

Es. Benefits 771

Chapter 771 The Plan to Move the Capital_1

When Lu Chen was still in the North Country, he gave each of his women a wooden doll in his likeness.

The craftsmen of the North Prince Mansion were very skilled, and the carved dolls closely resembled him. At the time, Chu Yuqin had even warned Lu Chen that giving away dolls could lead to some people using them to curse him.

Lu Chen never saw anyone curse him using a doll in his likeness, but now he did see someone using a doll to do something bad.

Seeing the door of the sleeping chambers suddenly flung open, Xue Linglong's soul nearly flew out in fright, and she hurriedly stuffed the doll in her hand under the covers.

Since Lu Chen entered the Capital city, he had been too busy to visit Xue Linglong, mainly because Linglong Palace was quite far from the Imperial Study Room, and he slept in his own chambers.

He occasionally visited Chen Wanrong, but most of the time, he simply slept while embracing Bai Qingqing, who was not only the maidservant attending to him but also his personal body pillow.

This was Lu Chen's first time at Linglong Palace, and on his first visit here, he noticed Xue Linglong, that bewitching woman, using his doll to commit misdeeds.

Lu Chen thought to himself that he should have known better than to let the craftsman make his doll so exquisitely, so smooth.

At that moment, Lu Chen glared at Xue Linglong and scolded her, "Sorceress, you have quite the nerve, using my doll for such acts. Are you trying to suffocate me with the Witch Worm Skill?"

On hearing this, Xue Linglong immediately panicked, quickly kneeling on the bed and saying, "Your Majesty, I know I was wrong, I will never dare to do it again."

Xue Linglong, with her delicate and exquisite figure, knelt on the bed, looking even more alluring.

Although Xue Linglong's expression of fear was somewhat exaggerated, with an element of performance, she was indeed quite afraid inside.

After all, using Lu Chen's doll in that way, in ancient times, entire families were often exterminated due to the Witch Worm Skill.

Those who practiced the Witch Worm Skill used straw men, but she had used Lu Chen's doll, and such an exquisite one at that, highly resembling Lu Chen.

No one knew if Lu Chen would be offended by such acts, and if he truly got angry, she might be tortured to death.

Thinking of this, Xue Linglong's delicate body trembled slightly.

Xue Linglong felt a small wave of emotions in her heart.

This heartless man, since he entered the Capital city, had been so busy every day, never once looking for her.

And yet he came today of all days.

Wasn't he very busy?

What was he doing at Linglong Palace!

And just today, when she used the doll to commit a bad act for the first time, he happened to walk in on her.

At this time, Lu Chen snorted coldly, "You know you were wrong?"

"Would a sorceress like you recognize your own faults?"

"We'll see how I deal with you tonight!"

With these words, Lu Chen's Shadow Shifting technique brought him to the bedside in an instant. Before Xue Linglong could say anything further, she was pressed down by Lu Chen.

Soon, the candlelight in Linglong Palace flickered, and Xue Linglong's voice could be heard continuously.

"Your Majesty..."

"Mmm, mmm..."

"Master, I will never dare again..."

"Ying, ying, ying..."

...

At this time, Bai Qingqing silently closed the door of Linglong Palace and then went to a side chamber to sit and rest.

As the sky gradually brightened, Xue Linglong finally lost her strength, her entire being thoroughly wilted, leaving her at the mercy of Lu Chen's punishment.

Seeing the first rays of sunlight from dawn shining through the window, Lu Chen realized it was already morning.

Although he hadn't slept all night, Lu Chen felt refreshed. Since entering the Capital city, he had been busy dealing with various matters every day and had hardly had the chance to release his suppressed emotions like this.

Now a Pseudo Celestial, not sleeping for one night would not cause any significant problems to his body.

Lu Chen glanced at the enchantress beside him and then spoke, "This time I will spare you, but if I see you using my effigy for filthy deeds again, I will punish you even more severely."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Xue Linglong not only refrained from pleading for mercy but instead responded wearily but stubbornly, "I am but Your Majesty's plaything; if it comes to it, just play me to death."

With a chuckle, Lu Chen then said, "It seems you aren't convinced, are you?"

Xue Linglong's body shook slightly as she hurriedly responded, "I am convinced, utterly convinced. It is an honor to be played with by Your Majesty."

Lu Chen continued, "In recent days, I received intelligence that my brother Yi, in order to forge ties with the Taiyin Divine Sect, is sending people everywhere to find you."

Upon hearing this, Xue Linglong was startled, and she then turned to look at Lu Chen beside her, "No wonder you thought of coming to me last night."

"How was it? Is another man's woman to your liking?"

Having been with Lu Chen for some time, Xue Linglong knew him well enough; this man loved playing identity games the most.

Lu Chen must have come to her yesterday because he thought of Lu Yi looking for her, and his peculiar fondness was awakened, leading him to come over to deal with her.

It just so happened that he caught her misusing his wooden doll, giving him an excuse to ravish her.

On hearing Xue Linglong's words, Lu Chen raised her chin with his hand, gazing into her bewitching and captivating face, "Indeed, not bad."

At that moment, Xue Linglong said, "Daylight has broken, and Your Majesty still has many affairs of state to manage, so I won't keep you."

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Lu Chen gazed into Xue Linglong's eyes and said, "Are you trying to hasten my departure?"

With coquettish eyes glistening like silk, Xue Linglong said, "How would this slave dare to send Your Majesty away? I am merely worried about delaying Your Majesty's handling of state affairs. If I were to cause any delay, what should I do if someone impeaches me for bringing disaster upon the nation?"

Lu Chen let go of Xue Linglong and said with a smile, "You're a bewitching woman, shouldn't you be bringing disaster upon the nation?"

Xue Linglong responded, "This slave indeed wishes to bring disaster upon the nation, but with so many stunning women in Your Majesty's harem, it surely wouldn't be my turn to do so."

At this point, Xue Linglong asked, "When does Your Majesty plan to bring the royal consorts to the Capital city?"

Hearing this question, Lu Chen pondered for a moment then said, "I do not plan to bring them over for now. The Capital city is too backward. If they were to move here, they would find it hard to adapt to the life in the Capital city."

The North Prince Mansion in the North Country now had electricity, and with the presence of trains and various novel items, Mu Zixuan and the others had long since grown accustomed to life in the North Country.

Having them come to the Capital city, where even relieving themselves would require chamber pots and bathing meant using tubs, they would probably find it hard to adjust.

Even Lu Chen himself was not accustomed to it, and he had begun to entertain the idea of relocating the capital.

At this moment, Lu Chen released Xue Linglong's supple body and slowly sat up from the bed, "You rest well, I shall return tonight."

Upon hearing this, Xue Linglong's delicate body trembled once more, and she hurriedly said, "Your Majesty, please bestow your favor evenly. I heard that Master Chen will be returning to the Mysterious Moon Palace soon. It would be best if you visited her more often during this period."

Lu Chen snorted coldly and then said to Xue Linglong, "Last night, you used a puppet to cast the Witch Worm Skill on me, attempting to suffocate me. How could I possibly let you off so easily!"

At these words, Xue Linglong's cheeks immediately flushed red, and she quickly said, "Your Majesty, this slave knows nothing of the Witch Worm Skill, and that puppet was a gift from you. Since Your Majesty gave it to this slave, surely it's all right for this slave to use it."

Lu Chen said, "Sorceress, spare me those words. For the next seven days, you are to wash thoroughly and wait for me in bed every night!"

This...

Xue Linglong immediately felt a faint pain in her stomach.

This despicable man, ever since becoming Emperor, has grown ever more fierce.

If he's going to relocate the capital, he should do it quickly. If they returned to Yan County soon, she could catch her breath.

As long as they returned to Yan County, his attention wouldn't be focused on her anymore.

Xue Linglong pretended to be pitiful and said, "This slave understands."

Lu Chen laughed with a humph and then said, "Acting pitiful is useless. Unless you are with child with my progeny, I shall certainly frequent your chambers."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Xue Linglong instantly understood his intent—this despicable man was intent on impregnating her.

Lu Chen said nothing further and got up, Xue Linglong quickly followed suit, enduring her discomfort to help Lu Chen get dressed.

After getting dressed, Lu Chen left Linglong Palace directly. Watching his receding figure, Xue Linglong hastily circulated her energy and chuckled softly, murmuring to herself, "Dream on if you think you can impregnate me!"

As she spoke, Xue Linglong exercised her energy to expel the impurities from her body.

Although Xue Linglong had resigned herself to slavery, she only enjoyed being tormented by Lu Chen; she had no desire to bear children for this breeding bull.

In the following days, Lu Chen indeed visited Linglong Palace every day. Xue Linglong felt completely disoriented, as if her body was no longer her own.

Latterly, Xue Linglong wised up and at night went to the sleeping chamber where Chen Wanrong resided.

With Chen Wanrong's assistance, Xue Linglong finally escaped her plight.

One month later.

Most matters of the Capital city had been settled.

The Sum Emperor had been entombed, and though the Sum Emperor's body was gone, a ceremonial coffin was still necessary.

With the passing of the Sum Emperor, Lu Chen officially ascended to the throne, and Great Sum welcomed the new Emperor's first session of court politics.

Xuanzheng Hall.

Today, Xuanzheng Hall was silent as an echoless chamber; the officials of Great Sum awaited Lu Chen's arrival in subdued anticipation.

Even though Lu Chen had shown great magnanimity during the past month and had not pursued accounts with them, it was only because the Sum Emperor had not yet been interred.

Now that the Sum Emperor had been interred prematurely and Lu Chen had officially ascended to the throne, whether he would address certain officials was yet to be seen.

Just then, a woman's voice rang in the hall, "The Emperor arrives!"

Hearing a woman's voice, the court officials were taken aback; women had never before appeared in the imperial court. Now, on Lu Chen's first day of court governance, a woman had entered the Xuanzheng Hall, which seemed somewhat inappropriate.

Soon after, Lu Chen, dressed in a golden yellow dragon robe, slowly made his way to the Dragon Throne within the great hall.

Situ Ce immediately led all the civil and military officials to kneel down, "Long live our Emperor, long live, long live!"

In an indifferent voice, Lu Chen said, "Rise."

"Thank you, Your Majesty!"

Bai Qingqing then announced, "Those who have matters present them, those who do not may leave the court!"

No sooner had the words been spoken than a minister from the Ministry of Rites could hold back no longer and stepped forward to say, "Your Majesty, historically, no woman has ever set foot in the imperial court..."

Before the minister from the Ministry of Rites could finish, Lu Chen interrupted, "I have decided, henceforth, to abolish the eunuch system."

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Hearing this, the Minister of Rites hurriedly said, "Your Majesty, that must not be done! If the eunuch system is abolished, what shall be done if thieves harm the Harem?"

Lu Chen replied, "When Great Ancestor founded the Great Xia Dynasty, there were no eunuchs. Why weren't there incidents of people causing chaos in the Harem then?"

"Since ancient times, those who have caused chaos in the Harem were mostly from the Imperial Guard. Does Your Majesty intend to make all those guards into eunuchs?"

This...

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, the ministers were momentarily stunned.

However, some ministers quickly realized that without eunuchs and the Castrated Faction, wouldn't the new Emperor naturally lack a faction of power by his side? For the civil officials, this was an excellent matter!

At that moment, the Minister of Revenue quickly stood up and said, "This minister supports His Majesty's decision; artificially creating eunuchs is indeed against heaven and nature."

After the Minister of Revenue spoke, Lin Gaoyuan also said, "This minister also supports His Majesty's decision. What eunuchs can do, women can do as well, so there truly is no need to create more eunuchs."

This is the Martial Arts World, where many women have trained in martial arts. Their physical abilities are very strong, and those eunuchs in the Imperial Palace might not be more formidable than these martially trained women.

Moreover, controlling a woman's menstrual cycle is also not a difficult task in this world, so it's indeed feasible for the Imperial Palace to be staffed with women and male members of the Imperial Guard without needing eunuchs.

At this point, Lu Chen continued, "Fine, let's settle this matter as such. This is a minor issue and we should not waste too much time on it."

This...

When the officials heard Lu Chen say this was a minor issue, they were immediately unsettled. Abolishing the ancient system of eunuchs was deemed a minor matter by Lu Chen—what then would he consider a major issue?

Lu Chen continued, "I plan to relocate the capital to Yan County. What are my beloved subjects' opinions on this?"

With those words, it was as if a bomb had exploded, sending the entire court into a frenzy.

The new Emperor actually plans to relocate the capital!

How could this be allowed? Since Great Ancestor, their capital had been here—how could they just relocate the capital?

The entire court began murmuring to each other, turning the grand hall into a marketplace.

At this point, Lin Gaoyuan again stood up, "This minister supports His Majesty's decision."

Upon hearing Lin Gaoyuan's statement, the people were stunned.

What? Lin Gaoyuan actually agrees with the new Emperor's decision to relocate the capital?

The Lin Family had been in the Capital city for who knows how many generations—wasn't he considering his own family's situation?

What was Lin Gaoyuan thinking?

Could it be that Lin Gaoyuan feared retribution from Lu Chen for being a minister of the previous Emperor and thus was eagerly supporting the new Emperor's call to relocate the capital?

At this point, the Minister of Rites stood out and said, "Your Majesty, since Great Ancestor, the Capital city has always been the capital. To relocate now would be a grand act of filial impiety!"

For the royal family, the Capital city was the land of their ancestors. The fact that Lu Chen sought to forsake the ancestral land upon his ascension was a great disrespect to his forebears.

As soon as the Minister of Rites finished speaking, many stubborn conservatives stood up, opposing the relocation.

Lu Chen had anticipated the opposition, and after the hall quieted down somewhat from the commotion, he spoke up, "What I mean by relocating the capital is not to move everything from the Capital city to Yan County."

"I simply plan to establish another capital in Yan County and set up an additional court there. Those willing to accompany me to Yan County, follow me; those who do not wish to go, may stay in the Capital city."

Hearing this, the Minister of Revenue said, "Your Majesty, this could lead to the phenomenon of excessive officials."

Two sets of government officials, and double the official positions—wouldn't this mean that the salaries for these officials would effectively double?

Lu Chen replied, "To me, the current number of officials is far from excessive. In the future, I will need even more ministers to manage my realm for me."

Hearing Lu Chen speak in such a manner, the civil and martial officials of the court instantly perceived Lu Chen's ambition. If Lu Chen truly intended to unify the land and subdue the other great dynasties, then the current number of officials would indeed be insufficient for governing the wider realm.

Seeing the court officials fall silent, Lu Chen said, "I give you all one month to think it over. I will send a Great Scholar to the Capital city. Those who wish to accompany me northward shall come with me, and those who prefer not to, shall remain in the Capital city to assist the Great Scholar with state affairs."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, the officials looked at one another uneasily. There had never before been two different courts.

Two courts could signify division, and what if the officials who stayed in the Capital city harbored thoughts of collusion with a Prince to invoke a split?

The audacity of the new Emperor was too great!

Chapter 774 Chen Wanrong Wants to Go Back_1

Lu Chen naturally had considered the possibility of division by establishing two courts, but for him, establishing dual courts was merely a temporary transition.

Once the transition period ended, the court in the Capital City would definitely be gradually disbanded, and he would dispatch his most trusted officials to the Capital City, as well as station his most trusted troops there.

Of course, the most critical point was that he would also bring his brothers and sisters to Yan County; he would not leave those princes behind in the Capital City.

By then, the officials remaining in the Capital City wouldn't have any significant matters to attend to; they would effectively be in the Capital City to retire and guard the Lu family's ancestral tombs.

Seeing that the ministers in the court had ceased further discussion, Lu Chen knew they must have accepted his proposal, so he continued, "After the relocation of the capital, it may be possible to relocate back to the Capital City in the future. Once I have completed the tasks at hand, I plan to build a new Capital City."

"If my ministers have no other opinions, feel free to express them now," he added.

At this moment, Situ Ce stepped forward and said, "Your Majesty, this official has heard that the North Country possesses something known as a 'fire train,' which can not only travel a thousand miles in a day but also doesn't need to stop and rest. Is this true?"

Lu Chen replied, "Indeed, it exists. Once you all arrive at Anping City, you'll be able to take the fire train northwards. From Anping City to Yan County will take only a day or two."

Situ Ce said, "This official suggests that after the relocation, we construct a railway track from Yan County to the Capital City. That way, in the future, it will be more convenient for the citizens of the Capital City who wish to travel north and for those in Yan County who wish to travel south."

Lu Chen said, "When I was in Qi Country, I had already ordered the laying of rails; within a year, the fire train should be able to reach the Capital City."

Situ Ce declared, "Your Majesty is wise!"

With the fire train as a means of transportation, the future travel time from Yan County to the Capital City would be greatly reduced. In this way, even if the capital was relocated to Yan County, Lu Chen could still firmly control the power in the Capital City.

Seeing that no one else spoke up, Lu Chen then said, "If no one else has any other opinions, let us settle the matter of relocation. After today's court session, each of you should write a memorial, outlining your thoughts on the relocation, as well as whether you are willing to accompany me north in your memorials."

"I can assure you all here that whether you accompany me north lies entirely in your personal will. I will not make things difficult for you. Even if you do not go north and stay in the Capital City, I will still arrange some matters for you to handle."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's assurance, the ministers uniformly exclaimed, "His Majesty is sagacious!"

Lu Chen actually intended to keep those of the conservative faction in the Capital City; these conservatives were not easy to kill. If an emperor killed indiscriminately, others would not trust you in the future. Even if Lu Chen had absolute martial power, he would not act recklessly, as an emperor had to properly balance benevolence and authority.

However, Lu Chen was a man set on achieving great things, and if he brought the conservative faction north, it would be difficult to implement some policies in the future.

His team had to consist of officials with drive. In this relocation, those who remained were sure to be mostly conservative officials, which was perfect for leaving these sly old foxes behind to guard the ancestral tombs.

At this point, Lu Chen asked, "I have finished stating my affairs. Do my ministers have anything else to discuss?"

As Lu Chen's words fell, a minister stood up and said, "Your Majesty, most of the princes have come of age and it's time for them to be granted their fiefs."

Upon hearing this, the ministers tensed up inside.

Although they all knew that fiefs may no longer be granted, they still wanted to test Lu Chen's intentions.

Lu Chen glanced at the several princes standing in the grand hall and chuckled to himself. He could tell they were still harboring delusions of escaping his control to enjoy unfettered freedom.

But he would not give them that opportunity.

Lu Chen then said, "You have reminded me of something, and I had almost forgotten there is still one more matter."

"Effective immediately, Great Sum abolishes the feudal system and fully adopts the county system, hereafter maintaining noble titles only for the privileges of gold and silver."

As this statement was made, the great hall instantly fell silent, and the fists of the several Princes standing beside the ministers clenched in an instant, for they knew Lu Chen was going to proceed in this way.

At that moment, a conservative minister stood up and said, "Your Majesty, it must not be done, the feudal enfeoffment system is a time-honored tradition, how can it be abolished just like that."

Lu Chen immediately replied, "I already have ten children this year, but I am only in my twenties, plus I can live a thousand years at the very least. By that calculation, when I pass away, I would have either a thousand or eight hundred offspring."

"If my children have children, and their children have children, does that mean everyone should be made a Prince?"

"If everyone were to be made a Prince, in less than a thousand years, Great Xia would have tens of thousands, or even hundreds of thousands of Princes; I fear that we could not even accommodate them all, even if we included the lands of the major empires."

This...

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, the court ministers were speechless, and they couldn't help but wonder, could the new Emperor be so fertile?

Isn't he already of a strength above that of a Grandmaster? Generally speaking, the higher one's Martial Arts Realm, the more difficult it is to have offspring.

And the more one practices martial arts, the more one must abstain from sensual pleasures, so how does the new Emperor have ten children already this year?

Lu Chen continued, "The Great Ancestor implemented the feudal enfeoffment system out of necessity, as he was unable to control all the lands of Great Xia and had to assign Princes to govern them."

"But times have changed. Now Great Xia doesn't need any Seigniors; I am perfectly capable of managing all the lands. If one day Great Xia expands to the extent that even I can't manage it, then I would consider feudal enfeoffment."

Lu Chen's words carried a tremendous weight; he was essentially telling the entire court that he intended to wipe out other empires and expand the territory of Great Xia.

With Lu Chen having said so much, no minister dared to say anything further. They all understood that the abolition of the feudal enfeoffment system was inevitable, and from now on, the lives of the Emperor's principled princes and grandsons would probably become more difficult.

At this moment, Lu Chen scanned the people in the great hall and then said, "Let this matter be settled. My beloved subjects, do you have any other matters?"

Then another minister stood up to discuss the affairs of Prince Lu Yi. After the matters of Prince Lu Yi were discussed, the ministers brought up many other issues.

After all, this was Lu Chen's first court meeting, and it was natural that many matters had accumulated over time. However, many of these issues actually didn't require his attention, but the ministers insisted on reporting them.

Lu Chen was thinking that he should promptly relocate the capital to Yan County and leave all these matters to Zhuge Zhongguang to deal with.

Lu Chen's first court meeting took an entire day, and the ministers even had their lunch in Xuanzheng Hall.

Lu Chen felt the substantial burden of being Emperor; although wielding immense power and able to have whatever he desired, there were indeed countless matters to attend to.

Lu Chen suddenly had the urge to become a negligent ruler and abandon all responsibilities.

Being Emperor was too exhausting.

In the evening, after the court was dismissed, Lu Chen felt exceptionally weary. He was about to return to his sleeping quarters when a palace maid approached him and said, "This servant greets Your Majesty!"

Lu Chen recognized at a glance that this maid was from the Snowstorm Palace and promptly asked, "What is it?"

The maid replied, "Madam Chen said she is about to return to Mysterious Moon Palace."

Upon hearing these words, Lu Chen paused for a moment and then stated, "I am aware."

Afterward, Lu Chen proceeded to visit Chen Wanrong.

Chapter 775 Next year I will come down the mountain to find you_1

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Chen Wanrong stayed originally to represent the Mysterious Moon Palace at Lu Chen's enthronement ceremony, but now that Lu Chen has ascended to the throne, it's time for her to return to the Mysterious Moon Palace, where a pile of affairs await her attention.

It was natural for Chen Wanrong to find it hard to part with Lu Chen. Having spent so much time with him, she had a clear understanding of the kind of person he was.

Though Lu Chen had a fondness for beauty, he had a very specific objective behind it—to have his wives and concubines bear his children.

Of course, this wasn't to say that he treated his wives and concubines merely as tools for procreation.

Lu Chen was very good to his women, even to the Demon Sect Sorceress Xue Linglong. Although he was quite fierce with Xue Linglong in bed, once it was over, Lu Chen would show his care for her.

In the past, Chen Wanrong thought that something must have influenced her to develop feelings for Lu Chen, but now she genuinely believed that she had fallen in love with this little scoundrel.

As for Lu Chen's penchant for the opposite sex, Chen Wanrong had managed to completely overlook it. In fact, in her eyes, it was no longer a flaw, since she knew she couldn't monopolize Lu Chen.

Now that her vengeance was fulfilled and restoring her homeland had become a hopeless dream, the only pillar of support she had left was this scoundrel, Lu Chen.

The thought of having to leave Lu Chen soon and not being able to see this scoundrel for a long time caused Chen Wanrong to sigh softly.

As Chen Wanrong sighed, the palace door opened and Lu Chen appeared at the doorway, smiling as he said, "Darling, are you sighing because you can't bear to leave me?"

As the words left his mouth, he surveyed Chen Wanrong.

Chen Wanrong was dressed in a cyan palace outfit, the sheer fabric clinging to her exquisite figure, highlighting her curvaceous shape. Her hair was coiled up, her alabaster neck revealed, and she exuded a noble air—Chen Wanrong looked even more like a princess of a nation now.

Seeing this scoundrel, Lu Chen, arrive, Chen Wanrong said emotionlessly, "Your Majesty is now the Emperor, why do you still refer to yourself in such a personal manner?"

In this era of strict social hierarchy, titles were of great importance, as they denoted one's rank.

With Shadow Shifting, Lu Chen instantly moved to Chen Wanrong's side and hugged her tender body without hesitation, whispering in her ear, "I have said, outside, I am the sovereign, but in my Harem, before my women, I am merely your darling."

"If I were to be so distant with my darling, wouldn't I be a man all alone? I have no wish to be a solitary figure."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, the corners of Chen Wanrong's mouth lifted unconsciously; one reason she liked this man was just that. Even though he possessed supreme power, he remained sincere to his women.

There are some who drastically change their personalities once they acquire power, turning into people completely alien to those who knew them before.

Although Chen Wanrong didn't know if Lu Chen would change in the future, at least for now, he hadn't.

It was at this moment that Chen Wanrong felt Lu Chen's hand on her buttocks, starting to cause mischief.

From the day she met him until now, this scoundrel hadn't changed a bit.

Then Lu Chen asked, "Rongrong, do you really plan to go back?"

Chen Wanrong replied, "Master has sent word that there are many matters at the Mysterious Moon Palace waiting for me to handle on my return."

At that time, Lu Chen's other hand was on Chen Wanrong's waistband, untying it while saying, "Didn't she go back? Why must you be the one to handle things?"

"Who knows when you'll come down the mountain after you go back this time."

...

Chen Wanrong immediately said, "Next year."

Upon hearing these words, Lu Chen gazed into Chen Wanrong's phoenix eyes. Her eyelashes were curved, her eyes clear, but they also appeared extremely gentle.

Chen Wanrong continued, "After dealing with the internal affairs of the Mysterious Moon Palace, I will come down the mountain to find you next year."

Hearing Chen Wanrong's words, Lu Chen smiled and said, "It's rare, you know, to hear such proactive words from your lips. My lady has finally seen the light."

As soon as Lu Chen finished speaking, Chen Wanrong's expression instantly turned cold again; then she said, "My coming to find you is merely for cultivation; don't overthink it."

At that moment, Lu Chen laid Chen Wanrong down on the bed, her beautiful hair instantly spreading out on the bed. Her belt had already come undone, revealing the white undergarment inside.

Looking down at her from above, Lu Chen said, "My darling, we have already consummated our marriage countless times, yet you're still so reserved."

Chen Wanrong lay on the bed, simply staring into Lu Chen's eyes, without any avoidance in her gaze or change in her expression, just looking at him.

While Lu Chen continued to make his moves, Chen Wanrong suddenly let out a soft "mm" from her lips. Hearing this sound, the corners of Lu Chen's mouth lifted slightly.

Then Lu Chen leaned down and whispered in her ear, "Fairy, how about we try a bit harder tonight to have my child? That way, your master may allow you to stay by my side for a longer time."

Hearing the deep sound of Lu Chen's voice, a blush spread across Chen Wanrong's icy cheeks, yet she still replied in a calm tone, "It's not so easy for a Martial Artist to become pregnant."

Lu Chen raised his head slightly and once again gazed at Chen Wanrong's beauty that could topple kingdoms and states. At that moment, Lu Chen's heart became restless.

Just as Lu Chen was about to take liberties, Chen Wanrong spoke again, "Will the Emperor change because he has gained power?"

At this question, Lu Chen was taken aback. He hadn't expected Chen Wanrong to ask such a thing.

After regaining his composure, Lu Chen replied, "That's hard to say; the future is unpredictable."

Hearing Lu Chen's response, Chen Wanrong's face showed no change, but there was a faint sense of loss in her heart.

She knew that people do change, like how she was a lively and cheerful girl when she was young, until her kingdom was destroyed. After that, she became silent and increasingly cold, until she met this bad man.

Although she knew people change, Chen Wanrong still wanted some assurances from Lu Chen, if only for some peace of mind.

At this moment, Lu Chen continued, "But one thing you can rest assured of, even if my personality changes, my feelings towards you will not. I will always like you, like the fragrance you carry, like your beauty that outshines the fish and eclipses the geese, like your cool and noble temperament, like the sounds you make when we make love."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Chen Wanrong's heart trembled slightly, but she quickly reacted with a cold response, "Smooth talker."

Lu Chen smiled and said, "Whether I'm a smooth talker or not, we'll know in a hundred years, or maybe a thousand years."

Chen Wanrong gazed into Lu Chen's eyes and continued to ask, "You must have said this to all your wives and concubines, right?"

Lu Chen replied, "So far, I have said it only to you."

Chen Wanrong said, "Now that I am your woman and cannot leave you, there's really no need for you to sweet-talk me."

Chapter 776 Chen Wanrong Leaves_1

Upon hearing Chen Wanrong's words, Lu Chen smiled faintly and then said, "How can this be considered sweet nothings? What I'm saying is from the bottom of my heart."

At this time, Chen Wanrong no longer spoke; she just quietly gazed at Lu Chen's handsome face.

Suddenly the bedroom was enveloped in an immense silence, as the two of them just looked at each other.

After a while, Chen Wanrong took the lead and asked, "I'm returning tomorrow, does Your Majesty not intend to do something to me?"

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen, like a wolf given permission to feast, leaned down and sealed Chen Wanrong's soft red lips with his own.

After Chen Wanrong made a couple of muffled sounds, she surrendered herself completely to Lu Chen, letting him have his way with her.

Feeling Lu Chen's fervent desire for her body, Chen Wanrong couldn't help but feel an immense warmth in her heart; the sweet nothings he had just spoken also played a big role.

Chen Wanrong of course knew that Lu Chen must have said the same, or similar things to his other concubines, but her heart still felt very happy.

She didn't know what the future held, but at the very least, the man before her couldn't resist her body now; she just needed to seize the present.

...

Linglong Palace.

Xue Linglong, realizing that the sky had darkened, thought that Lu Chen would likely come to her tonight, as the man had been in the Xuanzheng Hall all day dealing with various state affairs; he probably needed to release the pent-up energy now.

No, she must hurry to find Chen Wanrong, to spare herself tonight's ordeal.

With that thought, Xue Linglong directly headed for the Snowstorm Palace, but as soon as she entered, she faintly heard the voices of Chen Wanrong and that dog of a man.

"Hmm hmm... darling..."

"Fairy, you'll never escape the palm of my hand in this lifetime, I must make sure you conceive tonight."

"Your Majesty... not like this..."

"My good Rongrong..."

"Good big brother..."

...

Hearing the dialogue between the two, Xue Linglong first froze in shock, then internally rejoiced.

She hadn't expected the guy to have already gone to Chen Wanrong!

Immediately turning around, Xue Linglong hurriedly sped up her pace to leave Snowstorm Palace, to avoid being detected by Lu Chen and then being dragged into it as well.

Soon Xue Linglong returned to Linglong Palace, feeling fortunate to have escaped tonight's disaster, unaware that Chen Wanrong was leaving the capital city for Mysterious Moon Palace tomorrow.

Once Chen Wanrong returned to the Mysterious Moon Palace, only she and Bai Qingqing would remain by Lu Chen's side.

Her dark days were about to begin.

...

At dawn, a ray of sunlight crept over the windowsill, pouring into the room and illuminating their translucent bodies.

Feeling the warm sunlight, Lu Chen and Chen Wanrong realized that day had broken.

Lu Chen didn't continue his mischief; he slowly got up, propped his hands on either side of Chen Wanrong's head, and gazed at her.

Chen Wanrong's hair was disheveled, beads of sweat on her forehead dampened her hair, her face flushed with a rosy glow; Lu Chen let out a soft sigh.

Seeing Lu Chen sigh, Chen Wanrong asked with confusion, "Why does Your Majesty sigh?"

Lu Chen didn't immediately respond to Chen Wanrong's question; he opened the system interface once again and glanced at it, but the interface still showed no notification.

After trying hard all night, Chen Wanrong had not conceived.

Lu Chen then said, "Unfortunately, I still couldn't make you pregnant with my child."

Hearing this, Chen Wanrong said softly, "Does Your Majesty really wish for me to bear your children that much?"

Lu Chen replied, "Naturally."

Chen Wanrong said, "Your Majesty has already entered the Unity Realm, and we will have many days together in the future. Why must you be in such a hurry?"

Lu Chen replied, "That is true."

As he spoke, Lu Chen brushed aside the wisps of hair by Chen Wanrong's temples and then said, "Next time you return, I will grant you the status of a Noble Concubine. How does that sound?"

Chen Wanrong answered, "Titles mean nothing to me."

Lu Chen said, "Still, the titles that should be given must be offered."

At that point, Lu Chen leaned down, kissing Chen Wanrong's red lips. After they kissed for a while, they parted reluctantly.

Looking into Chen Wanrong's eyes, Lu Chen said, "Rongrong, your body is truly beautiful, like a piece of art. I wish you could stay by my side forever so that I could admire your beautiful form every day."

Hearing this, Chen Wanrong's cheeks, already flushed with crimson, turned even redder.

Chen Wanrong was well aware of Lu Chen's deep affection for her body, but in her eyes, what they did was ultimately not of any serious matter.

After calming the emotions in her heart, Chen Wanrong said, "Your Majesty, dawn has broken; it's time for me to return."

Although Lu Chen was reluctant to let her go, he eventually got up slowly.

"You promised to come find me next year, don't forget. If you don't come down the mountain by then, I will come up to seek you myself, and you won't be able to get out of bed for ten days to half a month."

Facing Lu Chen's threat, Chen Wanrong kept a calm expression, "I have said I will come, and I certainly will, even if my master tries to stop me. I will find a way to see you anyway."

Lu Chen lifted his hand, caressing Chen Wanrong's jade cheek. Bathed in sunlight, her form radiated a holy glow, making it hard for Lu Chen to let her go.

At this moment, Lu Chen seemed to recall something and then said, "Before you go, call me 'darling' again."

Chen Wanrong normally would not call him 'darling' when sober, only letting it slip uncontrollably during their illicit moments.

Upon hearing Lu Chen's request, Chen Wanrong hesitated for a moment, but eventually murmured softly, "Darling..."

Seeing the ice beauty's shy demeanor, Lu Chen lost his restraint once more. He rolled over and captured Chen Wanrong's red lips again.

The pair continued their mischief for an unknown duration. Yet, in the end, Lu Chen let Chen Wanrong leave.

After Chen Wanrong's departure, Lu Chen refocused on government affairs in the following days.

There was much to do for the capital relocation, and with Zhuge Zhongguang not in the Capital city, everything required Lu Chen's direct attention, keeping him very busy.

Meanwhile.

In the southern region of Great Sun, Bing Nan City.

After occupying Bing Nan City, the Taiyin Divine Sect made it their stronghold.

In the City Lord's Mansion, there was a vast Blood Pool with a red orb in the middle, continuously absorbing the blood from within the pool.

At this moment, an Elder approached the City Lord's Mansion.

"Sect Hierarchy, we have learned that the former Crown Prince Lu Yi is actively searching for Xue Linglong, seeking to establish a connection with our sect through her."

Hearing this, the blood orb in the pool immediately responded.

"Send someone to connect with him proactively. It just so happens I need a pawn."

"Yes, Sect Hierarch!"

"I take my leave!"

Soon, the Elder left the City Lord's Mansion. After the Elder's departure, the Leader of the Taiyin Sect murmured to himself, "I did not expect Lu Chen to have four Celestials by his side. It will be difficult to approach him."

When Lu Chen entered the Capital city and became the new Empress, the news of the four Celestials around him reached the ears of the Leader of the Taiyin Sect, for many had witnessed the scene on the day the city was seized; it could not be concealed.

Knowing the presence of the four Celestials by Lu Chen's side, the Taiyin Sect Hierarch became even more certain of Lu Chen's identity. However, he found himself in a dilemma with four Celestials protecting Lu Chen; it became difficult for them to target Lu Chen directly.

Although in his view Celestials were insignificant, his power had not yet fully recovered, and he was not capable of facing four Celestials at once.

He would have to bide his time.

Chapter 777 Just a Bunch of Rats_1

Southern City.

Today, the sun shone brightly, and Lu Yi led his troops toward the military camp outside the city.

Lu Yi had heard that those fake Taoist priests had once again improved the gunpowder formula, making the Thunderous exploding with even greater force. He wanted to personally test it.

Soon, Lu Yi arrived at the military camp beyond the city, nestled within a forest and extremely quiet.

Upon seeing Lu Yi's arrival, the fake Taoist priests immediately sought to take credit, and then promptly had their improved "Thunderous" brought forward.

Lu Yi glanced at the improved Thunderous, which were still gunpowder-filled pottery jars with long fuses, showing almost no difference from the original ones they had crafted.

The only difference seemed to be the size of these pottery jars, which were at least five times larger than the Thunderous they had made previously.

Seeing these pottery jars, Lu Yi's face darkened instantly, and then he said, "Why are you still using pottery jars?"

Noticing the displeasure on Lu Yi's face, a fake Taoist priest quickly stepped forward and said, "Crown Prince, please do not be angry. Although we are still using pottery jars, the potency has increased immensely. You'll know once you try."

"Besides, we are just testing the power of the Thunderous right now. We will use iron jars in a few days."

Hearing the fake Taoist priest's response, Lu Yi's expression softened somewhat. He then picked up one of the pottery jars and said, "Bring a light."

In the next moment, a fake Taoist priest hastily handed over a lighter, and Lu Yi lit the fuse of the jar and threw it towards the distant forest.

The fuse of the pottery jar was rather short, and combined with Lu Yi's considerable strength, the throw was quite high and far. The jar exploded before it even hit the ground.

After the explosion, the nearby leaves were instantly blasted away, and countless shards of pottery flew into the surrounding tree trunks.

The power was there, and indeed, it was much greater than the initial Thunderous they had tested.

But whether it was an issue with the gunpowder, that was uncertain; after all, the pottery jar had increased significantly in size, and the amount of gunpowder had also increased a lot.

It was at this moment that Lu Yi said, "Bring over some livestock!"

Upon hearing Lu Yi's command, the soldiers quickly led the cattle and sheep that had been prepared to the site of the previous explosion.

Then Lu Yi picked up another pottery jar, lit it, and threw it over.

Following the loud "boom" of the explosion, the cattle and sheep at the epicenter immediately fell and did not rise again.

However, although the explosion caused some fatalities, the bodies of the cattle and sheep were not torn to pieces. Their Thunderous was vastly inferior to the cannons made by the North Country.

But regardless of the current potency of the Thunderous, they had, to some extent, acquired firepower similar to that of the North Country, which gave Lu Yi a glimmer of hope.

Lu Yi looked at the cattle and sheep that had been maimed or killed, his gaze becoming unwaveringly firm. All that belonged to him, he would eventually take back!

Just then, a soldier rushed to Lu Yi's side, "Your Highness, something's wrong! A group of people has suddenly appeared in the forest!"

Hearing the soldier's report, Lu Yi said, "Who are they? Just kill them!"

This was their military camp, after all, not a place just anyone could enter. Those daring to intrude upon their military zone must be eliminated, no matter who they might be.

The soldier spoke anxiously, "Your Highness, our men are no match for those people! Among them is a Grandmaster!"

Lu Yi frowned, about to say more when suddenly a voice came from above.

"Crown Prince, such fiery temper. You do not distinguish whether the comers are friends or foes, yet you order to kill!"

Hearing this voice, the soldiers immediately tensed up, quickly forming a protective circle around Lu Yi.

A general shouted, "Who's there! Come out!"

As his words fell, a gust of wind blew, the leaves rustling loudly. Then, more than a dozen black-robed, masked figures descended from the sky, appearing before Lu Yi and his men.

Sensing the momentum of these new arrivals, a general by Lu Yi's side hastily cried out, "Protect His Highness!"

More and more soldiers subsequently rushed out of the military camp, surrounding the dozen or so figures in black robes.

At this time, the leader of the black-robed figures said with a smile, "Your Highness need not be tense, we are not your enemies."

Hearing this, Lu Yi's face darkened as he coldly said, "Uninvited guests are hard to be trusted with good intentions."

Wei Feiren said with a smile, "I have not come uninvited, Your Highness. Haven't you been looking for us all this time? Once our Sect Hierarch learned that Your Highness was seeking us, he immediately dispatched me to meet with Your Highness."

Lu Yi was shocked by Wei Feiren's words.

When had he ever sought these people?

Wait a moment...

Lu Yi seemed to realize something, and then asked, "Are you from the Taiyin Divine Sect?"

Wei Feiren replied, "Let me introduce myself, I am Wei Feiren, the fifth Elder of the Taiyin Divine Sect."

After receiving Wei Feiren's affirmative response, Lu Yi was taken aback once more.

He had not expected these people to actually be from the Taiyin Divine Sect.

Initially he was frustrated for not being able to find the Taiyin Divine Sect, unable to find a powerful backer, but now, that very backer had approached him on their own.

Lu Yi then said, "How can you prove your identities?"

Hearing this, Wei Feiren let out a cold laugh and then said, "We do not need to prove our identities. Your Highness is free to cooperate with us or not; we will not force you. After all, it is you who need us, not the other way around."

Lu Yi's expression grew uglier, as Wei Feiren's words indeed rang true; he desperately needed a force capable of contending with Celestials.

At this time, Wei Feiren said, "Your Highness, rest assured that as long as you cooperate with the Taiyin Divine Sect, you will surely reclaim what belongs to you."

"Our Sect Hierarch has already awakened and will regain his strength before long. To our Sect Hierarch, Celestials are insignificant."

Lu Yi looked at Wei Feiren skeptically. While he knew that the Demon Sects were formidable, especially the Taiyin Divine Sect's strength, suggesting that Celestials were nothing seemed overly arrogant.

Lu Yi said, "Very well, I am willing to cooperate with you."

Wei Feiren said with a smile, "Your Highness has made the right choice."

At this moment, Lu Yi asked, "What level of power did your Sect Hierarch originally possess?"

Wei Feiren answered, "Above Celestials!"

Hearing Wei Feiren's reply, Lu Yi was taken aback. Above Celestials?

That strong?

If that were the case, wouldn't they be invincible by now?

Then why would the Taiyin Divine Sect still be hiding in the shadows?

Wei Feiren seemed to perceive Lu Yi's thoughts and said, "Our Sect Hierarch was once gravely wounded by enemies, which caused him to fall into slumber. Over the years, we have been seeking ways to restore our Sect Hierarch's strength. With the efforts of our sect, our Sect Hierarch has awakened, and soon, the name of the Taiyin Divine Sect will resound through the martial world once more!"

Hearing this, Lu Yi thought to himself that Wei Feiren seemed to be speaking the truth. If the Taiyin Divine Sect was truly as formidable as claimed, then he would soon be able to take back everything that was his.

With this thought, Lu Yi's heart grew incredibly fervent.

His gaze turned resolute; he was determined to seize back that position in the Capital city.

What did it matter if Lu Chen had the help of Celestials? He too had found his own aid!

As Lu Yi fantasized about storming into the Capital city, a voice interrupted his daydreams.

"A bunch of rats, and yet they dream of shaking the martial world!"

Chapter 778 Lu Yi, Passes Away!_1

Hearing the sounds coming from within the forest, the members of the Taiyin Divine Sect instantly went on alert. Wei Feiren bellowed, "Who's there? Show yourself!"

No sooner had his voice faded than a breeze blew by, and very quickly, more than a dozen people appeared on the tree branches in the distance.

The aura emitted by each of those dozen people was incredibly strong, nearly all of them possessing the strength above that of a Grandmaster.

Witnessing this scene, both Lu Yi and the people of the Taiyin Divine Sect were stunned.

What was going on? How could so many Grandmasters appear all at once?

How many Grandmasters existed in this world?

Here, sixteen Grandmasters had appeared all at once, and the auras of the two leading figures were clearly stronger than those of the Grandmasters—those two were likely Pseudo Celestials.

Wei Feiren, being a Pseudo Celestial himself, could easily discern the presence of others who were also Pseudo Celestials.

The two leaders were indeed genuine Pseudo Celestials!

Wei Feiren immediately demanded, "Who are you?!"

One of the leaders, Li Yu, replied with a smile, "Elder Wei surely has the habit of forgetting things easily. It hasn't been that many years, and Elder Wei has already forgotten me. I still remember the filthy aura of Elder Wei. Even with a mask, I could recognize Elder Wei at a glance."

This...

Wei Feiren's heart skipped a beat.

To recognize him at a glance?

He didn't recall offending any power capable of mustering a dozen Grandmasters at once during the time since the resurrection of the Taiyin Sect Hierarch.

Wait a minute...

It suddenly dawned on Wei Feiren, and his face turned deathly pale. Even with a mask on, Li Yu could still easily see through Wei Feiren's small movements the panic inside him.

Disbelieving, Wei Feiren exclaimed, "You... you're from the Sunset Sword Sect!"

The only power Wei Feiren could think of that was capable of summoning a dozen Grandmasters at once was either the Sunset Sword Sect or the Tai Chu Divine Hall.

But both powers were overseas, residing on their respective islands, supposedly never leaving. And without a sea chart, how did they manage to find this place?

Years ago, when the Taiyin Divine Sect attacked the Sunset Sword Sect, Wei Feiren was a Grandmaster, and so was Li Yu—they had clashed many times.

Now realizing the truth, Wei Feiren suddenly understood why the leader looked so familiar—it was Li Yu of the Sunset Sword Sect.

Coming back to his senses, Wei Feiren still disbelievingly asked, "How did you find this place?!"

Li Yu, smiling, said, "It seems Elder Wei has recognized me now."

"Since you have, that makes things easier."

"After that great demon was slain, your Taiyin Divine Sect fled like rats. The outcome between us was never decided."

"Let's settle it today, once and for all."

As he spoke, Li Yu's formidable presence was fully unleashed. In the next moment, Li Yu leapt down from the tree, swinging his sword at Wei Feiren.

When the Taiyin Divine Sect attacked the Sunset Sword Sect years ago, Wei Feiren and Li Yu both led a squadron, and they had competed many times. Unfortunately, Li Yu had never managed to kill Wei Feiren, a fact he had never forgotten.

He hadn't expected that after so many years, he would still be able to face this vile vermin. Li Yu would not let this opportunity slip by.

Instantly, Wei Feiren directed the others from the Taiyin Divine Sect, "Take the Crown Prince and retreat!"

...

Wei Feiren certainly didn't dare to confront Li Yu head-on, especially since Li Yu had a Pseudo Celestial by his side and brought along more than a dozen Grandmasters. All together, they were far beyond his ability to contend with.

Moreover, he now had an even more important task, which was to hurry back to the Taiyin Divine Sect and inform the Sect Hierarch about the arrival of the Sunset Sword Sect in Great Sum.

The likelihood was that the Sunset Sword Sect came to Great Sum targeting the Taiyin Divine Sect. In the past, when the Taiyin Divine Sect attacked the Sunset Sword Sect, even their Sect Hierarch was no match for the Sunset Sword Sect and the Tai Chu Divine Hall. If their Sect Hierarch weren't so special, he might have already died.

Now that their Sect Hierarchy hadn't yet regained his power, facing the Sunset Sword Sect, there was no chance of victory. Most importantly, it seemed that the Sunset Sword Sect and the Tai Chu Divine Hall were allies. With the Sunset Sword Sect present in Great Sum, it was very likely that the Tai Chu Divine Hall had also arrived.

As soon as Wei Feiren finished speaking, he immediately made a move against Li Yu and the Pseudo Celestial beside him. Wei Feiren took out the Soul Summoning Banner, and countless black skeletons flew out from it, heading straight for Li Yu and his group.

Hearing Wei Feiren's words, Lu Yi's face instantly turned pale.

If even the Taiyin Divine Sect feared this power, how formidable must it be?

Apart from Mysterious Moon Palace, was there such a powerful force in Great Sum?

While Lu Yi was thinking, a sinister wind blew by, and then he felt as though he was being lifted by someone. The next moment, Lu Yi was taken by a person of the Taiyin Divine Sect and they fled.

Wei Feiren had personally come to find Lu Yi mainly because Lu Yi and Lu Chen were brothers. If their Sect Hierarchy could reincarnate into Lu Yi's body first, it might be possible to use the power of bloodlines to employ some tricks on Lu Chen.

However, Wei Feiren hadn't anticipated that they would encounter people from the Sunset Sword Sect here.

Seeing the Taiyin Divine Sect trying to escape with Lu Yi, Li Yu immediately said to the Pseudo Celestial beside him, "Junior Brother, go handle Lu Yi, I'll deal with Wei Feiren."

The man beside Li Yu simply uttered a "Sure," and the next moment, his body turned into a shadowy figure, dashing toward the direction where Lu Yi was fleeing.

Seeing this scene, Wei Feiren was stunned for a moment; he had thought Li Yu was after him, but he had actually sent someone to go after Lu Yi instead.

This wouldn't do—Lu Yi was an important pawn for their Taiyin Divine Sect.

Wei Feiren immediately wanted to follow and hold back Li Yu's Junior Brother, but just as he was about to move, Li Yu appeared in front of Wei Feiren blocking his path.

"Elder Wei, where do you think you're going?"

"Elder Wei, you killed so many of our Sunset Sword Sect members back in the day, it's about time to settle the debt!"

Seeing his way blocked, Wei Feiren scoffed coldly. Both having entered the Unity Realm and both being Pseudo Celestials, he didn't believe he was no match for Li Yu.

Immediately, Wei Feiren charged at Li Yu, and they began to clash.

Although a fight between Pseudo Celestials wasn't as spectacular as a battle between Celestials, the destructive force was still enormous, toppling trees in the forest one after another.

The soldiers in the military camp were frightened and fled in all directions.

Meanwhile.

Li Yu's Junior Brother had already blocked the person from the Taiyin Divine Sect who was fleeing with Lu Yi, only for that person to be so terrified by the pursuit of a Pseudo Celestial that he simply abandoned Lu Yi on the spot.

After falling from the sky, Lu Yi was completely stunned.

His mood at the moment was like tumbling from the Immortal Realm into hell.

He had just managed to make a connection with the Taiyin Divine Sect when, unexpectedly, he triggered such a formidable power.

At that moment, Lu Yi quickly steadied himself and called out to the distant figure, "Senior, I am a Prince of Great Sum, not a person of the Taiyin Divine Sect, and I was held hostage by them. Please do not kill the wrong person."

No sooner had Lu Yi finished speaking than Li Yu's Junior Brother immediately swung his sword. The next moment, Lu Yi's head was separated from his body.

Lu Yi, deceased!

In his dying moment, Lu Yi still felt extremely aggrieved. He had always thought that the Sunset Sword Sect had come looking for the Taiyin Divine Sect and that he was just implicated. Little did he know that the Sunset Sword Sect had come specifically to kill him.

Chapter 779 So, Does the Soul Exist After Death?_1

Under the siege of the Sunset Sword Sect, nearly all the disciples of the Taiyin Divine Sect brought by Wei Feiren were killed. When Wei Feiren realized something was amiss, he hastily used the teleportation talisman given to him by the Leader of the Taiyin Sect.

After all, Wei Feiren was a core Elder of the Taiyin Divine Sect, with means to save his own life.

After Wei Feiren escaped, Li Yu did not pursue him, as their main task was to kill Prince Lu Yi and completely dissolve the power he had gathered.

As for annihilating the Taiyin Divine Sect, that would have to wait until their young master issued the order.

After Prince Lu Yi's death, the forces he had gathered quickly dissolved, and the majority chose to surrender to Great Sum.

People also realized that the tide had turned; if they continued to struggle against the new emperor, they would surely face destruction.

A few days later, a ragged Wei Feiren returned to the main base of the Taiyin Divine Sect.

When the Leader of the Taiyin Sect saw Wei Feiren in such a sorry state, he asked in confusion, "Elder Wei, what happened to you?"

Wei Feiren quickly knelt on the ground, "Sect Hierarchy, I have failed in my duties and could not complete your task."

Hearing this, the Leader of the Taiyin Sect was stunned for a moment. Hadn't he just asked Wei Feiren to make contact with Prince Lu Yi? How could he fail such a simple task?

The Leader of the Taiyin Sect soon realized there must be some hidden complications, so he said, "Tell me directly what you encountered."

Wei Feiren then said, "We had already made contact with Prince Lu Yi, and he had agreed to cooperate with us, but at that moment, the people of the Sunset Sword Sect suddenly appeared."

Upon hearing this, the blood clot in the Blood Pool suddenly trembled.

A fierce voice from the Taiyin Divine Sect came, "Sunset Sword Sect!!!"

"Continue," ordered the Sect Hierarchy.

Seeing the Sect Hierarchy flare up, Wei Feiren's forehead sweated profusely, but he continued, "The Sunset Sword Sect sent two Pseudo Celestials and more than a dozen Grandmasters. One of the Pseudo Celestials is known to me, as I had fought with him when our sect attacked the Sunset Sword Sect years ago. Back then, he was also a Grandmaster."

Having said this, Wei Feiren fell silent, waiting for the Leader of the Taiyin Sect's command.

The Leader of the Taiyin Sect snorted coldly and then spoke, "I hadn't expected them to find this place!"

In the view of the Leader of the Taiyin Sect, the Sunset Sword Sect had come specifically for them, given that the Taiyin Divine Sect had killed many people on the island when they attempted to take over the Sunset Sword Sect years ago. It was evident that the Sunset Sword Sect was looking for revenge.

At this time, Wei Feiren asked cautiously, "Sect Hierarch, what should we do now?"

Hearing this, after a moment of thought, the Leader of the Taiyin Sect said, "Immediately summon the other Elders. We will temporarily leave this place. My strength is not yet fully recovered, and we cannot afford a direct confrontation with the people of the Sunset Sword Sect."

Although the Leader of the Taiyin Sect was a great demon, he was no fool. At the very least, the Sunset Sword Sect had a Celestial amongst them, and they had a very good relationship with the Tai Chu Divine Hall.

Now that the people of the Sunset Sword Sect had found this place, it was highly likely that the people of the Tai Chu Divine Hall had followed them. With his strength not yet restored, he wasn't yet a match for these two great forces, and they needed to continue lying low.

The Leader of the Taiyin Sect also felt incredibly frustrated. A cultivator from the cultivation realm was being driven to such straits by the natives of a lower world. If this news were to spread back to the cultivation realm, he would probably lose all face.

Hearing the words of the Leader of the Taiyin Sect, Wei Feiren promptly said, "Yes, Sect Hierarch."

Then, the Taiyin Divine Sect gathered all its people and left Bing Nan City overnight, hiding in the mountains again.

Meanwhile.

In Great Sum, the Capital city.

Lu Chen was in the Imperial Study Room processing documents for the relocation of the capital when Bai Qingqing's cool voice suddenly rang from outside the door, "Your Majesty, the people from the Sunset Sword Sect have requested an audience."

Lu Chen said indifferently, "Let them in."

The next moment, Li Yu and Xia Tianyuan both entered the Imperial Study Room. Seeing Xia Tianyuan's arrival, Lu Chen asked, "How are things progressing?"

Li Yu took the initiative to answer, "Your Majesty, the matter has been resolved, and all the forces gathered by Prince Lu Yi have surrendered on their own."

Hearing this, Lu Chen felt somewhat sentimental; the strategy of beheading was indeed effective.

Now in possession of the forces of both the Sunset Sword Sect and the Tai Chu Divine Hall, perhaps he should use the method of beheading to unify the several kingdoms.

Thinking this, Lu Chen couldn't help feeling a bit regretful; he hadn't expected the firearms he had developed for so long to become so quickly obsolete.

At that moment, Li Yu continued, "Your Majesty, while carrying out our mission, we encountered a Pseudo Celestial from the Taiyin Divine Sect."

Lu Chen was taken aback upon hearing this but quickly realized that Prince Lu Yi had been trying to connect with Xue Linglong and the Taiyin Divine Sect. Presumably, the Taiyin Divine Sect knew about this and thus approached Prince Lu Yi.

Xia Tianyuan said, "Your Majesty, the Taiyin Divine Sect with its bloodthirsty nature is a threat to the peace of Great Sum. As long as they exist, Great Sum cannot be at ease. I suggest we eliminate the Taiyin Divine Sect before tackling the various kingdoms."

Hearing Xia Tianyuan's words, Lu Chen fell into deep thought; indeed, the Taiyin Divine Sect was a menace.

Moreover, the Leader of the Taiyin Sect was not from this world, and it was unknown how many evil methods he had at his disposal.

After a short contemplation, Lu Chen looked at Xia Tianyuan and said, "Sect Master Xia, I will leave the matter of the Taiyin Divine Sect to the Sunset Sword Sect. If you encounter any difficulties, inform me immediately."

Xia Tianyuan immediately bowed and said, "Yes, Your Majesty!"

Whether the Sunset Sword Sect could annihilate the Taiyin Divine Sect was something Lu Chen was not entirely sure of. After all, the Leader of the Taiyin Sect had previously been killed by the Sunset Sword Sect and the Tai Chu Divine Hall and yet, he did not die and had now revived.

Even if they managed to extinguish the Taiyin Divine Sect this time, it was possible that after some time, the Leader of the Taiyin Sect would revive again.

Lu Chen didn't know much about the Leader of the Taiyin Sect, a practitioner of evil cultivation methods; he wasn't even a Celestial yet and hadn't stepped into the threshold of cultivation.

Xia Tianyuan continued, "Your Majesty, if there are no other matters, I shall take my leave first."

Lu Chen said indifferently, "Go ahead with your work."

Xia Tianyuan and Li Yu said in unison, "We shall take our leave now."

After the two left the Imperial Study Room, Lu Chen rose from his seat and headed straight for the door.

Seeing Lu Chen leaving the Imperial Study Room so early today, Bai Qingqing was taken aback at the entrance.

Recently, Lu Chen spent every day in the Imperial Study Room until late at night, and it was always her who reminded him to rest. Now, before dinner time, he had actually come out on his own initiative.

Bai Qingqing quickly asked, "Your Majesty, would you like something to eat?"

Lu Chen replied, "Not for now, I'm going to Linglong Palace."

Bai Qingqing said, "Yes."

Following that, Bai Qingqing accompanied Lu Chen to Linglong Palace.

At that moment, Xue Linglong was dressed in a black gauze dress, languidly lying on a couch. The black gauze was so thin that it barely concealed her fair skin, and her long, white legs were exposed, making her look seductive and enchanting.

"Sigh..."

Xue Linglong let out a soft sigh, then raised her slender jade hand to touch her belly.

These past days, that bad thing had visited her daily, making her belly uncomfortably full day after day.

When would this ever end?

Even though she had fallen from grace, she couldn't possibly do that every single day.

Xue Linglong thought to herself, perhaps she should just run away. If this continued, she would go mad.

Thinking about it made her feel ashamed—it turns out she, a Demon Sect Sorceress, couldn't subdue a man.

Compared to her, that man was the real demon.

At this time, Xue Linglong sighed again.

Suddenly, a maid's voice came from outside, "Greetings to Your Majesty!"

Hearing the maid's voice, Xue Linglong's delicate body shuddered slightly. It wasn't even night yet. Why had he come so early today?

She quickly got up from the couch and walked toward the door. Just as she reached it, Lu Chen pushed the door open and entered.

Xue Linglong also hurriedly said, "This servant greets Your Majesty."

Seeing Xue Linglong's respectful greeting, he said with a smile, "This doesn't seem like you. When did you start to understand propriety so well?"

Hearing this, Xue Linglong sneered inwardly. If she didn't show propriety, she would likely suffer again tonight.

She had long noticed that any slight sign of rebellion from her would surely provoke the brutal side of this man.

Xue Linglong asked, "Your Majesty, why have you come so early today? Haven't you been very busy these past few days?"

Lu Chen grabbed Xue Linglong's arm, pulled her tender body into his embrace, and began to gently caress her hips. While caressing, he asked, "What, aren't you happy to see me?"

Xue Linglong quickly replied, "How could this servant dare not welcome you!"

The light gauze on Xue Linglong's body was smooth to the touch, and he found it especially comfortable. Lu Chen then lifted Xue Linglong's delicate body and headed straight for the couch.

Seeing this, Xue Linglong was speechless. Here it was happening again.

However, to Xue Linglong's surprise, after Lu Chen brought her to the couch, he just held her soft body without doing anything bad to her right away.

While caressing Xue Linglong's body, Lu Chen said, "I came today to ask you some questions about the Taiyin Divine Sect."

Hearing this, Xue Linglong was startled and then replied, "Your Majesty, haven't I already told you everything about the Taiyin Divine Sect?"

Lu Chen said, "I want to know more about the details."

Continuing, he asked, "For instance, how was the Taiyin Sect Leader resurrected?"

Hearing Lu Chen's first question, Xue Linglong thought for a moment, then replied, "The Taiyin Divine Sect has a Soul Gathering Coffin. After the Sect Leader's body was destroyed, his soul was not. The Taiyin Divine Sect has always nurtured his soul with blood energy until his soul awakened."

"Actually, he can't be considered truly resurrected, since he still lacks a physical body."

Lu Chen said, "Does this mean that the soul exists even after death?"

Xue Linglong replied, "This servant does not know."

Just as Lu Chen was about to speak, the system notification sounded.

"Souls of Cultivators above Celestials are stronger; even if the physical body perishes, as long as one's appointed time has not come, the soul is not easily obliterated."

Chapter 780 The Role of Taiyin True Scripture_1

Hearing the system prompt, Lu Chen was slightly taken aback—it turned out to be so. It seemed that the Leader of the Taiyin Sect must have been at least in the Celestial Realm before his death.

Seeing Lu Chen fall into silence, Xue Linglong spoke up, "Your Majesty, are you suddenly inquiring about the Leader of the Taiyin Sect because you're planning to take action against the Taiyin Divine Sect?"

Lu Chen came back to his senses, smiled, and said, "It's nothing, I was just asking casually."

Hearing Lu Chen's nonchalant reply, Xue Linglong pretended to look pitiful and said, "Ying ying ying, Your Majesty still doesn't trust this concubine."

Seeing Xue Linglong act pitiful, Lu Chen slapped her bottom and said with a smile, "I've been quite hot-tempered these past few days."

As soon as Lu Chen finished speaking, Xue Linglong immediately dropped her act and quickly said, "Your Majesty, it might not be easy to eradicate the Taiyin Divine Sect."

Lu Chen asked, "Why is that?"

Xue Linglong replied, "The Leader of the Taiyin Sect is a very cautious person. If he senses something amiss, he will immediately hide away the Taiyin Divine Sect, and finding them will not be an easy task."

Xue Linglong was originally a member of the Taiyin Divine Sect, so she had a fair understanding of the sect's ways.

Hearing Xue Linglong's reminder, Lu Chen thought for a moment.

If the people from the Taiyin Divine Sect hid themselves away, it might indeed not be easy to find them. Lu Chen then asked Xue Linglong, "Is there any way to distinguish Demon Sect members from ordinary people?"

Xue Linglong replied, "I'm afraid not."

"If it's those Demon Sect members who have killed a lot, their aura of blood is very heavy, and those people are easy to distinguish."

"However, those who kill a lot are not necessarily from the Demon Sect—as some major powers also take lives recklessly, and their aura of blood is equally heavy."

"Additionally, some elders in the Taiyin Divine Sect can suppress their aura of blood through certain methods, making the aura of blood on their bodies seem lighter than that of a butcher."

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen fell into thought again. If that was the case, once the Taiyin Divine Sect went into hiding, it would indeed be difficult to locate them.

At that moment, Lu Chen's hand suddenly reached under Xue Linglong's skirt. Xue Linglong was about to cry out instinctively but quickly held it back.

She didn't want to provoke this bad element.

Suddenly thinking of something, Xue Linglong continued, "Right, Your Majesty, I heard that by cultivating the Taiyin True Scripture, one could sense the location of all disciples of the Taiyin Divine Sect."

Hmm?

Lu Chen, coming to his senses, curiously asked, "Is that so miraculous?"

Xue Linglong continued, "However, the Taiyin True Scripture is not easy to cultivate. After the Leader of the Taiyin Sect passed down the Taiyin True Scripture to us, not a single one in the whole Taiyin Divine Sect has managed to cultivate to the second layer."

Curious, Lu Chen asked, "If no one has cultivated to the second layer, does that mean someone has cultivated to the first?"

Xue Linglong replied, "A few elders have cultivated to the first layer, and after dual-cultivating with Your Majesty, this concubine also managed to quickly reach the first layer."

"Since you have already cultivated to the first layer, can you determine the location of the others?"

Xue Linglong answered, "No, one must at least cultivate to the third layer to use the Taiyin True Scripture to determine the location of the other disciples."

After hearing this, Lu Chen thought for a while before saying, "Show me this Taiyin True Scripture of yours."

As the words fell, Lu Chen raised his hand, and writing materials flew towards Xue Linglong in her room. She took the pen and began writing on the paper.

Soon the mantra of the Taiyin True Scripture was written on the paper. Lu Chen scanned the mantra on the paper, about to say something, when the system prompt sounded.

[Detecting incomplete skill. Do you wish to incorporate it?]

Hearing the system prompt, Lu Chen was stunned for a moment. An incomplete skill?

The Taiyin True Scripture was incomplete?

Lu Chen then said to the system, "Incorporate!"

The next moment, the content of the Taiyin True Scripture merged into Lu Chen's brain, and he knew how to cultivate this technique.

However, Lu Chen did not start cultivating.

He suspected that the Sect Hierarchy of the Taiyin Sect had deliberately given only the first layer of the Taiyin True Scripture to the sect's disciples, so no matter how the disciples of the Taiyin Divine Sect cultivated, they could only reach the first layer.

That way, the Sect Hierarchy of the Taiyin Sect could determine the location of those disciples through the Taiyin True Scripture without worrying about the disciples using it to determine his position in return.

Such crafty calculations!

Just then, the system prompt sounded again.

[Detection of the Taiyin True Scripture's potential for repair.]

Hearing the prompt, Lu Chen was slightly startled. His system had the ability to repair incomplete skills?

Confused, Lu Chen asked internally, "I thought the reward was for having children. You can repair skills too?"

[The host only needs to perform actions related to progeny. Any collected incomplete skills can be repaired.]

Lu Chen was momentarily stunned. Could it really work like that?

At that moment, Lu Chen's gaze fell upon Xue Linglong's graceful and delicate figure.

Since the system had said that matters related to procreation could repair an incomplete skill, he decided to give it a try.

Seeing Lu Chen stare at her with such intensity, Xue Linglong's heart skipped a beat, and her body trembled slightly, "Your Majesty, why are you looking at your servant like that?"

Lu Chen smiled and said, "I suddenly realize that tonight, you seem even more enchanting than usual."

Xue Linglong was taken aback for a moment, but before she could say anything, Lu Chen pressed her down onto the bed and sealed her soft, red lips with his.

"Mmm mmm mmm..."

After a slight struggle, Xue Linglong gave in and let Lu Chen have his way.

While kissing Xue Linglong, Lu Chen glanced at the system interface out of the corner of his eye.

[Taiyin True Scripture repairing... 15%... 16%... 17%...]

Seeing this, Lu Chen thought to himself that it really could be repaired, and if just a kiss could do so much, then more intimate acts might restore it even faster.

With this thought, Lu Chen's hand forcefully tore away the black gauze dress, Xue Linglong's favorite, ruining it.

Xue Linglong felt somewhat helpless; she had the North Prince Mansion send her many black gauze dresses, all of which Lu Chen had ravaged.

Two hours later.

Lu Chen, embracing Xue Linglong, looked at the system interface.

Seeing that Lu Chen hadn't continued, Xue Linglong was puzzled. Why was he showing mercy today?

That shouldn't be the case.

In the past, this man would never stop until she begged for mercy.

At that moment, Lu Chen's system interface displayed [Taiyin True Scripture has been completely repaired].

Lu Chen then addressed the system, "This skill shouldn't have any negative effects on me, right? Am I able to cultivate it?"

[There are no negative effects. Host simply needs to integrate the skill into the cultivation technique interface to cultivate it alongside other skills.]

Upon hearing the system's response, Lu Chen immediately added the Taiyin True Scripture to the [Cultivation Technique] section.

Then, Xue Linglong, noticing something off about Lu Chen, found it strange that he had stopped and went silent, as if he was lost in thought.

Curious, Xue Linglong asked, "Your Majesty, what's wrong? Was your servant not to your satisfaction?"

Hearing Xue Linglong's voice, Lu Chen came back to reality and flipped her body over to continue his misdeeds.

Xue Linglong suddenly regretted her impulsive question. Why bother asking this scoundrel anything at all? Wasn't this just asking for trouble?

As time passed second by second, Lu Chen realized the Taiyin True Scripture's content was engraving itself in his mind.

Soon, a white point appeared in Lu Chen's mind, right in front of him, and beneath him.

Lu Chen couldn't help but think, was this the perceptive power of the Taiyin True Scripture?

Then, Lu Chen released his perceptive force, and soon it spread throughout the entire Imperial Palace. At that moment, he noticed another white point outside the palace.

Lu Chen frowned. It seemed the Taiyin Divine Sect had sent spies to the Capital City, and that spy was too close to the Imperial Palace.

At this time, Xue Linglong seemed to realize something too; she felt as if an antennae in her head had linked directly to Lu Chen.

Lu Chen also discovered the function of the Taiyin True Scripture, as a mass of black energy manically surged towards him from Xue Linglong.

As the black energy was siphoned off, Xue Linglong felt immense pain. Sensing that something was wrong, Lu Chen promptly stopped circulating the Taiyin True Scripture and used the Rejuvenating Skill to treat her.

Under Lu Chen's treatment, Xue Linglong quickly returned to normal and started to cry again.

Lu Chen sneered to himself, realizing that the creator of the Taiyin True Scripture intended to extract the spiritual force from its followers to enhance their own power.

In true nefarious cultivator fashion, it was indeed evil.

The Taiyin True Scripture was divided into two parts; cultivating only part of the scripture would turn one into nourishment, and those who possessed the complete scripture could enhance their power by absorbing the spiritual force of those "nourishments."

Lu Chen thought to himself, wondering if the Leader of the Taiyin Sect possessed the complete Taiyin True Scripture. If even the Leader didn't have the full scripture, then he could absorb the Leader's spiritual force.

Then, Lu Chen started circulating the Taiyin True Scripture once again, sensing the Taiyin Sect followers near the Imperial Palace.

Currently at the Pseudo Celestial Realm, his perceptive power was limited. Although the Taiyin True Scripture could pinpoint the location of "nourishments," it could only determine the positions of Taiyin Sect followers within his perceptive range; if they were too far away, beyond his range, he couldn't identify their hiding spots.

His limited cultivation state was frustrating.

Lu Chen firmly resolved that he needed to unify the world quickly and break through to the Celestial Realm as soon as possible.

Only by breaking through to the Celestial Realm could his power leap forward even more significantly.

With that thought, Lu Chen's inner passion grew hotter, and his actions became even more rough.