was, after all, a Pseudo Celestial!

He refused to believe that a Pseudo Celestial had no chance of fighting back in the presence of a Celestial.

With that thought, Eternally Mysterious Taoist converged all his skill into a roaring dragon.

The dragon charged straight towards Xuanyuan Chaoge's palm imprint.

As soon as the palm imprint made contact with the dragon, it exploded instantly, and the subsequent shockwave from the explosion sent warriors of lower realms flying.

When the aftershocks of the explosion had subsided, people could finally see Eternally Mysterious Taoist's condition; he was covered in blood, his clothes in tatters, hanging in strips.

But he did not fall, still standing in his place, and he said with a laugh, "Hahaha, this old man has blocked the attack of a Celestial!"

"What of Celestials! Even if this old man is not a Celestial, nobody can take this old man's life!"

Hearing this, Lu Chen asked Xuanyuan Chaoge who stood beside him, "How much strength did you use?"

Xuanyuan Chaoge replied, "This old servant feared accidentally obliterating him, body and spirit, so I used less than ten percent of my strength."

Hearing Xuanyuan Chaoge's reply, Lu Chen was momentarily stunned.

Ten percent?

The strength of Celestials was truly terrifying indeed.

It seemed that although there was only a single word difference between Celestial and Pseudo Celestial, the disparity was as vast as heaven and earth.

At that moment, Lu Chen continued, "You need not take action anymore; leave the rest to this prince."

Upon hearing this, Xuanyuan Chaoge hesitated for a moment, then quickly said, "Your Majesty, be careful, although he is severely injured, a cornered dog will leap over a wall, and if he plans to self-destruct his Dantian later, it will be difficult for you to avoid it."

Lu Chen indifferently said, "It doesn't matter, before this prince, self-destructing his Dantian won't be so easy."

During the conversation, Lu Chen launched himself with a push of his legs, charging straight at Eternally Mysterious Taoist.

Seeing Lu Chen take action, the disciples from Fixed Wind Mountain instantly panicked, and an Elder from Fixed Wind Mountain swiftly moved to shield Eternally Mysterious Taoist.

He was at the Grandmaster level, and he thought that since the other party was only a Pseudo Celestial, he should be able to block it.

However, as Lu Chen was about to reach them, he suddenly drew a longsword. Lu Chen rarely personally took action, but his moves were incredibly proficient.

The next moment, Lu Chen swung his sword, sending countless beams of Sword Qi towards the Grandmaster Elder like surging waves, as the Elder hastily tried to defend himself with his skill.

But in the next instant, he was sent flying, yet the Sword Qi did not hurt Eternally Mysterious Taoist, as a tangible protective shield appeared before him.

Seeing this scene, Lu Chen said with a smile, "I didn't expect you to still have some energy left!"

Eternally Mysterious Taoist snorted coldly and said, "You petulant child, to think you can kill me! Utterly delusional!"

In the midst of speaking, Eternally Mysterious Taoist suddenly took out a stone. Seeing this, Xuanyuan Chaoge's face changed dramatically. He was about to warn Lu Chen when a terrifying power exploded instantly.

Lu Chen reacted quickly, retreating speedily and then using his Protective Gang Qi to fend off the explosion.

After the explosion had ended, Eternally Mysterious Taoist was nowhere to be seen, and Lu Chen immediately realized that the man had seen he couldn't win, so he had decided to escape.

Lu Chen promptly said to Xuanyuan Chaoge, "Lord Xuanyuan, bring him back!"

No sooner had Lu Chen's words fallen than Xuanyuan Chaoge's body disappeared from the spot. At this moment, Lu Chen glanced at the people from Fixed Wind Mountain, noticing their loyalty was largely negative. Knowing he couldn't win them over, he directly instructed the soldiers behind him, "Kill them all!"

The next moment, the sounds of cannon and gunfire echoed through the woods, and soon only bodies were left scattered everywhere.