

## Es. Benefits 671

Chapter 671 There is no way back for Solitude\_3

"Even if she were defeated by you, she would most likely take her own life. You can forget about having her body."

Lu Chen laughed, unconcerned, "How can we know without trying?"

"But anyway, there's no point in talking about her right now. The battle between the North Country and Great Jue won't come so soon. Let's talk about us instead."

Wu Junwan said coldly, "I've already become your pet. What is there left to discuss between us?"

Wu Junwan felt that she was now just a plaything for Lu Chen, but she had let go of her past obsessions and somehow felt that this life might not be so bad for her.

As long as she treated this young man in her heart as her own lover, it wouldn't be so hard to bear.

...

Half a month passed in a blink of an eye.

During this time, Lu Chen was waiting for the arrival of Chen Wanrong. However, she hadn't come down from the mountain yet, which made Lu Chen suspect that her master was preventing Chen Wanrong from coming to be close to him.

In these two weeks, the Brocade Guard was extremely busy. With the higher-ranked members unable to be deployed and the workload increasing, they had to investigate the item transported back from the South by the Heavy Cavalry, as well as the whereabouts of the Crown Prince, all of which kept the lower-ranked Brocade Guards on edge.

Anping City.

The soldiers at the city gates were checking the passing caravans. Meanwhile, a trade convoy slowly approached the gates of Anping City. Inside one of the carriages, a man showed a nervous expression.

Beside the man sat an exquisitely beautiful woman in purple gauze, her face showing concern, "Darling, will the North Prince truly accept us?"

The man, furrowing his brows, said, "I still have some information he wants to know. As long as he's willing to receive us, I'll tell him everything."

The woman replied, "After all, you are his elder brother. If he also covets the throne, it's very likely he won't let you live."

Although Great Xia had long abandoned the primogeniture system, there was still a conservative faction that yearned for it.

If Prince Lu Yi were not dead, there would naturally be those with ulterior motives gathering around him, then trying to incite him.

Therefore, the woman was unsure whether the North Prince would give them refuge.

Upon hearing her words, the man's complexion darkened and became very ugly, "Now I have no way out."

Soon, the convoy arrived at the checkpoint at the city gate.

Prince Lu Yi's guard hurriedly approached the checkpoint, hoping to bribe the inspecting soldiers with silver, but the soldiers didn't accept their bribe.

Seeing this through the curtains, Prince Lu Yi grew worried.

At that moment, his guard said they were a grain-carrying merchant convoy from the Capital city.

When the soldier heard this, he insisted on checking the people in the carriage.

As the guards hesitated, Prince Lu Yi coughed from inside the carriage, "Let them check!"

The main reason they managed to escape to Anping City was their disguises; the Crown Princess Consort had remarkable Disguise Skills.

In this situation, it was unlikely anyone would recognize them.

Following that, the soldiers began checking systematically, and soon one of them opened the carriage curtain, briefly scanning the people inside.

Seeing nothing amiss, the soldier let them pass without causing any trouble.

After successfully entering Anping City, Prince Lu Yi finally breathed a sigh of relief.

By entering Anping City, which meant reaching the territory of the North Country, he expected the Shadow Guards would not dare to cause trouble within the North Country.

As the caravan slowly moved into Anping City, the soldier who had been in charge of the inspection immediately said to the soldier beside him, wearing black and red attire, "Inform the Prince immediately. The target has safely arrived in the North Country."

Chapter 672 Xue Linglong\_1

Lu Yi thought that after they disguised themselves, no one would recognize them; evidently, they had underestimated the capabilities of the Brocade Guard.

The Brocade Guard easily deduced that Lu Yi was the missing Crown Prince, judging by their clothes, carriage, and the guards they had with them.

News of Lu Yi's arrival at Anping City soon reached Lu Chen's ears. On hearing of Lu Yi's arrival in Anping City, Lu Chen immediately dispatched Liang Zong to Anping City to personally escort Lu Yi to Yan County.

After arriving at Anping City, Lu Yi and the entourage of the East Palace did not rush to meet Lu Chen, as Lu Yi was still uncertain about Lu Chen's attitude toward him.

If Lu Chen did not want to directly conflict with their father, the Emperor, now, he might very well have him apprehended and sent back to the Capital city.

Although he held some information that Lu Chen might want to know, he was still somewhat worried.

Lu Yi spent most of these days staying inside the inn, only occasionally going out for a stroll.

As a vital thoroughfare for the Great Sum merchant caravans heading to Yan County, Anping City had already become very prosperous, with many novelties rarely seen in the Capital city.

These days, what Lu Yi paid most attention to were the newspapers published in Anping City. He had someone buy newspapers every day, and then he would read through all the contents scrupulously.

Nighttime.

Inside the Rain-listening Inn.

Lu Yi was in the room of the Crown Princess Consort, Xue Linglong. Seeing Lu Yi looking at the newspaper with a grave expression, Xue Linglong asked, "Darling, it's been almost half a month now, are we still going to Yan County?"

Lu Yi put down the newspaper and said, "Yes, right now our only option is to seek asylum with the North Prince."

A trace of worry appeared in Xue Linglong's eyes, "Darling, why don't we change our names and live a peaceful life from now on? In the past few days, I've noticed quite a few merchants from other regions of Great Sum applying for new identities in the North Country. We might as well apply for a new identity too."

Hearing this, Lu Yi's expression darkened instantly, and he said displeased, "I have no intention of giving up just like that!"

"And even if we truly changed our names, we would be found out one day."

Just as Xue Linglong was about to say more, Lu Yi interrupted her, "Don't speak further, I've made up my mind."

Lu Yi was unwilling to accept defeat just like this; he believed he still had a chance for a comeback. As long as he could win over Lu Chen, and then borrow some troops from him, he could have a chance to take over a Seignior's feudal state and then climb up step by step.

As for returning to the Capital city, he saw little possibility in the short term, considering the Emperor, his father, had already recovered.

For now, he could only wait for the right moment and take things slowly.

Seeing Lu Yi's determination, Xue Linglong sighed softly, "I understand."

At that moment, Lu Yi stood up from his seat, placed the newspaper on the table, and headed straight for the door. "Let's rest early tonight. I still have to practice my cultivation," he said.

Xue Linglong raised her hand, intending to hold Lu Yi back, but he opened the door, walked out of the room, and then the door closed with a loud "bang."

Xue Linglong was slightly stunned, and the next moment, her disappointed expression on her face turned cold, as if the emotions she had just shown were all an act.

After a while, a shadow entered the room through the window. The person was Yu Tianlu, Lu Yi's current strongest guard and a Grandmaster, although he had never revealed his Grandmaster strength in front of Lu Yi.

"Saintess, are we really going to follow Lu Yi to Yan County?"

"There might be Celestials in Yan County. If the Celestials discover we are from the Taiyin Divine Sect, I fear..."

With a cold expression, Xue Linglong said, "With the Yin Yang Mirror, even Celestials won't be able to discern my true identity."

"The North Prince having gained such powerful strength in such a short period indicates he may well be the fated one we have been looking for. If we could sacrifice him, it would surely resurrect our Sect Hierarchy. Once the Sect Hierarchy is revived, all of us from the Taiyin Divine Sect will be able to ascend to the Immortal Realm!"

Yu Tianlu replied, "I understand."

Xue Linglong then asked, "Have we come to a conclusion about that matter?"

Yu Tianlu answered, "We have, and it's almost certain that it was the work of the Sum Emperor's Shadow Guards."

With a sneer, Xue Linglong said, "The great dynasties are quick to label us a Demon Sect, yet their deeds are not much different from ours."

Continuing, Xue Linglong asked, "Have we discovered why the Sum Emperor is capturing so many Martial Artists?"

Yu Tianlu replied, "That remains unclear for the moment."

Xue Linglong instructed, "Tell them to keep investigating. Once the reason is found, reveal publicly what the Great Xia royal family has been doing, and let the world see just what filthy deeds the ruler of a nation, the Sum Emperor, has committed."

"Yes, I understand," he said.



"If there's nothing else, I shall take my leave," he added.

Coldly, Xue Linglong said, "You may leave."

With that, Yu Tianlu left the room.

No sooner had Yu Tianlu left than the Jinyiwei Guard surrounded the Rain-listening Inn, where Lu Yi and his group were staying. Sensing the commotion outside, Xue Linglong's brow furrowed slightly.

Then she raised her delicate hands to rub her throat, and immediately after, she pushed open the door, rushing to Lu Yi's room and knocked on the door, saying, "Darling, it's not good, there are so many soldiers outside!"

Lu Yi, who was practicing evil cultivation, heard the noise outside and quickly opened the window to look downstairs.

Seeing that the soldiers had completely surrounded the inn, Lu Yi suddenly felt extremely tense, as it was highly likely that they were here for them, and their identities had probably been exposed.

He didn't expect that even Xue Linglong's excellent disguise skills could be seen through.

Just then, Liang Zong introduced himself to the crowd in Rain-listening Inn, saying, "I am Liang Zong, Commander of the Jinyiwei Guard of the North Country, ordered by the Prince to escort the guests inside to Yan County!"

Hearing this, the other guests in the inn were confused, as they were not sure who Liang Zong was referring to—since he did not specify, nor did he say any names outright, how could anyone know whom they were seeking?

Lu Yi couldn't help but think, could it be that these people weren't looking for him?

While Lu Yi was thinking this, Liang Zong spoke again, "The guest in the inn with the last name Lu, by the North Prince's order, please honor us with your and your lady's presence as our guests in Yan County!"

Seeing Liang Zong being so straightforward, Lu Yi was almost certain that they were indeed here for him.

Since they had been found out, there was no need to continue hiding. In any case, he had been planning to go to Yan County to seek troops from the North Prince.

Immediately, Lu Yi opened the door and stepped onto the corridor. Seeing Lu Yi come out, Xue Linglong put on a frightened look and said, "Darling, what shall we do now?"

Lu Yi responded, "Since they already know we are here, there's no need to hide any further. Let's go down."

At the sound of his voice, Lu Yi began heading downstairs.

Xue Linglong hurriedly followed him.

Soon, Lu Yi walked out of the main entrance of Rain-listening Pavilion, directly approaching Liang Zong and stating, "I am the one with the surname Lu."

Liang Zong gave a respectful bow to Lu Yi and then said, "We have prepared a carriage for you, please!"

Immediately after, Lu Yi, followed by the people from East Palace, went with Liang Zong to Yan County.

A few days later.

Upon their arrival at Yan County, Lu Chen did not come to greet Lu Yi, but instead had Liang Zong take them directly to a mansion prepared by the Prefecture Governor for Lu Yi and his party.

After stepping off the carriage, Lu Yi glanced at the mansion before him. Seeing that it was not North Prince Mansion, Lu Yi asked, "When can I meet with my ninth brother?"

Now that they were alone, Lu Yi reverted to speaking of himself in the first person and ceased the pretense.

Liang Zong said with a smile, "Crown Prince, please wait a moment. The Prince will arrive shortly."

"This is the mansion the Prince has prepared for you; from now on, you'll live here. Should you need anything, you may inform the Jinyiwei Guard at any time."

Without thinking too much, Lu Yi, together with his entourage and guards, went straight into the mansion.

After entering, the servants and guards immediately began to get things in order, while Lu Yi, sitting in the courtyard, appeared somewhat anxious.

He was unsure about Lu Chen's attitude toward him, and at this moment, his heart was filled with urgency, eager to meet with Lu Chen and ascertain his thoughts.

After what seemed like an eternity, possibly several hours long, an attendant finally entered the courtyard and announced, "Your Highness, the North Prince has arrived!"

Hearing this, Lu Yi quickly headed with Xue Linglong to the entrance of the mansion to personally welcome Lu Chen.

After Lu Chen alighted from the carriage, he took a quick look at Lu Yi and Xue Linglong.

Lu Chen with a smile said, "Welcome, brother and sister-in-law, to be my guests here!"

At this point, Lu Chen's gaze swept back and forth over Xue Linglong. For some reason, he felt that his sister-in-law seemed quite different from before.

In the Capital City, although he didn't see Xue Linglong often, he had seen her several times. Back then, she certainly didn't have the same charm she had now.

Having dealt with many women, Lu Chen had some insight into a woman's true nature.

At this moment, Lu Chen used his system to check Xue Linglong's profile.

[Name: Xue Linglong]

[Identity: Saintess of the Taiyin Divine Sect, Crown Princess Consort of Great Xia, sister-in-law of the North Prince, a Grandmaster of thirty years of age. Originally infiltrated Lu Yi's side in an attempt to help him seize the throne and then control the entire Great Xia Dynasty.

After Lu Yi's failed coup, she followed him northward, intending to approach the North Prince through Lu Yi, then sacrifice the North Prince's flesh and blood to resurrect the Sect Hierarch of the Taiyin Divine Sect. When she married Lu Yi, she bestowed upon him a manual of evil cultivation.

Due to his frequent practice of evil cultivation, this led to a lifetime of impotence, and he will be without an heir, so Xue Linglong remains intact.]

[Rating: 98]

[Favorability: 30]

Upon seeing the information in front of him, Lu Chen was taken aback.

So his sister-in-law was a member of the Demon Sect! No wonder Lu Yi was bold enough to stage a coup in the Capital City—there was the support of the Demon Sect behind him.

#### Chapter 673 Lu Yi's Little Scheme\_1

Seeing Lu Chen's gaze fixed on Xue Linglong beside him, Lu Yi's brows furrowed.

He suddenly remembered the rumors he had heard in the past, that his ninth brother was a lecher who would do everything in his power to possess beautiful women he saw.

Even Chu Yuqin, Lu Chen had not spared.

Lu Yi immediately felt a bit displeased inside. Though he had never touched Xue Linglong's body since their marriage, after all, she was nominally his Crown Princess Consort, his woman.

That Lu Chen actually coveted his woman was something no man could tolerate.

At that moment, Lu Chen turned to Xue Linglong and said, "Sister-in-law, it's been years since we last met. You've grown even more beautiful than I remembered."

Upon hearing these words, Xue Linglong was slightly stunned, and then she looked fearfully at Lu Yi beside her.

"Ninth brother must be joking. I am getting older and should only become uglier, not more beautiful."

Lu Chen smiled and said, "A woman only grows more dignified with maturity, becoming ever more beautiful. A woman of such grace as my sister-in-law will never become ugly."

Lu Yi couldn't stand listening any longer and directly said to Lu Chen, "Ninth brother, I owe you a lot for taking us in this time. Otherwise, I would have had nowhere to go."

Lu Chen said, "Brother and I share the same blood. It is only natural that I should help out when brother is in trouble."

"In the future, if brother needs anything in the North Country, just ask. As long as it's within my power, I will do my best to fulfill brother's request."

Lu Chen had no intention of getting Lu Yi to spill his secrets today; after all, Lu Yi had only arrived in Yan County that day.

At this, Lu Yi sighed and said, "Ninth brother, we brothers always thought that once you got your fiefdom, you would just live out your life in a muddleheaded way. We didn't expect you to not only bring a prosperous life to the common people of the North Country but also amass such formidable military strength. We all misjudged you."

"If ninth brother had displayed your talents in the Capital city, father would have probably made you the Crown Prince by now, and we brothers would have been utterly convinced."

Lu Chen smiled and then said, "I'm not greatly interested in that position. You, brother, have held the regency for a time; surely, you've seen through the intrigue on the court."

"Rather than play wits with those ministers, isn't it more enjoyable to come to the North Country and be a carefree prince? Brother, wouldn't you agree?"

Lu Yi smiled and said, "What ninth brother says is true."

At that moment, Lu Chen said, "Brother, I still have things to attend to, so I'll head back first."

With that, Lu Chen's gaze swept over Xue Linglong again.

Clad in a light purple gauzy long dress, the garment hugged her voluptuous and graceful figure. Although she appeared dignified and elegant, Lu Chen always sensed a wild streak about her.

Lu Chen thought to himself that this woman was indeed beautiful, but somewhat ruthless.

She had actually given Lu Yi a eunuch's Cultivation Technique to practice, turning Lu Yi into a eunuch by force.

No wonder Qin Yuwei was still intact when she was sent to the North Prince Mansion; he had caught a break. He had truly believed that his older brother was so immersed in martial arts that he had no interest in beautiful women when, in fact, he was incapable of such interests.

Lu Yi smiled and said, "Good, ninth brother, you go ahead with what you have to do. I won't hold you up."

Afterward, Lu Chen turned and left Lu Mansion.



No sooner had Lu Chen left than Lu Yi's face darkened, and he lashed out furiously at Xue Linglong.

"Linglong, could it be that you think I am no longer the Crown Prince, devoid of power, so you wish to abandon me and cozy up with my ninth brother? You want to seduce him!"

"What a shameless woman!"

Although Lu Yi verbally berated Xue Linglong, he did not lay a hand on her; her status was too special, and he dared not strike her.

Hearing this, Xue Linglong put on a panicked expression. She quickly said, "Your Highness, it was the North Prince who kept looking at me. I would not dare entertain such thoughts. In life, I belong to Your Highness, and in death, I will be Your Highness's ghost."

Lu Yi snorted coldly and said, "Everyone says the North Prince is lecherous, that he'd not let any beautiful woman he sees slip by. Today I witnessed it firsthand, coveting even his own sister-in-law!"

Xue Linglong meekly said, "In the future, I will remain honestly within the mansion and never go out. That way, the North Prince will no longer see me."

Lu Yi was about to say something when his mind suddenly seized, and an idea struck him.

Wait a minute...

If the North Prince truly lusted after Xue Linglong's body, could this be exploited?

If Xue Linglong could captivate the North Prince's heart, couldn't he propose certain conditions to the North Prince more easily later on?

With this thought, Lu Yi's expression softened considerably, but when he considered that he had not yet enjoyed the company of his own Crown Princess Consort, and now he might have to let her entice another man, he felt extremely irritated inside.

But for the sake of his greater ambition, this small sacrifice was worth it, especially since he had no real intention of handing over Xue Linglong to the North Prince.

The Xue Family and the Taiyin Divine Sect were closely connected; if he truly gave Xue Linglong to the North Prince, he would lose the chance to use the Taiyin Divine Sect for his own purposes.

At that moment, a slight smile appeared on Lu Yi's face. Then, he said to Xue Linglong beside him, "Linglong, I truly apologize. I should not have shouted at you just now."

Chapter 674 Lu Yi's Little Scheme\_2

"There's no need for you to stay in the mansion all the time. Now that we are on North Prince's territory, we should naturally build good relations with the people of North Prince Mansion. You should find more opportunities to visit North Prince Mansion and interact with the Queen of North Prince,"

Xue Linglong instantly saw through Lu Yi's crafty thoughts, but she didn't expose him because her original intention was to get close to the North Prince anyway.

Xue Linglong then said, "Your concubine understands."

...

At night.

During dinner, Lu Chen said to Mu Zixuan and the others, "Prince Lu Yi's family has come to Yan County."

Upon hearing this, the women were momentarily stunned.

Prince Lu Yi?

Hadn't Prince Lu Yi disappeared after launching a military coup? How did his family suddenly appear in North Country, and why in Yan County?

They quickly realized it was likely Lu Chen who brought them to Yan County; it seemed he thought they still held value and decided to protect them.

This was a matter for men, and Mu Zixuan and the others had no intention of prying too deeply.

At this moment, Lu Chen said to Mu Zixuan, "My darling, from now on, try to interact more with Queen Linglong."

Hearing this, Mu Zixuan was taken aback at first, but she quickly understood Lu Chen's intention, "Your concubine understands."

Lu Chen continued, "Today, I just found out that my sister-in-law is no ordinary woman; she is actually a Grandmaster."

At this revelation, Chu Yuqin was startled. She turned to Lu Chen and asked, "A Grandmaster? Could she really be a Grandmaster? Isn't Queen Linglong only thirty years old this year?"

Chu Yuqin was quite surprised. Although Xue Linglong was about her age and was known as the well-taught daughter of the Xue Family, proficient in music, chess, calligraphy, and painting, there had been no word of her practicing martial arts. How could she have broken through to the Grandmaster Realm at such an age?

Even though Chu Yuqin was a Grandmaster herself, she knew very well that without Lu Chen's dual cultivation technique and his Immortal Pill, she would likely have been stuck at the Master Realm for life, unable to advance to grandmaster status.

Xue Linglong did not have Lu Chen's assistance, yet she was also a Grandmaster.

Something was not right...

In an instant, Chu Yuqin realized that Xue Linglong might not be the person she remembered, and it was even possible that she was not the same person at all.

She quickly warned, "Chen'er, this Queen Linglong is a big issue, beware that she might have other motives."

Lu Chen said with a smile, "I'm just afraid she doesn't have other motives."

This...

Chu Yuqin looked at Lu Chen skeptically.

This little rascal wasn't a fool and must have realized that Xue Linglong had some thoughts, but why then did Lu Chen still encourage the Queen to engage more with Xue Linglong?

Chu Yuqin didn't dwell on it further. She turned to Mu Zixuan and said, "Zixuan, if you interact with that Queen in the future, make sure to call me along."

Since the other party was a Grandmaster, Chu Yuqin was worried that Xue Linglong might harm Mu Zixuan or someone else from the North Prince Mansion.

Mu Zixuan responded, "Alright, Sister Chu."

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A few days later.

Lu Chen visited Lu Mansion again.

Upon entering the Lu Mansion, he was led into the reception hall by a servant.

At this time, Lu Yi asked, "Little Brother, do you have any business visiting this time?"

Lu Chen said with a smile, "I just wanted to see if my brother was settling in well here and if there was anything you needed."

Lu Yi replied immediately, "I'm adapting, very well, and there's nothing I need at the moment."

As he spoke, Lu Yi continued, "Little Brother, please take a seat. Someone, prepare tea."

Lu Chen then sat down beside him, and now just the two of them were in the reception hall. Just as Lu Chen was about to inquire about affairs in the Capital city from Lu Yi, Xue Linglong slowly walked in from outside. Dressed in a purple silk dress, she exuded the charm of a beautiful married woman all over.

Lu Chen's gaze fell directly on Xue Linglong, and seeing this, Lu Yi didn't get angry this time; instead, the corners of his mouth slightly lifted.

He had basically confirmed that his younger brother was coveting Xue Linglong's beauty.

At that moment, Xue Linglong spoke, "Little Brother, you've arrived."

Xue Linglong carried a seductive aura with every lift of her head and step she took.

Lu Chen said with a smile, "I haven't seen my sister-in-law for a few days, and you've become even more beautiful."

Xue Linglong replied with a smiling face, "Little Brother, you have such sweet words. No wonder so many women want to marry you."

Lu Yi said indifferently at that point, "Linglong, you should sit as well."

"Yes, darling," Xue Linglong replied and sat down in a wooden chair.

After the servant had served the tea, Lu Chen then said, "Brother, I have a question, but I'm not sure if I should ask."

Lu Yi said, "Please go ahead, Little Brother."

Lu Chen said, "Brother, you know that I've always supported you in taking that position, and I've always considered you to be a mature and steady man. Moreover, you were the Crown Prince already, bound to sit on the throne sooner or later. Why were you in such a hurry this time?"

Hearing this question, Lu Yi sighed, "Ah, I didn't want to do it either, but if I hadn't acted, I might have lost my life."

"You must have heard about the Lin Family's conspiracy to poison Father, in collusion with some foreign seigniors a while back?"

Lu Chen said, "Yes, I know about it, but I heard the Lin Family was framed."

Lu Yi sighed deeply again, "How could it be a frame-up with both human and material evidence? The Lin Family could clear their name so easily mainly because of the wind that Concubine Yu, Father's favorite, blew into his ears, convincing him that someone framed the Lin Family."

Chapter 675 Lu Yi's Little Scheme\_3

"Despite Lin Gaoyuan being released, Father Emperor actually believed that everything was done by Prime Minister Zhao. Without any evidence, he arrested Prime Minister Zhao and a group of ministers, and I was suddenly left alone," he said.

"Moreover, Concubine Yu ceaselessly bewitched Father Emperor in front of him, making him think that I was the mastermind behind everything. I heard that Father Emperor not only plans to appoint a new Crown Prince but also intends to poison me with a cup of poisoned wine. Under such circumstances, if I do not rebel, is there any way for me to survive?"

Lu Chen responded, "So that's what happened, I was wondering why Yi was in such a hurry."

"Do you think, then, that the Lin Family is colluding with that Seignior?"



Lu Yi answered, "It's likely Zhao King. Zhao King's power is now great, having destroyed several feudal states already. In less than two years, Zhao King will inevitably be at the gates of the Capital city."

Lu Yi sighed again, "Father Emperor has been blinded by traitors. I heard that the Lin Family somehow came into possession of a so-called 'Immortal Pill' that temporarily restored Father Emperor's clarity. He truly believes that it's a life-saving Immortal Pill, so he increasingly trusts the Lin Family. Little does he know, there's no way that could be a real Immortal Pill.

I consulted with the physicians of the Imperial Medical Bureau; such a pill can temporarily drain a person's life force, making it seem as though they have recovered their health, but in reality, anyone who takes such a pill will only get sicker."

Seeing Lu Yi with such a pained expression, Lu Chen couldn't help but laugh inwardly. His elder brother was indeed good at performing. If he didn't know what was really going on, he might have actually been fooled by him.

At that moment, Lu Yi suddenly thought of something, and then said to Lu Chen, "Ninth brother, there's something you might not know about that could shake the foundation of the Great Sum Country if it were to get out. I stumbled upon it by chance, and I still can't believe that Father Emperor would do such a thing."

Hearing this, Lu Chen feigned curiosity and asked, "What is it? That serious?"

Lu Yi glanced at the maids in the hall and then waved for them to leave.

After the maids left and the one at the door closed the hall's door, Lu Yi finally whispered, "You may have heard that many Martial Artists have mysteriously disappeared within the Great Sum Realm, right?"

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen frowned, his interest piqued.

He had only pretended to be casually curious before, but now he was genuinely intrigued.

After all, the Brocade Guard had not found much information related to this so far. If Lu Yi really knew something, it would be effortless good fortune.

Lu Chen then said, "I've heard about it as well. Is the matter Yi is speaking of related to the disappearance of the Great Sum Martial Artists?"

Lu Yi said with a panicked look, "Yes, it is."

Lu Chen showed an incredulous look, pressing further, "Could it be... Father Emperor is responsible for this?"

Lu Yi whispered, "It's hard to believe, isn't it? When I first heard about this, I couldn't believe that it was related to Father Emperor either."

Lu Chen asked, "What would Father Emperor want with so many Martial Artists?"

Lu Yi replied, "I heard that Father Emperor obtained a sinister artifact capable of absorbing the skill and essence blood of Martial Artists. Rumor has it that one can achieve immortality or break through to the Celestial Realm with that artifact. Remember when Father Emperor sent the Heavy Cavalry to the South some time ago? Those soldiers were tasked with transporting this object back."

"When I started my coup, I managed to win over a Colonel from the Heavy Cavalry involved in the transport of that item. He told me that before they transported the item, they sacrificed many Martial Artists. Furthermore, ever since those Heavy Cavalry soldiers returned, they've been dying one by one. That's why the Colonel decided to defect to me.

And when we stormed the Imperial Palace, I personally saw the soldiers' blood being sucked away by something, turning them into mummies in an instant."

As he spoke, Lu Yi's face showed a look of terror.

Hearing this from Lu Yi, Xue Linglong at his side also frowned slightly. Although she knew this matter was related to the Sum Emperor, she didn't expect that Lu Yi was also aware of it, and that he knew even more than her. Moreover, Lu Yi had never mentioned it to her before, and had only revealed it now in the presence of North Prince.

Chapter 676 Lu Yi Borrows Troops\_1

Having heard Lu Yi's words, Lu Chen's brows were deeply furrowed into the character for "river."

He had long suspected that this matter was likely related to his own father, the Sum Emperor, and he had also guessed that his father might be practicing a cultivation technique similar to the Absorption Technique. However, he hadn't suspected that his father was capturing those martial artists not only for their skill but also for their vital essence.

Draining people dry to the point of turning them into mummies? How does that not sound like something from the Demon Sect?

After a moment of silence, Lu Chen looked at Lu Yi and asked, "Elder brother, do you have concrete evidence that those martial artists who disappeared from the Great Sum were taken by the Sum Emperor's orders?"

Lu Yi said, "No, I don't have that."

"But think about it, Ninth Brother, aside from the Sum Emperor's Shadow Guards, what other organization or force could accomplish this without anyone noticing?"

"Moreover, the Sum Emperor just happened to obtain such an evil artifact. If it weren't for him, who else could it be? The most crucial point is, I personally witnessed the scene where the soldiers were drained into mummies, so it's highly likely that the Sum Emperor is the mastermind behind the disappearances of the Great Sum martial artists!"

After listening to Lu Yi, Lu Chen pondered for a moment. So, Lu Yi didn't have direct evidence, but his deductions were not without merit. If the Sum Emperor truly possessed such an evil artifact, it was unlikely he wouldn't use it.

If the Sum Emperor intended to use that artifact, he couldn't possibly do so openly, let alone publicly killing people for sacrifices. The only possibility would be to covertly capture some martial artists from other forces for the sacrifice.

After all, just hearing about it sounded like something of the Demon Sect. If the world were to learn of the Sum Emperor's affiliation with the Demon Sect, it wouldn't take long before the major orthodox forces would unite and come to the Capital City to trouble the Sum Emperor.

Seeing that Lu Chen remained silent, Lu Yi asked, "Do you think that the disappearances of those martial artists are unrelated to our father, the Sum Emperor?"

Lu Chen came back to his senses, "It's not that, but I am wondering who gave that evil artifact to our father, the Sum Emperor."

Lu Yi said, "I heard that the Sum Emperor once sent people to search for something at sea. Perhaps that evil artifact originated from the ocean."

Hearing this, Lu Chen was stunned.

From the ocean?

Could it possibly be something from Fengyin Island?

It seems there is more to Fengyin Island than expected. Once I take control of the Great Sum, I must send people to Fengyin Island for an investigation as soon as possible.

At this moment, Lu Yi glanced at Lu Chen's reaction and tentatively said, "Now that our father, the Sum Emperor, has obtained such an evil artifact, if he manages to activate it, the State Preceptor could become a Celestial."

Lu Chen replied with a smile, "The State Preceptor becoming a Celestial is a good thing, isn't it? Perhaps the internal conflicts within the Great Sum will soon come to an end."

Hearing this, Lu Yi immediately said, "Ninth Brother, there's no need for such talk in front of me. We both clearly understand that once the State Preceptor becomes a Celestial, the Sum Emperor might very well harbor ill intentions toward the North Country."

"I've heard that a Celestial from the Mysterious Moon Palace might have visited the North Country. You, Ninth Brother, should be quite aware of the strength of a Celestial."

Lu Yi was also aware of the incidents involving the Eternally Mysterious Taoist and the Master of Divine Communication. After all, the commotion at that time was so great that some rumors inevitably leaked out. Like the Sun Emperor, Lu Yi believed that the Sect Hierarch and the Eternally Mysterious Taoist were killed by a Celestial from the Mysterious Moon Palace.

Therefore, in his view, the Celestial from the Mysterious Moon Palace must have some connection to his Ninth Brother.

Lu Chen thought for a moment, then asked, "Then, in Yi's opinion, what should I do now that would be best?"

Lu Yi said, "The disappearance of the martial artists began to show signs a few months ago, and now it's feared that several tens of thousands of martial artists of the fifth rank and above have vanished. I suspect that Father's treasure must have absorbed enough essence and blood, and perhaps it has already enabled the State Preceptor, or someone else, to become a Celestial.

The Imperial Palace probably already has a Celestial in place."

Hearing this, Lu Chen thought to himself that Lu Yi was laying the groundwork for something, unsure of what Lu Yi wanted to say next.

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Yi, just say whatever you want to say."

Seeing that Lu Chen had put it that way, Lu Yi directly said, "How about Ninth Brother lend me some troops and horses, and I'll take over the territory on the western side of Qi Country. Then, I'll gather forces and test the defenses of the Capital City for you."

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen chuckled inwardly. So this was the big brother's plan—he was wondering why, after the failed uprising, Lu Yi had run to the north.

Seeing no change in Lu Chen's expression, Lu Yi continued, "Ninth Brother, you might not know this, but after Zhao King annihilated Huai Country, the remnants of Huai Prince and their soldiers occupied Heyang County beneath Yongan County. Now Heyang County is beyond the court's control."

Lu Chen smiled. How could he possibly not know about such a thing?

Lu Chen then said, "Yi, you taking over Heyang County isn't really for testing out the Capital City's situation for me, is it?"

Lu Yi said, "Now that treacherous courtiers hold sway and control the court, even Father has been deceived. Could Yi bear to see Great Sum eventually fall into the hands of non-kin?"

"I know Ninth Brother must have thought about descending south to support the king, but if you do so at this time, you will inevitably be branded a traitor. Additionally, the policies you've implemented in North Country have made all the aristocratic families within Great Sum fear you.

Once you go south, they will surely unite to stop your southbound march to support the king, and at that point, you'll be even less popular."

"Plus, you can't be sure if the Capital City already has a Celestial now. If the Capital City already has a Celestial, even if you lead your troops there, protected by a Celestial, you might still be unable to eliminate the treacherous courtiers. In that case, you would only be forced to leave Great Sum and return to North Country to continue being North Prince."

"But I am different. Although my rebellion failed, I am the legitimate eldest son; there are still many in Great Sum who support me. As long as I take Heyang County, there will surely be many forces and just individuals who will join me."

"Once my power has grown, I'll lead troops towards the Capital City in the name of supporting the king. Even if I fail in the end, it will not be a great loss to you. You won't just avoid losses, but I'll also have helped you test the strength held by the Capital City, and even whether or not there's a Celestial. Moreover, you won't have to bear the infamy of being a traitor."

Hearing Lu Yi's novel argument, Lu Chen couldn't help but smile; Lu Yi's idea really was quite interesting.

Just as Lu Chen was about to refuse, he suddenly thought of something. If there really existed such an evil treasure capable of allowing one to directly break through to become a Celestial, then he would probably not be able to proceed as originally planned.

If that were the case, then perhaps what Lu Yi had proposed did have some feasibility.

At that thought, Lu Chen's expression changed, and he said earnestly, "Yi, this matter is of great significance. Let me think it over; I can't give you an immediate response."

Lu Yi said, "No matter, Ninth Brother can think it over slowly. I just hope Ninth Brother understands that if I succeed in supporting the king, I will certainly share the throne with Ninth Brother in the future, and my promise to you during the regency remains valid."



Lu Chen said, "I understand. I have other matters today, so I'll take my leave now."

Lu Chen then stood up, and Lu Yi quickly stood as well, saying, "Let me see you out."

Chapter 677 Xue Linglong It seems that the North Prince's Mansion has quite a few secrets!\_1

After Lu Yi escorted Lu Chen to the door, he watched Lu Chen's carriage depart into the distance. At that moment, Xue Linglong said beside Lu Yi, "Darling, didn't you say earlier that the North Prince is plotting to take over the entire realm? Then, for him, wouldn't it make sense to march directly south under the pretext of supporting the emperor? Why lend troops to you?"

Hearing Xue Linglong's question, Lu Yi looked at the receding carriage that Lu Chen was in and chuckled lightly, then replied, "Because he cannot be certain whether there truly is a Celestial in the Capital city."

"The North Country's weapons may indeed be formidable, but they are practically useless before a Celestial."

"Although he has some connection with the Mysterious Moon Palace, it is rather unlikely that the Celestial from the Mysterious Moon Palace will do whatever he commands, especially if there might already be a Celestial in the Capital city. Under such circumstances, the Celestial from the Mysterious Moon Palace probably would not risk aiding him in a southern march to support the emperor."

"Although my coup failed, there are still many who support me—after all, I am the legitimate eldest son. As soon as I take control of Heyang County, and call upon the realm to support the emperor in my name, there will surely be numerous powers who will join me."

"By that time, I will be able to amass a vast force and lead them towards the Capital city once again."

"The force that I gather will not only help the North Prince exhaust the imperial army's manpower, but also likely reveal whether there is a Celestial in the Capital city. The North Prince only needs to pay a minimal price, and I believe he should know how to choose."

Having heard Lu Yi's words, Xue Linglong thought to herself that she had originally thought Lu Yi was just a good-for-nothing, not realizing that he had some tricks up his sleeve.

However, it was not certain that the North Prince would agree.

If the North Prince was confident in his own strength, he would probably opt to march south to support the emperor directly, without any need to use Lu Yi to test the imperial court's power.

Now it all depended on what the North Prince was thinking.

After Lu Chen returned to the North Prince Mansion, he immediately summoned Zhuge Zhongguang to the study and relayed to him what Lu Yi had said.

When Zhuge Zhongguang heard that the Sum Emperor might possess an evil artifact which could directly advance someone to the Heavenly Human Realm, even he was momentarily stunned. If the Sum Emperor truly had such an artifact, it was likely that a being of the Heavenly Human Realm already existed in the Capital city.

This was extremely disadvantageous for the North Country.

Although the North Country also had a Celestial, when it came to a battle between Celestials, there were too many unknowns—no one knew whether the North Country's Celestial was more formidable or the Capital city's Celestial.

And that evil artifact might not just be capable of creating one Celestial; it could potentially produce many more. If the North Country rashly launched a campaign southward, they might very well hit a snag.

After a moment of silence, Zhuge Zhongguang said, "Prince, if such an evil artifact really exists, we might need to take our time composing a strategy."

Lu Chen then asked, "Great Scholar, have you ever heard of an artifact like this that could allow someone to break through to the Heavenly Human Realm?"

Zhuce Zhongguang replied, "No, in my many years of life, this is the first time I've heard of such an artifact."

"Had there been news of such an artifact before, the Grandmasters from all over the world would have been in turmoil."

Since ancient times, Martial Artists capable of breaking through to become a Celestial have been few and far between. The majority simply reached the level of Grandmaster and could do nothing but wait for death.

If those old folks knew there was an artifact in this world that could directly help someone break through to the Celestial level, those Grandmasters would surely stop at nothing to seize it, especially since they didn't have many years left to live anyhow.

If they could seize that artifact and use it to break through, not only would they obtain the power to dominate the Martial Artists of the world, but they would also live for who knows how many more years.

Lu Chen pondered for a moment and then inquired of the system, "System, do you know of any artifacts in this world that can directly advance someone to the Heavenly Human Realm?"

[This question cannot be answered at the moment.]

Lu Chen felt somewhat speechless. What did it mean by 'cannot be answered at the moment'? Either it existed or it did not.

Perceiving Lu Chen's thoughts, the system continued to provide hints.

[There are no such artifacts in this world because the condition to become a Celestial in this world is to pass the trial of the Will of the Heavenly Tao. Even if there are shortcuts to becoming a Celestial, they belong to other worlds. Moreover, if someone forcefully becomes a Celestial by other means, there is a high likelihood they would be annihilated by the Heavenly Dao.]

Hearing the system's response, Lu Chen fell into deep thought—if the Sum Emperor truly possessed an artifact that could directly make someone a Celestial, then the artifact couldn't possibly be from this world, but rather from another world.

Wait a moment...

Suddenly, Lu Chen thought of something. The information he had received was from Lu Yi, who had learned of it through the Heavy Cavalry. Could there be a possibility that even the Heavy Cavalry transporting that artifact didn't know its exact function?

Could it be that the so-called news about it enabling advancement to the Celestial level was just a rumor, and that the artifact, in reality, had another purpose?

With this thought, Lu Chen felt slightly relieved. If that were the case, then there was nothing to worry about.

Seeing Lu Chen remaining silent for some time, Zhuge Zhongguang proposed, "Prince, why don't you temporarily accept Prince Lu Yi's offer, assist him in taking over Heyang County, and then help him gather forces? When Prince Lu Yi and Zhao King march into the Capital city at that time, we will naturally find out whether there is a Celestial there or not."

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Lu Chen snapped back to reality, "Very well, then this Prince agrees to help Prince Lu Yi take Heyang County."

"However, this Prince does not believe that my imperial father already possesses a treasure capable of directly making someone a Celestial. I suspect he must have obtained some kind of weapon."

Lu Chen wanted Lu Yi and the other Seigniors to test Sum Emperor to see what tricks he might have up his sleeve.

Moreover, he was not in a hurry at the moment. With Yelv Nanyan and Xiao Wen Yao pregnant, he could prepare on two fronts: on one hand, letting Lu Yi test Sum Emperor, and on the other hand, waiting for the children to be born—after which the strength of the North Country would surely increase again.

The system had once said that the more offspring he had, the more generous the rewards he could receive. The system had previously rewarded him with a Celestial Realm powerhouse.

If luck was on his side, perhaps when the children in Yelv Nanyan's and Xiao Wenyao's wombs were born, he might also gain a Celestial.

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

After all, there was still nearly a year to go, and Lu Chen could wait that long.

Although he had decided to help Lu Yi capture Heyang County, Lu Chen had no plans to immediately send troops southward. He intended to delay for a while and make Lu Yi wait.

In the following days, Lu Chen just left Lu Yi hanging.

At first, Lu Yi was very confident, thinking that after hearing what he had said, Lu Chen would likely immediately agree to dispatch troops to help him take Heyang County.

Several days passed, and there was still no movement from North Prince Mansion. As days went by, Lu Yi could no longer sit still in his mansion. He thought of a good idea - he sent Xue Linglong to take the initiative to visit North Prince Mansion, pretending to bond with the ladies of Lu Chen's household, and then took the opportunity to inquire into Lu Chen's attitude.

North Prince Mansion.

Mu Zixuan was inspecting the account books in the courtyard when suddenly, a maid entered and said, "Madam Prince, there is a person outside claiming to be Miss Xue who asks to see you, saying she is an acquaintance of yours."

Hearing this, Mu Zixuan was initially stunned.

Miss Xue?

Who might that be?

But Mu Zixuan quickly realized that of those she knew with the surname Xue, there seemed to be only one person - the Crown Princess Consort.

Although the Crown Prince and Crown Princess Consort had fled to the North Country, the Crown Prince was still a traitor after all, so he could not show his face publicly.

So for Crown Princess Consort Xue Linglong to wish to see her, she could not directly state her status; she had to just use a surname.

With this in mind, Mu Zixuan said, "Take her to the Hundred Flowers Garden, and go call Madam Chu to join me in meeting Miss Xue."

"Yes, Madam Prince."

Then, the maid turned and left the courtyard.

Mu Zixuan also rose from her chair and tidied up the account book in front of her.

As Mu Zixuan stepped out of Wind Cloud Court, she happened to meet Chu Yuqin. Curious, Chu Yuqin asked, "Zixuan, I heard from the maid that you want me to join you to meet someone?"

Mu Zixuan simply stated, "Yes, to meet Queen Linglong."

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin's expression instantly turned serious, and pondering, she remarked, "It seems she wants to probe for some information."

Chu Yuqin continued to ask, "Where is she now?"

Mu Zixuan replied, "I had the maid take her to the Hundred Flowers Garden to wait. Let's go there now."

No sooner had she spoken than Mu Zixuan headed directly toward the Hundred Flowers Garden in the outer court.

"Alright."

Without any hesitation, Chu Yuqin followed her.



Soon, they arrived at the Hundred Flowers Garden, where Xue Linglong was already waiting in the pavilion. Sensing someone's arrival, she immediately rose from the stone bench.

As her gaze turned toward Chu Yuqin, her heart skipped a beat.

Grandmaster?

Xue Linglong of course had seen Chu Yuqin before. Back in the Capital city, many knew Chu Yuqin as the Female Sword Immortal, quite famous indeed.

But at that time, Chu Yuqin was only Ninth Grade.

Chu Yuqin was not even a Half-step Grandmaster when she followed the North Prince to the North Country, so how did she become a Grandmaster so quickly?

How did she achieve it?

Xue Linglong immediately calmed the shock in her heart, hurriedly approached Mu Zixuan and the others, and after arriving in front of them, she greeted them with due ceremony, "I have the honor of meeting the Crown Princess Consort!"

Hearing that, Xue Linglong quickly supported their arms and said, "You two sisters must not, I am now a felon, and I am no longer the Crown Princess Consort, unworthy of your bowing."

Mu Zixuan said with a smile, "As long as His Majesty has not appointed another Crown Prince, then Sister Xue, you are still the Crown Princess Consort."

Xue Linglong replied, "Now this position is rather sensitive; sister, you must not call me Crown Princess Consort anymore. From now on, let's just call each other sisters."

With that, Xue Linglong took Mu Zixuan's wrist and said, "Sister Zixuan, when you left the Capital city, you were still rather immature. It's unexpected that in just a few years, you've become even more dignified, possessing the charm of a mature woman."

"The North Prince is truly fortunate to have married you!"

Mu Zixuan responded, "Sister, you jest, it is my good fortune to have married the Prince."

The Xue Family and the Mu Family were both prominent families in the Capital city, and the two families had certain interactions in the past, so Mu Zixuan and Xue Linglong had seen each other quite a few times, though they couldn't quite say they were especially close.

Seeing Xue Linglong addressing her as sister so familiarly, as though they were very close, made Mu Zixuan on her guard internally.

At that moment, Mu Zixuan took Xue Linglong's hand and led her toward the pavilion inside, saying as they walked, "Sister Xue, let's sit inside the pavilion and chat."

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Xue Linglong said, "Okay."

Then the three of them came to sit inside the pavilion, and at this point Mu Zixuan turned to her maid and said, "Xiao Rou, quickly have someone make tea, the best tea from the Prince's Mansion."

The maid instantly understood the intent behind Mu Zixuan's words, "Yes, Your Highness, I'll go right now."

Mu Zixuan then said, "Sister Xue, you must have encountered many hardships on your journey to North Country."

Upon hearing this, Xue Linglong let out a sigh and did not speak, her face showing a look of sadness.

Mu Zixuan quickly tried to comfort her, "I'm sorry, Sister Xue, I shouldn't have mentioned that. You don't need to be sad, all of that is in the past now."

Xue Linglong grasped Mu Zixuan's hand and said, "Sister Zixuan is right, all of that is in the past now."

"It's all thanks to Ninth Brother. If he hadn't taken us in, I fear the dozens of us from the East Palace would have ended up with our heads fallen."

At this, Xue Linglong looked into Mu Zixuan's eyes, "Sister Zixuan, I truly envy you. After marrying the North Prince and coming to such a prosperous and beautiful place in North Country, you've lived a happy life of supporting your husband and teaching your children, away from strife, and without the need to live in fear every day."

Mu Zixuan said, "Sister Xue doesn't know that when we first came to North Country, it wasn't like this at all. The prosperity of North Country is all thanks to the Prince's efforts."

Xue Linglong said, "Alas, everyone in the Capital city was blind to the truth back then. Ninth Brother's talents were unsurpassed. If Ninth Brother hadn't left for North Country, perhaps he would be the Crown Prince now, and Great Sum wouldn't be in the situation it is today, with traitorous officials in power."

Mu Zixuan said, "Sister Xue jests. The Prince has no such ambitions. Rather than the position of Crown Prince, the Prince prefers to take more wives and consorts and to live the life of a carefree prince."

Speaking of which, Mu Zixuan asked, "Sister Xue, you've been in North Country for a few days now. I wonder if you're used to everything here?"

"If there's anything you need, feel free to ask at any time."

Xue Linglong answered, "I've gotten used to the basics of living, but since coming to North Country, I've had no one to talk to at Lu Mansion."

Xue Linglong's social circle was within the Capital city. Now that she had left and come to North Country, she hardly knew anyone, let alone had any friends.

Mu Zixuan immediately said, "If Sister Xue feels lonely in North Country, you can always visit North Prince Mansion to talk and chat with me."

Xue Linglong let out a soft sigh, "It's good that I know Sister Zixuan. If you weren't in Yan County, I really wouldn't know whom to talk to."

At this time, the maid brought over a teapot to the pavilion, quickly brewed the tea, and poured a cup for each of the three women.

Mu Zixuan said, "Sister Xue, this is the best tea from the Prince's Mansion. This tea has the ability to refresh and invigorate the mind. Please, have a taste."

Hearing this, Xue Linglong was not the least bit cautious. As a member of the Demon Sect, she was particularly sensitive to poisons, and she could instantly sense if there was any poison in the tea.

Xue Linglong lifted the teacup, covered the top with one hand, and took a gentle sip.

The next moment, Xue Linglong's spirit trembled. The tea indeed had the ability to refresh and invigorate the mind; even the flow of spiritual energy within her body became much smoother.

Xue Linglong then put down the teacup and said to Mu Zixuan, "Sister Zixuan, such a precious tea must be exceedingly rare. It seems such a waste to simply brew it for me to drink."

Mu Zixuan said with a smile, "This tea is indeed quite precious, but that's by comparison to outsiders. Everyone in our Prince's Mansion drinks this tea."

Xue Linglong thought to herself, no wonder Chu Yuqin was able to break through to the Grandmaster Realm in such a short time. It seems North Prince Mansion has quite a few secrets.

Indeed, following Lu Yi north was the right decision.

Meanwhile, Chu Yuqin was silently scrutinizing Xue Linglong, feeling puzzled; although Lu Chen had told them that Xue Linglong was a Grandmaster, she couldn't detect even a hint of a Grandmaster's aura from Xue Linglong, as if Xue Linglong were just an ordinary person.

Could it be she had cultivated some technique to conceal her aura?

To be able to hide a martial artist's aura so completely, the cultivation technique she practiced must have come from a particularly powerful force. Xue Linglong's backing was not simple, and Chu Yuqin became even more cautious, worried that Xue Linglong might harm Mu Zixuan.

Chapter 680 Chen Wanrong is Here\_1

Xue Linglong and Mu Zixuan chatted about some common family matters and some rare things from the North Country in the Hundred Flowers Garden for two hours.

Since it was her first visit to the North Prince Mansion, in order not to make Mu Zixuan overly cautious of her, Xue Linglong didn't pry into any overly sensitive information from Mu Zixuan.

Her visit to the North Prince Mansion today was merely to bridge the gap in her relationship with Mu Zixuan, waiting until they had grown closer before she would try to extract information about the North Prince Mansion from her, which by then would be relatively easier.

During dinner, Mu Zixuan told Lu Chen everything she and Xue Linglong talked about. After listening to Mu Zixuan, Lu Chen thought to himself that Xue Linglong really had patience, not inquiring about the North Prince Mansion on her first visit.

Suddenly, Lu Chen thought of something and asked, "By the way, my consort, when she visited today, did you serve her tea?"

Mu Zixuan smiled slightly and then said, "Of course, she was an honored guest, and I naturally served her the best tea of the Prince's Mansion."

Hearing this, Lu Chen felt somewhat relieved.

After all, this woman was from the Demon Sect; it was still necessary to be cautious.

Chu Yuqin then asked, "Chen'er, when I saw Xue Linglong today, I noticed she didn't have the slightest aura of a Martial Artist. Are you sure she's a Grandmaster?"

"If she is a Grandmaster, then she has concealed her aura too well."

Lu Chen replied, "She is indeed a Grandmaster. She must have used something to cover up her Martial Artist aura or cultivated some kind of technique to hide it."

"But that's not important; she might be able to deceive others, but it's impossible to deceive me."

Chu Yuqin said, "Being able to conceal her aura so well suggests she must have a large backing. You need to be careful, she might be targeting you."

Lu Chen, smiling, said, "Madam Chu, rest assured, I know what force she comes from and understand her purpose. I'll be on guard against her."

Seeing that Lu Chen had said this, Chu Yuqin didn't press further.

They continued to eat dinner, and just then, suddenly, a blast of cold wind swept into the room, making everyone feel an extreme chill to their bones.

Lu Chen was taken aback for a moment and immediately sensed that something was amiss. He then said to the other women in the room, "You all continue eating; I have something to take care of and will step out for a bit."

Having said this, Lu Chen headed towards the entrance of the North Prince Mansion. Seeing Lu Chen's departing silhouette, the women in the hall glanced at each other, unsure of what had just occurred.

At that moment, Lin Wanyun spoke up, "The Palace Master has arrived!"

Lin Wanyun was very familiar with Chen Wanrong's aura. After feeling the blast of cold air just now, she guessed that Chen Wanrong had arrived at the entrance to the Prince's Mansion.

Hearing this, the women suddenly realized that it was Chen Wanrong who had arrived, which explained the sudden rush of cold wind.

It appeared Chen Wanrong was signaling to Lu Chen that she had come.



Chen Wanrong and Lu Chen hadn't seen each other for so long, and it seemed likely that another sleepless night awaited them.

The women didn't dwell on this matter and soon started discussing other topics.

When Lu Chen arrived at the entrance of the Prince's Mansion, he indeed saw that familiar figure.

Chen Wanrong was clad in white, her dress pure as snow, with a slender, delicate figure, a swan-like neck, exquisite collarbones, small cherry lips, and skin as fair as snow, making her resemble a work of art.

Her complexion was cool and her body exuded an Immortal Aura, making her seem like a lofty fairy descending from the heavens.

Lu Chen, not sure if it was because he hadn't seen Chen Wanrong in so long, suddenly felt she had become even more beautiful and soon felt a surge of desire to conquer her.

Lu Chen pushed off the ground with his legs and used Shadow Shifting to appear instantly in front of Chen Wanrong. "My fairy Rongrong, you've finally come down from the mountain."

Hearing Lu Chen's irreverent words, a blush involuntarily spread across Chen Wanrong's face. Just as Chen Wanrong was about to say something, Lu Chen scooped her up in a princess carry. Before she had the chance to struggle, he used Shadow Shifting again, and in an instant, they were in Chen Wanrong's bedroom in the Prince's Mansion.

Chen Wanrong felt a slight dissatisfaction. She had just arrived at the North Prince Mansion, and this scoundrel had hurriedly brought her to bed. Couldn't he have been a little more patient?

After placing Chen Wanrong on the bed, Lu Chen gazed into her clear and transparent eyes and said, "Wife, I think about you every day, and today I finally got to see you."

Chen Wanrong opened her mouth to speak, "Master, she... um..."

Before Chen Wanrong could finish, Lu Chen bent down and sealed her lips with his, silencing her. Chen Wanrong struggled lightly a couple of times but, finding that her skill was sealed inside her, she simply gave up and stopped resisting, letting this scoundrel do as he wished.

She too had missed Lu Chen very much during this time. Since he was so eager, they might as well convey their longing to each other.

What Lu Chen didn't know was that Chen Wanrong was actually about to tell him something important just now. However, Lu Chen was too impatient and kissed her before she could finish speaking, resulting in the message being left unsaid.

The night sky was hazy, filled with a lingering fog, and the air carried a dampness that made the night somewhat chilly.

At this moment, a woman dressed in a light cyan gown stood on the roof. The breeze blew, causing her skirt to flutter and occasionally revealing her fair legs. Standing barefoot, the woman coldly gazed into the distance from her frost-covered perch.

Noises continued to emanate from the room below, but the woman's expression remained icy, devoid of any emotional fluctuations.

After a while, Yun Xianxian couldn't hold back any longer and snorted coldly before speaking in an icy tone,

"It was indeed right to separate them!"

No sooner had Chen Wanrong returned to the North Prince Mansion than this man could not wait to sweep her into his bed and indulge in pleasure with her.

Yun Xianxian could understand their feelings; seeing each other after such a long time, it was normal to want to quickly convey their longing. It's common for partners who haven't seen each other for a long time to do the same at night.

But what Yun Xianxian did not expect was that, for several hours, these two were still indulging in pleasure. She had thought Lu Chen was cultivating with Chen Wanrong but, upon probing, discovered that they were not focusing on their cultivation. From their actions, it seemed they were more inclined to seek pleasure.

Yun Xianxian dared not imagine if she had initially agreed to let Chen Wanrong stay at the North Prince Mansion indefinitely, whether they would spend every day like this, completely neglecting their cultivation.

But on second thought, this incident once again proved that Lu Chen was no ordinary man. Indeed, he had some special talents, being very adept at dealing with women, no wonder Chen Wanrong was so infatuated with him.

Time passed unknowingly.

The crowing of a rooster rose from the outer courtyard of the Prince's Mansion as dawn began to lighten the horizon.

The room fell quiet. Lu Chen held Chen Wanrong by her slender waist, letting her rest on his chest as he gently caressed her smooth back.

"Rongrong, how long do you plan to stay at the North Prince Mansion this time?"

Lu Chen hoped that Chen Wanrong would stay for a longer period; after all, they hadn't seen each other for so long.

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Chen Wanrong began to emerge from her drowsy state. Suddenly remembering someone, she quickly said to Lu Chen, "Right, this time when I came down the mountain, Master also came with me, she..."

Chen Wanrong hesitated, stopping mid-sentence.

She had just met Lu Chen the previous night and they had been intimate all night long; surely her master had witnessed it. She wondered what her master might think.

Hearing this, Lu Chen was momentarily taken aback.

What? The fairy came too?

He had been with Chen Wanrong, behaving badly all night in the room. With her Celestial senses, wouldn't she have known what happened?

Would she think him a man only interested in that kind of activity, then forbid Chen Wanrong from descending the mountain to see him again?

Upon reflection, Lu Chen thought that since the woman had already consented to Chen Wanrong becoming his partner, and they hadn't seen each other for so long, it was natural for them to be intimate once they finally met. If that woman wouldn't even permit this, she would be utterly unreasonable.