

## Es. Benefits 681

Chapter 681 I need you to do me a favor\_1

Lu Chen firmly believed in his heart that he did nothing wrong, so he refused to believe that woman would rebuke him for his good relationship with Chen Wanrong.

At this moment, Lu Chen said to Chen Wanrong, "So the Grandmaster has arrived as well. I was wondering why it felt so chilly last night."

Chen Wanrong spoke up, "We should get up. The Grandmaster probably waited outside for us the entire night yesterday."

Lu Chen felt somewhat helpless, as he had initially planned to spend a bit more time in Chen Wanrong's tender embrace, but now they had to get up so early.

What was that woman doing, following Chen Wanrong down the mountain?

Just then, a scene emerged in Lu Chen's mind. Last time, in the study, the woman used the physical resonance between them to cultivate the Dragon-Phoenix Yin-Yang Spell and then regained her strength.

This time following Chen Wanrong down the mountain, she wouldn't be planning to do unto him what she did last time, would she?

Lu Chen slightly furrowed his brow, thinking that he had to find a way to give Yun Xianxian some Dragon and Phoenix Tea, making her pay a price and preventing himself from being taken advantage of like last time without any means to possess her body.

With these thoughts, Lu Chen and Chen Wanrong slowly got up, took a quick bath in the neighboring bathing chamber, and then left the room.

At this time, inside Yunrong Courtyard, Lin Wanyun was brewing tea for Yun Xianxian in the pavilion, while Yun Xianxian sat on a stone stool with an indifferent face, holding the teacup and slowly savoring the tea.

After stepping out of the room, Lu Chen immediately bowed to Yun Xianxian, saying, "Disciple pays respects to the Grandmaster!"

Yun Xianxian coldly responded, "Considering you haven't seen each other for a long time, I'll let it go this time. But if it happens again, I'll punish you by forbidding you to see each other for a year."

Yun Xianxian was feeling somewhat angry at this moment. If it were just Lu Chen, she would have let it be, as he didn't know of her arrival initially, but Chen Wanrong was different.

She had brought Chen Wanrong down the mountain, and yet, upon seeing a man, Chen Wanrong had completely forgotten about her, leaving her to stand on the roof for an entire night.

Despite her kindness towards Chen Wanrong, Chen had forgotten about her own Grandmaster the moment she had a man.

Chen Wanrong, too, noticed that Yun Xianxian might be angry with her and quickly said, "Disciple acknowledges her mistake."

Yun Xianxian replied indifferently, "Enough, I won't hold these issues against you anymore."

At that time, Lu Chen tentatively asked, "Grandmaster, may I know the reason for your descent from the mountain this time?"

Yun Xianxian replied, "I heard that there has been a large number of Martial Artists going missing within the Great Sum Realm. I suspect it may be related to the Great Sum Imperial family, so I decided to descend the mountain to investigate the situation."

Hearing this, Lu Chen was stunned. He hadn't expected Yun Xianxian to also believe that his father might be related to the matter.

Yun Xianxian then looked at Lu Chen and said, "Lu Chen, if you wish to unify the world, the first step would be to seize the Great Sum throne, correct? I, along with the Mysterious Moon Palace, will support you in contending for that position. If there's anything you need, feel free to discuss it with me."

Lu Chen was somewhat incredulous at Yun Xianxian's words; this woman was actually planning to help him vie for the Great Sum throne?

So magnanimous?

A thought suddenly struck Lu Chen, and he then said, "Grandmaster, I heard that my father possesses a Sacred Artifact from your Mysterious Moon Palace. You wouldn't be supporting me in my bid for the throne just to retrieve that artifact, would you?"

Hearing Lu Chen's speculation, Yun Xianxian let out a cold laugh and then said, "You're quite astute. Indeed, I intend to take this opportunity to recover that Sacred Artifact."

Lu Chen asked, "Grandmaster, you are a Celestial. With your strength, you could simply go to the Great Sum Imperial Palace and easily retrieve the artifact. Why go through such trouble?"

Yun Xianxian answered, "I haven't yet recovered from the injuries on my body. Moreover, I can't just take action casually. If I were to act recklessly, the Heavenly Dao of this world would send down divine punishment upon me. The injury I have is a result of that."

Upon hearing Yun Xianxian's response, Lu Chen had an epiphany. So that was the case; no wonder Yun Xianxian had not gone to the Imperial Palace to take back the so-called Sacred Artifact—she didn't have the capacity to do so.

Yun Xianxian continued, "Furthermore, that item has a certain probability of elevating a Grandmaster's strength to the Celestial Realm. Although the duration is rather brief, it's not impossible to injure a Celestial."

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"Even if I were to take action, I would need to wait until my strength has somewhat recovered,"

"The second reason for my descent from the mountain is to restore my power,"

As she spoke, Yun Xianxian's gaze was fixed on Lu Chen, making him feel a chill down his spine.

He had previously speculated whether Yun Xianxian had come down from the mountain to use his body to regain strength, and it turned out he had guessed right.

This woman truly had ill intentions, coveting his body.

Yun Xianxian continued, looking into Lu Chen's eyes, "There's also another matter, the mists in the western border are becoming unstable, and if you wish to unify the world, you'd better hurry."

"The space within the mist is extremely chaotic; no one can predict what might emerge."

Lu Chen was startled in his heart.

The mist has become unstable?

What he was most concerned about now was indeed the mist at the western border. He feared that if all the masters who emerged were at the Celestial level, his firearms would be useless.

Just then, Lu Chen suddenly thought of something.

This woman telling him about the instability of the mist probably wasn't a simple reminder, was it?

By mentioning the unstable mist, she must be looking to create a sense of urgency, to emphasize the importance of the Mysterious Moon Palace. That way, he would willingly help her regain her strength.

At this moment, Lu Chen said with a smile, "Since my master has already planned to help me conquer the world, your disciple offers you his gratitude."

Yun Xianxian said expressionlessly, "Spare me your verbal thanks; I need a favor from you."

Lu Chen feigned ignorance and asked, "May I ask what master refers to?"

Yun Xianxian replied, "You will know when the time comes."

Lu Chen didn't continue to question her; how could he not know what she was referring to? It was obviously about helping her recover her strength.

To be honest, he was quite willing to cultivate the Dragon-Phoenix Yin-Yang Spell with her, but under the condition that it would involve physical contact, not like last time in the study where he cultivated with her passively. Without that, cultivating the Dragon-Phoenix Yin-Yang Spell would lose its appeal.

However, Lu Chen could also see that Yun Xianxian would never let him possess her body. In Yun Xianxian's eyes, he was nothing more than a native of a Lower World.

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Great Sum, Capital city.

A convoy slowly entered the Capital city, its banners adorned with a crescent moon—the emblem of the Mysterious Moon Palace, signaling the arrival of some important personage from the Mysterious Moon Palace.

The Sum Emperor soon heard of this.

Sitting in his study, listening to the Shadow Guard's report, the Sum Emperor fell into deep thought.

What business does the Mysterious Moon Palace have sending someone to the Capital city at this time?

Could it be that they had discovered what he was up to?

Is the Mysterious Moon Palace seeking to trouble the royal family?

Chapter 682 Help us kill the former Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace!\_1

At this moment, the Sum Emperor's countenance was extremely unsightly, worried that the Mysterious Moon Palace had discovered the acts he had committed and was now preparing to send someone to eliminate him.

After listening to the Shadow Guard's report, the Sum Emperor inquired, "Who from the Mysterious Moon Palace has come?"

The Shadow Guard replied, "Your Majesty, according to our investigation, the arrivals are the Mysterious Moon Palace's Great Elder and Elder Fu."

The eyebrows of the Sum Emperor knit together, and his expression grew even darker.

It was actually two Elders who had come!

If it had been the Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace, he might not have felt as concerned, since the Palace Master's strength was only so-so.

But Elders were a different story altogether.

The Elders of the Mysterious Moon Palace were at the very least above the realm of Grandmasters, most likely Pseudo Celestials.

The sudden arrival of two Pseudo Celestials made the Sum Emperor feel an enormous pressure.

Just then, a eunuch suddenly entered the study and said before the Sum Emperor, "Your Majesty, the two Elders from the Mysterious Moon Palace request an audience!"

This...

The Sum Emperor's heart trembled.



They had come directly to see him!

Having just entered the city, they made straight for the Imperial Palace, indicating that the Mysterious Moon Palace might truly have discovered something, coming to trouble him!

What to do now?

Was he going to end up in a life-or-death struggle with the Mysterious Moon Palace?

The Sum Emperor had never felt such panic as he did at this moment, with memories from his youth replaying incessantly in his mind.

At a certain moment, as if he had made up his mind about something, he then said to the eunuch responsible for announcements, "Have the two Mysterious Moon Palace Elders wait for me in the Royal Garden, I will be there shortly."

The eunuch promptly responded, "Yes, Your Majesty."

The eunuch then withdrew from the study.

After the eunuch left the study, the Sum Emperor spoke to the Shadow Guard within, "You may leave as well."

"Your subordinate takes their leave."

No sooner had the Shadow Guard departed than the Sum Emperor retrieved a beautifully crafted box from his sleeve and said to it, "With this item in hand, I don't believe they will be able to do anything to me!"

As his words fell, he placed the exquisite box back into his sleeve and then proceeded directly to the Royal Garden, wanting to see just what business the two Elders from the Mysterious Moon Palace had with him.

Before long, the Sum Emperor made his appearance in the Royal Garden, where at that moment, two white-haired, bearded old men dressed in blue robes were seated leisurely in the pavilion, casually sipping tea, looking nothing like trouble-seekers but more like they were visiting a friend.

Seeing how relaxed the two appeared, the Sum Emperor paused, feeling that these two didn't seem like they were here to cause him trouble.

Without giving it much thought, the Sum Emperor stepped into the pavilion and said to the two Elders, "May I ask what brings the two honored Elders from the Mysterious Moon Palace to see me?"

One of the Elders then spoke up, "I am Fu Hongchou, the Second Elder of the Mysterious Moon Palace. The individual beside me is Yu Changqing, the Great Elder of the Mysterious Moon Palace. Your Majesty must have heard of the two of us."

Upon hearing their names, the Sum Emperor instantly recalled something. These two were quite famous decades ago. He had heard of them when he was young; back then, the Mysterious Moon Palace was not like it is now, still in the process of recruiting disciples.

And these two individuals had made a name for themselves during the recruitment of disciples. Previously, many had challenged the two of them, as the Mysterious Moon Palace had claimed all the promising martial arts prospects for themselves, thus challenging the status of other factions. Consequently, many factions could not tolerate the existence of the Mysterious Moon Palace.

However, all the martial artists who challenged them ended up losing, and it was because of their presence that the various factions within Great Sum realized the strength of the Mysterious Moon Palace. As for the later slaughter of the grandmasters by the Celestials of the Mysterious Moon Palace, that incident further reinforced people's perception of the Palace's power.

The Sum Emperor said at this moment, "I have indeed heard of the two elders."

Elder Yu Changqing replied, "Good that you've heard of us. Since you're familiar with our names, it makes things easier."

Hearing this, the Sum Emperor suddenly had a bad feeling. At that moment, Yu Changqing continued, "Sum Emperor, we have long discovered the deeds you've committed. Did you truly think that by not allowing the Shadow Guards to capture the disciples of the Mysterious Moon Palace, we wouldn't discover what you've been doing?"

The Sum Emperor's heart skipped a beat; the Mysterious Moon Palace had indeed found out about his actions. It seemed that their visit today was to kill him!

The Sum Emperor's face darkened as he said coldly, "What is Elder Yu talking about—I don't understand what you mean!"

Fu Hongchou laughed at this moment and then said, "Sum Emperor, it seems we need to expose your crimes before you'll stop denying them."

"You think your covert capture of martial artists by the Shadow Guards has been flawless?"

As soon as these words were spoken, the atmosphere in the Royal Garden grew incredibly oppressive, as if the air itself had become filled with the shimmer of blades.

Just when the Sum Emperor thought the two were about to make their move, he realized they remained motionless, and it dawned on him what was happening.

He then said, "Are you here for the Sacred Artifact?"

Upon hearing this, Yu Changqing snorted with laughter, "Sacred Artifact? That thing has been useless to us for a while now."

Although the Sacred Artifact could enhance one's power, it had a significant drawback. Once used to forcibly elevate one's realm, the Artifact would become useless. They had both used the Sacred Artifact before to fight against formidable enemies, leaving them with lasting issues they were still grappling with.

Fu Hongchou didn't waste further words and directly stated, "We've learned through the Shadow Guards that you've obtained a weapon at sea, which can be activated with the sacrifice of enough martial artists. Once activated, its power is sufficient to kill a Celestial."

The Shadow Guards had always sought to infiltrate the Mysterious Moon Palace. It was this decision that led to some of their actions being discovered by Yu Changqing and Fu Hongchou.

In turn, they learned some of the Sum Emperor's secrets through the Shadow Guards, including his recent actions and that malevolent weapon.

Hearing this, the Sum Emperor was greatly disturbed—they even knew about the weapon he had acquired.

The Sum Emperor then asked, "Since you know of the weapon's existence, then you should also understand that it poses no threat to me!"

Yu Changqing laughed heartily and said, "Sum Emperor, don't try to intimidate us here. If you were able to activate that Divine Weapon, you wouldn't still be having the Shadow Guards capture martial artists. The fact that you're still doing so proves you haven't met the weapon's activation conditions!"

Seeing his ruse exposed, the Sum Emperor directly asked, "What do you want?"

Yu Changqing replied, "We propose a collaboration with you."

The Sum Emperor paused, "A collaboration?"

Yu Changqing continued, "To show our sincerity in collaborating, we'll give you a piece of information for free. The Celestial from the Mysterious Moon Palace has taken the Palace Master to North Country, and she has even taken the North Prince as her disciple, even having the Palace Master marry the North Prince to become his Dao companion."

"It won't be long before, with the help of the Mysterious Moon Palace, the North Country's forces will march south, and by then, your throne will likely have to be passed on to your son."

Upon hearing this intelligence, the Sum Emperor fell silent. He didn't believe that Yu Changqing was deceiving him; he had long suspected that there was cooperation between the Mysterious Moon Palace and North Country. Yu Changqing's words merely confirmed his own suspicions.

After a moment, the Sum Emperor asked, "What sort of cooperation do you propose?"

Yu Changqing said, "Use that weapon you've acquired to help us kill the old Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace!"

Chapter 683 - 410 I Agree to Work with You\_1

Upon hearing Yu Changqing's words, the Sum Emperor was once again stunned; he had not expected such grand ambition from these two.

Kill a Celestial?

In truth, he himself had never entertained such a thought, although he had acquired that weapon, he intended to use it as a trump card, or to intimidate the Celestials with it so that they wouldn't dare make their move against him.

After all, to use the weapon just once required a great deal of time to prepare, and it could only be used once in a short period.

If they could not achieve a one-strike kill, by the time the Celestials reacted, they would likely face a grim fate.

At that moment, the Sum Emperor looked into Yu Changqing's eyes and spoke, "Elder Yu, you couldn't be jesting with Us, could you?"

Yu Changqing picked up the teacup from the stone table, took a sip, and then continued, "With the support of the former Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace, North Prince will surely lead his troops southward. You have no choice."

Upon hearing this, the Sum Emperor fell back into contemplation.

Although they didn't like being threatened, Yu Changqing had not misjudged; that rebellious son had already amassed such formidable strength, and his ambition was even greater than his own. The first thing that son would do to fulfill his ambition would definitely be to march south and vie for the throne of Great Sum.

After seizing the throne of Great Sum, he would use Great Sum's power to wage wars and gradually annex other kingdoms.

The Great Xia Dynasty was critical to that rebellious son; now, with the assistance of the Celestial from the Mysterious Moon Palace, his move south was inevitable.

After a while, the Sum Emperor came back to his senses and asked, "Why do you want to kill her?"

At this question, Yu Changqing let out a laugh before replying, "Isn't it obvious? Back then, we made distinguished contributions to the expansion of the Mysterious Moon Palace, even using certain forbidden items, such that our Cultivation States can no longer advance in this lifetime."

"And yet, that woman handed over the position of Palace Master to a little girl, allowing her to quickly rise to power. Now she even plans to introduce a God's Son to the Mysterious Moon Palace. What does she take us for?"

Hearing Yu Changqing's answer, the Sum Emperor understood; these two were dissatisfied with the new Palace Master and sought to usurp power. As long as the Celestial from the Mysterious Moon Palace died, these two would easily take control of the entire palace.

From this perspective, they indeed had a shared interest. For him, as long as the Celestial from the Mysterious Moon Palace was gone, the palace would pose less of a threat. After several more decades of development, Great Sum might even become powerful enough to eliminate the Mysterious Moon Palace. At that point, no force or kingdom could threaten Great Sum, or him.

With this thought, the Sum Emperor said, "Very well, We agree to cooperate with you."

Seeing the Sum Emperor's agreement, the corners of Yu Changqing's and Fu Hongchou's mouths turned up slightly, revealing faint smiles.

Yu Changqing then said, "Now that we are in cooperation, might the Sum Emperor allow us to see the weapon capable of slaying a Celestial?"

Hearing this request, the Sum Emperor became instantly wary, "That might not be such a good idea."

What if these two laid eyes on the weapon and decided to snatch it away? The weapon hadn't yet absorbed enough Martial Artists' skill and vital blood; it wasn't ready to be used.



Noticing the Sum Emperor's wariness, Yu Changqing spoke with a smile, "The Sum Emperor need not worry that we will attempt to snatch the weapon from you. You possess a Sacred Artifact from the Mysterious Moon Palace, and you have already entered the Unity Realm, with the Sacred Artifact you could instantly enhance your strength to the Heavenly Human Realm.

How could we possibly try to take something from you under these circumstances?"

At Yu Changqing's words, the Sum Emperor frowned.

Yu Changqing actually knew that he had entered the Unity Realm and become a Pseudo Celestial!

But on second thought, it wasn't surprising. After all, both Yu Changqing and Fu Hongchou could be Pseudo Celestials of the Unity Realm, so they might sense his Realm.

The Sum Emperor pondered for a moment before saying, "Fine, I can take you to see it."

"But let me be clear beforehand, if you covet that weapon, don't blame me for being inhospitable later on!"

Fu Hongchou replied, "Your Majesty, please rest assured, we are just looking to verify whether that weapon truly has the ability to kill a Celestial. We have no interest in such an evil weapon."

The two of them were Elders of the Mysterious Moon Palace, aware of some secrets of this world. As for such an evil weapon that required the sacrifice of martial artists to use, they dared not claim it as their own, for such a weapon might backfire on its master one day, leaving them clueless as to how they met their demise.

At this, the Sum Emperor turned and said, "Follow me."

As his words fell, the Sum Emperor turned and made his way to the Imperial Study Room, with Yu Changqing and Fu Hongchou rising from their stone seats to follow him there.

Once the three entered the Imperial Study Room, all the doors and windows shut by themselves. The Sum Emperor walked over to a bookshelf, where he gently twisted a dragon head sculpture, and the next moment, the bookshelf began to vibrate.

Subsequently, the bookshelf slowly moved aside, revealing a downward hidden passage before the trio.

The Sum Emperor then said to the two behind him, "It's quite far, keep up with me."

As he finished speaking, the Sum Emperor stepped into the hidden passage, with Yu Changqing and Fu Hongchou quickly following suit.

After the Sum Emperor had entered the hidden passage, he used qinggong, moving very quickly, but Yu Changqing and Fu Hongchou were still able to easily keep up with him.

The three ran almost as if flying for close to two hours before finally reaching the location where the evil weapon was stored.

Before them now was a huge secret chamber. In the middle of the chamber was a circular platform, under which was a bright red liquid.

Inside the chamber, Shadow Guards were continuously throwing captured martial artists into the Blood Pool below. Any artist who entered the Blood Pool would turn into a skeleton in a short while, and the nearby Shadow Guards would then fish out these skeletons.

Upon seeing this scene, Yu Changqing said with a laugh, "Your Majesty is truly ruthless. If the other forces knew you were capturing their martial artists for sacrifice, they would probably stop at nothing to break into the Imperial Palace and kill you."

The Sum Emperor was unconcerned, perceiving Yu Changqing's words as a threat.

The Sum Emperor then looked at the golden rod on the platform and stated, "That is the weapon capable of killing a Celestial!"

Upon seeing the weapon, Yu Changqing and Fu Hongchou were taken aback for a moment.

Regaining his composure, Yu Changqing asked in bewilderment, "What kind of weapon is this, why have we never heard of a weapon of this style before?"

No sooner had Yu Changqing finished speaking than Fu Hongchou said, "Elder Yu, you might have forgotten, we have a similar weapon in the Mysterious Moon Palace. Chu Yue once took that weapon out of the Palace."

Upon hearing this, Yu Changqing instantly recalled that object resembling a long box.

Fu Hongchou continued, "Although these two weapons differ in shape, judging by their method of use, they likely both are activated from a distance and that weapon also requires certain conditions to be used."

Hearing the two's conversation, the Sum Emperor was extremely astonished inside.

What? The Mysterious Moon Palace has a similar weapon?

Even if he helped these two kill the old Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace, with that weapon still in existence, he feared he also might not be able to exterminate the Mysterious Moon Palace in the future.

Chapter 684 - With This Weapon, That Woman Is Doomed to Die\_1

In the secret room, the golden staff on the pedestal emitted a blood-red glow, and there was a shoulder stock attached to the back of the staff. If Lu Chen were here, he would recognize it immediately as some sort of modern firearm.

Although this weapon resembled a kind of rifle, the ammunition it used was not ordinary bullets. The gunstock, which emanated a dark aura, made contact with the blood in the pool and began to frantically absorb the blood, as if it were an insatiable monster.

Witnessing this scene, Fu Hongchou and Yu Changqing felt an eerie chill.

A weapon actively sucking blood, and based on its appearance, it seemed as though it had an internal space capable of holding such a vast amount of blood; how it achieved this was beyond their understanding.

This weapon was too sinister, and there was a real possibility it could backfire on its user. After the Sum Emperor dealt with the old Palace Master, it would be best for the Mysterious Moon Palace to keep their distance from Great Sum—the thing was too peculiar, and they wanted to avoid being collateral damage if it were ever used.

At that moment, Yu Changqing asked, "When will this weapon be ready for use?"

The Sum Emperor answered, "It must absorb a sufficient amount of martial artists' skill and essence before it can be used; if it were to be used now, it would absorb the user's skill and blood."

Yu Changqing murmured, "Indeed, it is a wicked weapon, probably even more so than anything the Demon Sect possesses."

"However, that being said, with this thing, the likelihood of killing the old Palace Master has increased significantly."

Fu Hongchou then posed a critical question to the Sum Emperor, "You say this weapon can kill a Celestial, yet you haven't used it yourself; how do you know for sure that it can kill a Celestial?"

The Sum Emperor replied indifferently, "When the Shadow Guard first discovered this weapon, they accidentally activated it. In just an instant, it pierced through a mountain. I do not believe that such immense power cannot kill a Celestial."

Hearing the Sum Emperor's response, both Yu Changqing recalled their palace's Divine Artifact, which seemed capable of shooting through a mountain peak as well.

It seemed the power of these two weapons was quite comparable. As long as they managed to kill the old Palace Master, that Divine Artifact would belong to them.

The most important factor was that their palace's weapon did not possess the same level of sinister nature as the one before them, which clearly would consume its owner sooner or later.

However, the Mysterious Moon Palace's weapon was different; it did not require the blood of martial artists as a condition.

Yu Changqing laughed heartily, "Excellent! With this weapon in hand, that woman is bound to die!"

Upon hearing Yu Changqing's comment, the Sum Emperor's lips curled into a slight smile, it seemed these two were indeed determined to kill the old Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace.

If they actually succeeded, once the Celestial of the Mysterious Moon Palace fell, North Country might have powerful weapons but would not necessarily be an opponent for Great Sum without the protection of a Celestial for Lu Chen. Just like the last time, they could simply send an assassin to kill Lu Chen directly.

Once that defiant son was dead, North Country would inevitably fall apart, and then Great Sum could even seize North Country's mysterious weapons. With the arsenal of North Country in hand, no force would dare confront Great Sum in the future.

For a moment, the Sum Emperor envisioned the heads of those powers, the rulers of the great dynasties, bowing before him in submission.

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North Country,

North Prince Mansion.

As Lu Chen was on his way to the study, he passed by the Hundred Flowers Garden and happened upon Mu Zixuan and Xue Linglong holding hands, chatting about something in the garden pavilion.

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These past few days, Xue Linglong has been coming to the Prince's Mansion almost every day to see Mu Zixuan, and the two of them seemed to have become good friends, apparently having endless topics to talk about.

Seeing Xue Linglong had come again, Lu Chen thought to himself that it looked like his Imperial Brother was growing a bit impatient. Of course, it could also be Xue Linglong who couldn't wait.

On the surface, Xue Linglong seemed to be on the same side as Lu Yi, but in reality, her main concern was the interests of the Taiyin Divine Sect. She was probably pondering how to sacrifice him to awaken that so-called Sect Hierarchy.

Lu Chen glanced at Mu Zixuan and Xue Linglong, then at Chu Yuqin, and seeing Chu Yuqin was also next to Mu Zixuan, he didn't think much of it and went straight to his study.

As Lu Chen passed by the Hundred Flowers Garden, Xue Linglong noticed his gaze flicking over to her side. She thought to herself that it seemed the North Prince was indeed keeping an eye on his Imperial Sister-in-law.

She needed to find a way to be alone with him in a room. Only then would she have the chance to poison the North Prince.

However, coming back to the point, the North Prince, although lecherous, with many wives and concubines in his mansion, didn't seem to have sunk into debauchery because of beautiful women. He appeared to be quite busy every day.

She had been coming to the Prince's Mansion for several days in a row, but each time she had seen Lu Chen heading to the study to deal with state affairs, and once he stayed in the study, he would be there for the entire day.

This had caused Xue Linglong to somewhat re-evaluate him. He was indeed a man suspected to be the Son of Destiny.

While he was a bit lustful, he hadn't forgotten the grand ambitions in his heart because of pleasure.

She wondered how satisfying it would be to torment such a man.

Seeing that Xue Linglong seemed to be lost in thought, Mu Zixuan said, "Sister Xue, what is on your mind?"

Hearing Mu Zixuan's voice, Xue Linglong immediately snapped back to reality and quickly said, "Sorry, little sister Zixuan, I was just thinking about some things."



Then Xue Linglong asked, "Little sister Zixuan, I heard that the Ninth Brother has a penchant for beauty. When I came to the North Country, I brought all the dancers from the East Palace with me, but now that my darling is engrossed in cultivation, he is no longer interested in the dancers. Having them at the mansion serves no purpose, so why not offer them to the North Prince? What do you think?"

"You are the lady of the North Prince Mansion. If you are unwilling, then let's forget about it."

Upon hearing this, Mu Zixuan was momentarily startled, then she said, "Sister Xue, you may not know this, but even though the Prince likes beauty, not just any woman can catch his eye. He favors only those of peerless beauty."

"Usually, only women with an extraordinary appearance like Sister Xue can attract his attention."

Xue Linglong laughed and said, "Little sister Zixuan, you really know how to joke. I'm already a withered flower, a fallen willow. The Ninth Brother couldn't possibly fancy a woman like me."

"If the Prince is not interested, then I will just dismiss those dancers when I get back. After all, there's no use keeping them around."

Mu Zixuan suggested, "How about this? Sister Xue, bring those dancers to the Prince's Mansion in a few days. I will check on behalf of the Prince and see if they are his type. If they are, we can keep them all at the North Prince Mansion."

Xue Linglong said, "Alright, I'll bring them to the mansion in a couple of days."

Just then, a maidservant from the Hundred Flowers Garden said to Xue Linglong, "Crown Princess Consort, the Prince has instructed you to inform the Crown Prince that he should visit the North Prince Mansion this afternoon. He has important matters to discuss with the Crown Prince."

Upon hearing this, Xue Linglong was taken aback. Could it be that the North Prince was planning to help Lu Yi take over Heyang County?

Chapter 685 - Chen Wanrong's Suspicion\_1

Upon hearing the maid's words, Xue Linglong did not linger in the North Prince Mansion. She immediately stood up, returned to the Lu Mansion, and relayed to Lu Yi that Lu Chen wanted to see him.

Hearing Xue Linglong say that Lu Chen wanted to meet with him, Lu Yi felt ecstatic inside. He believed that Lu Chen had made a decision, most likely agreeing to help him.

Afternoon.

North Prince Mansion.

Inside the Hundred Flowers Garden.

Lu Chen and Lu Yi sat in front of a stone table. Lu Chen poured a cup of tea for Lu Yi and then said, "Brother, I've thought it over these past few days and believe that what you said before makes a lot of sense. Now that our father is being misled by treacherous officials, indeed, as a Prince of Great Xia, I cannot stand idly by."

"So, I've decided to help you take Heyang County and then provide you with some material support to facilitate your recruitment of troops and horses," Lu Chen said.

Hearing this, Lu Yi said with joy in his heart, "Then I must thank you, Ninth Brother. Once I succeed in supporting the Emperor, I will certainly honor our previous agreement and help you establish an empire in the north."

Lu Chen smiled and then said, "However, returning to our discussion, if you go to Heyang County, Brother, you may find yourself in a precarious situation, and the conditions there are somewhat harsh. Why not leave your family here in the North Country?"

Lu Yi's face darkened in an instant. He immediately understood what Lu Chen meant; Lu Chen intended to keep Xue Linglong and the rest as hostages to prevent Lu Yi from not listening to the North Country once he'd gained enough power.

Lu Yi hated being threatened, but now that he was under the roof of another and still reliant on Lu Chen to build his influence, he had no choice but to agree to the request.

Lu Yi said, "Thank you for your kindness, Ninth Brother. Then I'll trouble you to look after my wife and the others."

Lu Chen responded with a smile, "Brother, rest assured, I will certainly take good care of them for you."

Lu Yi's fists clenched slightly. A sudden thought crossed his mind that his ninth brother had a weakness for beautiful women, and he probably still had his eyes on Xue Linglong.

Once he left for Heyang County, he would be separated from Xue Linglong. Would Lu Chen take advantage of this time to do something to Xue Linglong?

As this thought struck him, anger surged in Lu Yi's heart, but another thought quickly followed: For the throne, for power in his hands, what was a woman's worth?

After all, he had married Xue Linglong originally for the influence of her family. Now that the Xue Family had outlived its usefulness, and although Xue Linglong still had ties with the Demon Sect, it had been a long time since anyone from the sect had come looking for her. No one knew whether the Demon Sect had given up on Xue Linglong.

If the Demon Sect had abandoned her, then he could no longer use Xue Linglong to connect with the Demon Sect, so he might as well leave her in the North Country.

It was a pity, though; Xue Linglong was a great beauty. Because he had practiced the Devilish Skill given by the Demon Sect, he had not even touched Xue Linglong, and that thought made Lu Yi somewhat unwilling to let it go.

Forget it, once he became Emperor, he could have whatever woman he wanted.

At that moment, Lu Yi asked, "Ninth Brother, how exactly do you plan to help me? Are you going to lend troops to me directly, or send people to help me take Heyang County?"

Lu Chen answered with a smile, "I will send troops to march south and help you occupy Heyang County first. Once you've established your own forces and recruited a certain number of soldiers, I'll call back the soldiers from the North Country."

Hearing this, Lu Yi was taken aback. He had actually hoped that Lu Chen would lend troops directly to him, this way, his own faction might sway the North Country's soldiers, and he might even get his hands on the North Country's weapons.

If he acquired the weapons of the North Country, he would no longer be constrained by Lu Chen in the future. He had not expected Lu Chen to be so cautious, giving him no chance at all.

At this point, Lu Yi could not put forth any demands, since he was the one seeking help from Lu Chen, and he was not in a position to set conditions.

Regaining his composure, Lu Yi said with a smile, "Then, thank you very much, Ninth Brother."

Lu Chen replied with a smile, "No need to thank me, it's what I should do."

Both of them wore smiles on their faces, but each harbored their own cunning schemes.

After Lu Yi left, Lu Chen called over Xuanyuan Chen and briefed him on the matter of marching south. Lu Chen planned for Xuanyuan Chen to use the takeover of Heyang County as a practice to command the Synthetic Camp.

Xuanyuan Chen would have to be a commander in the future and could no longer look at a war through the narrow perspective of a Heavy Cavalry commander; he must have an overall view.

Xuanyuan Chen was thrilled to hear that Lu Chen wanted him to march south and attack Heyang County. He had recently taken over the new Synthetic Camp of the North Country, with over two hundred thousand men, but he had not yet had an opportunity to command them in battle. Compared to commanding tens of thousands of Heavy Cavalry, leading an army of two hundred thousand was indeed a challenging feat.

Evening.

After dinner, Lu Chen went to Yunrong Courtyard. Although he disliked Yun Xianxian, he had no choice but to visit Yunrong Courtyard for the sake of playing with Chen Wanrong.

Upon entering the courtyard, Lu Chen did not see Yun Xianxian and breathed a sigh of relief as he headed straight for Chen Wanrong's bedroom.

After opening the door to Chen Wanrong's room, he said with a smile, "Sweetie Rongrong, your darling has arrived."

But as soon as Lu Chen closed the door and turned around, his entire being froze.

There sat Yun Xianxian, cross-legged on Chen Wanrong's bed, her two eyes fixed on him as if she was looking at prey.

"Master... Master... What are you doing here?"

Chapter 686 Chen Wanrong's Suspicion\_2

Yun Xianxian said expressionlessly, "Rongrong has been in North Country for several days, and you have been intimate with her for several days. Does she still plan to cultivate?"

Lu Chen said somewhat helplessly, "Master, it's not easy for Rongrong to come down the mountain. She and I are Dao companions after all. You surely can't forbid us from doing such things, can you?"

Yun Xianxian didn't bother to argue with Lu Chen about this. She said instead, "That Xue Linglong who often comes to the Prince's Mansion has a problem. There's an aura about her that is somewhat nauseating. Although your master doesn't know what she's using to conceal the martial artist's aura, the wicked nature she exudes cannot deceive your master. You better be wary of her."

Lu Chen was somewhat surprised. He hadn't expected Yun Xianxian to see through Xue Linglong's tricks. "Thank you for the reminder, Master. Your disciple understands."

"Master, it's getting late, why don't you go back to your room to rest?"

Yun Xianxian said, "Your master has already told Rongrong, tonight I will borrow you for one night, you will help your master recover her strength."

Lu Chen's brow furrowed, about to say something, when his body suddenly flew up, soaring straight to the bed, lying there stiff as a board.

Just like the last time in the study, Yun Xianxian still didn't touch Lu Chen's body, simply sitting cross-legged by his side.

As soon as Yun Xianxian waved her hand, Lu Chen's clothes shattered. Lu Chen felt somewhat resigned; this woman was doing that to him again.

No, he had to find a way to touch Yun Xianxian's body.

Today, at the North Prince Mansion, Yun Xianxian had drunk quite a bit of Dragon and Phoenix Tea. As long as he could touch Yun Xianxian's body, the spiritual power within her would be sealed. He wanted to show this woman what he was made of.

However, at the moment, Lu Chen could only think about it. He couldn't move his entire body, and the spiritual power inside of him was once again actively stirred up, forming a cycle with the spiritual power on his body.

Seeing Yun Xianxian's cold face, the flames inside Lu Chen's heart were thoroughly ignited. He really wanted to subdue Yun Xianxian now, but because of this, he found that his and Yun Xianxian's cultivation had entered an even more perfect state.

Because his desire to possess Yun Xianxian was thoroughly provoked, he and Yun Xianxian perfectly met the conditions for practicing the Dragon-Phoenix Yin-Yang Spell.

Lu Chen felt like he was being used as a cultivation tool again, and after struggling for a bit, he found it was no use and simply stopped resisting. If this fairy liked to watch, then he would let her watch.

After cultivating for a while, Yun Xianxian suddenly experienced a strange sensation. A tinge of red appeared on her beautiful cold cheeks, and then she felt her body start to heat up.

When her gaze fell upon Lu Chen's body, she suddenly had the desire to draw closer to him and engage in the act of men and women.

This is...

Yun Xianxian instantly realized something was amiss.



Her brows slightly furrowed, she couldn't help but think that this must be the negative side effect of the cultivation technique.

If one cultivated this technique for too long, such thoughts would arise. However, she would never engage in such acts with this man.

In order to recover her strength, Yun Xianxian had no choice but to push on with the cultivation. After an unknown period of time, she couldn't bear it any longer and immediately stopped.

At that moment, Lu Chen also awoke from his trance, and his gaze fell upon Yun Xianxian's face. He saw that her beautiful face was flushed, her forehead covered with fragrant sweat, and her wet hair sticking to her cheeks, making her even more enchanting.

What was this situation?

Their bodies hadn't touched, and Yun Xianxian was only meditating and cultivating. So how did she end up like this?

Yun Xianxian took a few deep breaths to calm her restlessness, and after a while, she finally recovered.

As soon as she recovered, Yun Xianxian's cold gaze fell sharply upon Lu Chen, making him feel a chill down his spine once again.

Lu Chen asked, "Master... what happened to you?"

Yun Xianxian said expressionlessly, "Your master is fine."

In her mind, Yun Xianxian thought that this cultivation technique indeed stirred the deepest desires in people. If she completely cut off her desires, she wouldn't be able to use this technique to cultivate. The essence of this technique was to utilize a person's desires.

After sensing the skill within her, Yun Xianxian sighed. At this rate of recovery, she didn't know when she would be able to regain her peak strength.

Seeing Yun Xianxian suddenly silent and sighing, Lu Chen asked, "Master, why do you sigh?"

Yun Xianxian said, "With the current rate of recovery, your master doesn't know when she will be able to restore her strength to its peak."

Lu Chen asked, "How did Master's strength fall like this?"

Yun Xianxian replied, "After falling to this world, I was suppressed by the Heavenly Dao of this world. Your master tried to resist, but the Heavenly Dao sent down a heavenly tribulation, causing me to get seriously injured. That's why my realm and strength drastically decreased."

Upon hearing Yun Xianxian's reply, Lu Chen thought to himself, in that case, could his Rejuvenating Skill help Yun Xianxian recover?

With this in mind, Lu Chen's lips curled slightly upwards, and then he said, "Master, actually, your disciple has a method that can help Master recover quickly, but it requires Master to pay a small price."

Hearing this, Yun Xianxian asked with curiosity, "You have a way? What way? The injury your master sustained was caused by the Heavenly Dao. What good method could you possibly have?"

### Chapter 687 Chen Wanrong's Suspicion\_3

Lu Chen said, "If Master doesn't believe me, then I won't speak of it any further."

Yun Xianxian thought for a moment. The fact that Lu Chen was able to acquire the Dragon-Phoenix Yin-Yang Spell, a cultivation technique of such caliber, proved that he did have some opportunities. Perhaps he really did have a way.

With this in mind, Yun Xianxian said, "Let's hear it then. If your method proves useful, from now on, I will not restrict your meetings with Rongrong. You two can meet whenever you wish."

Lu Chen directly said, "The method I'm speaking of is to cultivate with your disciple through dual cultivation."

Upon hearing this, Yun Xianxian's cheeks instantly turned ice-cold, and a layer of frost formed around her body.

Lu Chen continued, "The dual cultivation I'm referring to is not the distant dual cultivation method that Master uses. Rather, it involves physical contact. Although your dual cultivation method can also restore strength, its effectiveness is greatly diminished. It can't compare to the method involving direct bodily contact."

As Lu Chen finished speaking, Yun Xianxian coldly said, "Do you think I don't know what you're up to? You even dare to harbor such ulterior motives towards your own master. Aren't you afraid that, in a fit of rage, I will kill you?"

Lu Chen calmly said, "Disciple believes that Master is not someone who is unreasonable."

Yun Xianxian then said, "Enough, let's not speak of this matter again in the future."

How could she not know that to get the best results from the dual cultivation skill, it needed to be like Chen Wanrong and Lu Chen had just done, but how could she possibly partake in such an indecent act with her own disciple.

This bastard Lu Chen, to think he would harbor such thoughts of betraying his master and ancestors!

At that moment, Yun Xianxian stood up, waved her hand, and vanished in an instant.

The next moment, Chen Wanrong appeared on the bed out of thin air. Chen Wanrong had been meditating in the next room when she suddenly felt as if something had tugged at her body. When she opened her eyes, she found Lu Chen lying honestly on the bed, his eyes eagerly watching her.

Chen Wanrong was briefly stunned. Didn't the Master say she had important matters to discuss with Lu Chen? Why was Lu Chen uncovered...

Could it be that they just...

Chen Wanrong was suddenly shocked...

How could they possibly...

Wasn't her Master also Lu Chen's Master?

How could Lu Chen commit such an act of betraying his master and ancestors!

Seeing Chen Wanrong staring at him blankly, Lu Chen knew she must have misunderstood something, but he couldn't be bothered to explain.

He had just been completely infuriated by Yun Xianxian. Before Chen Wanrong could come back to her senses, Lu Chen pounced on her, pinning her down on the bed.

Chen Wanrong was about to ask Lu Chen what had happened when, the next second, her lips were sealed by the mouth of that bad guy, Lu Chen.

"Mmm mmm mmm..."

Chen Wanrong resigned herself to ask what was going on after things were over.

Meanwhile.

The Xuanyuan Family.

Xuanyuan Chen was discussing something with Xuanyuan Chaoge when Xuanyuan Yunqi returned home. Seeing her older brother in high spirits talking with Xuanyuan Chaoge, Xuanyuan Yunqi curiously approached them.

Seeing Xuanyuan Yunqi come back, Xuanyuan Chen said with a smile, "Little sister, I have some good news for you!"

Xuanyuan Yunqi asked curiously, "What good news?"

Xuanyuan Chen proudly said, "In a few days, your older brother will lead troops down south! At that time, the entire defense of Yan County will be in your hands!"

Although Xuanyuan Yunqi took charge of the Guard Battalion near Yan County upon her return, Xuanyuan Chen had not completely let go because there were also many soldiers in the battalion, and he worried that Xuanyuan Yunqi might not yet have the ability to manage the entire battalion effectively.

However, after Xuanyuan Chen left, the entire battalion would be under Xuanyuan Yunqi's command, presenting her with a great opportunity to train.

Upon hearing Xuanyuan Chen's words, Xuanyuan Yunqi was stunned for a moment. She had not expected her older brother to have the opportunity to lead troops down south.

Wait...

Leading troops down south?

Xuanyuan Yunqi immediately asked, "Is the Prince planning to vie for the throne?"

Xuanyuan Chen replied, "No, the Prince simply plans to first help Prince Lu Yi seize Heyang County and then let Prince Lu Yi test the waters with the imperial court."

Xuanyuan Yunqi said, "I see."

Seeing Xuanyuan Yunqi's expression turn somewhat indifferent, Xuanyuan Chen said, "Haven't you always wanted to independently command an army? Now the whole Guard Battalion is handed over to you, why do you seem a bit unhappy?"

Xuanyuan Yunqi said, "I would rather be on the battlefield than stay in the rear all the time."

As she spoke, Xuanyuan Yunqi turned around and headed to her room. Seeing her leave, Xuanyuan Chen was taken aback for a moment.

It was then that Xuanyuan Chaoge said, "Ah, can't Yunqi see that the Prince likes her and doesn't want her to get hurt?"

"She's grown so big and still doesn't understand anything, always thinking about fighting and killing."

Speaking softly, Xuanyuan Chen said, "Dad, why don't you talk to the Prince and simply arrange for Yunqi to marry into the North Prince Mansion? It'll save her from constantly thinking about the battlefield."

Xuanyuan Chaoge said, "I have already mentioned this to the Prince. The Prince wants to see what Yunqi herself thinks."

With that, Xuanyuan Chaoge sighed again, "Let it be. Let nature take its course."

"You should prepare well these next few days. Be careful on your trip down south."

Xuanyuan Chen said, "I understand."

...

Early in the morning.

Lu Chen was holding Chen Wanrong's soft waist, burrowing his face into her hair, incessantly inhaling the fragrance of her hair.

After Chen Wanrong came to her senses, she couldn't help but ask, "What did you and Master do in the room last night?"

Hearing the question, Lu Chen asked with a smile, "What do you think we did?"



At that moment, Chen Wanrong twisted her body, turned over to face Lu Chen, and continued to inquire, looking into his eyes, "Did you two also do this sort of thing?"

Lu Chen asked, "Are you jealous?"

Chen Wanrong replied indifferently, "No."

Lu Chen asked, "Then why ask such a question?"

Chen Wanrong answered expressionlessly, "Just asking."

Chapter 688 With Jiudi's Words, I'm Relieved\_1

...

Chen Wanrong wouldn't feel jealous just because Lu Chen had something going on with Yun Xianxian, but she always felt something was off.

Initially, she had regarded Lin Wanyun as if she were her own mother in her heart, and then that bastard Lu Chen ended up... with Lin Wanyun.

Now, to think that Lu Chen had actually laid his hands on his own master...

Was this little bastard truly so unconcerned with basic human decency?

Seeing Chen Wanrong with a frosty expression, Lu Chen chuckled and said, "I did think about doing something bad to her, but unfortunately, she's a Celestial and I'm no match for her. She thinks I have a unique physique, so yesterday she examined my body."

"We're completely innocent."

Hearing what Lu Chen had said, Chen Wanrong showed a doubtful look.

Innocent?

Why did she feel it was not like that?

Chen Wanrong directly asked, "You don't harbor any dirty thoughts towards your master?"

Grinning, Lu Chen replied, "What do you mean by 'dirty thoughts'? Could it be that you think everything we do is dirty?"

Chen Wanrong didn't answer the question. In her heart, she didn't believe anything they did was sacred. With Lu Chen, all she felt was her own degradation.

Since arriving in Yan County, she had been engaging in mischief with Lu Chen every day. If this continued, that bad element would completely corrupt her.

At that moment, Lu Chen raised his hand and tidied the messy hair on Chen Wanrong's cheek, then said, "I've been thinking, if the master wants to quickly regain her strength, dual cultivation with me would actually be the best method. What do you think?"

Chen Wanrong's heart skipped a beat.

After coming back to her senses, she said coldly, "I knew you were coveting Master's body! You're trying to betray and overthrow your own teacher!"

Smiling, Lu Chen said, "If it's betraying and overthrowing the teacher, so be it. I'm doing this for her own good."

Chen Wanrong didn't continue the conversation. What did he mean for their master's good? Clearly, this guy was just lustful at heart.

Chen Wanrong then said, "You're right about one thing. The master is a Celestial, and if you want to betray and overthrow her, you'd need the capability to do so."

Lu Chen smiled lightly and said nothing more. What did it matter if she was a Celestial? He was already a Pseudo Celestial by now. Before long, he would also become a Celestial, and one day he was bound to conquer Yun Xianxian, that fairy.

...

Several days later.

Lu Chen personally saw off Lu Yi and Xuanyuan Chen as they headed south.

This time, they were headed south mainly to transport Xuanyuan Chen's Synthetic Camp by train to Yongan County, then from there into Heyang County, occupied by North Country, to attack directly.

Seeing the variously shaped cannons on the train, Lu Yi stood there stunned. Although he had not yet witnessed how these weapons were used, just the thought that North Country was able to easily defeat the Barbarian Tribe and even crush the armies of Great Wu, totaling hundreds of thousands, filled Lu Yi's mind with immense shock.

Then, the first steam train thunderously started up. As it let out a "whoo," the train began to slowly accelerate. Watching the steel giant gradually speeding towards the distance, Lu Yi was deeply moved once more.

So this was the animal-free train mentioned in the newspapers?

What a frightening load capacity!

And this train hardly needed to rest. At this speed, it seemed likely that North Country's two hundred thousand troops could reach Heyang County in just a few days.

Lu Yi, standing on the train platform, felt somewhat dazed, suddenly sensing as if he had been transported to another world.

Why did North Country possess such terrifying mechanical inventions?

And the North Prince had not been in North Country that long.

Was this really something from this world?

At this moment, Xue Linglong and the others from the Taiyin Divine Sect were just as incredulous as Lu Yi at the sight before them. Xue Linglong had originally planned to see Lu Yi off and pretend to cry a little, acting as though she couldn't bear his leaving.

However, after seeing the enormous fleet of trains, Xue Linglong momentarily forgot she was there to bid farewell to Lu Yi, her gaze was pinned to the trains as if nailed there.

Xue Linglong couldn't help but wonder, could these so-called trains be objects from the Immortal Realm?

Did Lu Chen have real Immortals behind him?

Thinking about it now, the bizarre objects of North Country were far too numerous. Everything in Yan County seemed to clash with this world, many things simply did not appear to belong, and even some of the North Prince's policies were completely different from the rest of the world.

Seeing Lu Yi and the others staring blankly at the departing trains, Lu Chen's lips curved upwards slightly; indeed, these things were quite advanced for the ancients.

At that time, Lu Chen spoke up, "Yi, after you arrive in Heyang County, if you need anything, just speak directly with General Xuanyuan. He will make sure the message gets through to me."

Hearing Lu Chen's voice, Lu Yi finally snapped out of it. A bit lost, he said, "Oh, okay, then thank you very much, Chen."

...

Next to Lu Yi, Xue Linglong also came back to her senses. She said to Lu Yi, "Darling, after you head south, you must take good care of yourself, wu wu wu..."

As she spoke, Xue Linglong pretended to start sobbing, looking very heartbroken.

Seeing this scene, Lu Chen sneered in his heart. This seductress was really good at acting; she probably couldn't wait for Lu Yi to go south so that she could come to the Prince's Mansion to seduce him.

Lu Yi glanced at Xue Linglong and then at Lu Chen before saying, "Linglong, if you have any problems after I leave, go see Chen. He will take good care of you all."

Having said that, Lu Yi patted Lu Chen on the shoulder and added, "Chen, I'm counting on you to take care of Linglong."

Lu Chen replied, "Rest assured, Yi, I will take good care of Linglong on your behalf. I won't let anyone bully her."

Lu Yi responded, "With your promise, Yi's mind is at ease!"

"Alright, it's time for me to leave!"

As Lu Yi's words fell, a train slowly came to a stop at the platform, bearing the flag of Lu Yi's Personal Guards.

Once the train stopped, Lu Yi directly entered the carriage. "Chen, next time we meet, let's drink and be merry!"

Lu Chen said, "Sure thing! Yi, take care!"

Before long, the train carrying Lu Yi started moving. As it slowly pulled away, Xue Linglong's sobbing grew louder. Eventually, she seemed to be so overcome with grief that she went limp. Had it not been for the maidservants by her side, she might have already been sitting on the ground.

Seeing Xue Linglong's exaggerated reaction, Lu Chen laughed to himself once more. The man had already left, yet this seductress continued her performance — truly dedicated to her craft.

He wondered when she would come to find him.

With that thought, Lu Chen said to her, "Linglong, don't worry. Yi's trip will be free of danger. Once he secures a foothold in Heyang County, he will send someone to pick you up to head south. It won't be long."

While sobbing, Xue Linglong said, "I'll take your auspicious words to heart. I just hope that your Yi returns safely."

Lu Chen continued, "Linglong, the train is already far away. Go back and rest well. Don't cry yourself ill. Yi would feel heartbroken if he knew you've hurt yourself from crying."

Xue Linglong replied, "Thank you for your concern, Chen. I'll go back first."

Then, with the help of the maidservants from Lu Mansion, Xue Linglong left the train station platform.

As soon as Xuanyuan Chen and his two hundred thousand troops arrived at Yongan County, the news quickly reached the court and the ears of Lu Yong, Huai Prince's son in Heyang County.

The North Country's troop movements suddenly made the court anxious; after all, no one knew whether the North Prince was planning to march south to attack the Capital city. In a short time, the entire court was in a state of panic.

Great Sum Capital city.

The court today was as noisy as a marketplace. Following the failure of the Crown Prince's rebellion, those from his faction had mostly been purged, leaving officials from other Imperial Prince factions.



Due to North Country's military mobilization, these Imperial Prince faction officials temporarily shared a common goal, significantly harmonizing the court atmosphere. There had been no mutual criticisms in recent days.

Sitting on the throne, Sum Emperor coughed violently, feigning a near-death appearance.

Upon hearing his cough, the entire court fell silent instantly.

When no one else spoke, Sum Emperor finally opened his mouth and said, "My dear officials, regarding North Prince's troop movements to the south, what are your thoughts?"

Hearing this question, the ministers looked at each other, hesitant to speak.

After a pause, the Minister of War stood up and said, "This minister believes that North Prince will not launch a campaign to the south just yet. He is probably aiming to attack Heyang County!"

Pausing for a moment, the Minister of War was interrupted by Sum Emperor's cough. "Continue."

"If North Prince really wanted to rebel now, he would certainly attack Qi Country first to prevent any backstabbing. Yet now they bypass Qi Country and moved troops to Yongan County, which is so far from the Qi capital. It's clear that North Country's target is not Qi Country.

It's highly likely North Country is aiming for Great Wu's Youping County, to attack Heyang County from there, taking it from Huai Prince's remnants."

Sum Emperor pondered for a moment before saying, "Cough cough, Chen really is my good son! Still thinking about conquering territories for me!"

Just as Sum Emperor's words fell, a Red Ribbon Messenger's voice rang out from outside.

"Urgent report from the northwest!"

Immediately the Red Ribbon Messenger entered the hall, "Urgent report from the northwest! North Country's two hundred thousand troops have moved towards Youping County and are just a river away from Heyang County!"

Hearing this, the court officials were taken aback. It seemed the Minister of War was right; North Prince's target was indeed Heyang County.

But what was the real purpose of North Prince attacking Heyang County?

If North Prince had designs on seizing power, why not just advance southwards directly? Why bother attacking Heyang County at all?

Descending from Heyang County in such a roundabout manner was a sheer waste of time.

At that moment, a Shadow Guard appeared beside Sum Emperor, handing over a report directly to him.

After reading the Shadow Guard's report, Sum Emperor's face turned dark instantly. He had also been contemplating why that rebellious son wanted to attack Heyang County, but now, understanding swept over him upon seeing the Shadow Guard's report.

#### Chapter 689 The Provoked Lu Yi\_1

The Sum Emperor had not anticipated that after his eldest son went missing, he would actually flee to the North Country.

Not only did he flee to the North Country, but he also enticed Lu Chen, that rebellious child, to collude with him. The two of them were actually in cahoots.

When Lu Chen attacked Heyang County, he probably didn't do so to occupy it for himself but to lend troops to Prince Lu Yi, and then use Prince Lu Yi as a pawn, allowing Prince Lu Yi to continue depleting the court's strength while Lu Chen would be just watching from behind.

The Sum Emperor was extremely intuitive; simply by looking at the intelligence reports from the Shadow Guards, he had already guessed the purpose behind the North Country's dispatch of troops.

After the morning court session ended, the Sum Emperor went straight to the Royal Garden. By then, Elder Yu Changqing and Fu Hongchou had already been waiting in the Royal Garden.

Upon hearing about the collusion between Lu Yi and the North Prince, Elder Yu Changqing said with a smile, "It seems that it won't be long before the North Prince will lead troops southward."

The Sum Emperor asked, "Why does Elder Yu think so?"

"He is now supporting Prince Lu Yi, using Prince Lu Yi as his pawn to exhaust the court's power. How could he possibly march southward in a short period of time?"

Elder Yu Changqing continued, "With the support of the former Palace Master of Mysterious Moon Palace, it's impossible for the North Prince to keep dragging his feet. In my view, his lending troops to Prince Lu Yi, helping Prince Lu Yi establish influence, serves in part to probe the court's strength, and in part as a preparation for his eventual march southward."

"If Prince Lu Yi truly reaches the Capital city, I dare guarantee that the North Prince will immediately march southward under the pretext of aiding the Emperor."

After hearing Elder Yu Changqing's words, the Sum Emperor thought for a moment and felt there was some logic to it.

If it was truly the case, he would just need to wait in the Capital city, then have Zhao King lead troops into the city, and finally let troops led by Prince Lu Yi pass by unimpeded. It wouldn't take long before the North Prince would believe the legitimate opportunity had arrived and then march southward with his army.

In this way, he wouldn't have to worry about the North Prince remaining in the North Country indefinitely, leaving him with no recourse.

As long as that rebellious child left the North Country, he would surely be able to eliminate him.

Thinking this, the Sum Emperor said, "I only hope that rebellious child really will do as you say."

It was then Elder Yu Changqing said, "Now that the North Prince has made his move, we must also accelerate our actions here."

The Sum Emperor replied indifferently, "The rate at which that weapon absorbs blood essence has clearly slowed down; it should not be long before it can be used again."

Elder Yu Changqing remarked, "If that is the case, then I am relieved."

Everything was essentially ready now; they were just waiting for the North Prince to march southward. Once the North Prince did so, the former Palace Master of Mysterious Moon Palace would surely follow southward, and at that time, their several forces would unavoidably come to a head.

The Sum Emperor thought to himself that once that rebellious child died, he could become a Celestial in a short period of time. Then he would take action to deal with both Elder Yu Changqing and Fu Hongchou, and immediately dispatch troops to attack Mysterious Moon Palace afterward.

In this manner, there would be no one in the whole of Great Sum who could threaten his throne in the future, and other dynasties would have to bow down and pay homage to him.

Thinking about this, the corners of the Sum Emperor's mouth involuntarily lifted slightly.

Elder Yu Changqing and Fu Hongchou, these two fools, surely did not anticipate what his conditions for merging paths were.

If the two of them knew what the conditions for his merging paths were, they wouldn't have come to cooperate with him voluntarily.

At that moment, the Sum Emperor felt extremely satisfied.

I shall ultimately be the final victor!

...

Meanwhile.

Heyang County, Shunan City.

Within the Prefectural Government, a corpulent man was drinking wine, watching the enchanting twists of the dancers, with a beauty at each side of him.

Just then, a guard suddenly burst in and exclaimed, "Prince, something terrible has happened!"

Upon this exclamation, the dance of the hall's dancers ceased, and the music stopped.

The fat man's complexion instantly darkened; he slammed his wine cup onto the ground with a smack and said viciously, "What's all this racket for? Can't you see that this Prince is in the middle of dining!"

The guard, frightened, immediately kneeled, kowtowing while pleading, "Spare your mercy, Prince! Spare your mercy!"

The man waved his hand and said to the two beauties by his side, "Leave me; I've lost all interest now."

Hearing this, the two beauties hurriedly left his side.

After the dancing girls and the musicians had left the hall, the man then demanded, "Speak, what has happened!"

The guard quickly reported, "Prince Lu Yi has borrowed two hundred thousand troops from the North Country and is preparing to attack Heyang County. They are now only separated from Heyang County by a river."

At these words, the man's face changed dramatically, filled with incredible panic.

"How... how could this be..."

"I've only just started enjoying a few days of peace. How could someone come to bother me again..."

The man was the third son of Huai Prince, the former Huai Prince being his father. After the Huai Prince was defeated and killed, Lu Yong escaped with some of his father's men out of their domain. Then, without the approval of the court, he took over Heyang County and declared himself king.

Lu Yong had thought that, with the court overextended and Great Sum in turmoil, the court wouldn't be able to send troops to subjugate them, and that he could enjoy his time in Heyang County.

But to his surprise, not long thereafter, Crown Prince, who had failed in a coup, had actually fled to the North Country and brought back two hundred thousand troops to attack him!

Those were soldiers of the North Country!

The combat power of the North Country soldiers was something he had heard of as notorious.

Chapter 690 The Provoked Lu Yi\_2

The Barbarian Tribe had invaded the south several times, but they had always been defeated by the North Country; even Great Wu, a hugely powerful dynasty, ended up facing a crushing defeat when they waged war against the North Country.

How could their small number of soldiers possibly withstand the soldiers of the North Country!

While Lu Yong lay on the ground trembling violently, a guard tentatively asked, "Prince... Prince, shall we surrender?"

"Prince Lu Yi borrowed troops from the North Country to attack Heyang County, certainly not content with failing in the mutiny, preparing to start over again. If we pledge allegiance to Prince Lu Yi, he surely won't treat us harshly."

Hearing this, Lu Yong suddenly snapped back to attention. He immediately scolded, "Surrender? What joke is this! How could I possibly surrender!"

"If I surrendered, would I have the good life I have now!"



"No matter how formidable the North Country's soldiers are, there's such a large river in between. As long as we defend by the riverbank, I refuse to believe they can make it across!"

"Summon the generals immediately!"

Before long, former subordinates of the Huai Prince arrived in the hall. When they heard that Prince Lu Yi was borrowing troops to launch an attack, they were all greatly panicked. Yet soon, like Lu Yong, they too remembered the large river between Youping County and Heyang County.

If Prince Lu Yi wanted to attack Heyang County, he would inevitably need to cross the river. As long as they defended along the riverbank, even the most skilled soldiers of the North Country wouldn't stand a chance of getting across.

If those North Country soldiers attempted to force their way across the river, their fate would likely be that of drowned souls.

With this thought, the subordinates of the Huai Prince suddenly became incredibly optimistic.

...

By the Quanping River.

On the side of Youping County.

The soldiers of the North Country were busy establishing cannon positions. Lu Yi wasn't sure how to use the cannons. Seeing the vast river before his eyes, his gaze immediately filled with worry.

If they wanted to cross from Youping County, they had to cross the river. But with such a wide river, once they started crossing, they would become live targets for the other bank.

At this moment, Lu Yi looked to General Xuanyuan Chen beside him and inquired, "General Xuanyuan, how do you think we should fight this battle?"

Although Xuanyuan Chen was assisting Lu Yi in expanding his territory, the command of the war still lay with Xuanyuan Chen. Lu Yi wanted to see how Xuanyuan Chen planned to solve the problem of crossing the river.

After surveying the river ahead, just as Xuanyuan Chen was about to speak, a soldier approached and said, "Your Highness, General, the boats for the river crossing are ready!"

Upon hearing this, Xuanyuan Chen turned to Lu Yi and stated, "Please be at ease, Your Highness. In no more than three days, we shall reach the opposite bank."

Xuanyuan Chen did not directly answer Lu Yi's question. When Lu Yi asked him how they were to fight this battle, clearly, he was unaware of the power of the North Country's cannons.

This time, they had brought a significant number of heavy cannons. The range of these cannons far exceeded the width of the river. With the cannons providing cover, the North Country soldiers would have no problem crossing.

Seeing that Xuanyuan Chen did not respond directly and appeared so confident, Lu Yi frowned slightly, but he could not say much since Xuanyuan Chen was not his man.

Just then, Xuanyuan Chen pulled out a telescope and surveyed the situation on the opposite riverbank.

It seemed the other side had also realized the threat and were building defensive fortifications.

Seeing Xuanyuan Chen holding a strange object and looking into the distance, Lu Yi grew curious about what it was. Just as he was about to inquire, Xuanyuan Chen handed the telescope directly to him, "Your Highness, this is a telescope, which allows one to clearly see the situation on the opposite side. Please have a look."

Upon hearing this, Lu Yi paused. However, after having seen so many novelties in the North Country, especially after witnessing the colossal invention of the train, Lu Yi no longer had a surprised reaction to new gadgets.

He took the telescope from Xuanyuan Chen's hand and, imitating Xuanyuan Chen, looked into the distance. He saw that events on the other side of the river appeared as if they were right before his eyes, and were incredibly clear.

Lu Yi thought to himself that the device was really useful, especially suited for scouting enemy positions.

Thinking this, Lu Yi's heart balanced out. Lu Chen, a unanimously recognized useless individual, had, upon arriving in the North Country, come up with so many useful and strange gadgets.

The North Country was still a land of bitter cold. Even in such a poor place, they could come up with these devices. If back then, his imperial father had assigned the North Prince to a richer area in the south, perhaps the North Prince might have been able to fly by now?

While Lu Yi was curious about how the North Prince had acquired these objects, Xuanyuan Chen beside him spoke up, "Your Highness, I plan to launch an attack on Heyang County tomorrow. What do you think?"

Hearing Xuanyuan Chen's words, Lu Yi moved the telescope from his view and looking at Xuanyuan Chen, he asked, "General Xuanyuan, are you confident?"

Xuanyuan Chen said, "I repeat what I said earlier – within three days, we will have captured the opposite bank."

Lu Yi replied, "Then I shall await General Xuanyuan's good news!"

Lu Yi did not believe that Xuanyuan Chen could reach the other side in three days. He had just observed through the telescope that the opposite side had already stationed numerous soldiers, and their defensive structures, including trebuchets, were all ready. Taking it down in three days would be no easy feat.

But since Xuanyuan Chen had spoken, Lu Yi did not wish to argue further. After all, Xuanyuan Chen was not his man.