

Es. Benefits 791

Chapter 791 No one can take you away from me!_1

A gust of cold wind blew into the Empress's bedchamber, causing the red curtains to sway continuously. Yue Emperor stood by the window, silent for a long time.

At this moment, in her mind, all the unusual behaviors that Wu Junwan had exhibited after heading to Yan County were linked together, and she could not help but suspect whether Wu Junwan had indeed given herself to that man.

She knew Wu Junwan well, Wu Junwan was someone who hated to admit defeat, even in life-and-death situations, she would likely not give up on what she wanted to do.

Therefore, Yue Emperor did not believe that Wu Junwan had been forced to side with Lu Chen, for as long as she wished, she could even escape from Yan County directly.

Since Wu Junwan chose to stay in Yan County and even manage Great Xia's properties for Lu Chen, and was willing to be referred to as Lady Wu, it was highly probable that she did it voluntarily.

Moreover, if she were not willing, she would have definitely written to her, asking for help to escape from Yan County.

When Lu Chen headed south, Wu Junwan had the perfect opportunity to do so, but unfortunately, she did not choose to flee.

Yue Emperor gazed at the cold moon in the sky and murmured, "Junwan, what exactly are you doing..."

Could it be that her dear sister had really chosen Lu Chen?

What charm did this man possess to not only win over Murong Xue'er but also to have her dear sister, with whom she had a life-and-death bond, lie to her?

After an indeterminate length of time, streams of Sword Qi burst forth from Yue Emperor's body, causing havoc in the bedchamber—many objects were destroyed by the Sword Qi.

Yue Emperor stared resolutely at the moon, a hint of murderous intent flashing in her eyes, "No matter what you are doing, I will snatch you back. No one can take you away from me!"

Although Yue Emperor was still uncertain whether Wu Junwan had truly betrayed their friendship, she had already made up her mind—to snatch Wu Junwan back from Lu Chen's side, no matter what.

She was also aware that Lu Chen now had four Celestials by his side, but what of it?

How could four Celestials matter? As the Empress of Great Yue, she would not fear any difficulty.

At this very moment.

Inside Wu Junwan's bedchamber, the alternating voices of Wu Junwan and Murong Xue'er filled the air—one moment it was Wu Junwan's voice, the next it was Murong Xue'er's.

The whole night passed before their voices gradually ceased.

A ray of morning sunlight shone upon the exposed flesh as Lu Chen thought to himself, perhaps this was the reason why Wu Junwan and the others were rated ninety out of a hundred.

Although he had not done such things with a woman who was rated eighty, he now understood why his concubines scored ninety, especially Wu Junwan's ability to control her muscles.

It could only be said that they were all exceptionally gifted.

Filled with the sunlight streaming in through the window, Wu Junwan turned to Lu Chen, who lay on Murong Xue'er's back, and then said, "Your Majesty must have been very busy these last few days, right?"

Lu Chen replied with a smile, "Indeed, a bit busy."

Wu Junwan then said, "Then why does Your Majesty not get up?"

Even though she was unsure of the exact time, the sunlight shining in through the window told her it was certainly not early anymore.

Lu Chen smiled lightly, "Don't you want me to spend more time with you?"

Wu Junwan responded, "State affairs are of utmost importance."

Upon hearing Wu Junwan's words, Lu Chen immediately let go of Murong Xue'er and slowly got up, "You are right, state affairs are of utmost importance."

With that, Lu Chen grasped Wu Junwan's wrist, pulling her body into his embrace, "Let's have a wash."

As he spoke, he lifted Wu Junwan up in a princess carry, leaving Murong Xue'er alone on the bed, and proceeded directly to the bath in the side chamber.

At this moment, Murong Xue'er tried to stand up, but she was completely weak and could only watch their departing figures.

Murong Xue'er sighed softly, realizing she had truly fallen and could no longer stay away from this scoundrel.

Soon, Lu Chen carried Wu Junwan into the bathing pool.

Wu Junwan did not put on any airs, actively picking up a towel to wipe Lu Chen's back.

Seeing this, Lu Chen said with a laugh, "Since when did Princess Junwan start to serve others?"

Wu Junwan snorted coldly, saying nothing more, and continued with her actions.

Lu Chen had become the Emperor, and one who could unify the entire continent at that. Wu Junwan knew quite well that she didn't amount to much before Lu Chen; she was still clear about her position.

Moreover, Lu Chen was planning to destroy Great Wu, so if she continued to act haughty and inadvertently provoked this lecher, what would she do if he decided to kill the entire Great Martial Royal Family?

Although she didn't have any particular affection for the Great Martial Royal Family, these people were, after all, related to her by blood. It was difficult for her to completely ignore their fate.

Lu Chen had naturally discerned Wu Junwan's thoughts, and at that moment he suddenly said, "After I've conquered Great Wu, I won't kill the people of the Great Martial Royal Family, unless they revolt."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Wu Junwan wasn't surprised and continued to wipe his body.

His words could be true, or they could be false.

After all, Lu Chen had made his statement impeccably.

He added "unless they revolt" after his claim. Revolting or not, wasn't it just a matter of Lu Chen's word? Should Lu Chen wish to eliminate the Great Martial Royal Family, he would naturally fabricate some charges against them.

Once Great Wu was defeated, the life and death of the Great Martial Royal Family would depend on a single thought from Lu Chen. Wu Junwan did not take his promise seriously.

At that moment, Lu Chen seemed to recall something and continued, "Oh right, there's something I almost forgot to tell you."

Wu Junwan asked out of curiosity, "What is it?"

Lu Chen replied, "I plan to make you an Imperial Noble Consort."

Upon hearing this, Wu Junwan's heart skipped a beat.

She was a princess of Great Wu, and the Imperial Noble Consort ranked just below the Empress. How could Lu Chen possibly make her an Imperial Noble Consort?

Following that, Wu Junwan said, "If Great Wu is conquered, I'll be a Princess of the Defeated Country. Aren't you afraid your wives and concubines will be dissatisfied? There will certainly be a lot of opposition from people in Great Xia."

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Apart from you being the Imperial Noble Consort, Zixuan will also be an Imperial Noble Consort, Madam Chu will be an Imperial Noble Consort, and Nanyan will be an Imperial Noble Consort as well."

Wu Junwan was stunned once again.

Other emperors who appointed an Imperial Noble Consort usually had only one, at most two. Lu Chen was preparing to appoint four people as Imperial Noble Consorts in one go.

If they were all Imperial Noble Consorts, then who would become the Empress?

Logically, Mu Zixuan should be the Empress, so why set her up as an Imperial Noble Consort instead?

Wu Junwan quickly came to a realization, and then said, "You don't plan to appoint an Empress?"

Lu Chen said, "That's right."

After hearing Lu Chen's affirmative response, Wu Junwan thought to herself, as expected...

This man didn't want a master of the harem to emerge; in other words, Lu Chen wanted to be the master of his harem himself.

Of course, not appointing an Empress had its advantages. This way, nobody would vie for the position of Empress.

At that time, Lu Chen turned around, wrapped his arms around Wu Junwan's slender waist, then sat at the edge of the bath, making Wu Junwan sit on his lap.

"As my Imperial Noble Consort, you'll need to bear me more children in the future. Also, I know that the condition for you to become a Celestial is to have three children for me, so we'll have to put more effort into that."

Wu Junwan asked, "I'm very curious, how did you learn about the condition for me to become a Celestial?"

Lu Chen had guessed the condition for himself becoming a Celestial when it happened. Back when he was merely speculating on a whim, and now this man was stating it with such certainty.

Clearly, he did indeed know the condition for her to become a Celestial.

By rights, the condition for becoming a Celestial was something only she should know. She had never told anyone else her condition for becoming a Celestial, so how did he find out?

Lu Chen said with a smile, "That's a man's secret."

Seeing that Lu Chen was unwilling to disclose it, Wu Junwan didn't bother asking further.

Afterward, the two of them soaked in the bath for a long time and discussed some matters regarding Great Wu.

Chapter 792 A Special Great Court Assembly_1

The list of official appointments for the new Great Xia court quickly made its way onto the Great Xia Official Gazette, and the arrangements for Lu Chen were mostly satisfactory to the officials in the Capital city.

After all, they were not part of Lu Chen's original team from the North Country, and they had not been purged when Lu Chen advanced into the Capital city; now being able to be reused was considered quite good.

Although some had been demoted, they were well aware that, while their ranks remained unchanged in the court that stayed in the Capital city, they would not actually hold any real power.

However, in the court of Yan County, even though their ranks had been lowered, they indeed held real power.

An official position with real power was far better than a sinecure in the Capital city's court where one would simply idle away.

After the list of official appointments was made public, Lu Chen immediately convened the Great Court Assembly.

At four-thirty in the morning, when the sky was still dark, many ministers had already arrived outside the Hall of Political Affairs.

Today was the first official court assembly since Lu Chen's enthronement, so the officials from the Capital city were particularly eager.

Once all the Capital city officials had arrived, the Great Court Assembly officially began, and the officials uniformly paid their respects, saying, "Long live the Emperor, long may he reign, long live, long live the Emperor!"

Lu Chen said indifferently, "Rise, take your seats."

"Thank Your Majesty!"

The ministers then made their way to either side of the great hall, where in front of each seat, there was a placard indicating the corresponding position.

Seeing this scene, the officials from the Capital city couldn't help feeling deeply moved, never expecting the new Emperor to be so considerate of them.

Having served as officials for so many years, it was the first time they had heard of attending court in this manner, with actual seats, and one for each person at that.

In the past, when they attended court, they had to stand in the great hall, sometimes for several hours until their legs went weak.

From this, one could see how the new Emperor differed from the previous one.

Indeed, just as Li Rui had said, the new Emperor was unlike any other emperor in this world.

Once all the ministers were seated, Lu Chen spoke directly, "Today is the first Great Court Assembly after the restructuring of the court. Before we begin, I want to remind the newly appointed ministers that once the assembly starts, we will only discuss state affairs."

At this point, Lu Chen looked toward Zhuge Zhongguang, who was seated at the first place below the Dragon Throne, and then said, "The Great Scholar may begin."

Upon hearing this, everyone in the great hall was stunned.

Begin?

Begin what?

At that moment, Zhuge Zhongguang addressed the gathered ministers, "Today's Great Court Assembly will be presided over by this official."

Hearing Zhuge Zhongguang's words, the officials who had come from the Capital city were somewhat bewildered.

What is this? The Great Court Assembly is to be managed by a subject, then what is the Emperor doing there?

But soon the officials from the Capital city realized that the former ministers from the North Country did not react at all, as they seemed to consider this normal, apparently having often done so in the North Country.

The officials from the Capital city, who initially wanted to stand up and say something, recalled Lu Chen's initial statement that they would only discuss state affairs, so they just sat obediently in their own places.

Zhuge Zhongguang continued, "The major topic of today's Great Court Assembly is the discussion of a military campaign against Great Wu."

As soon as these words were spoken, they instantly stirred up excitement among the officials in the great hall.

Military campaign against Great Wu!

No one had expected the new Emperor to contemplate unifying the realm so soon!

This was a huge opportunity for everyone in the hall; if they performed outstandingly in the war, they would have the chance to advance.

Both Civil Officials and Military Generals were extremely excited at this moment.

Zhuge Zhongguang went on to say, "His Majesty currently has two Celestials at his command. The plan is to first send troops to attack Great Wu and then have the Celestials directly proceed to the Da Wu Capital to exert pressure on the Great Martial Royal Family. In this way, we can dissolve the combat will of the Great Wu army in the shortest time possible and bring down Great Wu."

With the Celestials in place, the nature of warfare changes. In the past, all the great dynasties had Grandmasters and used them as trump cards, making it difficult for any of them to be defeated.

But Celestials were different. It's uncertain if Great Wu had any Celestials, and if they didn't, Lu Chen could simply send a Celestial to the Da Wu Capital, which would be enough to deal with all of Great Wu's Grandmasters, forcing Great Wu to surrender directly.

Moreover, the combat effectiveness of the Great Xia's army was still so strong that when the soldiers of Great Wu saw the firearms of Great Xia, they would directly lose their will to fight.

This time, Great Xia adopted a dual-front war strategy, targeting Great Wu's army, which is the grassroots level of combat, on one hand, and, on the other, aiming at the Great Wu royal family and the nobility, targeting the upper echelons.

In usual wars, if the fight is only against the grassroots, then no matter how many people die at that level, the royal high ranks and the nobles of the Capital would not feel the pain. They would simply conscript more able-bodied men to send to the frontline to die.

The grassroots level warfare would carry on for a very long time, until the soldiers from both sides were almost exhausted, then negotiations would slowly begin.

But once the lives of the high ranks were involved, the war would not last too long.

Under the leadership of Zhuge Zhongguang, the details of when the war would start, the number of troops to be dispatched, and the logistics arrangements were all discussed one by one.

At today's Great Court Assembly, it was Zhuge Zhongguang who chaired the entire session. Lu Chen only spoke a few words as if he were just there to observe, making him seem like a puppet emperor whose power had been hollowed out.

Of course, Lu Chen was not a puppet emperor. When the officials discussed matters, their eyes were always on Lu Chen.

Although it was Zhuge Zhongguang who hosted the Great Court Assembly, the officials were very clear that they were speaking for someone else to listen.

This mode of assembly was somewhat novel to the officials of the Capital City, but they also quickly accepted it.

By the time the Great Court Assembly ended, it was already noon.

Lu Chen had sat on the Dragon Throne the whole morning, listening to people prattle on, and he felt somewhat tired. Although he had only said a few words, listening to their discussions was still rather draining.

As the assembly ended and Lu Chen was about to go to the harem, a female guard hurried to him and said, "Your Majesty, Lady Qin is about to give birth!"

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen wasted no words and went straight to the palace where Qin Yuwei lived.

The outside of Qin Yuwei's palace was crowded with a throng of women who, upon seeing Lu Chen arrive, hurriedly made way.

Lu Chen hurried into Qin Yuwei's room.

Inside the room were the old midwives from the former North Prince Mansion, and the maidens assisting in the birth were also those from the past. Everyone stepped aside upon seeing Lu Chen, allowing him to approach Qin Yuwei.

Qin Yuwei was deeply moved to see Lu Chen's arrival. She thought that he had been too busy recently to visit her. She hadn't expected that Lu Chen would still come before she gave birth.

Lying on the bed, Qin Yuwei said feebly, "Your concubine greets Your Majesty. Please forgive your concubine for not being able to rise and pay respects."

Lu Chen smiled faintly and, sitting by the bed, said, "It's alright, you just lie down comfortably."

At that moment, Lu Chen took Qin Yuwei's hand. "Don't be nervous, the child will be born soon."

Qin Yuwei replied, "With Your Majesty by my side, your concubine is not nervous."

Qin Yuwei had long heard from Chu Yuqin and the others that giving birth was almost painless as long as Lu Chen was nearby.

Qin Yuwei believed Chu Yuqin and the others would not deceive her. Just then, she suddenly felt a warm current enter her body, and the discomfort vanished in an instant.

Qin Yuwei was astonished. It was just as Chu Yuqin and the others had said; there was indeed no discomfort at all.

Just as Qin Yuwei was about to say thank you, she suddenly felt movement in her belly. Before she knew what was happening, she felt as if something had left her body, and the weight of her belly eased instantly.

The next moment, the sound of a baby crying echoed in the great hall.

Qin Yuwei was stunned.

Though she had heard that childbirth would be easy with Lu Chen present, she never imagined it would be this easy.

Wasn't this too simple? Was that it?

Carefully, Qin Yuwei raised herself slightly and looked at her belly. Seeing that it had deflated, and the midwives and maids were busy cleaning the baby, she finally believed she had truly given birth.

Lu Chen continued using the Rejuvenating Skill to help Qin Yuwei recover. After the midwives finished cleaning the baby quickly, they brought it to Lu Chen.

"Congratulations, Your Majesty, it is a prince!"

Upon hearing the midwife's words, the happiest wasn't Lu Chen, but Qin Yuwei.

In that era, a woman's worth was determined by her children. Although she did not expect her child to become the Crown Prince, having a prince meant her future life had some security. Qin Yuwei's heart was filled with joy.

Chapter 793 Qin Yuwei Gives Birth to a Child and the Rewards It Brings_1

Lu Chen held the child and infused him with some Spiritual Power, examining the child's body before placing him in front of Qin Yuwei.

Qin Yuwei, now able to sit up, did just that and gazed at the child beside her, her face brimming with joy.

A moment later, Qin Yuwei suddenly remembered the child had yet to be named. She quickly turned her head to look at Lu Chen by the bedside, "Your Majesty, the child still has no name, please bestow one upon him."

Lu Chen thought for a moment, then said, "Let's call him Lu Siyuan."

Qin Yuwei murmured, "Siyuan... Siyuan..."

"Thank you, Your Majesty!"

Lu Chen gave a faint smile and continued to infuse Qin Yuwei and the child with Spiritual Power.

Once Qin Yuwei had fully recovered, she suddenly thought of the many affairs Lu Chen had to attend to and hurriedly said, "Your Majesty, your concubine has recovered, and since you have other matters to attend to, I shall not waste more of your time."

Lu Chen replied, "Then rest well."

Qin Yuwei hummed in agreement, and then Lu Chen stood up, turned around, and left the palace for the Imperial Study Room.

He was very eager to know what the system had rewarded him with this time.

After entering the Imperial Study Room, Lu Chen opened the system interface immediately.

[Congratulations to the host for obtaining a progeny, rewarded with Ten Thousand Immortal Sect.]

[As the host's progeny has surpassed ten, awarded with Divine Ability Enlightenment and the Heavenly-level Cultivation Skill, Demon Burying Spell.]

Lu Chen was somewhat surprised at the rewards presented before him, not expecting that aside from Sect Forces, there were also Divine Skills and a Heavenly-level Cultivation Technique.

This was his first time to obtain Divine Skills and Lu Chen was very curious about the effect of the Divine Skill "Enlightenment." He clicked on [Enlightenment] right away.

[Enlightenment: A host's Divine Skill, it can enlighten all beings, allowing sentient creatures to possess intelligence similar to the host's, and the host can impart his own knowledge to the enlightened beings, ensuring absolute loyalty towards the host.]

Reading the description of this Divine Skill, Lu Chen was initially stunned, but soon his heart swelled with joy.

Since he had arrived in this world, his greatest concern was that the people here found it difficult to comprehend some of his ideas and practices.

If he could use Enlightenment to impart his knowledge to others, they would understand what he said.

Of course, Enlightenment could play a bigger role in the advancement of technology.

Conveniently, he had acquired the Earth Knowledge Library and, although he had gained much knowledge from Earth, to make the craftsmen understand the books in the Earth library, he still needed to teach them some of the basics himself.

Now with Enlightenment, it was different. He could directly impart some fundamental knowledge to those he trusted most. Then those craftsmen could study on their own the knowledge contained within the books of the Earth library, and afterward, some people with a talent for learning could pass on their knowledge to the people of this world.

Thus, this world could quickly transition from an agrarian society to industrialization. One hundred years would surely suffice, perhaps even less.

With that thought, Lu Chen was filled with immense excitement.

After examining the Divine Skill Enlightenment, Lu Chen casually opened up the introduction to the "Demon Burying Spell."

[Demon Burying Spell: A Heavenly-level Cultivation Technique, an orthodox cultivation method. Once cultivated, the Spiritual Energy of the practitioner specifically counters Evil Yin Energy and suppresses those who practice evil.]

Upon seeing this Cultivation Technique, Lu Chen thought of the Taiyin Divine Sect. They had been searching for so long and had still not found any trace of the Taiyin Divine Sect, clueless about their hiding place or what mischief they were brewing.

If his people all cultivated the Demon Burying Spell, there would be no fear when those of the Taiyin Divine Sect showed themselves again, no matter how surreptitious those individuals might be.

This was a Cultivation Technique that could be useful at the present stage.

After looking over the Divine Skill and Cultivation Technique, Lu Chen's gaze finally settled on the words "Ten Thousand Immortal Sect."

Lu Chen had not heard of Ten Thousand Immortal Sect before, so he suspected it must be a force from overseas like the Sunset Sword Sect and the Tai Chu Divine Hall.

Lu Chen immediately clicked on Ten Thousand Immortal Sect to review the details.

[Ten Thousand Immortal Sect: Currently located in the Misty World. Within the Sect, there are two practitioners holding the Yin Yang Mirror, ten in the Genesis Realm, and several Celestials.]

[Due to the Misty World's restrictions not being lifted, the members of Ten Thousand Immortal Sect are temporarily unable to travel to this world, but the host can issue one command.]

Seeing the introduction about the Ten Thousand Immortal Sect from the system, Lu Chen was stunned.

A Sect force from the Misty World?

So the reward is of no use to me right now?

He had been hoping that the power granted as a reward would help him unify the world.

Could it be that in the system's view, unifying a few dynasties doesn't require someone Above Celestials?

Thinking of this, Lu Chen pondered for a moment. Considering the current situation, if the several great dynasties didn't have a Celestial, or only had one Celestial, then indeed, unifying the world wouldn't require someone Above Celestials.

With this in mind, Lu Chen curiously asked the system, "System, what is the Realm like Above Celestials? Can you tell me in advance?"

Lu Chen wanted to see what level the Ten Thousand Immortal Sect was outside, and whether it could protect this world from being invaded by powerhouses from other worlds after the restrictions of the Misty World were lifted.

As Lu Chen's words fell, the system's prompt sounded.

[Heavenly Human Realm, Genesis Realm, Yin Yang Mirror, All Law Realm, Divinity Transformation Realm, Returning Ruin Realm, Saint Realm, Emperor Realm.]

This...

Lu Chen couldn't help thinking that the Genesis Realm was just Above Celestials, and the Yin Yang Mirror was only one realm higher than Celestials. With this in mind, the Ten Thousand Immortal Sect doesn't seem very powerful.

Perhaps the Ten Thousand Immortal Sect is only a minor sect in the Misty World.

While Lu Chen was thinking this, the system's prompt sounded again.

[Each major realm is divided into ten minor levels.]

Hearing the system's supplement, Lu Chen thought, if there are ten minor levels within each major realm, then it shouldn't be easy for people outside to cultivate to the Yin-Yang Realm.

Let's hope there aren't any powerhouses Above the Yin-Yang Realm in the Misty World.

Thinking of this, Lu Chen said to the system, "Have the Sect Master of the Ten Thousand Immortal Sect investigate the situation of the Misty World. As soon as the world's restrictions disappear, send someone to this world immediately and inform me of the Misty World's information."

[The host's command has been issued. The Sect Master of the Ten Thousand Immortal Sect, Ji Hongwen, has received the host's command.]

After issuing the command to the Ten Thousand Immortal Sect, Lu Chen sighed slightly. It seemed necessary to quicken the pace of unification.

Lu Chen had long discovered the pattern of the system's rewards. The fact that the system awarded him with a sect force from the Misty World at this time suggested that he didn't need powerhouses Above Celestials right now, and it also indicated that he would likely encounter those sect forces within the Misty World soon.

The system's reward pattern often provided what he might need next.

Since the system had rewarded him with the Ten Thousand Immortal Sect, he needed to start preparing for the Misty World immediately.

At this very moment.

Inside the Misty World.

Ten Thousand Immortal Sect.

The entire Ten Thousand Immortal Sect was shrouded in mist, but above the various buildings of the Sect, there were some candles. Within a few meters illuminated by the candlelight, the thick mist was absent.

It was because of these candles that the disciples of the Ten Thousand Immortal Sect could see the path clearly.

Today was the Sect's martial arts competition, and the main peak of the Sect was already packed with disciples.

The high-ranking officials of the Ten Thousand Immortal Sect were watching the disciples spar and discussing something when suddenly, the Sect Master and several Elders felt something extra in their minds.

The high officials of the Ten Thousand Immortal Sect stood up from their seats at the same time. Seeing this, the disciples of the Sect were stunned.

They had not received Lu Chen's instructions and did not understand why the Sect Master and the others suddenly stood up, with a very solemn look on their faces.

After a while, the Sect Master, Ji Hongwen, finally spoke slowly, "I never thought that after being trapped in the Misty World for thousands of years, we would have a day to get out."

"The heavens have eyes! The restrictions of the Misty World are finally about to disappear!"

At this moment, Ji Hongwen was incredibly excited, even with tears in his eyes.

Chapter 794 A Celestial Descends upon the Da Wu Capital_1

The Great Court Assembly decided to exterminate Great Wu, and Great Xia soon published a declaration of war against Great Wu in the official gazette.

A single stone stirred up a thousand ripples; the various forces of the great dynasties were extremely agitated upon learning that Great Xia would wage war against Great Wu next.

Some were delighted, while others were terrified.

If Great Wu were to be extinguished, the powers within Great Xia were sure to profit, so they were all very excited.

The situation was different for the Great Wu Dynasty, however. No one knew what their fate would be should the nation fall.

At the same time, not only the people of the Great Wu Dynasty were panicked, but the common folk of Great Jue and the Great Qian Dynasty were equally fearful.

People had long been aware of Lu Chen's ambition; even before he became the Great Xia Emperor, he had revealed his desire to unify the world under one rule.

Now that Lu Chen controlled all of Great Xia's resources, it was natural for him to begin realizing his ambition. Clearly, Great Xia's plan would not end with just the elimination of Great Wu.

Once Great Wu fell, Great Jue and Great Qian would be next.

Great Wu Dynasty.

In the royal court.

Today's court assembly was dead silent, the hall was eerily quiet; even the sound of people's breathing could be heard.

The atmosphere was heavy and oppressive. Sweat beaded on the foreheads of some of the ministers as the Martial Emperor sat on the Dragon Throne, his gaze coldly sweeping over the ministers in the hall.

After what seemed like an eternity, the Martial Emperor finally spoke, "My dear ministers, have you all seen the declaration of war from the North Country?"

Hearing this, the assembly of ministers still dared not utter a word.

Although they had long anticipated that Lu Chen would seek to dominate the world and that they would inevitably face this war, they had not expected it to arrive so soon.

Most importantly, Great Xia already had four Celestials, while Great Wu was completely unprepared.

Setting aside the combat strength of Great Xia's military forces, the mere presence of those four Celestials was enough to annihilate the entire Great Wu.

Now without Celestial champions of their own, Great Wu was no match for Great Xia.

The ministers of Great Wu had no idea what to do, as they had always been the ones to attack others; this was the first time they were on the receiving end.

Seeing the silent ministers in the hall, the Martial Emperor's anger flared. They were all useless, always chattering away in court, but now, when it mattered most, no one spoke up.

The Martial Emperor continued, "Before long, Great Xia will send troops to attack Great Wu. What solutions do you, my ministers, propose?"

Upon these words, the hall remained in dead silence, the ministers looking at each other, but none speaking out.

Solutions?

What solutions could there be?

They had long known of Lu Chen's ambition. Lu Chen aimed for nothing less than total unification. Now that the declaration of war had been made, it was clear they would not rest until Great Wu was destroyed.

Anything they said now was pointless. Either Great Wu would muster its military might to hold off Great Xia's assault, or it would simply surrender.

But judging by the strengths of both parties, even if Great Wu did manage to field its troops against Great Xia, it was doubtful they could hold out for long.

Great Wu had already experienced the combat prowess of Great Xia's new army, and the focus wasn't even on Great Xia's new troops.

What they were most concerned about was Great Xia's Celestials. No one knew if Great Xia would send Celestials directly to the Capital City. Just one Celestial in the Capital could potentially annihilate the entire city.

If Great Xia desired a swift and decisive victory, they might very well send Celestials straight to the Capital.

The ministers in the grand hall are already thinking about how to surrender to Great Xia; they have no desire to accompany the Great Wu Dynasty to its grave.

This is a war with no chance of victory.

But even though they already harbor thoughts of surrendering, they can't possibly bring it up directly in front of the Martial Emperor.

Everyone knows what kind of person the Martial Emperor is; he will never surrender, and anyone who suggests surrender at this time might not even finish speaking before being killed by the Martial Emperor himself.

Since they cannot fight and the Martial Emperor will never agree to surrender, they choose to say nothing at all.

Seeing that the ministers still had not spoken, the Martial Emperor's piercing gaze fell directly on the Minister of War, "Chen, what do you think we should do next?"

Hearing this, the Minister of War was so frightened that he knelt on the ground and trembled as he said, "Your Majesty, the most pressing matter is to summon the army to resist the soldiers of Great Xia invading our court."

Although he said this, the Minister of War was speaking for the Martial Emperor to hear.

Given the Martial Emperor's personality, he would definitely resist to the end; with the Great Wu Dynasty about to be destroyed, flattering the Martial Emperor now wouldn't hurt.

After hearing the Minister of War, the Martial Emperor fell silent for a moment. He was no fool; he could see that no one in the court, civilian or military, truly wanted to resist Great Xia.

After all, the strength of a Celestial was evident. Even with the power of a Grandmaster, they could not resist a Celestial.

Moreover, the Great Wu Dynasty didn't have many Grandmasters to begin with; with so few Grandmasters, how could they possibly defeat the Great Xia Dynasty?

Although the Martial Emperor was well aware that Great Wu was about to fall, his heart was filled with reluctance.

He should have been the one to unify the world, not the Sum Emperor. He could not surrender; even if he had to fight to the last moment, he would defend Great Wu's territory.

Just then, a tremendous pressure suddenly filled the grand hall, and some of the weaker ministers were pressed to the ground by this force.

Even the Martial Emperor himself was immobilized by this pressure; the sudden onset caused chaos in the hall.

After a moment, two elders, accompanied by dozens of Grandmaster martial artists, walked into the grand hall.

Feeling the martial might emanating from these people, the entire court was stunned.

So many Grandmasters...

What force is this, and how could they have so many Grandmasters?

Coming to his senses, a minister quickly exclaimed, "Protect the emperor! There are assassins, protect the emperor!!!"

As people prepared to escort the Martial Emperor to safety, an even stronger pressure descended, instantly restraining the Imperial Guards who had entered the hall so that they could not move.

It didn't take long for people to understand what was happening.

Celestials!

It must be Celestials!

Even the leader of the Imperial Guard, a Grandmaster himself, was suppressed, unable to move; this meant that someone among the newcomers far surpassed the strength of a Grandmaster.

Only Celestials could exert such pressure!

Thinking of Celestials, people immediately thought of the Celestials of Great Xia, the only known Celestials to them.

At that moment, Xia Tianyuan addressed the Martial Emperor on the Dragon Throne, "By the order of the Sum Emperor, I have come to remind His Majesty that if the Great Martial Royal Family surrenders within one month, the royal lineage can survive. If you choose to stubbornly resist, you alone shall bear the consequences!"

Feeling the pressure from the Celestial, the Martial Emperor's heart was filled with reluctance; he never imagined that he would face such a day.

Ever since his ascension to the throne, he was always the one demanding others to surrender with the stance of a conqueror, and yet today, someone was demanding his surrender.

Chapter 795 Yue Emperor's Suspicion_1

The Martial Emperor, despite his reluctance, had no means to oppose the overwhelming power before him.

In the whole of Great Wu's territory, there was simply no one capable of resisting the Celestials. Leaving Great Wu aside, it was feared that the only ones in this world who could contend with the Celestials were the Celestials themselves.

He had heard that Lu Xingqiu somehow obtained a Divine Weapon capable of annihilating Celestials, but Lu Xingqiu had long since turned to dust, and that so-called Celestial-killing Divine Weapon had fallen into Lu Chen's hands.

At that moment, the Martial Emperor clenched his fists with such force that he left several dents in the pure gold Dragon Throne.

The Martial Emperor did not speak then, his gaze fixed unrelentingly on the dozen or so people in the grand hall, well aware that anything he might say now would be futile, and that these individuals might even decide to dispose of him right there and then.

He certainly did not wish to end up like Lu Xingqiu.

Seeing the Martial Emperor's angry face, Xia Tianyuan spoke indifferently, "The Sum Emperor says, if the Great Martial Royal Family surrenders, he is willing to take the Princess Junwan of Great Wu as his bride and bestow upon her the status of Imperial Noble Consort."

Upon hearing these words, the Martial Emperor's mind reeled, seemingly grasping something.

Ever since Wu Junwan went to North Country, although she occasionally sent some messages back, they were all useless information. The designs of North Country's weapons that he desired had still not made it into Wu Junwan's hands.

He had previously thought that Wu Junwan had not gained Lu Chen's trust, and with North Country having many powerful figures, it was difficult to obtain the weapon designs from Lu Chen.

But when he heard that Lu Chen planned to marry Wu Junwan, the Martial Emperor instantly realized that his daughter had likely seen through the empty promises he had painted for her, and thus she had simply defected to Lu Chen.

This realization ignited even more fury within the Martial Emperor. This unfilial daughter had actually betrayed him!

However, discussing this was pointless now, and at that moment, the Martial Emperor's thoughts shifted, and he said coldly, "We are prepared to bow our heads to Great Sum as a vassal."

Upon hearing these words, the entire court of civil and military officials were stunned. They could hardly believe that such words had come from the mouth of the Martial Emperor, whose character they knew all too well.

By all accounts, the Martial Emperor should have chosen death over submission, fighting to his last breath rather than surrender.

As people wondered why the Martial Emperor would utter such words, he continued, "However, Great Wu shall only be a vassal, and the land of Great Wu must still be ruled by us personally."

The ministers understood the Martial Emperor's intentions in an instant—he was planning to endure in hiding.

If he could bow his head and still control the land of Great Wu, then there was a possibility he could acquire those mysterious weapons of Great Sum in the future, and perhaps he could continue to amass strength until one day he would receive the support of Celestial warriors.

So long as he found other Celestials that existed in this world and gained their support, he could shake off Great Sum's control at the first opportunity and restore the Great Wu Dynasty.

Xia Tianyuan naturally saw through the Martial Emperor's ulterior motives and smiled as he said, "Your Majesty, the Martial Emperor, do you really think our emperor would agree to such terms?"

The Martial Emperor said coldly, "If the Sum Emperor is unwilling, then we shall meet on the battlefield, where we would rather die than surrender."

Hearing the Martial Emperor's words, Xia Tianyuan was not angered. He simply stated, "There is still one month's time. The Martial Emperor can take this time to reflect."

With that, Xia Tianyuan turned and walked towards the entrance of the hall, and the oppressive aura that had been weighing on the civil and military officials quickly dissipated.

Once the pressure had lifted, the ministers breathed heavily with relief, grateful that the Celestial had not taken action, for had he done so, it was likely that none present would have survived.

Once the ministers regained their senses, they all turned to look at the Martial Emperor, who by then was sitting with a dark expression and not saying a word.

After a moment, the Martial Emperor raised his hand and brought it down forcefully on the armrest of the Dragon Throne, shattering the pure gold armrests on either side instantaneously.

The Martial Emperor did not say much more. He rose to his feet, swept his sleeves, and departed from the grand hall.

After the Martial Emperor had left, the courtiers within the hall began to discuss among themselves.

Half a month later.

Great Jue, the Empress's Bedchamber.

Dressed in a red gown and wearing a phoenix crown, the Yue Emperor stood by the window, looking at the letter in her hand, her face cold as ice.

Just then, the letter burst into flames and quickly turned to ashes.

Upon learning that Wu Junwan had likely become Lu Chen's woman, she immediately wrote a letter to Wu Junwan, asking whether she had indeed become Lu Chen's.

Initially, the Yue Emperor still harbored a sliver of hope for a negative answer.

But to her surprise, after receiving the Yue Emperor's letter, Wu Junwan did not bother to hide it any longer and straightforwardly admitted it in her reply.

Moreover, she wrote in the letter that she wasn't coerced; she willingly became Lu Chen's woman, which infuriated the Yue Emperor even more.

How could Wu Junwan willingly become that man's woman when, back in the Misty Immortal Sect, numerous outstanding cultivators pursued her, yet Wu Junwan refused them all?

Although Lu Chen had some abilities, he was nothing compared to those Above Celestials of the Misty World, and Lu Chen was so much younger than her—how could Wu Junwan possibly like him?

The Yue Emperor's brows furrowed slightly as she fell into thought.

She felt certain that Wu Junwan must be hiding something else from her.

She didn't believe that Wu Junwan would just marry Lu Chen like that!

With that thought, the Yue Emperor returned to her desk and, taking up her pen, wrote another letter to Wu Junwan.

She now suspected that Wu Junwan might have realized that Lu Chen was not easy to deal with and thus deliberately gave herself to him in order to find a way to get rid of him.

Soon, she had written another letter and sent it off to Yan County.

At this very moment.

In Yan County, Great Sum.

Inside Murong Xue'er's room.

Lu Chen sat at a desk, looking at a portrait on the table, and said with a laugh, "I must say, your painting skills are truly excellent; you truly deserve your reputation as the great talent of Great Jue."

Hearing Lu Chen's praise, Murong Xue'er replied indifferently, "It's just a casual drawing."

Lu Chen studied the painting intently, appreciating it as he said, "This is no casual drawing; there are so many details in the painting, it's clear you have quite a grasp on my physique."

Murong Xue'er gave Lu Chen a speechless look, then said, "Your Majesty came to my room just to look at my paintings?"

Lu Chen smiled faintly, slowly rolling up his portrait and saying as he did so, "No, that's not it."

"I just remembered that it's been a long time since I've practiced calligraphy, so I thought I'd come to you for some practice."

Upon hearing about practicing calligraphy, Murong Xue'er was reminded of the things she and Lu Chen used to do in the study at the North Prince Mansion.

Murong Xue'er realized that Lu Chen, this fellow, must be idle recently and wanted to come torture her for amusement.

She had also heard that the current power structure in Great Sum was quite unique, with Lu Chen neglecting even the court meetings, leaving them to be hosted by others. At most, he would peruse some important documents, but beyond that, he hardly had anything else to do.

At this, Murong Xue'er walked straight to the couch and lay down, then said, "Come on."

Seeing this, Lu Chen was taken aback for a moment, then said, "What do you take me for?"

Murong Xue'er laughed silently to herself. The lecher was pretending to be a righteous man.

Just as Murong Xue'er was about to say something, Lu Chen used Shadow Shifting to suddenly appear behind her, and the familiar scene of 'practicing calligraphy' began.

Chapter 796 Are you writing to your good sister again?_1

Lu Chen lifted his brush and wrote gently on the skin as white and smooth as jade, his expression right now looking incredibly serious as if he had placed all his focus on the writing task at hand.

Murong Xue'er's breath was fragrant, her eyes misty and blurred. After a long while, she asked, "Your Majesty, did you come to see me today for some matter?"

Lu Chen continued to write as he spoke, "Naturally, there is a matter, which is precisely what we are doing now."

Hearing this, Murong Xue'er gazed deeply at Lu Chen, who was engrossed in his careful calligraphy. Although Lu Chen occasionally thought of favoring her, she didn't believe that today's visit was purely for the pleasures of the flesh.

After a moment, Lu Chen finally spoke, "I heard that Great Jue has relieved you of your duties as the envoy to Great Sum and has ordered you to return to Great Jue for debriefing."

Upon hearing this, Murong Xue'er said, "Your Majesty is indeed well-informed; I haven't even had the chance to tell you this news, and you already know."

Indeed, just as Murong Xue'er had expected, he had come for this very reason today.

Murong Xue'er continued, "Now that I am no longer the envoy of Great Jue, and can't pass on any more false information to Great Jue, I am useless to Your Majesty. Are you planning to abandon me?"

The way Murong Xue'er spoke was very calm, as if she had long been prepared for Lu Chen's abandonment.

When Lu Chen heard Murong Xue'er's words, he smiled faintly and then said, "Having been with me for so long, you know well that I am not that kind of person."

"Besides, you are not without use to me."

As Murong Xue'er spoke, Lu Chen set aside the brush in his hand and then slightly twisted his waist. Murong Xue'er let out a soft moan, and as Lu Chen raised his hand, a jar of red pigment from the shelf in Murong Xue'er's room flew to her side.

This time, Lu Chen raised his hand, and a brush that had not touched any ink flew into his hand. With one hand, he gently caressed the Curse Pattern on Murong Xue'er's lower abdomen, while saying, "Apart from its function, this Curse Pattern is actually rather beautiful."

Feeling Lu Chen's warm hand, Murong Xue'er's body shivered. Lu Chen picked up the brush, dipped it into the red pigment, and then proceeded to fill in the spots where the color of the Curse Pattern on Murong Xue'er's abdomen had faded.

After a while, Lu Chen spoke again, "When you became my woman, I made it clear to you that, to me, your greatest use was to be my woman, to bear my children. As for passing false information to the Da Yue Dynasty, these things don't really count for much to me."

Hearing this, Murong Xue'er was slightly startled. Lu Chen had indeed said such things before, but at the time, she had dismissed them as mere sweet nothings from a man.

Lu Chen continued, "I believe you are well aware that what I value about you is your body."

Hearing this, Murong Xue'er let out a light snort and said, "Your Majesty is really quite unabashed."

Lu Chen smiled and responded, "What's there to hide? A man's lust is the most natural thing in the world."

"If you feel insecure in Great Sum, why not bear me a few children sooner? There are quite a few women in the Imperial Palace who felt insecure at first, but after having children, they quickly settled down."

Lu Chen had originally thought this "valued for one's children" mentality among his women was rather backward, but upon further thought, if having children could make them feel secure, then it wasn't such a bad way to deepen their affections.

Gradually, Lu Chen no longer saw anything wrong with this way of thinking.

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Murong Xue'er took a deep breath, attempting to remain calm as she spoke, "Princess Wu said, Your Majesty is indeed very firm in your thoughts about procreation."

Lu Chen simply smiled, said nothing more, and continued with his painting.

Once the painting was done, he still had important matters to attend to.

...

Time passed, its length unknown.

Outside Murong Xue'er's bedchamber.

Wu Junwan sat in the pavilion drinking tea when she heard a faint sound coming from the bedroom, she couldn't help but snort coldly.

A fine Emperor indeed, neglecting his duties in broad daylight to fool around in a woman's bedchamber, what an incompetent ruler.

She feared that even if this man were to unite the entire world, Great Sum would sooner or later fall because of him.

At that moment, a female guard entered the courtyard and spoke to Wu Junwan, "Lady Wu, here's a letter from Great Jue."

Upon hearing this, Wu Junwan immediately raised her jade hand, and the next moment, the letter in the guard's hand flew into hers. She opened the letter and attentively read its contents.

Then she instructed her maid, "Go get the pen and paper."

After reading the letter from the Yue Emperor, Wu Junwan decided it was time to lay her cards on the table with the Emperor. She could tell from the Emperor's letter that she wasn't believed to have become Lu Chen's woman; rather, it was suspected that she was lurking by his side, attempting to achieve some ulterior motive.

If she allowed the Emperor to continue under this misconception, her hatred towards Lu Chen wouldn't diminish.

Wu Junwan certainly didn't want to see Lu Chen and the Emperor come to a deadly confrontation, so she planned to hint to the Emperor that her condition for becoming a Celestial was related to Lu Chen, which might reduce some of the Emperor's hostility towards him.

As Wu Junwan was writing her letter, the noise from Murong Xue'er's chamber grew louder, disturbing Wu Junwan's concentration.

Wu Junwan cursed coldly, "Truly, what a despicable pair."

Then Wu Junwan used her Spiritual Power to seal her ears, by which she could finally focus.

Who knows how long passed before Lu Chen came out of Murong Xue'er's room. Seeing Wu Junwan sitting in the pavilion, he immediately approached her from behind.

Upon sensing that this scoundrel had emerged, Wu Junwan then restored her hearing and afterwards spoke indifferently, "Isn't Your Majesty supposed to unify the world? Do you really think you can achieve that by lying with women all day long?"

Hearing this, Lu Chen wasn't angry but instead lifted her up and placed her on his lap.

"I love both the land and its beauties," he said.

"Humans aren't machines; naturally, we need rest after work."

As he spoke, Lu Chen glanced over the letter Wu Junwan was writing on the stone table. "Writing to your dear sister again?"

"I had thought you two had fallen out long ago."

Wu Junwan replied, "The bond between her and me isn't so easily severed."

They had entered the Misty World together; they had faced countless life and death crises, supporting and assisting each other to survive and ultimately return to this world.

How could they completely fall out over a man?

Even if the Yue Emperor would never accept Lu Chen in the end, Wu Junwan would not break with her.

Chapter 797 How about this, I will also write her a letter_1

Hearing Wu Junwan's words, Lu Chen smiled slightly and whispered into her ear, "You sisters really do share a deep bond."

At this point, Lu Chen suddenly thought of something, and then said, "How about this, I'll also write her a letter, and you can have your people deliver it to her."

Wu Junwan's brows furrowed, "What are you going to write in this letter?"

"You're not planning to write to persuade her to surrender, are you?"

"She's not a woman who would surrender so easily."

The Yue Emperor was able to establish a firm foothold in the Great Jue Dynasty precisely because she was no ordinary woman; her temperament was much more robust than most men.

Lu Chen said with a smile, "I'm not so naïve."

"The main purpose of my letter is to let her get a preliminary understanding of me."

Wu Junwan turned her head slightly and glanced at Lu Chen, who was embracing her, using her peripheral vision. She then asked, "Understand you?"

"Understand what about you?"

"Understand that you're a lecherous man?"

Wu Junwan thought to herself, if the Yue Emperor knew this lecherous man bullied and humiliated her every other day, her impression of Lu Chen would probably worsen, and she would hate him even more.

If they met, the Yue Emperor might even throw caution to the wind and try to kill the lecher.

Wu Junwan certainly didn't want Lu Chen to write a letter that would provoke the Yue Emperor.

Lu Chen saw through Wu Junwan's thoughts and continued to speak, "Don't worry, I won't write anything that could provoke her."

Wu Junwan said, "After you finish writing, let me see it."

Lu Chen said, "There's no need to wait until I'm done. You can watch me write it."

With that, Lu Chen waved his hand, and a fountain pen flew out from Murong Xue'er's room and into his hand. Then, Lu Chen passed his arms under Wu Junwan's armpits to encircle her and began writing the letter on the stone table.

It was indeed a bit inconvenient to write a letter in this posture, but this way, Wu Junwan could also see exactly what he was writing.

Although Wu Junwan felt some discomfort around her hips, she didn't say much. She wanted to see what this man would come up with in his letter.

After Lu Chen started writing, he first clarified his identity and introduced himself. Then he explained to the Yue Emperor why he was writing the letter. Next, Lu Chen mentioned why he was unifying the world.

He brought up the impending disappearance of the mystical barriers of the Misty World, telling the Yue Emperor the world was not safe, extremely vulnerable, and could be destroyed at any moment. Therefore, his unification was to prepare for possible impending crises.

As for Wu Junwan, Wu Junwan was the woman he deeply loved, and he wouldn't allow her to suffer any grievances.

Seeing that Lu Chen was actually mentioning her in the letter, Wu Junwan hastily interrupted, "Wait a moment, you can't mention my name in your letter."

Lu Chen asked, "Why not?"

Wu Junwan replied, "Didn't you just say you wouldn't write anything that would provoke her?"

"Just by mentioning my name in your letter, you might anger her."

Hearing Wu Junwan's reasoning, Lu Chen said with a smile, "I see. The Yue Emperor is a person with very strong possessive instincts. If I mention your name, she will definitely think I'm challenging her, right?"

Wu Junwan responded indifferently, "It's good that you understand. Later, when you make a copy, remember to remove that part."

Lu Chen insisted, "That won't do. This is about making my stance clear; this part must be included."

Wu Junwan was taken aback, a touch of anger flashing across her face as she seemed to grasp something.

She had told him not to write that part, yet he insisted on doing so, merely wanting to see the Yue Emperor get angry. In other words, he wanted to watch the Yue Emperor get jealous over him.

Wu Junwan said, "If you're not afraid of making her angry, then go ahead and write as you please."

Junwan decided not to bother with this fellow anymore. Anyway, she had already lost the power to counter Lu Chen; he could do whatever he wanted.

Lu Chen gave a faint smile, said nothing more, and continued writing the letter, which contained much about this world.

Until the end of the letter, he did not mention anything about the Yue Emperor surrendering.

Of course, that was only superficial.

Lu Chen mentioned the prohibitions of the Misty World, and also claimed it was for the sake of the world, which was essentially him exerting moral pressure on the Yue Emperor. It was as if he was saying that if the Yue Emperor did not cooperate with the Great Unification, did not assist in integrating the world's resources, when the prohibitions of the Misty World vanished, the Da Yue Dynasty would surely be the first to suffer the impact. Should any problem arise in Da Yue then, she, as the Yue Emperor, would have to bear the responsibility.

After Lu Chen finished writing the letter to the Yue Emperor, he glanced at the letter Junwan had just written, "My dear, what have you written in your letter? May I see it?"

Hearing this, Junwan said indifferently, "What, are you afraid I've revealed some of Great Sum's secrets to the Yue Emperor?"

Lu Chen replied, "That's not it. I'm just genuinely curious. If you don't want to show me, then I won't look."

"Since you are not looking, I will seal the envelope then."

As soon as Junwan finished speaking, she placed her own letter into an envelope and sealed it with wax.

Right afterward, Junwan sealed Lu Chen's letter with wax as well.

After sealing the envelopes, Junwan wrote down names on them, then called a maidservant and instructed her to deliver the letters to the Da Yue Dynasty spies lurking in Yan County.

Once the letters were sent, Lu Chen did not immediately get up; instead, he continued to embrace Junwan's supple body.

Junwan said expressionlessly, "Your Majesty is busy with many affairs, so I will not take up more of Your Majesty's time."

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Are you trying to send me away?"

Junwan replied coolly, "This is Your Majesty's harem. Your Majesty may stay as long as you wish."

Lu Chen changed the subject, "Speaking of which, the Great Sum has now declared war on Great Wu. By that account, your identity is that of an enemy princess, isn't it?"

The phrase caught Junwan slightly off guard. What did Lu Chen mean by that?

While Junwan was puzzling over the meaning of Lu Chen's words, he suddenly stood up and, with a princess carry, scooped Junwan into his arms. Then, using Shadow Shifting, he instantly appeared in Junwan's room.

Immediately after, Lu Chen threw Junwan onto the soft couch.

Junwan was stunned for a moment but quickly realized that this fellow had not had his fill next door and was now looking to her for mischief.

Inwardly, Junwan cursed Murong Xue'er. How could that maidservant be so useless, not even able to properly take care of Lu Chen, making her suffer the consequences too.

Lu Chen looked at Junwan on the soft couch and said, "You are a princess of the enemy country, and now you have fallen into my hands. What do you think I should do with you?"

Deal with her?

Junwan gazed at Lu Chen's handsome face and immediately grasped the implication of his words.

This young man, he loved to create false scenarios, persuading his women to play roles.

Being a genuine princess who had fallen into the hands of Lu Chen, a lustful Emperor from an enemy country, and being so beautiful, she naturally wouldn't face a good outcome.

Junwan then asked, "What does Your Majesty plan to do with me?"

Lu Chen stretched out his hand, lifting Junwan's chin, gazing into her phoenix eyes, and said with a smile, "You're quite proud. At a time like this, you still refer to yourself as 'me'. I am a foolish Emperor. Seeing such a beautiful woman like you, what do you think I would do?"

Although Junwan felt uncomfortable, she still decided to play along and said, "I am the Princess Junwan of Great Wu. If Your Majesty mistreats me, the Martial Emperor will not let you off!"

However, no sooner had Junwan spoken than Lu Chen leaned down, overpowered her tender body, and looked down at her stunning face, "Then I'd like to see what the Martial Emperor can do after I have dishonored you!"

Junwan was about to speak when Lu Chen kissed her red lips.

Junwan began to struggle, her movements quite forceful, appearing genuinely resistant. But soon, she was troubled by Lu Chen, this Emperor from the enemy nation.

Chapter 798 Junwan is Pregnant_1

In the antiquated, aromatic royal chamber, countless calligraphies and paintings hung, strewn across the floor as well, filling the entire room with the breath of literature, appearing incomparably refined.

However, atop the bed in such a room, there lay a fair-skinned woman.

The woman sprawled across the bed, as though she had fallen asleep.

Just then, from the neighboring room came faint sounds. Though they were extremely soft, if one listened carefully, they could still be heard.

Murong Xue'er instantly woke up, she sat up from the bed and swept a glance over her body, sighing slightly upon seeing the characters Lu Chen had left on her.

She truly could no longer be without that man.

Soon, Murong Xue'er calmed her emotions and listened attentively to the sounds coming from next door.

After a moment, Murong Xue'er couldn't help but let out a light chuckle.

The esteemed Princess Junwan of Great Wu, always so noble and dignified, had turned into such a state in the hands of that man, reduced to nothing but tears and cries.

Thinking of Wu Junwan, that exalted beauty being ravaged by Lu Chen, Murong Xue'er felt a sense of satisfaction within.

She was very clear that when Lu Chen was earlier in her room, Wu Junwan outside must have been listening with the mindset of enjoying the show.

How Wu Junwan must have thought of her before, now it was her turn.

At dusk.

Within Princess Junwan's chamber.

Wu Junwan had originally thought that Lu Chen had just left Murong Xue'er's room, and even if he took a fancy to her on a whim and wanted to play his tricks, he probably wouldn't stay for long in her room.

Yet this fellow entered her chamber and stayed for an entire afternoon, and she found that he seemed unusually excited today.

She wondered if her status as the princess of an enemy state had provoked Lu Chen, making him become especially wild.

As night fell and a round moon hung in the sky, the cool moonlight spilled over the windowsill and into the room, shining onto Wu Junwan's fair skin.

At this time, Wu Junwan lay on Lu Chen's chest, while Lu Chen embraced her waist, his broad hand around her hips. With a smile, Lu Chen said, "A princess of the enemy nation is truly different."

Hearing this, Wu Junwan weakly snorted, "You really are a tyrant."

Lu Chen replied indifferently, "Tyrants? This world has no shortage of them, as long as one is not a foolish ruler."

Wu Junwan spoke out, "Your Majesty spends all day lying atop women; sooner or later, you will become a foolish ruler."

Lu Chen smiled slightly, "By the day I become a foolish ruler, perhaps I will have already passed the throne to my son."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's reply, Wu Junwan somewhat disbelievingly said, "Would you willingly give up the power in your hands?"

Lu Chen said, "I didn't say I'd relinquish the power in my hands. By that time, I'll be the Overlord, and I just won't deal with affairs."

Wu Junwan said, "Throughout history, those who became Overlords were eventually completely sidelined by their sons."

Lu Chen, smiling, replied, "That will depend on whether my son has the capabilities."

"Alright, let's not talk about this anymore; let's continue with what we were doing," he said.

With that, Lu Chen, holding Wu Junwan's waist, flipped over, pressing her down beneath him again.

Wu Junwan watched Lu Chen speechlessly; this young man would certainly be a foolish ruler in the future.

Lu Chen paid no attention to Wu Junwan's gaze; he leaned down again and kissed her tender, red lips once more.

Another night passed by.

In the early morning, when warm sunlight shone upon Lu Chen, he awoke and gently combed through Wu Junwan's now-disheveled hair with his hand.

As Lu Chen tidied Wu Junwan's hair, he suddenly noticed what seemed to be a system notification exclamation mark beside his line of sight.

Lu Chen thought of something and hastily opened the system notification panel.

He had been too immersed the previous night and hadn't checked the system panel. Only now did he realize Wu Junwan had been affected.

[Host has cultivated affection with a wife, Qi Refinement Mantra experience points added... Demon Burying Spell experience points added...]

[Congratulations to the host for helping his wife, Wu Junwan, become pregnant. You are rewarded with the "Protecting Pulse Seven Killing Array" formation.]

Lu Chen was stunned for a moment. After all, Wu Junwan had already become a Pseudo Celestial, and on top of that, Wu Junwan's condition for becoming a Celestial was to bear him three children. Therefore, Lu Chen had always thought this condition was extremely harsh and that it would be very difficult for Wu Junwan to conceive his child.

He never expected Wu Junwan to become pregnant with his seed so quickly.

Then, Lu Chen opened the "Protecting Pulse Seven Killing Array" to see what the formation was for.

[Protecting Pulse Seven Killing Array: An Earth-tier formation. Once established successfully, the host's wife and children can activate it, able to withstand attacks from All Law Realm experts, and it will not cause harm to the host's wife and children.]

After reading the purpose of the formation, Lu Chen was overjoyed; the formation would be of great use to him.

At that moment, Lu Chen felt Wu Junwan stirring slightly in his arms, and he immediately looked down at her exquisitely beautiful cheeks.

The corners of Lu Chen's mouth couldn't help but curve up slightly, revealing a hint of a smile.

Just then, Wu Junwan's eyelashes fluttered slightly, and soon after, she opened her eyes. The first thing she saw upon opening her eyes was Lu Chen staring at her with a mischievous grin.

Wu Junwan was taken aback for a moment, her delicate body trembling slightly, "Why are you smiling?"

Lu Chen said with a smile, "I have some good news for you."

Out of curiosity, Wu Junwan asked, "What good news?"

Lu Chen said mysteriously, "Prepare yourself mentally."

Hearing this, Wu Junwan looked at Lu Chen with a skeptical expression, "Go ahead and tell me."

Lu Chen simply said, "You're pregnant."

As soon as Lu Chen finished speaking, Wu Junwan was stunned again.

Pregnant?

Could it be true?

Having lived together with Lu Chen's other wives and consorts for so long, she had already heard about some of Lu Chen's abilities. For instance, how Lu Chen could sense if they were pregnant almost immediately.

So when Lu Chen said they were pregnant, they were definitely pregnant, it just needed some time to show the pregnancy state.

Even though she knew Lu Chen was probably telling the truth, Wu Junwan still found it hard to believe. After all, she was a Pseudo Celestial. Not to mention a Pseudo Celestial, even a Grandmaster would find it difficult to conceive.

She hadn't been with Lu Chen for long and had already been impregnated with his seed.

If the pregnancy speed were to continue like this, wouldn't she be able to become a Celestial before she was even fifty?

Forget fifty, even becoming a Celestial before forty wasn't out of the question.

At this time, Wu Junwan's emotions were somewhat complicated. Although she wished to break through and become a Celestial quickly, the thought of carrying this scoundrel's seed made her feel odd.

The Princess of Great Wu had eventually fallen into the hands of the enemy nations' Emperor.

Coming back to her senses, Wu Junwan asked for confirmation, "Are you serious?"

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Wait a month and you'll know if I'm telling the truth."

At this point, Lu Chen touched his waist and then said, "I've always said that I would eventually make you pregnant, and I've done as I said."

Wu Junwan fell into silence, not saying a word.

Seeing Wu Junwan looked like she was pondering something, Lu Chen asked, "What's wrong? You don't believe me?"

Wu Junwan said expressionlessly, "I believe you."

Lu Chen continued to ask, "Aren't you happy?"

Wu Junwan replied, "No."

Lu Chen said, "Then why do you look so down?"

Wu Junwan was silent once again.

Chapter 799 Enfeoffment_1

Regarding having children, Wu Junwan felt conflicted inside. On one hand, she wanted to swiftly complete the Celestial's test. On the other hand, she worried that once her child was born, they might face some oppression.

Once the Great Wu dynasty was extinguished, she would be a Princess of the Defeated Country, and the child of such a princess could never expect to be entrusted with important duties in the future.

At that moment, Lu Chen also saw the worries in Wu Junwan's heart. He gently caressed her jade-like back. "Are you afraid that our child, when they grow up, will suffer from unfair treatment because of your identity?"

Wu Junwan still didn't speak, but Lu Chen had already read her answer from the expression on her face. He immediately said, "You have no reason to worry about that. I will treat all my children with equal kindness and not diminish their treatment because of their mother's identity."

"Of course, this is only during their growing years. Once they're grown up, the kind of life they want will depend on their own efforts."

"As a father, I certainly do not want to see my children grow up only to live aimlessly."

After hearing what Lu Chen said, Wu Junwan felt somewhat less tangled inside. She realized that she didn't need to care so much about others' views. If, in the end, this world truly couldn't accommodate her and her three children, she would simply take them and leave this world.

After all, Lu Chen had also said that the restrictions of Misty World were about to disappear, and sooner or later they would be able to leave this world.

At this time, Lu Chen slightly shifted his body and then deeply kissed Wu Junwan's red lips, fully indulging in the kiss.

After a while, Lu Chen's mouth slowly parted from her lips. At this point, Wu Junwan spoke up, "I hope all that Your Majesty has said is true."

Lu Chen smiled and replied, "I am the Emperor, after all. My word is my bond."

With that, Lu Chen rose from the bed and picked up Wu Junwan in a princess carry, heading straight to the bathing pool beside the sleeping chamber.

After Lu Chen bathed, he left Wu Junwan's sleeping chamber and proceeded to the Imperial Study Room to deal with state affairs.

By the time Lu Chen reached the Imperial Study Room, ministers like Zhuge Zhongguang and others were already waiting at its entrance. Among the ministers who came today, most were Military Generals from the military system, with only Zhuge Zhongguang and Situ Ce being Civil Officials.

Lu Chen glanced at the ministers before entering the Imperial Study Room, with the ministers quickly following behind him.

After entering the Imperial Study Room, the ministers greeted in unison: "We pay our respects to Your Majesty. Long live Your Majesty, may you live forever!"

Lu Chen nodded slightly, and then said, "Rise."

Immediately afterward, Lu Chen had a map brought in, and they assembled a large table in the middle of the Imperial Study Room using several smaller tables. Then the generals gathered around the large table, looking at the map placed in the center.

Lu Chen began, "I trust you ministers are already aware of the matter at hand. The final deadline I have given Great Wu is nearly upon us. There are no signs that Great Wu intends to surrender. This battle is inevitable."

"To utterly break the will to fight of the Great Wu soldiers, Great Xia must strike with the force of thunder to completely obliterate the main force of Great Wu's military."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, one of the generals asked, "Your Majesty, it is said that Your Majesty had already dispatched a Celestial to intimidate the Great Wu imperial city, and since the Celestial can easily handle the Imperial Family Members of Great Wu, why don't we simply capture the top figures first? If we seize the Martial Emperor, the military of Great Wu will naturally fall apart."

Hearing this, Lu Chen smiled faintly, then turned towards Zhuge Zhongguang. "Great Scholar Zhuge, explain why I did not have the Celestial directly destroy the Great Wu imperial city."

Zhuge Zhongguang replied, "Should the imperial city fall, the entire Great Wu would descend into chaos. Some unreconciled Seigniors of Great Wu might seize the opportunity to rise in revolt. Consequently, Great Xia would then need to deal with those Seigniors scattered throughout Great Wu."

"However, if we let Great Wu's soldiers experience the terror of Great Xia's troops through warfare, even if some Seigniors harbor other intentions, their troops would hardly muster the will to fight. Moreover, forcing the Martial Emperor to surrender along with all of Great Wu saves more time than gradually eliminating the Seigniors."

Upon hearing Zhuge Zhongguang's response, the generals in the Imperial Study Room instantly understood Lu Chen's strategy.

Initially sending a Celestial to intimidate the Martial Emperor did not deter him. Since the Martial Emperor still harbored a sliver of hope, it was time to shatter it completely.

Once the Great Wu army collapses, and the Great Xia army encroaches upon the Great Wu Imperial Capital, Great Wu will have no choice but to surrender, even if it doesn't want to.

Of course, the primary reason Lu Chen wants the Great Xia soldiers to initiate the attack is to gain actual combat experience.

Even though there are many Celestials around him now, making the Great Xia army seem unnecessary, when Lu Chen considers the potential enemies in the Misty World, he believes that the army will still play a significant role in the future.

The most important thing is that Lu Chen is feeling an increasing sense of impending crisis.

This is especially true with the appearance of rewards like the Ten Thousand Immortal Sect and the Protecting Pulse Seven Killing Array.

If the Protecting Pulse Seven Killing Array can fend off masters from the All Law Realm, doesn't it imply that one day, masters from the All Law Realm might appear in this world to attack them?

He doesn't believe the system would award him anything arbitrarily.

To prepare for what may come, Great Xia's army must have actual combat experience; it can't just leave everything to the Celestials.

At this moment, Lu Chen said, "Great Scholar Zhuge is right; I naturally know that the Celestials could easily annihilate the Great Martial Royal Family, but destroying the Great Martial Royal Family does not equate to destroying Great Wu."

"Once the Great Martial Royal Family is annihilated, the other seigniors of Great Wu might very well consider seizing power."

"Furthermore, involving the Great Xia army in the battle has another important purpose, which is to train the troops."

"The army of over a million in Great Xia cannot just sit idle and do nothing."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, the military generals instantly understood his intention—the Emperor wanted to sharpen the army's blade.

Lu Chen then said, "All right, let us not discuss this matter for now; next, we shall discuss the direction of attack, striving to completely crush the combat will of the Great Wu soldiers in the first comprehensive assault."

Afterward, everyone's gaze fell on the map as they began to discuss the direction of attack.

Their army had already been moved to the frontline so that once the attack route was established, Great Xia could swiftly launch a full-scale attack on Great Wu.

After their discussion, they ultimately determined three attack routes, which precisely targeted the territories of the seigniors who undoubtedly possess strong military power in Great Wu.

After the military meeting in the Imperial Study Room concluded, Lu Chen ate something simple and then began writing imperial edicts. He spent almost the entire afternoon writing them.

These edicts were for his wives and concubines, awarding the titles of Imperial Noble Consort and Noble Consort where due.

In the evening, Chu Yuqin was talking with Mu Zixuan in the Wind Cloud Palace when several female guards entered the courtyard.

Seeing the female guards, Chu Yuqin and Mu Zixuan had not yet reacted. Chu Yuqin was in charge of arranging the security work within the interior of the Imperial Palace, and she recognized these female guards. They hadn't been scheduled to work today, and they were directly under Bai Qingqing's command.

Bai Qingqing was no longer under Chu Yuqin's jurisdiction; she and her female guards were directly under Lu Chen's command.

Just as the women were curious about why so many female guards had suddenly appeared, one of them took out an imperial edict and said, "Ladies, there is an imperial decree."

Hearing this, they immediately realized what was happening and knelt down in unison.

A female guard then began reading the imperial edict, "By the Mandate of Heaven, the Emperor decrees: Mu Zixuan is gentle, virtuous, and talented... hereby conferred as Imperial Noble Consort."

Lu Chen had written an imperial edict for each of his wives and concubines, so the female guard reading the edicts took quite a while.

Chapter 800 The Battle to Destroy the Nation Begins_1

The female guard finished reading the edicts for Mu Zixuan and Chu Yuqin, but she didn't leave immediately. She took out another decree and said to Mu Zixuan, "Consort Mu, is the eldest prince here? He also has a decree."

Upon hearing this, Mu Zixuan seemed to understand something and quickly said to the maid beside her, "Xiao Rou, go bring Feng'er here quickly."

The maid quickly got up and went directly to the Wind Cloud Palace, and soon brought Lu Changfeng over.

Soon after, the female guard announced the decree that conferred Lu Changfeng as the Crown Prince.

It was only after the decrees for all of them had been read that Mu Zixuan and Chu Yuqin began to kneel and express their gratitude.

After Mu Zixuan and Chu Yuqin stood up, the female guard who announced the decrees said, "Consort Mu, Noble Consort Chu, this servant still has to deliver decrees to several other ladies, so this servant will take her leave now."

Mu Zixuan quickly replied, "Yes, you go ahead."

The female guard said, "This servant takes her leave."

Then the female guards left the Wind Cloud Palace.

Watching their departing figures, Mu Zixuan, Chu Yuqin, and both the Great and Little Zhou fell into a long silence.

Their identities, along with Lu Chen's, were finally settled, but for some reason, they felt incredibly calm inside, as if they had no feelings of excitement at the moment.

Perhaps it was because they had already established their relationship with Lu Chen and had known what kind of titles he would give them, so they didn't feel particularly excited.

Soon, the other wives and concubines of Lu Chen also received their edicts, and even Xue Linglong, the Demon Sect Sorceress, was conferred a title.

However, within Lu Chen's harem, there were still women without titles. One was Wu Junwan, and the other was Murong Xue'er. Their special identities did not allow for their titles to be granted now.

To grant Wu Junwan the title of Imperial Noble Consort, they at least had to wait until the Great Wu Dynasty was eradicated. And to bestow Murong Xue'er with the title of Noble Consort, they had to wait until the Great Jue was destroyed.

There was also another person who had not received the decree, Chen Wanrong, who was still in the Mysterious Moon Palace. However, Lu Chen had already sent someone to deliver the decree to the Mysterious Moon Palace, and it wouldn't be long before Chen Wanrong would receive the decree.

After the edicts to confer titles on his wives and concubines were issued, Lu Chen allowed the government gazette to release the news.

Soon, the common people of Great Xia learned of the title conferment. When the common people saw that Lu Chen did not establish an Empress, they were very puzzled.

Normally, emperors would first establish an Empress, but Lu Chen did not do so. Not only did he not establish an Empress, but he also appointed several Imperial Noble Consorts, and the lowest position among Lu Chen's women was that of a Noble Consort.

This was completely different from the harem of previous emperors, people truly could not understand why the new Emperor would confer titles on the women of his harem in such a manner.

Of course, although people were curious, they did not think it was necessarily a bad thing, as many of the policies established by the new Emperor were different from the past. Perhaps there was a special reason for the Emperor to confer titles in this way.

When the news of the title conferments reached the ears of court officials, many felt it was somewhat inappropriate, especially the officials from the Capital City. However, at the subsequent court meetings, they did not bring up the topic.

The officials from the Capital City took Li Rui's words to heart. They now only attended to state affairs, as matters of the harem were the Emperor's personal business, and the Emperor could do as he pleased with his family affairs.

Although an Empress had not been established, the Crown Prince had already been designated, and they knew who to pledge their allegiance to.

Mu Changtian did not feel anything improper about his daughter not being chosen as the Empress. He had also sensed Lu Chen's intentions; Lu Chen probably did not want to see constant strife in the harem, which was why he did not establish an Empress.

Furthermore, there was a benefit to not establishing Mu Zixuan as the Empress. Her son, Lu Changfeng, had already been designated as the Crown Prince. The status of Crown Prince was in itself quite special. If there was also an Empress, then the Mu Family's influence in the court would become even greater—the logic of being a target due to its prominence was something Mu Changtian understood very well.

Although Lu Chen seemed indifferent, Mu Changtian was very clear about the control Lu Chen held over the imperial court. He feared that if the Mu Family's influence became too great, it would become a thorn in Lu Chen's side.

Now the situation was quite good. His grandson would be the Emperor in the future. As long as the Mu Family did not do anything out of line, they would still maintain a very high status without invoking the Emperor's fear.

With the Crown Prince established, Great Xia had internally stabilized. The most important task that followed was the eradication of Great Wu.

Soon, the grand army of Great Xia launched a comprehensive attack on Great Wu. When the Seigniors of Great Wu heard of Great Xia's assault, they dispatched all of the soldiers from their territories and continuously conscripted able-bodied men.

These Seigniors had already heard about the Celestial who had threatened the Martial Emperor in the Capital City. However, they had no intention of surrendering. Once they surrendered, the Martial Emperor's immediate royal family might have a chance to survive, but the fates of these Seigniors were much less certain.

If Great Wu were to be annihilated, what Great Xia might do next could very well be to settle scores with these Seigniors. After all, the power of the Seigniors was deep-rooted and complex. It would be more straightforward and simpler to eradicate them rather than to imprison their forces.

Even though they were aware that Great Wu would likely be no match for Great Xia, these Seigniors still desperately conscripted the strong and sent ordinary civilians to the front lines as cannon fodder.

However, no matter how many soldiers Great Wu had, once they reached the front lines, they could not withstand the firepower of Great Xia. In just a month, several Seigniors were eliminated and numerous critical counties were lost.

The Great Wu dynasty.

Capital City.

In the imperial court, there was a silence so profound it was unsettling—the recent battle reports had completely drained Great Wu's civil and military officials of any hope.

The army of Great Wu was like paper before the forces of Great Xia. Any encounter with Great Xia's army would result in a rout of the Great Wu's forces within less than a day; they couldn't even delay the advance of Great Xia's troops.

Over these past few days, many ministers had already begun to secretly discuss defection. It was clear to everyone that Great Wu was finished, with its downfall being only a matter of time.

The Martial Emperor, seated on the Dragon Throne, had a darkened face, radiating an aura of martial might that was fierce and terrifying—his expression so ghastly that none of the ministers dared to raise their heads and look into his eyes.

Just then, a soldier suddenly rushed into the grand hall. After entering, he immediately knelt down and reported loudly, "Your Majesty, Fengtian County has fallen, and Prince Yi has taken his own life!"

Before the Martial Emperor could respond, another Messenger Soldier dashed in and declared while kneeling in the grand hall, "Your Majesty, Qinyue County has fallen, and the Yue Prince has surrendered to Great Xia!"

Moments later, another soldier burst into the grand hall, also there to report the unfortunate news from the front lines.

The Martial Emperor remained silent, his face still darkened with rage, as cold sweat broke out among the ministers in the grand hall. Although the end of Great Wu was already a certainty,

the Martial Emperor could still lash out in madness before the fall. He had no recourse against Great Xia, but he could still deal with the ministers. Now, the ministers' greatest fear was that the Martial Emperor would become mentally unhinged and slay them to vent his fury.

The Martial Emperor was known for his volatile temper, and such actions were not beyond possibility.