

Es. Benefits 811

Chapter 811 This Yue Emperor's identity is probably not simple

The Yue Emperor, clad in black gold armor, rode upon a robust white horse, a longsword hanging at her waist and her ponytail fluttering in the wind, presenting a dashing figure.

She glanced at the distant, dense array of the Barbarian Army but did not spot the Barbarian Tribe's Goddess among them.

The Yue Emperor furrowed her brows, it seemed that the so-called Goddess had not come.

Did the Goddess hold such contempt for Da Yue that she merely sent the Barbarian Army and did not show herself?

At that time, the Barbarian Army did not continue to advance; they stood in the distance, motionless, apparently waiting for someone's command.

The Yue Emperor then said coldly, "Form up, attack!"

As her words fell, the formations of the Da Yue Army began to shift, taking on a conical shape.

Regardless of whether the Barbarian Goddess had come, the Yue Emperor intended to make it a quick battle, so she directly instructed the Da Yue Army to deploy an offensive formation.

Following the change in Da Yue's formation, the army led by the King of Sand Wizard also adjusted their formation, with the Barbarian Army adopting a similar conical shape.

Both sides had assumed offensive formations.

Seeing this, some Da Yue soldiers harbored disdainful thoughts—was this the famed battle formation?

Was this all the Barbarian's battle formation amounted to?

It didn't seem all that impressive, did it?

Could such a formation withstand Celestials?

Just as the Da Yue soldiers thought they had victory in their grasp, suddenly, the sound of horns echoed from within the Barbarian formation.

Yet, the Da Yue soldiers still did not take it seriously as drumming reverberated over the plains at that moment.

Soon after, countless arrows shot out from within the Da Yue formation, quickly filling the sky above the Barbarian Army with dense volleys of arrows, yet the Barbarian soldiers showed no signs of panic.

King of Sand Wizard shouted loudly, "Set the formation!"

As he spoke, True Qi was released from his body, which upon contact, seemed to also draw out the True Qi within the bodies of the warriors.

Seeing this, the Yue Emperor's brows knitted together tightly.

Something was amiss.

The King of Sand Wizard was a Grandmaster, so releasing True Qi wasn't unusual, but those Barbarian soldiers were not Grandmasters, and some were merely first-rank Martial Artists. Even they were releasing their True Qi.

How was that possible?

As True Qi was released from the bodies of the Barbarian soldiers, a giant golden array pattern soon appeared beneath the feet of the Barbarian Army.

At that critical juncture when the volley of arrows shot by Da Yue soldiers were about to strike the Barbarians, the Barbarian battle formation completed, and a dragon roar sounded across the plains followed by all the arrows aimed at the Barbarian soldiers being deflected away.

Above the Barbarian Army, it seemed a golden dragon had appeared.

Seeing this golden dragon, the Da Yue soldiers immediately paled in fright, witnessing such a scene for the first time.

Seeing the golden dragon, the Yue Emperor thought to herself that indeed, this Barbarian Goddess must have come from another world.

Such a formation could not possibly exist in this world.

No wonder there were rumors within the Barbarian Tribe that their battle formations could withstand Celestials.

This was going to be troublesome.

Seeing the Da Yue soldiers in disarray from fear, the King of Sand Wizard burst out laughing.

"Ha ha ha, Da Yue rats! Enjoy the last rays of the setting sun! Soon you won't be able to see it ever again!"

Speaking, the King of Sand Wizard directed the celestial dragon in the sky straight towards the Da Yue formation.

Before the Yue Emperor could intervene, the Golden Dragon had already toppled all the soldiers of the Dayue in front, in the blink of an eye, the military formation of the Dayue was dispersed.

Seeing the Dayue soldiers in disarray, the Yue Emperor was very clear that the soldiers of the Dayue were unreliable.

In the face of this Golden Dragon, it wasn't just the Grandmasters, but even the Grandmaster who could not withstand, only a Celestial could possibly make use of this formation.

The war capabilities of the Barbarian Tribe were indeed formidable. Once Dayue acquired this battle formation, they would be confident against the Celestials.

Although the Dayue Army seemed to be in complete chaos, appearing as if they were about to be defeated, there was not a trace of panic on the Yue Emperor's face.

She had already perceived the greatest flaw in this formation.

The reason why this battle formation could be initiated was because it drew out the True Qi from everyone within it, even the True Qi within the bodies of lower-grade Martial Artists was extracted.

In the Immortal world, the True Qi of this world is Spiritual Energy. The bodies of ordinary Martial Artists originally contained very little Spiritual Energy which was forcibly drawn out nonetheless.

A group of Martial Artists Who were not Celestials could not possibly sustain it for long. Even if Dayue did nothing, this formation would soon collapse.

Once the formation collapsed, those soldiers of the Barbarian Tribe would instantly lose their combat effectiveness.

That's why King of Sand Wizard was in such a rush to attack, intending to settle the enemy before the battle formation disappeared.

Unfortunately, King of Sand Wizard encountered the Yue Emperor.

At that moment, the Yue Emperor leapt up and stood on a white horse, clutching the sword in her hand, and her fingers slid across the blade, causing a sound of sword ringing to resonate.

Meanwhile, on a distant small hill, upon witnessing this scene, Mu Yunxi raised her eyebrows, seemingly pondering something.

After a moment, Mu Yunxi mumbled to herself, "This isn't swordsmanship from this world; the identity of this Yue Emperor is probably not simple."

In an ordinary Martial Arts World, it was impossible for such swordsmanship capable of condensing Sword Intent to exist.

At this moment, King of Sand Wizard had yet to realize the severity of the issue; he controlled a golden dragon, charging straight at the Yue Emperor while laughing loudly, "Beautiful lady, I am coming!"

As the dragon's roar echoed once more, the dragon directly lunged at the Yue Emperor. The soldiers of the Dayue were petrified by the scene, thinking that the Yue Emperor was about to die.

Just as the huge dragon's jaws were about to reach the Yue Emperor, she swung her sword, unleashing Sword Qi imbued with Destruction Sword Intent that instantly swept across the golden dragon.

In an instant, the golden dragon was split in two. Once the golden dragon vanished, those Barbarian soldiers forming the Supreme Soaring Dragon Array also suffered backlash, spewing blood, even the King of Sand Wizard was severely injured.

Some Barbarian soldiers couldn't endure and fell to the ground, lifeless.

Seeing this scene, soldiers from other tribal clans of the Barbarian Army were astounded.

Their battle array was so powerful yet it was destroyed by a single sword stroke from the Empress of Da Yue.

Was the Empress of Da Yue that powerful?

Hadn't their Goddess said that this battle array could combat a Celestial?

Why did it seem so fragile now?

Their Goddess surely wouldn't deceive them—could it be that the Empress of Da Yue was already a Celestial and among the strongest of them?

At this moment, several Barbarian chieftains beside Mu Yunxi were stunned into silence; Mu Yunxi calmly spoke, "Does anyone else want to try?"

Upon hearing this question, the Barbarian chieftains and leaders remained silent, having witnessed the previous scene; they could basically gauge the strength of the Empress of Da Yue.

Clearly, this Yue Emperor was not someone they could contend with.

Mu Yunxi also discerned their thoughts and said indifferently, "The reason why King of Sand Wizard's battle formation collapsed so quickly is mainly because his control over the formation was inadequate, you all need more practice."

With that, Mu Yunxi walked towards the distance.

Seeing Mu Yunxi making the move, the chieftains of the Barbarian tribes finally breathed a sigh of relief. Although their battle formation had not defeated the Empress of Da Yue, they still had the Goddess on their side.

With the Celestial strength of the Goddess, it should be easy to eradicate the Yue Emperor.

Chapter 812 Mu Yunxi's Recruitment

After the Yue Emperor had destroyed the Supreme Soaring Dragon Array with a single sword strike, she was preparing to make a move against the King of Sand Wizard. However, a soft and seductive voice coming from a distance made her pause.

"As expected of the ruler of the Da Yue Dynasty, you have not yet reached the Heavenly Human Realm, yet you have already comprehended the Sword Intent. Such talent is rare even in the Immortal world."

The Yue Emperor quickly recovered, and her gaze turned towards the direction where the voice originated.

She saw a woman walking slowly towards her, revealing her belly, dressed in a shimmering gold dress, barefoot.

A red string with two small bells attached was tied around the woman's ankle. With each step she took, the bells would make a crisp sound.

The sound of the bells seemed to pierce straight through the heart, causing a piercing pain in one's chest.

The Yue Emperor instantly understood what was happening; those bells were a Spiritual Artifact that directly attacked the soul.

The Yue Emperor then said coldly, "You really are not from this world."

Upon hearing this, Mu Yunxi chuckled lightly, then spoke, "To know that This Palace is not from this world shows that you are no ordinary person either."

The Yue Emperor continued to ask, "I am very curious, in a world without Spiritual Energy, what is a cultivator like you doing in such a low-level world?"

The tone of the Yue Emperor was very cold, as if she was not asking a question but interrogating Mu Yunxi.

Hearing the Yue Emperor's question, Mu Yunxi replied indifferently, "This Palace just happened upon this world by accident."

Upon hearing Mu Yunxi say this, the Yue Emperor immediately thought of something and then said, "It seems you accidentally fell into this world and cannot leave."

Being pinpointed by the Yue Emperor about her predicament, Mu Yunxi did not get angry. She smiled charmingly and then said, "You are right, This Palace currently cannot leave this world, but once I annihilate the various dynasties and gain the approval of this world's Heavenly Dao, This Palace will be able to utilize the Power of the Heavenly Path to leave this world."

Seeing that Mu Yunxi openly shared her intentions, the Yue Emperor frowned slightly, then said, "Why would you tell me all of this?"

The two of them were meeting for the first time, and the Yue Emperor did not remember when she had any interaction with this scantily clad woman opposite her.

Mu Yunxi said:

"Originally, This Palace planned to seize this opportunity to annihilate the Da Yue, but after seeing you, I changed my mind."

"Your talent is quite extraordinary, and This Palace intends to accept you as a disciple. As long as you are willing to help This Palace unify this world, once This Palace gains the recognition of the Heavenly Dao, I can take you with me to leave this world."

"Since you know that This Palace is not from this world, you must also have some understanding of the outside world."

"This is a low-level world with an incomplete path; it is impossible to become an Immortal in this world."

Upon hearing Mu Yunxi's words, the Yue Emperor fell silent.

Seeing that the Yue Emperor did not respond, Mu Yunxi continued to speak, "As long as you are willing to become This Palace's disciple, This Palace will transfer the Supreme Soaring Dragon Array to you. This Palace knows that you launched an attack against the Barbarian Tribe precisely because of the Supreme Soaring Dragon Array, wanting to use it to confront Great Sum."

In Mu Yunxi's view, the Yue Emperor, this native, also had some capability and could play a certain role.

If she could take the Yue Emperor as her disciple, her own chances of successfully unifying this world would be even greater.

After a moment of thought, the Yue Emperor also considered that joining forces with the Barbarian Tribe Goddess against Great Sum was a good option, but...

This Barbarian Tribe Goddess also aimed to conquer everything; this meant that, in the eyes of this Barbarian Tribe Goddess, the Da Yue Dynasty would also eventually have to be obliterated.

If she became the disciple of this Barbarian Tribe Goddess, would she not be handing over her own position as Empress?

Of course, the most important thing was that this woman might not genuinely want to take her as a disciple; she might be plotting something.

If she truly agreed to become her disciple, she might very well be schemed against.

Having spent so many years in the Misty World, the Yue Emperor was well aware of the deceit and trickery in the Immortal world, where it was hard to hear any truths among cultivators.

The deep relationship between her and Wu Junwan stemmed from their both having experienced the deception in the Misty World, and whenever they faced danger, their trust in each other deepened their bond through each crisis.

Back when she had encountered danger in the Misty World, she chose to trust Wu Junwan because they came from the same world.

But this woman was different. This woman was not from their world, and the Yue Emperor was well aware of how cultivators from higher worlds viewed those from lower worlds.

In the eyes of cultivators from a higher cultivation world, people from a lower world were no different from ants.

The Yue Emperor then said, "I already have a Honored Master, and I do not like to submit to others!"

As she spoke, the aura around the Yue Emperor surged, instantly stirring up the surrounding dust. The aura fluttered the skirt of her Black Gold Armor and her ponytail whipped through the air.

Feeling the aura of the Yue Emperor, Mu Yunxi let out a light laugh, "A Martial Artist who hasn't even entered the Heavenly Human Realm and yet possesses such an aura, truly a fine prospect."

"This Palace knows what you're thinking. Do you think This Palace wants to wrestle the throne from you?"

"If that's what you think, then it only shows your shortsightedness. This Palace has no interest whatsoever in a flawed world like this."

"If you are unwilling to leave this world with This Palace, I can give this world to you in the future."

As she spoke, the anklets on Mu Yunxi emitted bursts of tangible soundwaves, continuously assaulting the Yue Emperor's body.

However, the Yue Emperor remained unmoved. What the soldiers from both sides did not know was that although Mu Yunxi and the Yue Emperor had not moved, their confrontation had already begun.

After a while, the Yue Emperor said coldly, "I have told you, I already have a Honored Master. If you truly wish to cooperate with me, I can agree, but I need to see if you have the qualifications to cooperate with me!"

No sooner had her words fallen than the Yue Emperor raised her sword. In the next moment, the winds changed, and heavy clouds appeared in the sky.

Seeing this scene, the soldiers of Da Yue knew their Empress was about to make a move and swiftly retreated.

The Empress possessed the strength of a Celestial, and her actions were bound to cause huge destruction. If they were too close, they would also be affected.

Seeing that the Yue Emperor insisted on a confrontation, Mu Yunxi showed no anger. She murmured, "Since you want to test This Palace's strength, then This Palace shall oblige you."

As she spoke, Mu Yunxi completely unleashed her Celestial aura.

Feeling Mu Yunxi's aura, the Barbarian Tribe soldiers hurriedly retreated, knowing well that their Goddess made no distinction between friend and foe when she struck.

Once the soldiers from both sides had moved far away, the Yue Emperor's figure flashed, transforming into a mere afterimage as she charged towards Mu Yunxi. At that moment, the whole world seemed to hit the pause button, and everything turned black and white.

In the blink of an eye, the Yue Emperor appeared in front of Mu Yunxi, thrusting her sword imbued with Destruction Sword Intent.

Just as the sword was about to make contact with Mu Yunxi's body, the corners of Mu Yunxi's lips slightly curled upwards.

The next moment, the bells on Mu Yunxi's ankle rang again, and a series of soundwaves, materialized into form, easily blocked the Yue Emperor's sword.

Chapter 813 Cooperation between Great Jue and the Barbarian Tribe

Seeing her sword attack blocked, the Yue Emperor didn't mind. Her opponent was a Celestial, and although Celestials' strength was suppressed in this world, it was not easy for her, a Pseudo Celestial, to defeat a Celestial.

After catching the Yue Emperor's attack, Mu Yunxi not only didn't retaliate but instead smiled and said, "Although you are very strong, I have heard that Great Sum now has four Celestials, along with various strange weapons, while Great Jue only has you, a Pseudo Celestial."

"Do you think that Great Jue can withstand Great Sum's attack after they destroy Great Wu, relying solely on you?"

The Yue Emperor said indifferently, "That's not for you to worry about."

The next moment, the Yue Emperor's figure flashed, distancing herself from Mu Yunxi, followed by the appearance of countless swords in the sky, all emanating fierce flames.

With a raise of her hand, she directed her palm towards Mu Yunxi, and the next moment, those flame-wreathed swords shot straight at her, and just as they were about to touch Mu Yunxi's body, the sword energies converged into one, forming an even larger sword.

Seeing the oppressive aura released by this sword energy, Mu Yunxi was slightly moved, having not expected a Pseudo Celestial to possess such powerful swordsmanship.

Since the Yue Emperor had brought out her real strength, if she continued to concede, wouldn't it make her seem inferior to a Pseudo Celestial?

At this moment, Mu Yunxi raised her slender hand, and the bracelet around her wrist emitted bursts of golden light, followed by the formation of a gigantic phoenix.

Moments later, the giant fiery sword in the sky collided directly with the golden phoenix.

Instantly, a thick surge of spiritual power exploded, forcing both women to rapidly retreat and distance themselves.

After the explosion, a huge crater appeared on the ground, yet Mu Yunxi's clothes were still neat, and although the Yue Emperor's armor was dusted, she too was unharmed.

Mu Yunxi stated, "You have seen my strength; it won't be easy for you to kill me, and if I truly took action, you might not die but you would be severely injured."

The Yue Emperor had by then roughly gauged Mu Yunxi's strength. She spun her sword around her palm before sheathing it.

Seeing the Yue Emperor sheath her sword, Mu Yunxi knew the Yue Emperor had accepted her proposal.

Just then, the Yue Emperor coldly said, "If I find out you have other plans, even if you're a Celestial, I will find a way to slay you."

"Additionally, I will not acknowledge you as Honored Master!"

Hearing this from the Yue Emperor, Mu Yunxi wasn't surprised. She said, "Based on the swordsmanship you used, you must have a master from another world. No wonder you possess the strength of the Celestial Realm even before reaching it."

"I won't force you—if there comes a time when you want to learn a more formidable cultivation technique, you can always ask This Palace to be your master."

The Yue Emperor didn't pay attention to Mu Yunxi's words and directly asked, "Can your Barbarian Tribe's battle formation truly resist attacks from a Celestial?"

Mu Yunxi replied indifferently, "Naturally."

The Yue Emperor then said with a mocking tone, "Then why was your battle formation destroyed by a single sword strike from me?"

Hearing the Yue Emperor's mockery, Mu Yunxi replied with a smile, "Doesn't that just show your strength has already surpassed that of an ordinary Celestial?"

The Yue Emperor didn't want to waste any more words with Mu Yunxi and stretched out her hand, saying, "Show me the array pattern."

They had attacked the Barbarian Tribe for the array pattern possessed by Mu Yunxi. Since the Barbarian Tribe Goddess proposed to cooperate, it was only natural that she should hand over the battle formation pattern to demonstrate her sincerity.

Upon hearing the Yue Emperor's words, Mu Yunxi didn't hesitate and took out the array pattern from her space ring.

Seeing Mu Yunxi take things out of her space ring, the Yue Emperor's brows furrowed. She had scarcely seen space rings even while in the Misty World.

Even her own master didn't have a space ring, and the master had once told her that only the strong from superpowers possessed space rings.

She had not expected that the woman before her would have one, indicating she was no ordinary figure even in the Immortal world.

How could such a person come to this world? The Yue Emperor felt that the Barbarian Tribe Goddess was likely hiding something, and she herself should be careful around her.

Of course, cooperation was certain—if they could make use of the Barbarian Tribe Goddess, then Great Jue would not have to fear Great Sum.

In the end, they were just using each other.

Once both parties confirmed their intention to cooperate, they proceeded to determine the manner of their cooperation.

Finally, after much bargaining, the Barbarian Tribe was incorporated into the rule of Great Jue, while Mu Yunxi assumed the role of Great Jue's State Preceptor, and the Yue Emperor continued to reign as her emperor.

The war between Great Jue and the Barbarian Tribe ended too swiftly, catching everyone by surprise.

However, the war between Great Sum and Great Wu was also nearing its end; the armies of Great Sum had already reached the gates of Da Wu Capital, and most of Great Wu's important Seigniors had been dealt with by Great Sum.

Now, with panic spreading within Da Wu Capital, some Aristocratic Families thought of fleeing, yet they did not know where to escape to.

If they fled northward, considering the north was now occupied by Great Sum's troops, they feared they might be captured by Great Sum's soldiers before they even managed to reach Great Jue.

To run south meant facing the only remaining Great Qian Dynasty, which was currently suffering from a severe epidemic. They certainly did not wish to risk infection and death.

As for fleeing to Great Sum, they had even less desire for that; in the eyes of most Aristocratic Families, Great Sum harbored strong hostility towards them. Furthermore, these families of Great Wu were more or less connected to the powers that be, making them potential threats. During Great Sum's retribution, they would likely be targeted and not spared.

Da Wu Capital had reached a point of no return; the Martial Emperor had gone many days without sleep, not knowing how many Palace Maids and eunuchs he had killed to vent his anger.

But no matter how many people he killed, he could not change the imminent downfall of Great Wu.

Several days later.

Great Sum.

Soft moonlight streamed onto the bed, illuminating the pale, smooth skin of a person.

Lu Chen and Chen Wanrong were cultivating their relationship. The recent surge of events had put considerable pressure on Lu Chen, only in the embrace of his wives and concubines could he find relief.

At that moment, Lu Chen was preoccupied with his own matters; Chen Wanrong, with eyes like silk, gazed at Lu Chen and whispered, "I will be returning soon."

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen was taken aback. He halted his movements, then looked down into Chen Wanrong's eyes and said, "So soon?"

Chen Wanrong lifted her arms, wrapping them around Lu Chen's neck as she gazed into his eyes with affection, "There are many matters to attend to in the Mysterious Moon Palace. A few days ago, my Honored Master sent word, urging me to return early to handle the palace's affairs."

After hearing Chen Wanrong's response, Lu Chen said, "The Mysterious Moon Palace was originally her own creation. Yet she dumps all the responsibilities onto others, making herself quite comfortable."

As he spoke, Lu Chen lifted his hand, gently caressing Chen Wanrong's jade-like face, and said, "How wonderful it would be if you could stay by my side forever."

Chen Wanrong replied softly, "There will come a day."

Chen Wanrong believed that someday her Honored Master would permit her to be with Lu Chen completely; after all, her master wasn't of this world and would leave this world one day.

Just then, Bai Qingqing's voice came from outside the door, "Your Majesty, the war between Great Jue and the Barbarian Tribe has ended. There is important intelligence."

Lu Chen's heart skipped a beat upon hearing this.

It's over?

So soon?

Knowing the importance of this matter, Chen Wanrong took the initiative to say, "Your Majesty, you should attend to your affairs first."

Regaining his composure, Lu Chen looked at Chen Wanrong's stunning face and then said to Bai Qingqing at the door, "I'll be right there. Have the messenger wait in the study."

With those words, Lu Chen bent down, kissed Chen Wanrong's soft lips, and then resumed his tasks.

After hearing Lu Chen's instructions, Bai Qingqing turned and headed for the Imperial Study Room, and after Lu Chen had finished his tasks, he went to the Imperial Study Room.

Chapter 814 Finally, There is Some Good News!

Lu Chen naturally felt somewhat uncomfortable when someone interrupted him during important work. Of course, he didn't take his frustration out on Bai Qingqing; after all, this was part of her duties.

Moreover, the intelligence report on the conflict between Great Jue and the Barbarian Tribe was indeed crucial for Great Xia.

When Lu Chen arrived at the Imperial Study Room, Liang Zong hurriedly handed him the reports and directly briefed, "Your Majesty, Great Jue has reconciled with the Barbarian Tribe, and the Barbarian Tribe Goddess has become the State Preceptor of Great Jue!"

Hearing Liang Zong's report, Lu Chen's right hand, which had been reaching for the report, hung in mid-air, and he looked at Liang Zong in disbelief.

Reconciliation?

Hadn't Great Jue gone to attack the Barbarian Tribe to seize their war formation?

How did they come to reconcile?

Not only did they reconcile, but the Barbarian Tribe even joined Great Jue, and the Barbarian Tribe Goddess became the State Preceptor?

This...

Lu Chen didn't quite understand how such a turn of events could have happened.

It's no wonder Bai Qingqing had come to find him during his own battle; the news was indeed explosive.

What exactly happened for the Barbarian Tribe to reconcile with Great Jue?

Coming back to his senses, Lu Chen snatched the report letter from Liang Zong's hands and tore it open, quickly scanning the contents with his eyes.

After a moment, Lu Chen had roughly grasped what had occurred.

According to the intelligence, the Yue Emperor and the Barbarian Tribe Goddess, after clashing, found that they were evenly matched, neither able to best the other, which led to their reconciliation.

Seeing the reasons given in the report, Lu Chen found it hard to believe that they had just reconciled like that.

Even if they had reconciled, it seemed extreme for Great Jue to simply absorb the Barbarian Tribe and then make the Barbarian Tribe Goddess their State Preceptor.

There must be some sort of deal between the two of them, some mutual benefit involved. Only with common interests could they potentially form an alliance.

Lu Chen began to suspect that both Great Jue and the Barbarian Tribe Goddess had formed an alliance due to Great Xia, as Great Xia's current strength indeed seemed a bit too overwhelming for the other kingdoms and powers.

Not only possessing so many powerful weapons but also having four Celestials, this strength was enough to sweep through all kingdoms.

With this thought, Lu Chen continued to scan the letter in his hand, which also mentioned that both the Yue Emperor and the Barbarian Tribe Goddess were suspected Celestials. When they fought, the weather changed drastically, the disturbance far surpassing that of a Grandmaster.

At this point, Lu Chen's brow furrowed. Wu Junwan had told him quite early that the Yue Emperor was a Celestial. He had been doubtful then, thinking Wu Junwan had mistaken a Pseudo-Celestial for a Celestial.

Later, after Wu Junwan broke through to the Pseudo-Celestial Realm, she understood the difference between a Pseudo-Celestial and a Celestial and mentioned to him that the Yue Emperor might not have reached the Celestial Realm, but merely a Pseudo-Celestial.

And now, Great Xia's spies had gathered information suggesting the Yue Emperor was a Celestial?

One Yue Emperor, and one Barbarian Tribe Goddess; combined, Great Jue might have two Celestials.

Plus, the war formations of the Barbarian Tribe Goddess seemed capable of defending against Celestials. When the time came for Great Xia to send troops to destroy Great Jue, they would likely encounter many difficulties.

The thought alone gave Lu Chen a headache.

It seems, the speed of his unification of the world would slow down again.

Great Wu was about to fall, but the upcoming challenges with Great Jue and Great Qian would be troublesome no matter which he faced.

At this moment, the Imperial Study Room was incredibly quiet; Lu Chen kept reading the intelligence report in his hands, not speaking for a long time.

A female guard's voice then sounded at the doorway, "Your Majesty, there's a battle report from Great Wu!"

Hearing this, Lu Chen came back to his senses and said to the door, "Bring it in."

The next moment, the female guard entered the Imperial Study Room and handed the newly arrived battle report to Lu Chen, who opened it to find it was a report from the front lines sent by Mu Changtian.

The Great Xia Army had already arrived at the Capital of Great Wu; now, just one final step was needed before Great Wu would fall.

...

Upon receiving the war report sent by Mu Changtian, Lu Chen said, "At last, there's some good news."

Once Great Wu is eradicated, then we can consider destroying Great Jue.

Even though Great Jue already has two Celestials, no difficulty can stop Lu Chen. The prohibitions of the Misty World are about to disappear, and he must unify this world within a set period, then integrate its resources to enhance the overall combat power of this world.

Only by doing this might they be able to fight the enemies of the Misty World.

Of course, the most crucial point is that only by unifying the world can his Realm advance beyond the Celestial Realm.

So to Lu Chen's eyes, the two Celestials also do not pose a threat, although dealing with them might be somewhat troublesome.

Not to mention his ability to command four Celestials, even he himself possesses the power to kill a Celestial. The Slayer Spear in his hand is not a toy gun.

Lu Chen then handed the two pieces of intelligence he was holding to Liang Zong, "Take these two reports to Grand Scholar Zhuge and Grand Scholar Situ."

Liang Zong took the intelligence from Lu Chen, bowed, and said, "Yes, Your Majesty."

"Your subordinate will take his leave."

After Liang Zong left the Imperial Study Room, Lu Chen also returned to Chen Wanrong's room to continue tending to his own affairs.

Meanwhile.

Da Wu, Capital City.

The Capital City had completely lost order, and no one cared about the killings anymore. The influential figures of the Capital City were all thinking of escaping; nobody had the mind to deal with the affairs of the Capital City.

The Imperial Family Members of Great Wu were in utter panic. Although they had anticipated such a day when the Celestials descended upon Great Wu, they never thought it would come so swiftly.

Now, they had nowhere to escape to.

For a moment, the skies over the Capital City seemed to be blanketed with dark clouds, and the hearts of its people were filled with utter despair.

Now the Ministers of Great Wu were also observing the Martial Emperor's actions, eager to know what choice he would make.

Would he commit suicide, or surrender?

Given the Martial Emperor's character, suicide seemed more likely. After all, the foundation built by so many generations of his ancestors was about to be destroyed by his own hands, and he was a man with exceedingly strong pride.

The courtiers had already made up their minds that as soon as the Martial Emperor committed suicide, they would immediately open the city gates and surrender.

At present, the reason the Ministers had not opened the city gates to let the Great Xia Army in was because they all understood that the Great Xia Army possessed the ability to break into the Capital City. The Great Xia Army did not act because they were waiting for the Martial Emperor's decision.

If Great Xia had wanted to destroy Great Wu swiftly and directly, they could have done so during the previous descent of the Great Xia Celestials upon Great Wu; they wouldn't have needed to wait until now.

This night.

All eyes in Da Wu Capital were fixed on the Imperial Palace.

Everyone was waiting for the Martial Emperor's decision.

Inside the palace, the Martial Emperor sat on the Dragon Throne, looking at the empty court, pondering unknown thoughts.

After what seemed like an eternity, the Martial Emperor's sons and daughters arrived in the hall.

The children of the Martial Emperor stood in the hall, their bodies trembling. They were unsure of the crazy actions the Martial Emperor might take at this final moment.

After all, they were about to be overthrown, and some monarchs, before their countries fell, would kill their own children to prevent them from being humiliated.

And the Martial Emperor was exactly that kind of person.

The Martial Emperor glanced at his sons and daughters and then asked, "Do you want to live?"

Hearing this question, the princes and princesses all knelt down in unison. Prince Wu Ming, with terror in his voice, said, "Father, let us surrender!"

"Junwan is now a Noble Concubine of the Sum Emperor. As long as we surrender, we will still have a chance in the future!"

Chapter 815 Great Wu, Annihilated!

Hearing Prince Wu Ming's spineless words, Martial Emperor didn't utter a word of rebuke, nor did he get angry; instead, he appeared remarkably calm.

Wu Ming, seeing that the Martial Emperor was silent, was so frightened that sweat soaked his back, and he lay prostrated on the ground trembling, as did the others princes and princesses.

The Martial Emperor was originally known for his violent temper, so this sudden calmness was like the eerie quiet before a storm.

They had no doubt that the Martial Emperor might draw his sword and slaughter them all in the next moment.

Sitting quietly on the Dragon Throne, the Martial Emperor once again glanced over the princes and princesses kneeling on the ground.

Then, in a low voice, he said, "In my lifetime, I've annihilated numerous small nations and expanded the territory bequeathed to me by my ancestors by nearly double. I have lived up to my forefathers!"

"I have never thought that one day my Capital City would also be surrounded by the soldiers of another dynasty."

"Perhaps this is retribution!"

"Today I face the annihilation of my country, and one day Great Sum will experience the same fate."

As he spoke, the Martial Emperor's aura rose, and a terrifying pressure enveloped the entire hall. The princes and princesses were so frightened that they completely collapsed on the ground.

They thought the Martial Emperor was about to make his move.

Everyone had already closed their eyes; they were well aware of their father's strength. If their father truly intended to kill them, they would stand no chance of escape.

Just when everyone had closed their eyes, prepared to meet their death, the Martial Emperor still did not strike.

What was going on?

At that moment, a few princes slightly raised their heads to look at the Martial Emperor on the Dragon Throne, only to see him staring at them with bloodshot eyes, his expression utterly fierce and horrifying.

Seeing this, everyone hurriedly lowered their heads again.

Then the Martial Emperor continued, "You must always remember who annihilated your country and robbed you of your current glory and wealth!"

"Not just you, but your descendants must also remember for me, your enemy is the Daxia Royal Family."

As the words of the Martial Emperor fell, True Qi suddenly burst forth from his body. The True Qi emitted by the Martial Emperor was very strange, a black and red color.

This black and red True Qi quickly spread throughout the entire hall, and in the next moment, it surged into the bodies of the princes and princesses.

When it truly entered their bodies, everybody instantly felt their Cultivation State soaring rapidly; in just a moment, some princesses with no previous Realm had become Fifth Grade Martial Artists.

And the princes had mostly advanced to Ninth Grade, some even reaching the level of Half-step Grandmasters.

The assembly was bewildered; they couldn't fathom how their father had accomplished this.

After the elevation of their Realms, a symbol appeared on their foreheads, the emblem of the Great Martial Royal Family.

Seeing his princes and princesses empowered, the Martial Emperor laughed heartily and then said, "Lu Chen! Today you annihilate my country! One day, my descendants will destroy your Great Sum, and by then, my offspring will slaughter your Lu family to the last!"

After laughing for a while, the Martial Emperor suddenly spat out a mouthful of fresh blood. Seeing this, people quickly stood up, "Your Majesty!"

Though the princes and princesses were extremely anxious in their hearts, due to the fear they held for the Martial Emperor, not one dared to step forward.

With blood at the corner of his mouth, the Martial Emperor propped himself up and said, "The Imperial Secret Art of Great Wu is what I just used on you. I have transferred all my Cultivation State to you. You will surrender and leave the city tomorrow. The hope for Great Wu's restoration lies with you now!"

"I'd rather die than surrender!"

With that said, the Martial Emperor drew the Emperor's Sword from his side and took his own life with a single stroke.

Seeing this, the princes and princesses could no longer stand still. They rushed to the Dragon Throne, lying in front of the Martial Emperor's body and wept bitterly.

In their tears, how much was for the Martial Emperor, and how much was for their own futures, nobody knew.

The princes and princesses of Great Wu cried for so long that dawn had already begun to break. At this time, Prince Wuhe recovered from his sorrow, looked at his younger brothers and sisters beside him, and said, "Our father emperor has passed away, and we all carry his mission on our shoulders, so we must not let anything happen to us no matter what."

"The Sum Emperor, in order to show his benevolence, will not kill us for the time being. We just need to pretend to surrender, and we will be able to live."

Hearing this, a deeper sadness pierced the hearts of the princes and princesses. The thought of becoming prisoners, trapped and humiliated, made them feel it would be better to die.

But for some reason, just when the desire to die surfaced in their hearts, their minds suddenly jolted, and the sorrowful emotions in their minds were instantly replaced by a surge of hatred.

It was all Lu Chen!

It was all Great Sum!

They caused the loss of everything, and they vowed to kill Lu Chen and overturn Great Sum!

Their eyes turned blood red, looking extremely terrifying; whether it was from crying too much, or from inner hatred, or perhaps influenced by something else.

When everyone regained their senses, they all agreed with Wuhe's words.

Great Sum had delayed their attack until now, waiting for their surrender. Since their father emperor was gone, there was no point in being stubborn anymore.

If they were to die now, they would not be able to avenge themselves, nor restore their country.

Subsequently, Wuhe stepped out of the grand hall and ordered the summoning of the ministers.

When the ministers arrived at the grand hall and saw the self-slain Martial Emperor by the Dragon Throne, they couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief. With the Martial Emperor dead, they too could seamlessly surrender.

If they performed well, the Sum Emperor might not trouble them.

Wuhe then proposed surrender, and not a single minister opposed. Thus, Wuhe took the Jade Seal and led the ministers to the city gates, opening them of his own accord.

It was just at the break of dawn.

Mu Changtian and other military generals of Great Sum were still discussing matters within the camp.

Suddenly, a soldier burst into the tent, excitedly saying, "Generals, Great Wu has surrendered!"

Upon hearing this, the generals immediately revealed smiles; after such a long wait, Great Wu had finally chosen to yield.

But then the question arose—who would accept the letter of surrender from Great Wu? To do so would be a great honor for anyone.

At this moment, the generals in the tent looked at each other.

Several main commanders of equal rank had come for the conquest of Great Wu, such as Mu Changtian, Xuanyuan Chen, Song Xuelin, and others.

All being of equal rank, to whom should this merit be awarded?

At that point, Song Xuelin said, "General Mu, why don't you go and sign the letter of surrender with Great Wu?"

The Mu Family currently held a very high status. Although Mu Zixuan was not the Empress, her child was the Crown Prince.

Upon hearing Song Xuelin's words, the other generals also chimed in, "Yes, General Mu, you should be the one to receive the letter of surrender!"

Mu Changtian hastily replied, "This isn't appropriate."

Mu Changtian did not wish for the Mu Family to draw too much attention. Their status was already so high, and achieving more merit could potentially be seen as a threat by those in Yan County.

Besides, with his grandson already the Crown Prince, what need did he have for more honors?

Mu Changtian then looked at Xuanyuan Chen and said, "Let General Xuanyuan accept the letter of surrender from Great Wu, as he is the Main Commander most valued by His Majesty and needs this achievement."

Hearing Mu Changtian's words, Xuanyuan Chen quickly declined.

However, after much passing back and forth, in the end, it fell upon Xuanyuan Chen to accept Great Wu's letter of surrender and the Jade Seal as the representative of Great Sum.

Chapter 816 From now on, Great Xia is your home

The news of Da Wu's surrender quickly spread throughout Great Sum, even before the war report of Da Wu's surrender reached Yan County, some citizens of Great Sum had already heard of Da Wu's surrender.

In such a short period of time, an entire dynasty was annihilated, and it was a dynasty that had once threatened Great Sum. This made all the people of Great Sum feel elated and immensely proud.

Soon, the war report of Da Wu's surrender also arrived in Yan County.

The war report entered the city at night, and Lu Chen had been hard at work at Murong Xue'er's place; as a result, he got called out by Bai Qingqing.

However, when Lu Chen learned that it was the news of Da Wu's surrender, he did not feel the slightest bit of annoyance.

At this very moment, Lu Chen held the war report from the Da Wu Capital in his hand and felt indescribably refreshed inside.

But just then, he was stunned when he saw the news on the war report about the Martial Emperor's suicide.

He had just been enjoying himself next door to Wu Junwan when he received the news that his father-in-law had committed suicide. Lu Chen couldn't help but feel an indescribable emotion in his heart.

Lu Chen sighed softly, unsure of how to break the news to Wu Junwan.

Even though Wu Junwan didn't have much of a father-daughter relationship with the Martial Emperor, she was still his biological daughter and shared a blood connection.

If Wu Junwan were to hear the news of her Imperial Father's suicide, she couldn't possibly be completely unaffected.

Lu Chen stared at the war report in his hands, falling into a prolonged silence. After who knows how long, he finally handed the war report to Bai Qingqing, asking her to deliver it to the official gazette and the Eastern Newspaper Agency, hoping that all the citizens in the city would know about Da Wu's surrender by early the next morning.

Afterward, Lu Chen still headed to Wu Junwan's chamber.

Wu Junwan was half-reclining on a soft couch, covered only halfway by a Lotus Gold Silk Quilt as she embroidered. Since becoming pregnant, Wu Junwan had become even more mature and charming.

Seeing Lu Chen running to her chamber, Wu Junwan asked indifferently, "Your Majesty, why have you come to my quarters?"

Having heard the boisterous noises of that wanton woman next door earlier, Wu Junwan naturally knew that Lu Chen had just been over there tending to Murong Xue'er.

Ever since she became pregnant, Lu Chen hardly visited her room, for she was now carrying a child and unable to serve Lu Chen.

Lu Chen rarely laid hands on his wives or concubines once they were with child.

Hearing Wu Junwan's question, Lu Chen smiled faintly, then came to sit down by the couch and directly placed his hand on Wu Junwan's belly.

"Of course, I was worried my lady was feeling lonely next door, so I came to keep you company," he said.

Hearing these words, Wu Junwan gave Lu Chen a dismissive glance.

Before Wu Junwan could say anything, Lu Chen took his shoes off and climbed into her quilt. Wu Junwan quickly said, "Your Majesty, I'm pregnant and cannot attend to you."

Wu Junwan thought this man, with his lust unfulfilled next door, had come to have his way with her.

While covering himself with the quilt, Lu Chen said, "I know, I just want to be with you, I won't do anything rash."

Upon hearing these words from Lu Chen, Wu Junwan sensed something was off.

After Lu Chen entered the quilt, he opened his arms and embraced Wu Junwan's soft and voluptuous body, then fell into silence, saying nothing more.

Wu Junwan suddenly remembered the voice of Bai Qingqing she had heard earlier.

Bai Qingqing wouldn't come looking for Lu Chen in the middle of the night unless it was important; otherwise, she wouldn't interrupt Lu Chen's pleasure.

And after leaving Murong Xue'er's room, Lu Chen didn't return to continue his activities but instead came to find her.

What did this imply?

It suggested that what Bai Qingqing had discussed with Lu Chen earlier possibly involved her.

After the discussion, Lu Chen came to her and held her without speaking...

In an instant, Wu Junwan guessed what it might be about.

...

Calculating the time, Great Wu should have fallen by now...

After a long pause, Wu Junwan finally asked, "Has the Capital City of Da Wu been breached?"

Lu Chen simply uttered a faint "Hmm" in response.

Wu Junwan continued to inquire, "Did my father, the Emperor, take his own life?"

Lu Chen did not reply immediately but fell into silence.

At this moment, the entire bedchamber was exceedingly quiet. One could hear even the breathing of people. A gentle breeze entered the room, causing the red curtains of the bedchamber to flutter slightly and rustle softly.

Although Lu Chen did not answer, his silence had already conveyed the answer to Wu Junwan.

It was no wonder Lu Chen had come to her in the middle of the night.

After an indeterminate amount of time, Wu Junwan then spoke up, "What does Your Majesty plan to do with my father's corpse?"

From Lu Chen's mouth, two words were softly uttered, "Honorable burial."

Wu Junwan then expressed her thanks, "Thank you, Your Majesty."

Wu Junwan continued to ask, "What does Your Majesty plan to do with my brothers and sisters?"

Lu Chen said, "They will be relocated to Yan County."

After all, they were members of the Great Martial Royal Family. Placing them elsewhere could lead to people getting other ideas. Only by having them relocated to Yan County, under Lu Chen's watchful eyes, could he effectively prevent them from causing trouble.

Wu Junwan understood Lu Chen's approach. If it had been another emperor, they might have slaughtered all of the Imperial Family members when the city fell. Being spared was already a tremendous grace, and Wu Junwan couldn't properly object.

She herself had already become Lu Chen's woman, carrying the seed of this young man in her womb. What else could she do? She certainly couldn't champion a restoration of Great Wu.

The two once again fell into a long silence.

Just as Lu Chen had initially thought, even though Wu Junwan had little affection for the Martial Emperor, she was, after all, his eldest daughter, and Great Wu was indeed her motherland. Now with her father having taken his life and her motherland conquered, her siblings imprisoned, her heart always felt an unrelenting discomfort.

After yet another undefined span of time, Lu Chen whispered in Wu Junwan's ear, "From now on, Great Sum is your home."

Wu Junwan didn't say anything. She just rested her head against Lu Chen's chest.

As a strong woman, she didn't shed tears. She just felt a deep heartache.

Seeing that Wu Junwan was no longer speaking, Lu Chen sighed once again.

He did not want to say words of comfort at this time. After all, he had just conquered Wu Junwan's motherland. Comforting her now and telling her not to feel sad would be too hypocritical.

He could only let Wu Junwan slowly adjust. He believed she would be able to recover soon.

At that moment, Wu Junwan suddenly spoke up, "You have conquered my country, and after I have born your child, I shall beat your child every day."

Hearing this, Lu Chen couldn't help but smile wryly. He replied, "If that would make you feel better, go ahead and beat them. Just don't beat them to death."

Hearing this, Wu Junwan said, "Not even protecting your own child, Your Majesty really is cold-blooded and ruthless."

Lu Chen gently stroked Wu Junwan's hair and whispered in her ear, "Whether or not I'm cold-blooded and ruthless, you should be the clearest about that."

Wu Junwan did not continue the topic. She asked, "Now that Your Majesty has conquered Great Wu, is Great Jue next?"

"Some time ago, I heard Qingrou personally led troops to fight the Barbarian Tribe. I wonder how Great Jue fares now."

Wu Junwan's sources were naturally not as informed as Lu Chen's. Events transpiring in other kingdoms took a long time to reach her ears.

Lu Chen replied, "The Yue Emperor has formed an alliance with the Barbarian Tribe Goddess. The Barbarian Tribe has been integrated into Great Yue. The Yue Emperor remains the Yue Emperor, and the Barbarian Tribe Goddess has become the Great Yue National Master."

Chapter 817 The Strangeness on the Wu Family's People

Hearing Lu Chen's response, Wu Junwan could hardly believe it. Her dear sister had led troops to attack the Barbarian Tribe, so how had they ended up forming an alliance with them instead?

Dayue and the Barbarian Tribe could be considered arch-enemies. Since the establishment of Dayue, the Barbarian Tribe had assembled large armies to attack Dayue numerous times.

There was deep-seated hatred between the people of Dayue and the Barbarian Tribe; mention of the Barbarian Tribe alone would make the people of Dayue grind their teeth in anger. And now, they had reconciled.

Even the Barbarian Tribe had become a part of Dayue, and their Goddess had become the State Preceptor of Dayue?

Seeing that Wu Junwan wasn't speaking, Lu Chen said, "You also find it hard to believe, right?"

"When I first received this intelligence, I also found it unbelievable, but this is what has happened."

Wu Junwan said, "So that means Dayue now possesses the battle formations of the Barbarian Tribe?"

A long time ago, Lu Chen had told her that the Barbarian Tribe's battle formations might have the capability to combat Celestials.

Now that Dayue had absorbed the Barbarian Tribe, and the Barbarian Tribe Goddess had even formed an alliance with the Yue Emperor, this meant that the Dayue Army also had access to the Barbarian Tribe's battle formations.

With this development, it would likely be incredibly difficult for Great Sum to annihilate Dayue.

Lu Chen said, "According to the spy's report, the Dayue Army has indeed been practicing the use of the battle formations given by the Barbarian Tribe Goddess."

"But whether they can truly harness the power to confront Celestials, that is something we will only know in actual combat."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Wu Junwan fell silent once again.

In that moment, Lu Chen's other hand was gently caressing Wu Junwan's belly, and while caressing, he said, "I know it's difficult for you to be caught between the Yue Emperor and me, so you don't need to worry about the matters between the Yue Emperor and me. I promise you that even if Dayue falls, I will find a way to keep her alive."

Lu Chen was unsure whether the Yue Emperor would, like the Martial Emperor, commit suicide, but regardless of whether the Yue Emperor would do so, since she was a close friend to Wu Junwan, he would find a way to keep her alive.

Now that Wu Junwan's homeland had been destroyed and her father had committed suicide, the Yue Emperor was her only source of support besides him, her darling.

If anything were to happen to the Yue Emperor as well, Wu Junwan might be struck with immense grief.

Although Lu Chen might not be considered a good person, he also did not wish to see the woman he cared for in sorrow.

After hearing Lu Chen's assurance, Wu Junwan sighed softly and then expressed her gratitude, "Thank you, Your Majesty."

As soon as she spoke, Wu Junwan's arms instinctively wrapped around Lu Chen's waist, and her whole being snuggled into his embrace.

Afterward, the two remained silent, holding each other quietly.

The next day.

Early in the morning, Lu Chen headed for the Hall of Political Affairs.

Lu Chen wanted to spend more time with Wu Junwan, but with Great Wu annihilated, how to govern the lands of Great Wu was a significant issue. Today's court assembly was of great importance; he couldn't just stay in bed with Wu Junwan.

In the early morning, before the officials of Yan County had entered the Hall of Political Affairs, they learned of the annihilation of Great Wu. All the Ministers were excited; Great Sum had suddenly acquired such a large territory, and they now had matters to attend to.

For most Ministers, this was a great opportunity. If they could manage some of the governance issues of Great Wu well, they had a strong chance of being promoted, so most officials were excited.

Today's court assembly was presided over by Lu Chen himself, focusing mainly on the governance of Great Wu.

After a day of discussion, the governance plan for Great Wu was finally set. It aligned closely with what Lu Chen initially had in mind: the Royal Family and Seigniors of Great Wu would all relocate to Yan County. As for some of the Aristocratic Families, those that needed to be dealt with would be dealt with, while Great Sum would send a large number of its officials to take up posts in Great Wu as local officers.

However, to ease the local populace's resistance, some officials from Great Wu would still be appointed as local officers, and Lu Chen planned to hold an imperial examination in the region of Great Wu two years later. Those who passed the assessment would have the chance to become officers.

As for granting a general amnesty to all under heaven, such a thing was not in Lu Chen's plans. He intended only to release those who had been imprisoned due to political struggles; criminals who committed evil deeds would be dealt with according to Great Sum's laws.

After the governance plan for Great Wu was determined, all officials of Great Sum became busy with their tasks.

One month later.

A massive caravan appeared outside Yan County.

The individuals seated in those carriages were members of the Great Martial Royal Family.

Although Great Martial had already surrendered, they had surrendered to the army of Great Martial. Upon arriving in Yan County, the representatives of Great Martial would once again conduct a surrender ceremony before the common people of Great Sum and offer their allegiance to Lu Chen.

Wu Junwan inwardly did not wish to witness this scene, but in the end, she still endured it and followed Lu Chen to the outskirts of the city.

Soon, Lu Chen's luxurious carriage appeared outside Yan County.

Upon seeing that extravagant carriage, all members of the Great Martial Royal Family felt a tightness in their hearts.

Although the Sum Emperor had promised to spare their lives, no one knew whether the Sum Emperor would go back on his word.

As for the phrase "an emperor does not make false promises," it simply did not apply to an emperor with great power.

Besides, the Sum Emperor had countless ways to eliminate them without anyone noticing.

At that moment, the Guard General shouted beside the carriage, "His Majesty's carriage has arrived!"

As his voice fell, all the commoners present, including the soldiers on the city walls, knelt down to pay respects, "We greet Your Majesty, long live, long live, long may Your Majesty live!"

The sound of the people paying homage resounded through the sky, lingering for a long time.

At this moment, the members of the Great Martial Royal Family also knelt down.

Lu Chen glanced at the members of the Great Martial Royal Family, and quickly, he spotted a familiar figure among them.

Prince Wu Ming of Great Martial, upon feeling Lu Chen's gaze, trembled all over with fright.

Lu Chen simply smiled faintly and did not say anything to Wu Ming.

Lu Chen then said, "Rise."

Immediately, the voices of the people rose again, "Thank Your Majesty!"

Subsequently, everyone stood up.

Wuhe immediately walked towards Lu Chen with a wooden tray in hand, which contained the Jade Seal and the Surrender Document. As he approached Lu Chen, Wuhe knelt down and said loudly, "Your sinful servant Wuhe, greets Your Majesty!"

As Lu Chen was about to proceed with the ceremony and invite him to rise, he suddenly sensed that something was amiss. For some reason, he felt that Wuhe emanated some dark aura.

More precisely, there was a dark aura on his forehead.

Lu Chen then swept his gaze over the other Imperial Family Members of Great Martial. Not all members had this dark aura, only some did, and these individuals were all direct descendants of the Martial Emperor, that is, the Martial Emperor's children.

Moreover, they shared another common point, which was that they all had a mark on their forehead.

Lu Chen frowned, sensing that something was quite not right.

Seeing that Lu Chen had not invited Wuhe to rise, everyone present was very puzzled. According to the procedure, Lu Chen should accept Wuhe's salute, and the Great Martial Royal Family would then be considered part of Great Sum.

People wondered to themselves, could it be that the Sum Emperor has regrets? Is that why he has yet to take the Jade Seal and the Document of Surrender from Wuhe's hands?

After what seemed like a long time, Lu Chen finally spoke, "Minister Wu, rise."

Upon hearing these words, Wuhe and all the members of the Great Martial Royal Family breathed a sigh of relief. They had thought that Lu Chen was going to renege.

Lu Chen then picked up the Jade Seal of Great Martial from Wuhe's tray, looked at it, and then took the Surrender Document of Great Martial to read it.

Finding nothing amiss, Lu Chen said, "From this day forward, the Wu Family will be a part of Great Sum. I hope you can integrate into Great Sum as soon as possible and start a new life."

Hearing these words, the members of the Great Martial Royal Family knelt once again, "We thank Your Majesty for your graciousness!"

Chapter 818 Hopefully Everything Will Develop in a Positive Direction

After the surrender ceremony, Wuhe and the other members of the Wu Family were assigned to a specific area.

As a member of the Dawu Royal Family, Junwan ultimately chose to visit her brothers and sisters. When Junwan was reunited with them, her royal sisters were crying inconsolably.

Wuhe and the other Princes felt incredibly conflicted. In the past, to expel Junwan from Great Wu, they employed all kinds of means and finally managed to send her to Yan County.

Unexpectedly, Junwan had now become the Noble Concubine of the Sum Emperor, while they had all become prisoners, likely to be confined in Yan County for life.

Junwan did not mock the Princes. Now that Great Wu was no more, their relationship was no longer one of competition, and Junwan had come to terms with this in her heart.

Junwan stayed near where the Imperial Family Members of the Wu Family were living for almost an entire day, not returning to the Imperial Palace until evening.

Upon arriving at her own chambers, Junwan saw Lu Chen waiting for her inside. Seeing her return, Lu Chen asked, "Your brothers and sisters don't hold any resentment toward you, do they?"

Now as the Imperial Noble Consort and with the members of the Dawu Royal Family being prisoners, those members might feel imbalanced internally and develop an aversion to Junwan.

Junwan responded, "Not outwardly. Now that I am the Imperial Noble Consort of Great Sum, even if they despise me in their hearts, they obviously can't express that."

The status of the Imperial Noble Consort was there for all to see. If those Royal Family Members were unwise, a few casual remarks from Junwan could easily cost them their lives.

So, no matter how much they hated Junwan in their hearts, accusing her of betraying Great Wu, they would never say it openly, only greet her with smiles.

At that moment, Lu Chen approached Junwan, lifted his arms to encircle her slender waist and, supporting her body, he started walking step by step toward the soft couch, all the while saying, "During the surrender ceremony, I noticed some of the Dawu Imperial Family Members had marks on their foreheads. Do you know how those marks came about?"

"I recall that Wu Ming came to Yan County twice, and his forehead didn't have that kind of mark before."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Junwan also remembered. When she had visited her siblings earlier, she too had noticed the marks on their foreheads; moreover, those marks were the emblem of the Dawu Royal Family. She hadn't asked about them at the time.

Junwan said, "I noticed that as well. They must have just put those marks on their foreheads."

Lu Chen gave a faint smile, "Put on? I'm afraid it's not that simple."

Junwan was puzzled. "If not that, then how? Could it be they used a branding iron?"

After all, they were members of the Dawu Royal Family. It seemed unlikely they would use such torturous implements like a branding iron to leave marks on themselves.

Lu Chen said, "I don't know either, but I feel there is something wrong with the marks on their foreheads."

As he spoke, Lu Chen, with Junwan in his arms, slowly settled down on the soft couch, then placed Junwan across his lap.

Upon hearing Lu Chen express his suspicion, Junwan's brows furrowed slightly as she asked, "What did Your Majesty discover?"

After pondering for a moment, Lu Chen replied, "Today, as I was receiving the Jade Seal, I noticed that there seemed to be a dark energy emanating from their foreheads, and this was only present in those who had the marks."

This...

Junwan fell into deep thought.

Junwan was unaware of how those marks had come about, nor did she know their purpose. She was seeing for the first time that members of the Royal Family had the emblem of the Dawu Royal Family marked on their foreheads. She initially thought it was Dawu Royal Family's way of constantly reminding themselves of their identity.

Now, given Lu Chen's words, she felt these marks might have some other purpose, but as for what that was, she was uncertain.

Lu Chen continued, "Perhaps before your father, the Emperor, passed away, he entrusted them with something."

After pondering for a moment, Wu Junwan said, "Tomorrow I will bring a princess to the palace and ask her what the mark on her forehead is all about."

Since it was a mark that caught Lu Chen's attention, it definitely was not an ordinary one, and Wu Junwan suspected it might serve some special purpose.

She was worried about the members of the Dawu Royal Family causing trouble in Yan County. If they could not stay in line, Lu Chen would inevitably dispose of them sooner or later.

Under Lu Chen's watchful eye, there were countless ways he could make their deaths look like accidents.

Although Wu Junwan didn't have strong feelings for her siblings, they shared the same blood after all, and she didn't want to see all of them get eliminated.

Lu Chen said, "Then I'll trouble you with that."

Wu Junwan replied indifferently, "It's what I should do. I'm also worried about the troubles my father may have left behind."

Seeing Wu Junwan so reasonable, Lu Chen smiled slightly. It seemed that Wu Junwan had fully integrated into Great Sum and had embraced her identity as the Imperial Noble Consort.

With the conversation over, Lu Chen's attention focused on Wu Junwan's beauty.

Gazing upon Wu Junwan's noble, dignified, and coldly enchanting face, and feeling her soft body, Lu Chen felt his restlessness rising.

Sensing the change in Lu Chen, Wu Junwan knew what this man was thinking again. She then said, "Your Majesty, it's already so late, let Murong Xue'er come and attend to you for rest."

Wu Junwan couldn't really send Lu Chen away since he was the Emperor, so she intended to directly summon Murong Xue'er to her room, considering she was right next door.

Lu Chen smiled faintly and then said, "There's no need tonight."

Lu Chen wasn't heartless enough to formally accept the surrender of Great Wu during the day and then humiliate another woman in front of Wu Junwan at night.

Although Wu Junwan was not so fragile, her heart still harbored some sadness, and the current necessity was comfort. Lu Chen didn't want her to get upset and risk her pregnancy because of grief.

Then, Lu Chen gently lay down on the soft couch, holding Wu Junwan throughout the night, and did nothing wrong.

Feeling the warmth of Lu Chen's chest, Wu Junwan's heart became incredibly peaceful. She had never imagined that she would fall completely for a younger man, who was also her enemy to some extent.

Wu Junwan couldn't help but wish that this young man would never change, that he would always be like this.

No matter how lustful this young man was, no matter how many women he had, she didn't care. What she cared about was his attitude towards her.

Having lived with Lu Chen for so long, she had gradually understood what kind of person he was. Although there were many women in his harem, he was more responsible than most men and treated every woman well, making him an extremely rare presence in this world.

At that moment, Wu Junwan thought about the impending war between Great Sum and Great Jue.

How much she wished there would be no war between the Yue Emperor and Lu Chen, but she also knew that was impossible.

Lu Chen's determination to unite the world was unshakable, just as the Yue Emperor's determination to protect Great Jue.

A decisive battle between the two was inevitable.

Thinking of this, Wu Junwan sighed softly, hoping everything would develop in a positive direction.

Chapter 819 Thought Imprint

To reflect Lu Chen's benevolence, the places where the Martial Royal Family members resided were incredibly luxurious, and they weren't all squeezed into one area.

Early in the morning, Junwan had arrived at the residence of one of the Martial Emperor's consorts.

Originally, after Great Wu was annihilated, Lu Chen had most of the consorts disbanded and sent back to where they came from.

However, Wang Shufei was different. The Wang Family of Great Wu belonged to the hardliners, and when Great Sum was attacking Great Wu, they also annihilated the Wang Family en route. Now, Wang Shufei had no place to go.

Of course, the reason she was able to stay, to reside in the house provided for the Dawu Royal Family by Great Sum, was mainly because she had borne the Martial Emperor a princess.

Using the pretext of taking care of her daughter, Wang Shufei stayed where her daughter was imprisoned.

Just as Junwan entered Wang Shufei's courtyard, Wang Shufei hurriedly brought her daughter over to Junwan and performed a courtesy, "Noble Consort, I greet you."

If this were in Great Wu, Wang Shufei, a beloved consort of the Martial Emperor, would not have had to pay any heed to Junwan, but times had changed.

Junwan was now the Noble Consort of the Sum Emperor, a personage Wang Shufei dared not provoke.

Yet this also made Wang Shufei curious. She was merely a consort of the Martial Emperor, and during the time in Great Wu, she had little to do with Junwan, the Princess. Why then had she come to this place today?

In this courtyard, there were only she and her daughter, with no particularly important members of the Wu Family's Royal House present.

Even if the Sum Empress regretted her decisions and wanted to dispose of the Wu Family's people, it wouldn't come down to this mother and daughter on their own.

In this era, often when it came to eradicating a lineage, it was only the men who were killed; women were usually spared.

As Wang Shufei speculated about Junwan's reasons for coming, Junwan took a look at Wang Shufei and then said, "I'm here to find Wu Yao, your sister."

Hearing this, Wang Shufei felt her heart skip a beat.

To see her daughter?

For what purpose?

Could it be that Junwan intended to have her enter the Imperial Palace to serve as a maidservant to the Sum Emperor?

This thought made Wang Shufei's face reveal a trace of worry.

If it were someone else, they might be very happy to send their daughter into the Imperial Palace and might even entertain thoughts of their daughter ascending to the Emperor's bed.

But Wang Shufei was different; she was acutely aware of the sensitivity of her identity. The Wang Family of Great Wu had been stubborn opponents and caused a great deal of trouble for Great Sum's military.

If her daughter entered the Imperial Palace, and certain individuals became aware of it, even if the Sum Emperor did nothing to her, it was very possible that some people within Great Sum would find a way to deal with her.

Having lived in the Imperial Palace before, Wang Shufei knew how dangerous it was inside; she herself had been the target of numerous assassination attempts because of the Martial Emperor's favor.

Her daughter might not gain the Sum Emperor's favor, but with their identities, her daughter was bound to suffer greatly once inside the Imperial Palace.

If something happened to her daughter, she feared she would be driven out of this courtyard. With this thought, Wang Shufei felt a great sense of panic.

Junwan, perceiving the turmoil within Wang Shufei, directly said, "His Majesty just has some questions for her, you need not worry."

Wang Shufei quickly asked, "Can she return tonight?"

Junwan replied, "She will be sent back before evening by someone I assign."

With these words from Junwan, Wang Shufei finally breathed a sigh of relief.

At that moment, Wu Yao, standing beside Wang Shufei, looked at Junwan and asked, "Princess Junwan, what does His Majesty want to ask me?"

Junwan replied, "You will know once you are in the Imperial Palace."

"Also, don't tell any of the other Wu Family people that I'm taking you to the Imperial Palace."

Hearing this, Wang Shufei revealed a bitter smile on her face. The courtyard where she and her daughter resided was still far from where the rest of the Wu Family's people were detained. The likelihood of them meeting other members of the Wu Family was slim, let alone informing them about this matter.

Nevertheless, Wang Shufei responded, "I understand, I will surely keep my lips sealed."

Wu Junwan did not linger for long, afterward she turned and said, "Let's go."

At that moment, Wu Yao glanced at her mother beside her, then at Wu Junwan's retreating figure. Wang Shufei let out a deep sigh and eventually pushed Wu Yao's back, "Yaoyao, go ahead, your Princess Junwan would not harm you."

Reluctantly, Wu Yao said, "Mother Consort, I'm leaving."

Subsequently, Wu Yao had no choice but to follow Wu Junwan to the Imperial Palace.

At the same time, Lu Chen was busy in the Imperial Study Room. Now that Great Wu had been taken down, he was beginning to prepare for the extermination of Great Jue.

While Lu Chen was occupied with dealing with all kinds of documents, Bai Qingqing's voice sounded from outside, "Your Majesty, Noble Consort Wu seeks an audience."

Hearing that it was Wu Junwan who had arrived, Lu Chen realized she must have brought the Wu Family's people with her and immediately said, "Enter."

The next moment, Wu Junwan walked into the Imperial Study Room with Wu Yao, and both of them bowed and said, "We pay our respects to Your Majesty."

Lu Chen saw Wu Junwan bowing to him as well and couldn't help but smile, "Dispense with the formalities."

Lu Chen glanced at Wu Yao standing next to Wu Junwan. Wu Yao appeared to be around thirteen or fourteen years of age, with a score of over eighty, she certainly had the makings of a beauty.

Wu Junwan then introduced, "Your Majesty, this is one of my imperial father's daughters."

Lu Chen rose from his desk and walked slowly to the front of Wu Yao. When Wu Yao saw Lu Chen approaching her, she immediately started to tremble with fear.

Smiling, Lu Chen said, "Little sister, don't be afraid. I will just ask you a few questions and won't do anything to you."

At this point, Lu Chen suddenly felt strange, as if there was some kind of creepy uncle luring a little sister vibe.

Wu Yao, who was also around twelve or thirteen years old, quickly stabilized her emotions given that people matured earlier in that era, "Your Majesty, please ask, and I will tell you everything I know."

Lu Chen did not immediately inquire; he glanced at the mark on Wu Yao's forehead. Indeed, the mark was emitting a dark aura, and it seemed to be embedded deep into the skin.

It appeared that this mark indeed served some purpose.

"Can you tell me how the mark on your forehead came to be?"

Wu Yao hesitated upon hearing the question, but she still responded, "This is... this was when my imperial father passed away..."

She paused there, unsure of how to continue.

Lu Chen said, "Don't rush, just tell me everything that your imperial father did to you and what he said before he died."

"I... I understand..."

"Before my imperial father passed away, he..." Wu Yao went on to tell Lu Chen about how the Martial Emperor had gathered his children in the great hall, implanted True Qi into their bodies, and the words he had spoken to them.

After listening to Wu Yao, Wu Junwan's expression subtly changed.

She had already guessed that her imperial father would leave behind some tactics, but she did not expect that he would use such methods on his own children.

Although the exact function of these marks was unknown, they were definitely not benevolent. Wu Junwan was now worried that Lu Chen, in order to deal with the trouble, would directly have all the Wu Family members executed.

After a moment of contemplation, Lu Chen thought to himself, a thought-steel stamp, force-feeding hatred to one's own children, and wondered if this mark could be removed.

With that thought, Lu Chen raised his hand. Seeing Lu Chen raising his hand, Wu Yao immediately fell to her knees, terrified, "Your Majesty, have mercy, I've said everything I know."

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Am I that frightening?"

Chapter 820 Your Majesty's Phoenix Bed is Soft

Junwan also looked at Lu Chen with some concern. She had told Wang Shufei that she would bring Wu Yao back before evening. If Lu Chen killed Wu Yao, she would have broken her promise.

Moreover, Junwan did not want to see Lu Chen kill a girl who was only twelve or thirteen years old.

At this moment, Lu Chen continued, "Rise, I will not kill you. I just want to see the mark on your forehead."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Wu Yao quickly said, "Thank you, Your Majesty."

Then, Wu Yao shakily got to her feet.

Once Wu Yao had stood up, Lu Chen placed his hand on her forehead and then used the Rejuvenating Skill, attempting to remove the mark on her forehead.

When Lu Chen's spiritual power entered Wu Yao's body, her face immediately showed a look of pain.

Lu Chen soon sensed the source of the dark energy, under the skin on Wu Yao's forehead, there was a dark mass.

He then circulated his spiritual power, trying to dissolve the dark energy, but it was very stubborn, and Lu Chen struggled to dissolve it.

However, as the spiritual power of the Rejuvenating Skill was infused, the dark mass slowly transformed into a mist that emitted from Wu Yao's forehead. Seeing that his Rejuvenating Skill was effective, Lu Chen immediately increased the infusion of the spiritual energy.

A moment later, the mark on Wu Yao's forehead disappeared, and no dark energy continued to emit from her forehead.

Lu Chen then used the Rejuvenating Skill to check Wu Yao's physical condition and, making sure everything was fine, he ended the treatment.

At that moment, Wu Yao's eyes darkened, and her body slumped.

Seeing that she was about to fall, Junwan quickly came to support her. Looking at Wu Yao, who had already fainted, Lu Chen said to Bai Qingqing, "Bai, she must be tired. Have someone take her back to rest well, and have someone monitor her condition at all times."

"If there is any change in her body, or discomfort, have them report to me immediately."

Bai Qingqing bowed and said, "Yes, Your Majesty."

Subsequently, Bai Qingqing called a few guards, and they took Wu Yao back.

After Wu Yao left the Imperial Study Room, Junwan finally spoke, "Your Majesty, what were you doing just now?"

Lu Chen smiled and said, "Nothing much, I just felt that the mark was ominous, and it's not nice for a little girl to have such a big scar on her forehead, so I just helped her remove it."

Hearing Lu Chen's response, Junwan's face showed a suspicious look. She felt that Lu Chen must have concealed something from her, but since Lu Chen chose not to say, she did not want to continue questioning.

At this moment, Lu Chen felt somewhat guilty; he could have removed the marks from all the Wu Family's people, but he chose not to do so.

If the mark really had the ability to amplify hatred, the children of the Martial Emperor would surely find ways to cause destruction in Great Sum one day, which would actually be beneficial for Lu Chen as it would give him a legitimate reason to eliminate those people.

Junwan then said, "Your Majesty, if there is nothing else, I will take my leave now."

Lu Chen indifferently said, "Yes, alright, my lady, take care."

Junwan then turned and left the Imperial Study Room. After leaving the Imperial Study Room, she continually felt that Lu Chen was scheming something.

She had just heard what Wu Yao said and sensed that there might be something wrong with these marks. Being someone who had been to Misty World and knew some of the Incantation Skill of the cultivation realm, she suspected that her father had used some kind of curse on all his children before he killed himself.

These curses might one day endanger Great Sum.

Junwan decided to pay more attention to her siblings in the future. If they showed any abnormality, she would need to stop them immediately.

...

Great Jue, Imperial Palace.

Inside the Empress's bedchamber.

At this moment, the Yue Emperor, dressed in a white inner garment, sat at the tea table in the room, seriously reading the intelligence report in her hands.

Meanwhile, Mu Yunxi was half-reclining comfortably on the Yue Emperor's phoenix bed.

Mu Yunxi lifted her slender, fair legs, her delicate fingers running between her thighs as she remarked, "Your Majesty's phoenix bed is indeed soft, far more comfortable than the places I slept at in the Barbarian Tribe."

Although Mu Yunxi had the best conditions among the Barbarian Tribe, constrained by the location, the Barbarian Tribe could not compare with Great Jue in terms of food, clothing, and shelter.

Since forming an alliance with the Yue Emperor, Mu Yunxi had finally enjoyed a comfortable life, especially the emperor's large and soft phoenix bed, which she occasionally visited to lie upon.

With an expressionless face, the Yue Emperor coldly said, "I advise you it's best not to lie on my bed."

Though they had formed an alliance, it did not mean the Yue Emperor was without any guard against Mu Yunxi. She didn't believe their relationship had progressed to the point of sharing the same bed.

Upon hearing the Yue Emperor's words, Mu Yunxi did not get up. Her peach-blossom eyes slightly curved in a smile as she teased, "Your Majesty, with such a large bed, don't you feel lonely sleeping alone?"

"Why not let me accompany you?"

The Yue Emperor ignored Mu Yunxi and said, "Speak if you have business."

The Yue Emperor didn't believe Mu Yunxi had come to see her so late just to be coquettish in front of another woman; that would be pointless.

Mu Yunxi then said, "Great Wu has already been annihilated, and next, it will be Great Yue's turn. Aren't you worried at all?"

Hearing this question, the Yue Emperor calmly said, "The troops of Great Wu have already mastered the Supreme Soaring Dragon Array and can fend off ordinary Celestials without issue."

Mu Yunxi chuckled and said, "You seem quite confident in my battle array."

At that moment, the Yue Emperor asked, "Did you come from the Misty World?"

On hearing the term "Misty World," Mu Yunxi inquired in surprise, "Have you been to the Misty World?"

Mu Yunxi was well aware of the Misty World in the western part of the continent and how it came into existence.

The Yue Emperor, making no attempt to hide her knowledge, directly stated, "I have."

Mu Yunxi said, "The Misty World has restrictions. Being able to enter and come out of the Misty World is quite impressive."

At this point, Mu Yunxi responded to the Yue Emperor's question, "I indeed have entered the Misty World, but I am not from there. I come from a higher-level Cultivation World."

"Moreover, the Misty World doesn't have any so-called natives. It belongs to a chaotic space, extremely unstable, and the land of the Misty World also fell in from other shattered worlds."

As Mu Yunxi finished speaking, the Yue Emperor continued, "Lu Chen was able to rise so quickly, there might also be cultivators from other worlds behind him, perhaps with similar goals as yours."

Mu Yunxi said, "I believe so too."

The Yue Emperor then probed, "Since you share the same goal, have you not considered forming an alliance with Great Sum?"

Hearing this, Mu Yunxi revealed a slight smile, her beautiful eyes fixated on the Yue Emperor as she said, "You need not probe, If I wanted to cooperate with Great Sum, I would have done so already."

"Although the cultivators behind Great Sum might share a similar goal to mine, after opening the world gate, it can only lead to one place."

"This world is a closed world, and it is a world where Spiritual Power is depleted. Opening a world gate once consumes a large amount of this world's Spiritual Power. I only have one chance, and I will not share this opportunity with anyone."

Creating a world gate requires the consumption of this world's Spiritual Power, and the gate operates on a point-to-point basis. Most importantly, even transporting a single person needs a large amount of Spiritual Power.

Especially the higher one's Realm, the more Spiritual Power is needed. For Mu Yunxi, other world's cultivators are competitors, and it is likely that only one person can leave this world. Naturally, she wouldn't share this chance with anyone else.