

## Es. Benefits 851

Chapter 851 This time as you go south, I'm giving you one hundred thousand soldiers.

The night was bathed in moonlight, as ethereal as water.

The cool breeze was gentle on this evening, rustling the leaves into a soft whispering sound.

At this moment, in a palace of the Great Sum Imperial Palace, palace maids were busy dressing a lady as the Emperor would visit tonight, so they needed to make the attendee look even more beautiful in a short time.

After an indefinite period, a maid's voice came from outside, "His Majesty has arrived!"

Upon hearing this, the movements of the maids inside the room noticeably quickened.

It wasn't long before the doors of the palace room opened, and Lu Chen, clad in a black gold dragon robe, entered the room.

At that moment, Xuanyuan Yunqi, who was dressed in a red garment, wearing a red string on her head and a forehead ornament, immediately stood up from in front of the dressing mirror.

She quickly approached Lu Chen, and along with all the palace maids, bowed to him, "We greet Your Majesty!"

Lu Chen took a few steps towards her, then, holding on to Xuanyuan Yunqi's fragrant shoulders, he personally helped her up, "Everyone, rise!"

Xuanyuan Yunqi then slowly stood up, and after she did, Lu Chen scrutinized her carefully.

The red dress worn by Xuanyuan Yunqi suited her exceptionally well, and a golden red belt around her waist accentuated her shapely figure.

Most importantly were Xuanyuan Yunqi's locks of hair, still styled in a single ponytail. Tied back, they revealed her pale neck, and she still carried a gallant and noble air, her face radiating a valiant charm.

She and Bai Qingqing looked remarkably similar, yet Bai Qingqing was more of a cold beauty, whereas Xuanyuan Yunqi's face was tinged with a shy blush, lacking Bai Qingqing's icy demeanor.

She gave off a very lively, sunny, and vibrant vibe.

Looking into Lu Chen's eyes, Xuanyuan Yunqi said, "Your Majesty, tonight your servant shall attend to you."

Hearing this, Lu Chen teasingly replied, "Attend to me? I came tonight to hear your thoughts on who should be the Imperial Guard Commander."

"You haven't decided yet, have you?"

"If you haven't decided, inviting me here tonight would be a crime of deceiving the Emperor, you know."

This statement immediately increased the pressure Xuanyuan Yunqi felt, as she had indeed thought of someone for the role of Imperial Guard Commander, but her intention tonight was not to discuss this with Lu Chen.

Even if she told the Emperor her choice, without his approval, she couldn't follow the army south, let alone become the Main Commander.

Thus, what she needed to do now was to attend to the Emperor well, hoping that a happy Emperor might bring her opportunity.

"Your Majesty, your servant..."

Before Xuanyuan Yunqi could finish, Lu Chen chuckled, raised his hand, and drew her slim waist into his embrace, then slowly walked towards the couch with her in his arms.

While walking, he whispered in Xuanyuan Yunqi's ear, "Since it was you who invited me, let's not talk about that tonight. Let's discuss important matters instead."

Embraced in such a manner by Lu Chen, Xuanyuan Yunqi immediately felt her body heat up, as if set aflame.

Lu Chen hadn't walked many steps before he reached the couch, then gently pushed Xuanyuan Yunqi down onto it. He propped his hands on either side of her hair, looking down at her brave and beautiful face.

Being stared at directly by Lu Chen, Xuanyuan Yunqi felt her consciousness begin to blur. Lu Chen seemed to exude a special kind of imposing aura that made Xuanyuan Yunqi's heart thump wildly.

At that moment, a peculiar scent entered Xuanyuan Yunqi's nose, stirring her further.

Suddenly thinking of something, Xuanyuan Yunqi then said, "Your Majesty, let your servant attend to you."

This time, it was her initiative, so naturally she should attend to the Emperor. How could they allow the Emperor to take the initiative?

She had also studied the matters between men and women and knew what to do; attending to Lu Chen was not too much of a problem.

Upon hearing Xuanyuan Yunqi's words, Lu Chen gave a slight smile, then said, "Then, all right."

"I'll leave it to you then."

As he spoke, Lu Chen took off his shoes and then lay down on Xuanyuan Yunqi's soft couch.

At that moment, Xuanyuan Yunqi rose from the soft couch and took the initiative to lower the curtains of the couch.

Right after that, Xuanyuan Yunki began to loosen Lu Chen's clothing. Just as Xuanyuan Yunki raised her hand, Lu Chen quickly grabbed her wrist, then took a moment to look at Xuanyuan Yunki's hand.

Xuanyuan Yunki's hands were rather rough, for she was someone who often wielded a sword; her hands had many calluses. Although Xuanyuan Yunki had soaked her hands in hot water for a long time and had also applied some medicine to attend to Lu Chen, these were ancient calluses that were not so easily removed.

Seeing that Lu Chen was staring at the calluses on her hands, Xuanyuan Yunki seemed to understand something and immediately apologized, saying, "Your Majesty, it is my fault, my hands are too coarse, I can't attend to you well..."

Before Xuanyuan Yunki could finish, Lu Chen interrupted, saying, "It's not a big issue, no need to apologize."

Having said that, Lu Chen then used Rejuvenating Skill to treat Xuanyuan Yunki's hands, and soon her hands became extremely smooth and tender, as if all the calluses had vanished.

While the calluses had disappeared, Xuanyuan Yunki's hands were still the same as before; holding a sword wouldn't be uncomfortable. Only the skin on her hands had become softer, more elastic, and resilient.

Seeing her hands transformed, Xuanyuan Yunki immediately thanked him, saying, "Thank you, Your Majesty!"

Lu Chen gave a slight smile, then lay back down on the bed and said, "Alright, Yunki, continue with whatever you were doing."

Hearing this, Xuanyuan Yunqi's face instantly turned crimson, and she continued loosening Lu Chen's clothing.

Lu Chen hardly moved at all, and under these circumstances, it took Xuanyuan Yunqi a great deal of time to loosen his clothing.

After what felt like an eternity, the two of them were finally honest with each other, and Xuanyuan Yunqi began to use some of the knowledge she had learned to attend to Lu Chen.

Watching Xuanyuan Yunqi, who was diligently attending to him, Lu Chen thought to himself, truly, a girl who often rides horses has very strong legs, almost like Xiao Wenyao.

Originally, it was Xuanyuan Yunqi attending to Lu Chen, but before long, Xuanyuan Yunqi couldn't handle it anymore; she lay down entirely, resting in Lu Chen's arms. Realizing her lapse, she apologized, albeit weakly, "Your Majesty, it is my fault, I couldn't please you thoroughly."

Lu Chen raised his hand and gently stroked Xuanyuan Yunqi's back, while softly saying, "You've already done very well."

At that, Lu Chen directly asked, "Do you truly wish to lead troops in battle?"

Facing this question, Xuanyuan Yunqi answered without hesitation, "Yes!"

Lu Chen said, "Your brother must have told you, I do not wish to see you hurt."

Xuanyuan Yunqi fell silent; she knew that Lu Chen cared deeply about her, but her childhood dream had always been to gallop across the battlefields, to become a Great General.

Seeing Xuanyuan Yunqi's silence, Lu Chen continued, "I've told you before, I would give you this opportunity. Since you can hardly wait, I will give you a chance."

"This time, as we march south, I'll give you one hundred thousand soldiers."

Hearing these words, Xuanyuan Yunqi instantly became excited, and her muscles tensed up instantly, "Thank you, Your Majesty!"

Feeling Xuanyuan Yunqi's bodily reaction, Lu Chen gave a slight smile, then whispered in her ear, "My Xuanyuan Great General, your battle is over, but mine has not yet begun."

Hearing these words, Xuanyuan Yunqi's heart tightened, then she said, "Your servant is at Your Majesty's disposal."

Chapter 852 I Already Have a Way to Solve the Plague

The situation in the Great Qian Dynasty was rather complicated, and in order to end the war with Great Qian sooner, Lu Chen planned to once again lead the campaign personally.

However, this time was unlike the previous campaign against Great Yue, as many ministers opposed Lu Chen's personal involvement.

During another Great Court Assembly, many ministers stood up and advised Lu Chen against going to war himself.

At this moment, in the Hall of Political Affairs.

Lin Gaoyuan stood in the middle of the great hall and advised, "Your Majesty, the plague is still ravaging the Great Qian Dynasty, Your Majesty must not risk yourself!"

It wasn't just Lin Gaoyuan in the middle of the great hall, behind him were many other ministers who felt that there was no need for Lu Chen to take the field personally.

Since arriving in Yan County, Lin Gaoyuan had almost never opposed Lu Chen's policies and decisions, but this time, Lin Gaoyuan truly felt that Lu Chen was being overly reckless.

The plague was unpredictable, and no one could say for certain whether Lu Chen, after going to Great Qian and to the front lines, would contract the plague.

What if something happens to Lu Chen?

The world's unification was nearly complete, and Lu Chen could not afford to have anything happen to him now.

Most importantly, Lu Chen also planned to eliminate all Sect powers within the territories of several major dynasties; if something were to happen to Lu Chen, no one would be able to suppress those Sect powers.

If those Sect powers were to lead a rebellion, the world that was hardly anyone unified would once again crumble into pieces.



Lu Chen's most crucial task right now was not to lead the battle personally, but to stay in Yanjing, keeping in check all those with ulterior motives.

Lu Chen swept his gaze across the officials in the middle of the great hall who were advising him, but he said nothing.

At that moment, another official stepped forward and said, "Your Majesty, you originally took to the field against Great Jue primarily because Great Jue had a battle formation capable of resisting Celestials, and you were not at ease. Today's Great Qian Dynasty is just an ordinary dynasty and has no battle formation. Such a trifling matter as attacking the Great Qian Dynasty can just be left to the other two Celestials, how could it trouble you to personally take action again?"

Despite the ministers' advice, Lu Chen remained unmoved, and he once again looked over the ministers in the great hall.

Seeing that Lu Chen was unmoved, more and more ministers stood up, advising Lu Chen not to go to war himself. At this point, many minister's gazes fell on Zhuge Zhongguang.

Zhuge Zhongguang, the Great Scholar, had the best relationship with the Emperor; if Zhuge were to step forward and advise Lu Chen, maybe Lu Chen would consider the possible complications of leading the campaign personally.

However, the crowd saw that Zhuge was sitting in his place, appearing indifferent, as if he had no intention of advising Lu Chen.

After a while, Lu Chen seeing that almost no more ministers were advising him, finally spoke, "I understand your sentiments, my dear ministers."

"However, you seem to have forgotten the Barbarian Tribe Goddess, according to the intelligence I received, the Barbarian Tribe Goddess has already arrived in Great Qian."

"Originally, the battle formation in Great Jue was brought by the Barbarian Tribe Goddess. Think about it, if the Barbarian Tribe Goddess collaborates with Great Qian, wouldn't the Daxia Army also use battle formations?"

"If only two Celestials are sent to Great Qian, and if these two Celestials get restrained by the battle formation, then the Daxia Army would be at a disadvantage."

"Even without the battle formations, given the strength of the Barbarian Tribe Goddess, it is not impossible for her to contend against two Celestials simultaneously."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, the great hall immediately fell into a deafening silence. Many ministers were unaware that the Barbarian Tribe Goddess had gone to Great Qian, which is why they had advised Lu Chen against needing to make the trip personally.

However, when Lu Chen revealed the latest intelligence offline, they started to waver in their hearts. If the Barbarian Tribe Goddess truly headed to Great Qian, then it was indeed possible that the Great Qian Army could already be employing battle formations.

Moreover, the strength of the Barbarian Tribe Goddess was not weak; to deal with her, it might indeed require their Majesty to personally take action.

Compared to a Celestial, Lu Chen was now universally recognized as the strongest person in Great Sum.

Especially after that battle with Great Jue, the soldiers of Great Sum had witnessed Lu Chen's true strength, and now the entire court, both civil and military, felt that Lu Chen's strength had far surpassed that of a Celestial, even if Lu Chen was not a Celestial, he possessed the strength to kill one.

Lu Chen said, "All right, the matter of leading the campaign personally is settled."

"As for the epidemic in Great Qian, don't worry about this, I already have a method to resolve the epidemic."

Upon hearing this, the ministers in the hall instantly became agitated. The biggest problem with the attack on Great Qian had been the ongoing epidemic in Great Qian. The soldiers of Great Sum dared not easily enter Great Qian, and once the epidemic infected the Great Sum soldiers, it could likely lead to a total collapse of the Great Sum Army.

Now that the Sum Emperor had said he had a method to resolve the epidemic, if his method truly worked, then the biggest challenge of entering Great Qian would be resolved.

However, bringing the matter back, during the last Great Court Assembly, their Majesty had been discussing how to resolve the epidemic, how suddenly did their Majesty have a solution now?

At this moment, Lin Gaoyuan asked, "Your Majesty, this official dares to ask, can the method in Your Majesty's hands truly eliminate the impact of the epidemic?"

Lu Chen replied, "Lin, you need not worry. Since I have said I have a method, it will certainly completely eliminate the epidemic."

Upon hearing such a firm response from Lu Chen, the ministers also felt reassured. People knew Lu Chen's character; he would not make such a definitive statement without being 100% certain, it seems their Majesty really had found a way to resolve the epidemic.

Since that was the case, there was nothing more to say, and the ministers each returned to their seats.

Thus, the matter of Lu Chen leading the campaign personally was settled.

After the Great Court Assembly ended, the news that the Sum Emperor was to lead the campaign personally spread instantly throughout Yan County.

When people heard that Lu Chen was to lead the campaign again, at first their attitude was the same as that of the ministers, believing that their Majesty no longer needed to lead personally, as the Great Qian Dynasty posed no threat.

However, as soon as the articles about the Barbarian Tribe Goddess were published in the Eastern Times and the official reports, the common people quickly changed their attitude, thinking Lu Chen was a responsible Emperor. Wherever there was danger, he would go there, unlike the previous emperors who only knew to stay in the Capital city, sending the common people's children to die.

In this way, Lu Chen imperceptibly brushed up a wave of favorability with the common folk once more.

Towards evening.

Wu Residence.

A man sat in the courtyard, drinking alone, while the sunset stretched his shadow long.

Just then, a breeze blew by, and soon after, a dark figure appeared behind Wu Ming.

Sensing the shadow that had appeared behind him, Wu Ming did not immediately turn around, evidently having known that this person would come.

Wu Ming spoke, "You really have some nerve to come to the Wu Residence under the surveillance of the Brocade Guard, aren't you afraid of being caught by them?"

Hearing this, the dark figure said disdainfully, "Now that the Sum Emperor is preparing to take action against Sect forces within the territories of the major dynasties, Yan County is very unstable, and any decent Brocade Guard has been dispatched elsewhere. How could those outside possibly notice my presence?"

Chapter 853 The Demon-Expelling Banner and the Reincarnation Stone

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Hearing the words of the shadow behind him, Wu Ming chuckled and then said, "Lu Chen really is full of himself, daring to strike at the sect powers of the various dynasties!"

The shadow behind Wu Ming said, "If he truly wishes to unify the world, he can't allow these sects, which are like states within the state, to continue existing. Moreover, the remnants of the major dynasties are all hidden within these sects. If those sects are not eradicated, those forces will sooner or later pose a significant threat to Lu Chen's rule."

Hearing the shadow's words, Wu Ming set down his wine glass, then slightly turned his head to look at the shadow behind him and said, "Are you certain that this plan will be one hundred percent successful?"

The shadow replied, "Your Highness, rest assured, this time a dozen major sects are joining hands, and we also have a Celestial on our side."

"Once Lu Chen moves south to lead the battle himself, we will immediately take action, and Yan County will certainly fall into our hands."

"By the time Lu Chen returns, Great Sum will no longer be Great Sum but Great Wu."

Hearing this, Wu Ming burst into laughter.

However, after Wu Ming had laughed, he suddenly thought of something and immediately said, "Don't tell Wuhe about this!"

Wuhe is the crown prince of Great Wu, and if he were involved in this affair, should their plan succeed, then given Prince Wuhe's status, it would likely be Wuhe who becomes the Martial Emperor. Wu Ming certainly did not want his achievements to be reaped by Wuhe.

Although they all have the mark left by the Martial Emperor, that does not mean they will join forces to restore the country.

The shadow said, "Please be at ease, Your Highness, we haven't even mentioned this matter to him."

Reassured by the shadow's response, Wu Ming finally felt at ease.

At that moment, he turned his head, poured himself another glass of wine, and began to swirl the liquid in his hand. After a short while, Wu Ming took a gentle sip from the glass and then said, "I believe, when Lu Chen returns to see the corpses of his wives and children, the expression on his face will be quite spectacular!"

Just the thought of Lu Chen's look of despair made Wu Ming feel extremely satisfied inside.

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In the evening,

Lu Chen was busy dealing with official documents in the Imperial Study Room. At that time, Bai Qingqing's voice came, "Your Majesty, Noble Consort Wu has sent a message, inviting you to visit her chamber tonight."

Hearing this, Lu Chen smiled slightly. Ever since Wu Junwan got pregnant, she had never invited him over, since she was not in a position to serve him.

Of course, if Wu Junwan insisted on serving him, it wasn't impossible, but Lu Chen rarely troubled his women. The only time he did was when Wang Qingci was pregnant.

Lu Chen is a rather traditional person, preferring to stick to the proper path.

Wu Junwan inviting him to her palace tonight likely meant that Li Qingrou had something to discuss with him, as Li Qingrou and Wu Junwan were currently sharing a bed every night.

Lu Chen was somewhat curious, what could Li Qingrou want at this time?

After thinking for a moment, Lu Chen said to Bai Qingqing at the door, "Alright, I will visit her tonight. Let Consort Li and the others prepare well."

After speaking, Lu Chen continued to handle the official documents.

At this time, Lu Chen discovered numerous reports about the Great Qian epidemic submitted by the Brocade Guard.

Seeing the contents on them, Lu Chen fell into deep thought.

After who knows how long, Lu Chen put down the reports in his hand, then opened the system interface to check what he had acquired during his emotional exchange with Xuanyuan Yunqi.

[Demon-Expelling Banner: Earth Rank Spiritual Artifact, when paired with the Demon Burying Spell, it inflicts considerable damage on Demon Cultivators and Heavenly Demons.]



From the emotional exchange with Xuanyuan Yunqi, all he got was this one item. Lu Chen felt that the system was perhaps being a bit too stingy.

In the past, the system claimed that the more wives and children he had, the greater the rewards would be, but powerful forces had never emerged from either Li Qingrou or Xuanyuan Yunqi.

With Li Qingrou, all he received was a strange stone called the Reincarnation Stone, whose purpose had not even been explained to him by the system.

At this time, Lu Chen asked the system inwardly, "System, why are the rewards for the last two times so meager?"

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[The rewards you've obtained greatly exceed the value of two top-tier powers. Please make good use of these two treasures.]

Seeing the system's response, Lu Chen chuckled. Far exceeding two top-tier powers?

Are you trying to hustle me?

Perhaps sensing Lu Chen's thoughts, the system's notification sounded once more.

[Within the Great Qian Dynasty, a Heavenly Demon runs rampant. The Demon-Expelling Banner can help the host disperse the Heavenly Demon. The Heavenly Demon is an extraterrestrial being, and without the Demon-Expelling Banner, the host currently lacks the strength to contend with it.]

This...

Lu Chen was startled for a moment.

However, he quickly regained his composure. When he received the Demon Burying Spell, he thought the system wanted him to use it against the members of the Taiyin Divine Sect.

But now, it seemed that from the start, the system intended for him to confront the Heavenly Demon of the Great Qian Dynasty.

Lu Chen's mind was rather quick-witted. After obtaining the Demon-Expelling Banner from Xuanyuan Yunqi, he had already guessed that there were some dirty secrets within the Great Qian Dynasty. Coupled with recent intelligence from the Brocade Guard, he became even more certain of his speculation.

Now that he had received a definitive confirmation from the system, Lu Chen felt much more at ease.

If the system said the Demon-Expelling Banner could deal with the Great Qian Dynasty's Heavenly Demon, then there should be no problem.

But on the other hand, what was the use of this Reincarnation Stone?

With that thought, Lu Chen opened the system inventory and located the Reincarnation Stone.

[Reincarnation Stone: A special divine stone (use currently unknown)]

Seeing this description, Lu Chen grew a little angry. The system usually clarified the uses of rewards, but for this lousy stone, there was no explanation whatsoever.

Lu Chen directly asked the system, "System, what exactly is the use of this Reincarnation Stone?"

In fact, Lu Chen had asked the system about the function of the Reincarnation Stone the night he occupied Li Qingrou, but the system did not give any response.

Faced with Lu Chen's question, this time the system responded the same as before.

[Reincarnation Stone information not unlocked. Please strive to enhance your Realm and await the unlocking of the Reincarnation Stone information.]

Seeing it was the same reply as last time, Lu Chen felt some irritation within.

Forget it, it's pointless to ask.

Don't ask anymore.

Then, Lu Chen closed the system interface.

Anyway, Chu Yuqin and Wu Junwan were both already pregnant. Once the children inside their wombs are born, he would receive generous rewards.

With that in mind, Lu Chen continued to deal with the documents on his desk.

In the dead of night, Lu Chen stood up, stretched, and headed for Wanning Palace where Wu Junwan resided.

When Lu Chen arrived at Wu Junwan's sleeping quarters, both Li Qingrou and Wu Junwan had already changed their clothes. Li Qingrou was dressed in a red robe adorned with golden threads, full formal attire, and her head was adorned with glittering golden hair accessories and hairpins, making her look dignified and elegant.

Feeling Li Qingrou's noble and dignified aura, Lu Chen's heart heated up instantly. With a Shadow Shifting move, he appeared directly behind Li Qingrou and Wu Junwan, wrapping his arms around the soft waists of the two beauties.

"My dear consorts, have you dressed up so beautifully to wait for my favor?"

Hearing Lu Chen's shameless words, Li Qingrou said coldly, "Your Majesty really does have a thick skin!"

It was clearly Lu Chen who had ordered the maids to dress them up like this, and now he acted as if they had purposely beautified themselves, waiting for him to romp with them.

## Chapter 854 Great Qian Must Be Annihilated, Those Sect Powers Must Also Be Exterminated

Li Qianrou also knew that as long as Lu Chen, this lecher, came here, she herself would inevitably suffer torment tonight, and she now had no inclination to resist.

However, before she was tormented, she still planned to tell Lu Chen something.

"Your Majesty plans to personally attack Great Qian?" Li Qianrou asked.

Hearing Li Qianrou's question, Lu Chen smiled and said, "Qianrou's news is indeed well-informed. It was only decided today, and yet you already know."

Li Qianrou couldn't be bothered with Lu Chen's words. The afternoon newspapers had already spread throughout the streets and alleys, so how could she possibly not know about this.

Li Qianrou then said, "You just recently decided to dissolve all the Sects within Great Sum, and now you're not staying in Yan County but attacking Great Qian. Aren't you afraid that by the time you return, Yan County will have been occupied by those Sect forces?"

Lu Chen showed a surprised expression, "Oh? From what you're saying, did you hear something?"

Li Qianrou said indifferently, "Someone invited me to join them and to take control of Yan County once you leave."

Li Qianrou was the Empress of Dayue, and in the eyes of those Sect forces, Li Qianrou was definitely not resigned to the extinction of Dayue nor willing to become Lu Chen's pet.

Given the chance, Li Qianrou would surely rebel, which was why those Sect forces had invited her.

Those people clearly did not expect that Li Qianrou had already reconciled to her fate. Although she still harbored some resistance towards Lu Chen, the fact that Wu Junwan was pregnant with Lu Chen's child, and that Wu Junwan's potential ascension to Celestial was closely linked with Lu Chen, naturally propelled Li Qianrou to stand by Lu Chen's side.

Upon hearing Li Qianrou candidly disclose this matter, Lu Chen immediately tightened his hold, pulling Li Qianrou's waist closer, pressing her hips closer to his body.

"I did not expect you to tell me this. It seems my Qianrou has fallen in love with me."

Feeling Lu Chen's fervor, Li Qianrou immediately said coldly, "I told you this for Junwan's sake, don't flatter yourself."

Upon saying this, Li Qianrou twisted her waist, attempting to break free from Lu Chen, but Lu Chen's firm grip made it impossible for her to escape.

Seeing that she could not escape from Lu Chen's control, Li Qianrou gave up struggling and allowed Lu Chen to hold her.

Li Qianrou continued asking, "What do you plan to do next?"

"The power of those Sect forces is not weak, and among them there may exist Celestials. If you leave Yan County, by the time you return, it might already have fallen into their hands."

Upon hearing Li Qianrou's words, the corners of Lu Chen's mouth slightly lifted.

Li Qianrou had entered Lu Chen's harem later, so she was still unfamiliar with the Formation in Yan County. She had heard that Yan County had a Formation, but she did not believe that it could withstand the siege from so many Sect forces.

Although the Celestials of the Sect forces had not interfered when Lu Chen exterminated Great Wu and Dayue, it did not mean that there were no Celestials among the Sects of this world.

Celestials, seeking a breakthrough to their limits, mostly stay in closed meditation, and would not come forth unless it was a special circumstance.

If Lu Chen intended to dissolve the Sect forces of those Celestials, eradicating the powers they had painstakingly built up, those hidden Celestials would surely emerge, and no one could be certain how many of these old beings nearing their limits were hidden in this world.

If all these Celestials gathered in Yan County the moment Lu Chen, who could eliminate Celestials, departed, they would surely join forces to seize Yan County and imprison all of Lu Chen's wives and children to threaten him.

Li Qianrou could not believe that Lu Chen was unaware of these risks; she simply could not understand what had emboldened Lu Chen to dare leave Yan County at such a time.

Does this guy truly not consider his wives, concubines, and children at all?

Li Qianrou was naturally not worried about her own safety; as a Celestial who had grasped Sword Intent, she could easily take Wu Junwan away and protect her.

What she feared was that if Lu Chen's wives and children were captured, it could threaten Lu Chen, and if, by chance, Lu Chen slipped up and was eliminated by those Sect forces, wouldn't Wu Junwan's path as a Celestial be cut off?

Moreover, Wu Junwan was carrying a child, and she didn't want her close friend's child to be fatherless upon birth.

Hearing Li Qianrou's reminder, Lu Chen laughed and said, "I didn't expect you to care so much about me, Qianrou. It seems you also have a soft heart behind your sharp tongue!"

Li Qianrou coldly said, "I've told you, I am only considering this for Junwan's sake; I certainly do not wish to see you in trouble, and for Junwan's path as a Celestial to be severed because of you."

Lu Chen said, "Alright, alright, I understand; I'll take it you're doing this for Junwan."

At this point, Lu Chen asked, "This issue you mentioned, I've already been aware of it."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Li Qianrou and Wu Junwan were momentarily stunned, both women furrowing their brows, seemingly discerning Lu Chen's underlying thoughts.

Li Qianrou then said, "You did this on purpose?"



"Did you intentionally let out the news of leaving Yan County to attract those Sect forces' powerhouses, and then plan to eliminate them all at once?"

Hearing Li Qianrou's analysis, Lu Chen chuckled, "That was not intentional; I indeed plan to head south to subdue Great Qian."

"Great Qian shall be extinguished, and those Sect forces as well," he added.

Li Qianrou scoffed, "At most, you can only mobilize four Celestials, and they need to accompany you south to subdue Great Qian. I don't believe you haven't noticed the situation in Great Qian; it's impossible not to send other Celestials with you."

In Li Qianrou's view, Lu Chen could only mobilize four Celestials, and most likely, these Celestials would accompany Lu Chen south. Even if one or two were left behind, if there were many Celestial strongmen among those Sect forces, one or two might not be a match for them.

As soon as Li Qianrou finished speaking, Lu Chen raised his hand to support her chin and, looking into her eyes, said, "Who told you that I can only mobilize four Celestials?"

"Aren't you a Celestial? Not just you, my Mysterious Moon Palace also has a Honored Master. With you here, I naturally feel reassured."

"Besides, I have no plans of bringing too many Celestials south."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Li Qianrou was momentarily stunned.

She indeed had forgotten that the Mysterious Moon Palace had another Celestial; the Mysterious Moon Palace had long been on Lu Chen's side, and if Lu Chen were in any trouble, they would definitely take action.

However, coming back to the point, it was natural for the Mysterious Moon Palace to stand by Lu Chen and help him, but why should she help Lu Chen?

Thinking this, Li Qianrou coldly said, "I am not your 'person'; why should I help you?"

"Do you really think a woman whose body you forcefully dominated will help you out when you're in trouble?"

"What do you take me for?"

Li Qianrou thought to herself, her virginity had been forcefully taken by this man, and he frequently bullied her. If she still stood up to help him, wouldn't that be degrading herself?

Chapter 855 I can help you once, but just this once.

Hearing Li Qianrou's words, Lu Chen merely smiled faintly, "Didn't you just say you were afraid something would happen to me and cut off Junwan's Celestial path?"

"Helping me is helping Junwan—and also yourself."

Seeing that Lu Chen once again brought up Wu Junwan, Li Qingrou immediately furrowed her brows.

Noticing her expression, Lu Chen said, "Why the frown? Frowning all the time will lead to wrinkles."

Li Qingrou ignored Lu Chen's remark and looked toward Wu Junwan.

Wu Junwan didn't speak the entire time; she knew very well that her dear sister would definitely step in to help Lu Chen.

Once one became Lu Chen's woman, it was impossible to remain indifferent to his affairs. That was this man's most terrifying capability.

At that moment, Wu Junwan seemed to understand what Li Qingrou was waiting for, so she took the initiative to speak to Li Qingrou, "Qingrou, if possible, I would like you to help His Majesty. By helping him, you are helping me."

Once Wu Junwan spoke, Li Qingrou then said to Lu Chen, "For Junwan's sake, I can help you this once, but just this once."

Hearing this, Lu Chen chuckled; he naturally saw that Wu Junwan spoke up to give Li Qingrou an excuse to agree.

Lu Chen then wrapped an arm around Li Qingrou's slender waist, "Then I must trouble my beloved concubine."

Speaking of which, Lu Chen embraced the amply curved figures of the two women and walked towards the couch.

Li Qingrou just kept a cool face and said nothing more; once the three of them arrived at the couch, Lu Chen pushed Li Qingrou down onto it, then pressed her beneath him, looking down at her from above, his hand landing on the sash of her Phoenix Robe.

As he was about to lean down to kiss her cold, frosty cheek, Li Qingrou raised her hand and blocked Lu Chen's mouth.

"I suddenly remembered something!"

Hearing this, Lu Chen didn't rush to continue but asked curiously, "What is it?"

Li Qingrou said, "Murong Xue'er is staying in the next room, isn't she?"

Lu Chen replied, "Yes."

Li Qingrou continued, "She was originally my maid. Since I am now your woman, naturally, she should also serve you by your side."

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen was startled—he instantly understood Li Qingrou's intention. Li Qingrou was trying to drag someone else into this!

Lu Chen chuckled, "I understand."

Then, Lu Chen spoke to the maid responsible for serving them, "Go call for Murong Noble Consort."

"Yes, Your Majesty."

The maid quickly went to the next room. At that moment, Murong Xue'er was in her bedroom writing. She was naturally aware of what was happening next door—every time Lu Chen went next door, she would sleep restlessly, her body filled with unease.

To calm herself today, she decided to practice her calligraphy, hoping to quiet her mind, striving to remain undisturbed by the couple next door.

Just as Murong Xue'er had dipped her brush and written a few characters, the maid's voice rose at the door, "Noble Consort, His Majesty has asked you to attend to Noble Consort Wu's chambers."

Upon hearing the maid's words, Murong Xue'er was taken aback, her jade arm suspended mid-air.

She knew all too well who was next door; with two women already there, and yet they wanted her to join them?

It wasn't long before Murong Xue'er guessed what was happening—it must have been Li Qingrou's idea!

Li Qingrou, as the former Yue Emperor of the Moon, certainly felt that having her subordinate eavesdrop next door each time was embarrassing, so she decided to catch her and have her accompany Lu Chen.

Murong Xue'er was still very afraid of Li Qingrou. After all, following the annihilation of the Murong family, she had grown up in the Imperial Palace and spent a great deal of time with Li Qingrou, who had taught her many things.

The psychological fear she harbored toward Li Qingrou couldn't be eradicated overnight, even though they were both women of Lu Chen now. Murong Xue'er still didn't dare to rely on this identity to show any disrespect toward Li Qingrou.

Snapping out of it, Murong Xue'er let out a slight sigh, then placed her writing brush on the inkstone before heading towards the door, "I'm coming now."

Soon, Murong Xue'er arrived at the neighboring room. Just as she entered, she saw Lu Chen tidying up Li Qingrou.

Li Qingrou seemed to notice Murong Xue'er's entry, suddenly turning her head to look at Murong Xue'er by the door. Her face, which had been full of seductive charm, now had an added touch of indifference, "Come here!"

At Li Qingrou's command, Murong Xue'er's body subconsciously moved, quickly approaching the couch.

"Strip!"

Li Qingrou issued another command in a commanding tone for Murong Xue'er to take off all her clothes, and Murong Xue'er had no choice but to obey.

Moments later, Li Qingrou abruptly realized that the curse pattern she had left on Murong Xue'er's body still existed.

Wait a minute...

That curse pattern seems not to be a real one?

Murong Xue'er had served in Yan County and returned to the Great Jue, while Li Qingrou had also inspected the curse pattern on Murong Xue'er's body once before.

At that time, she hadn't checked thoroughly and wasn't a Celestial yet, so she didn't notice that the curse pattern was merely drawn on.

However, now that she was a Celestial, she only needed to glance to realize that the curse pattern no longer had any effect; it was just a design.

At that moment, Li Qingrou pushed against Lu Chen's chest and then said, "Let her serve you first."

Lu Chen smiled faintly, this woman was truly domineering. Look how frightened Murong Xue'er was, her delicate body trembling slightly.

Lu Chen then slowly rose and said to Murong Xue'er beside the couch with a smile, "Xue'er, don't be afraid, come here, I'm with you, she wouldn't dare do anything to you."

After hearing Lu Chen's words, Murong Xue'er's courage grew, and she then laid down beside Lu Chen, who promptly rolled over to capture Murong Xue'er's red lips with his.

Before long, Li Qingrou understood why Lu Chen had once said that the curse pattern on Murong Xue'er's body actually worked in his favor. Although the curse pattern's original effect was gone, it could still be of some practical use.

The next morning dawned.

When Lu Chen awoke, Li Qingrou and Wu Junwan were sleeping on either side of him, while Murong Xue'er was lying on his chest.

Lu Chen's lips curved slightly upwards. He was becoming increasingly decadent, no wonder Emperors liked power so much, the feeling was truly marvelous.

Just then, Bai Qingqing's voice sounded from the door, "Your Majesty, Commander Liang is seeking an audience, regarding that matter."

As Bai Qingqing's voice rang out, the young lady also opened her eyes. Murong Xue'er quickly supported herself with her hands on the soft couch, attempting to rise.

However, as soon as she moved, she felt a strange weakness and once more collapsed powerless into Lu Chen's embrace.



Lu Chen raised his hand to caress Murong Xue'er's jade back, smiling as he said, "What are you rushing for, I haven't even moved yet."

Having said this, Lu Chen then spoke to Bai Qingqing at the door, "Let him wait for me in the Imperial Study Room, I'll come after taking a bath."

#### Chapter 856 Fishing Enforcement

In attendance of the young lady Wu Junwan, Lu Chen had finished his bath. He had not yet had his morning meal but proceeded directly to the Imperial Study Room.

Liang Zong was already waiting at the entrance of the Imperial Study Room, being duly respectful. Upon seeing Lu Chen, he hurriedly bowed, "Your Majesty, may you live forever, forever, forever!"

Lu Chen indifferently said, "Dispense with the formalities," and then went straight into the Imperial Study Room.

Liang Zong hurriedly followed him inside.

After Lu Chen entered the Imperial Study Room, he sat at the desk and looked at Liang Zong, asking, "How is the matter proceeding?"

Liang Zong took out a list and then handed it to Lu Chen, "Still missing a few."

Lu Chen glanced at the list Liang Zong handed over, pondered for a moment, and then asked, "Why haven't they agreed?"

Liang Zong replied, "They might have some reservations."

"Some people think it's not the best time yet."

Hearing this, Lu Chen said, "Oh? Who thinks it's not a good time?"

Liang Zong answered, "Wuhe."

Lu Chen said, "It seems this Wuhe does have some brains."

At this point, Lu Chen fell into contemplation, considering Junwan's feelings, he had not planned to eliminate all of Wu Family's people.

Even if Junwan had no particular affection for the Wu Family, they were still related by blood, representing a spiritual support for her. If he were too ruthless, it would definitely be a blow to Junwan.

At that moment, Lu Chen said, "Continue to persuade Wuhe, see if he can be convinced to join those Sect forces. If he really is unwilling, then just leave it be."

"However, you cannot completely let go of him. Place more people to watch his every move, as he might have already made contact with some Sect forces."

Liang Zong bowed respectfully and said, "Yes, Your Majesty."

Lu Chen once again glanced at the list given by Liang Zong, then continued to ask, "No actions from the Dayue Royal Family?"

Liang Zong replied, "Except for a few uncles of Consort Li, there has been basically no movement; they seem very satisfied with their current lives."

This...

Lu Chen thought to himself, indeed, after Li Qianrou became the Yue Emperor, she suppressed her own close relatives, and none of her siblings had good days.

Now that Dayue was destroyed and Li Qianrou had become someone's pet, her siblings could not have been happier.

Moreover, their current situation was indeed much better compared to their time in Dayue.

In the past, they were also imprisoned, and now they were still confined, but at least now they could still move around within Yan County.

Lu Chen thought to himself, if these fellows have no ambition and continue to just scrape by, then indeed, there is no need to eliminate them.

It would be better to deal with those from the Great Wu's Royal Family.

Thinking this, Lu Chen continued, "As long as there's no movement from the Dayue Royal Family, there's no need to bother with them."

Liang Zong once again bowed respectfully, "Yes, Your Majesty."

Lu Chen then said, "Alright, if there's nothing else, you may leave."

"This subordinate takes his leave!"

As the voice faded, Liang Zong turned and left.

After Liang Zong left, Lu Chen was once again plunged into deep thought.

His plan was very simple, starting by dissolving the Tai Chu Divine Hall and Sunset Sword Sect, and then using the remnants of various dynasties as an excuse to pose as if he was going to dissolve all the sects in the world, thereby making these sects restless.

For their own existence, the sects would definitely choose to stand against Great Sum. Once these sects made a move, the remnants of the royal families from Great Wu and Great Jue would inevitably get ideas as well.

Thus, Lu Chen would be able to eliminate two nuisances at once, which could be said to be killing two birds with one stone.

In recent days, the Brocade Guard had been trying to induce members of the royal family of the Great Wu and those sect powers to join forces. Once the royal family members of the Great Wu started to rebel, Lu Chen could legitimately eliminate them.

Lu Chen had already given them a chance at the start, he had already demonstrated his tolerant side as a monarch. These members of the Dawu Royal Family were now Lu Chen's subjects, and if they still rebelled, then Lu Chen could display the majestic side of a king.

Even if Lu Chen killed those members of the Dawu Royal Family then, very few people would think Lu Chen's actions were wrong.

Of course, this felt a bit like entrapment.

After musing for a while, Lu Chen came back to his senses and started his work for the day.

Once Lu Chen sat down, it was basically for the entire day. He even ate his meals in the Imperial Study Room without going to the restroom even once.

He was now in the Pseudo-Celestial Realm, so going a day without eating, drinking, or relieving himself wasn't a big problem.

When evening came.

Lu Chen got up from his chair, stretched lazily, and at that moment Bai Qingqing entered the Imperial Study Room, "Your Majesty, which Noble Concubine will attend your bed tonight? I will make the arrangements."

Lu Chen usually mentioned in advance which consort he would visit, so they could prepare dinner and give the consorts some time to get ready, making themselves more beautiful to give Lu Chen more motivation in the evening.

Lu Chen said, "No need to prepare, I have nothing else at the moment; let's go to Linglong's place directly."

Bai Qingqing said, "Yes."

After that, Lu Chen directly headed to Xue Linglong's residence at Linglong Palace. At that time, Xue Linglong was reclining on a soft divan, wearing a semi-transparent black chiffon dress that clung to her body. She looked up, showing her pale, slender neck and was using her delicate fingers to feed herself grapes, appearing extraordinarily enchanting and seductive.

Just then, the voice of a maid came from outside, "His Majesty has arrived!"

Hearing this, Xue Linglong was momentarily startled. She quickly stuffed the grapes into her mouth, chewed swiftly a few times and swallowed, then got up to greet Lu Chen.

Xue Linglong was becoming increasingly fearful of Lu Chen, not because she was afraid he would kill her, but because she feared the increasing variety in Lu Chen's desires.

A while back, she had asked Wang Qingci—Lu Chen usually did not play tricks with his consorts; it was basically just the two of them and Murong Xue'er who received special treatment from him.

Murong Xue'er belonged to the more cultured type, but in their case, Lu Chen could be very explosive. Whenever he visited Linglong Palace, Xue Linglong couldn't get up the following day.

Just as Xue Linglong was getting up, Lu Chen entered her chamber. Xue Linglong quickly performed a salutation and said, "This consort greets Your Majesty!"

Lu Chen smiled slightly and then said, "Linglong, you seem to be getting more disciplined—I'm almost not used to it."

As his voice faded, Lu Chen used Shadow Shifting to instantly appear in front of Xue Linglong, then supported her jade arm and encircled her waist with one hand, placing his hand on her buttocks.

Xue Linglong was dressed in a black chiffon dress that snugly enveloped her body, giving a very smooth and comfortable tactile sensation when touched.

At that moment, Xue Linglong said, "Your Majesty, you must be hungry. This consort will arrange for dinner immediately."

Saying this, Xue Linglong turned to the maid at the door and said, "Xiao Qin, go tell the Imperial Kitchen that His Majesty is in Linglong Palace, they should prepare dinner."

Just after Xue Linglong finished speaking, Lu Chen said, "No need, today I have come to discuss something with you."

Chapter 857 Xue Linglong Is Pregnant

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Xue Linglong felt somewhat puzzled. Discuss something with her?

Nowadays, she no longer had any connection with the Taiyin Divine Sect, and she had already informed Lu Chen of everything she knew about the Sect.

At present, her only worth to Lu Chen might be as a plaything. What could there possibly be for them to discuss at this time?

Xue Linglong said, "Your Majesty, please just speak directly to this lowly one."

Lu Chen did not answer immediately. Instead, he slid his arms under Xue Linglong's armpits and then wrapped both arms around her slender waist, subsequently pushing her body down onto the soft couch.

After laying Xue Linglong down on the soft couch, Lu Chen stroked the black shroud dress on her body while whispering in her ear, "No rush, I'm a bit hungry now. Let's have dinner first, and then we can talk."

Hearing this, Xue Linglong gave Lu Chen a silent glance. She had thought it was something important, but now it seemed it was probably nothing serious.

Xue Linglong didn't say much, letting Lu Chen have his way with her.

After an unknown amount of time, Xue Linglong lay on the soft couch, gazing at Lu Chen with muddled, dewy eyes and a flushed complexion.

Only then did Lu Chen speak, "In a few days, lend me the Yin Yang Mirror."



Upon hearing this, Xue Linglong sobered up a bit. She couldn't help but laugh inwardly. No wonder this man only brought it up now; it turned out to be for the Yin Yang Mirror.

With a feeble tone, Xue Linglong replied, "This lowly one's entire being belongs to Your Majesty. Naturally, whatever belongs to this lowly one is also Yours to take."

The Yin Yang Mirror was originally a Spiritual Artifact of the Taiyin Divine Sect. It could alter one's appearance and hide one's aura so well that even Celestials could hardly detect it.

Xue Linglong had once used the Yin Yang Mirror to conceal her Cultivation State, but unfortunately, in front of Lu Chen, no matter how powerful the Yin Yang Mirror was, it was useless; Lu Chen still recognized her true identity at a glance.

After hearing Xue Linglong's reply, Lu Chen said with a smile, "My Linglong is such an understanding person. So today, I shall reward you handsomely."

As Lu Chen's words fell, he began to intensify his actions. Xue Linglong let out a soft cry and glared at Lu Chen. This man was truly ungrateful; she had already agreed to lend him the Yin Yang Mirror, and yet he was being rough with her.

As Lu Chen gave Xue Linglong ample rewards, dawn was nearly breaking. By this time, Xue Linglong's entire body lay limp against Lu Chen's chest.

It was then that Lu Chen asked, "Is there anything you're not comfortable with, living here in the Imperial Palace?"

Xue Linglong softly answered, "No."

Xue Linglong had long since grown accustomed to this life. Now, she spent her days visiting Wang Qingci, chatting together, observing Wang Qingci managing the Rain-listening Pavilion, and seeing how she raised the children.

At that moment, Xue Linglong asked, "Your Majesty, have you found those people from the Taiyin Divine Sect?"

Lu Chen replied, "No, they have all gone into hiding. But they won't be able to hide for long."

Lu Chen considered inwardly that once he vanquished Great Qian and unified the world, his Realm would be able to advance again. When his Realm reached a certain level, and he received enough system rewards, he would certainly be able to track down the members of the Taiyin Sect.

Of course, what was most crucial was that his Demon Burying Spell could be taught to his confidants, and already quite a few were learning it now.

Once those people thoroughly mastered the Demon Burying Spell, in the future, whenever they encountered someone from the Taiyin Sect, they would be able to easily identify them. At that time, the Demonic Cultivators of the Taiyin Sect would have nowhere to flee.

Hearing Lu Chen's response, Xue Linglong felt an incredible calmness in her heart. She had once been concerned that Lu Chen was not a match for the Leader of the Taiyin Sect, but as she spent more and more time with him, she gradually realized she had severely underestimated this man.

It seemed that Lu Chen truly was the Son of Destiny as spoken of by the Leader of the Taiyin Sect.

The thought of being the woman of the Son of Destiny filled Xue Linglong's heart with a peculiar sense of pleasure.

Even if she was treated almost like a pet, a Female Slave in front of Lu Chen, she was now completely satisfied.

Although Lu Chen could be somewhat rough, she rarely felt any discomfort. Being with him brought her only joy. She often wondered if all she was currently experiencing was merely a dream.

Just then, Xue Linglong raised her delicate hand, and the next moment, a chest at the head of her bed opened on its own. Subsequently, a black and white mirror flew out from the chest, heading straight beside Lu Chen.

"Your Majesty, the Yin Yang Mirror is of no use to me anymore. You may take it."

She spent every day in Lu Chen's harem now, where she still needed to conceal her true strength, so she hadn't used the Yin Yang Mirror for quite some time.

Lu Chen picked up the Yin Yang Mirror, lifted it up, and looked at it before saying, "This mirror can alter anyone's appearance, right?"

Xue Linglong replied, "Yes, and even Celestials would find it difficult to detect."

Lu Chen said, "It's really a wonderful thing."

"Since you're giving me such a precious item, I can't just take it for nothing. How about I also give you a gift in return?"

Xue Linglong did not reject Lu Chen's offer but asked with curiosity, "May I know what gift Your Majesty is referring to?"

Lu Chen smiled faintly and glanced at his system interface.

[Congratulations to the host for making Xue Linglong pregnant, you are rewarded with the method to create Explosive Talisman Patterns.]

[Pregnancy rewards are incentivizing in nature, and the birth of a healthy child will grant even richer rewards.]

Seeing the system prompt, Lu Chen's smile deepened.

Xue Linglong lay entirely on Lu Chen's body and did not see the smile on his face; she felt utterly unable to get up and only wanted to lie on him.

However, when she saw that Lu Chen did not reply for a while, her curiosity about the gift he mentioned grew even stronger.

After a while, Lu Chen finally whispered in Xue Linglong's ear, "Guess what gift I have prepared for you?"

"This gift will be extremely precious to you, and in the future, you are certain to cherish it immensely."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Xue Linglong became even more interested in the gift, but after thinking it over, she couldn't imagine what it could be that would make her feel it was precious.

Ever since she became Lu Chen's female slave, she had lost interest in nearly everything, and it seemed that the only thing that could bring her joy was Lu Chen himself.

After experiencing the ultimate pleasure, all other gifts seemed insufficient to be considered precious by her.

While Xue Linglong was thinking this, Lu Chen revealed the answer, "This gift is a child!"

Upon hearing those words, Xue Linglong's mind went blank.

A child...

After all, Xue Linglong had lived in Lu Chen's harem for quite some time, so she was well aware of its workings. As soon as Lu Chen mentioned this, she understood what it signified.

If Lu Chen was preparing a gift for her, that meant she must already be caught.

This man... he actually...

Damnit!

She wasn't ready to bear children for this man yet!

Wait, a thought seemed to strike Xue Linglong's mind—if she had a child, surely Lu Chen would not visit her as often, wouldn't that mean she would have an easier life?

With that thought, Xue Linglong immediately said to Lu Chen, "This servant thanks Your Majesty!"

Lu Chen asked with a smile, "How about it, do you find the gift precious enough for you?"

Xue Linglong replied, "It's precious, this servant will surely cherish Your Majesty's gift."

Lu Chen then patted Xue Linglong's jade back and continued, "Alright, I have matters to attend to today, you rest well."

As his voice faded, Lu Chen turned over while embracing Xue Linglong, gently placing her soft, delicate body on the couch, before he himself went off to the bath to wash.

Chapter 858 Trial of the Rune Weapon

After Lu Chen became the Emperor, his daily life was basically unchanging, except on court meeting days, he would spend the day dealing with official documents in the Imperial Study Room,

occasionally having Bai Qingqing help him relax. At night, he fostered relationships with his wives and concubines, and the next day, he would repeat the schedule of the previous day.

After leaving the Linglong Palace, Lu Chen went to the Imperial Study Room to handle state affairs.

Upon entering the Imperial Study Room, Lu Chen opened the system interface to check the reward given by the system last night.

[Explosive Talisman Pattern (Low-grade): Used in the manufacture of rune weapons; when combined with firearms, the power is doubled.]

Seeing the introduction of the Explosive Talisman Pattern, Lu Chen immediately thought of something and swiftly took out the Slayer Spear from the system space.

The body of the Slayer Spear was covered with numerous talisman patterns; the spear's tremendous power was inextricable from these talismans.

Once firearms were engraved with talisman patterns, their power would increase many times over, perhaps even enough to deal with Grandmasters and Celestials?

This...

Lu Chen frowned slightly, not feeling delighted by this reward; he suddenly remembered that the system's rewards often presaged items that would soon be needed.

If the system was rewarding such a formidable item, it meant that a large-scale invasion was imminent, and the world needed to develop rune weapons to prepare.

It seemed Yun Xianxian's prophecy was accurate; the prohibitions of the Misty World would dissipate before long.

They needed to begin preparations in advance.

At that moment, Lu Chen said to Bai Qingqing at the door, "Bai, summon Mo Xing. I have matters to discuss with him."

"Yes, Your Majesty."

Lu Chen planned to promptly have someone learn how to inscribe the Explosive Talisman Pattern and then produce new weapons. Only by doing this could they be prepared for the invasion of enemies from the Misty World.

Then, Lu Chen said to the female guard at the doorway, "Have the Jinyiwei Guards prepare some ordinary muskets."

"Yes, Your Majesty."

Before long, Mo Xing appeared in the Imperial Study Room, "Your subject pays homage to Your Majesty. Long live the Emperor, long live, long live!"



Seeing Mo Xing had arrived, Lu Chen got up from his chair and said to Mo Xing, "I am preparing to study new weapons, so I have a task for you."

Hearing this, Mo Xing was momentarily stunned. After he recovered, he once again bowed and said, "Your subject will certainly not fail Your Majesty's expectations!"

As Lu Chen walked towards the door, he said while walking, "Follow me to the Training Ground."

The Imperial Palace had several Training Grounds, and Lu Chen went to one that was more secluded. At this time, the Jinyiwei Guards brought over the muskets they had prepared.

The Jinyiwei Guards knew Lu Chen was going to test the muskets, so they had already prepared targets, both stationary and moving.

Seeing a large box of muskets on the Training Ground, Mo Xing was somewhat puzzled. These were just ordinary muskets; what did they have to do with new weapons?

Lu Chen promptly picked up a musket and started to inscribe the Explosive Talisman Pattern according to the knowledge imparted by the system.

But Lu Chen quickly realized a problem; although he inscribed the Explosive Talisman Pattern based on the knowledge transmitted by the system.

If the Explosive Talisman Pattern were inscribed on the barrel, using it would require the wielder to expend more spiritual power to activate the talisman.

At that moment, Lu Chen had a realization. The Explosive Talisman Pattern was different from the talismans on the Slayer Spear, which itself used spiritual power as its means of attack, thus it needed to gather spiritual power along the spear.

However, since the killing mechanism of an ordinary musket was the bullet, the Explosive Talisman Pattern should be inscribed on the bullet.

Thinking this, Lu Chen raised his hand and directly summoned several bullets from the air, then he began to inscribe the Explosive Talisman Pattern on the bullets.

After engraving the explosive talisman patterns onto the bullets, Lu Chen then loaded the bullets into the firearm and aimed at the targets on the Training Ground.

However, Lu Chen did not immediately pull the firearm's trigger; instead, he said to the Jinyiwei Guard standing nearby, "Add some more protective gear to those targets."

"Yes, Your Majesty!"

The Jinyiwei Guard swiftly sprang into action, bringing over plenty of armor to encase the targets, layering it around a dozen or so times.

Upon witnessing this scene, Mo Xing was stunned; he felt extremely curious. The Emperor had merely touched the firearm and the bullets, drawing a few strange symbols. Could such actions truly enhance the power of a firearm?

As someone who had embraced modern knowledge of physics and chemistry, Mo Xing found it hard to comprehend the principles behind this.

After a while, the Jinyiwei Guards left the vicinity of the targets, which were now wrapped in protective gear like a ball.

One could say that even with the artillery of Great Sum, it would not be certain to harm the actual targets inside.

Lu Chen then raised his rune-weapon firearm and took aim at the target, firing a shot. With Lu Chen depressing the trigger, a bullet shot out from the firearm speedily.

Right after the bullet left the firearm, the talismans on it emitted a blue glow, and immediately, spiritual energy from the surroundings surged into the bullet.

The moment the bullet came into contact with the protective gear, a blaze of light erupted. In just an instant, the bullet pierced through all the protective layers, and also went through the back of the target.

It should be noted that the back of the targets were also equipped with protective gear. The bullet had not only gone through the protective gear on the front but also penetrated the ones on the back—its penetrating power was simply terrifying.

A firearm, once turned into a rune weapon, displayed a power even more formidable than that of a Barrett.

If one were to use a Barrett, perhaps it might manage to damage the target, but certainly not penetrate it all the way through.

At this moment, the bullet continued flying toward the other side, seemingly not much affected by the impact with the target.

Lu Chen, worried that the bullet could penetrate the walls of the Training Ground and injure others inside the Imperial Palace, took immediate action to intercept the bullet.

But, it took a considerable effort for him to stop it.

Talking to himself, Lu Chen said, "The power is indeed not small."

No sooner had Lu Chen spoken than a system notification resonated in his mind.

[Before using a rune weapon, one must pour in spiritual energy. The host's trial shot did not bring out the full power of the rune firearm.]

Hearing this system notification, Lu Chen reacted instantly. He had thought that the talisman, clearly called "explosive," showed no "explosive" effect—turns out he had been using it incorrectly.

With that in mind, it was time for another test.

However, there was no need for those targets this time; direct testing on steel plates would suffice.

Lu Chen then said to the Jinyiwei Guard, "Go to the steel mill and prepare some steel plates five centimeters thick."

Upon hearing this order, the soldiers froze in place.

The Jinyiwei Guard naturally knew how thick five centimeters was—Great Sum had long since adopted a new system of measurement.

These were plates five centimeters thick. With their current weaponry, be it firearms, or even a Grandmaster, it would be difficult to penetrate steel plates of such thickness.

The Jinyiwei Commander standing by Lu Chen's side snapped out of his reverie, promptly responding, "Yes, Your Majesty, I will prepare them immediately."

Suddenly thinking of something, Lu Chen added, "Take those steel plates to the military camp south of the city, I will go to the southern camp for the test shooting."

The Training Ground of the Imperial Palace was somewhat too small, and if the rune weapons released their full might, they could easily harm someone. It would be better to conduct the test shooting outside.

## Chapter 859 The True Power of Rune Weapons

It was around noon, the sun blazed overhead, scorching the earth, Lu Chen personally went to the military camp in the south of the city.

The soldiers in the camp were curious about what the Emperor was here for today, but to keep it secret, Lu Chen did not allow these soldiers to see him testing the rune weapon.

Lu Chen ordered all the soldiers in the southern camp to stay inside the camp, only allowing the Jinyiwei Guards to stay by his side.

In the dense jungle, Lu Chen released his spiritual power, sensed the entire forest to ensure no outsiders were around, then he raised the rune firearm in his hand, aiming at a steel plate five centimeters thick in the distance.

Initially, Lu Chen planned to start from one centimeter and gradually try higher, but considering that the previous test shot had directly penetrated so many armor pieces, he thought that shooting through one or two centimeters of steel plate might not be a big problem. He decided to directly go for full strength.

At this moment, the Jinyiwei Guards and Mo Xing were staring intensely at the rune firearm in Lu Chen's hands, curious to know whether this special rune weapon could penetrate a five-centimeter-thick steel plate.

Lu Chen did not immediately pull the trigger; he felt that the power of the rune weapon should be even more formidable than he had imagined.

He then turned his head to the Jinyiwei Guards and said, "Move back another hundred meters."

As soon as he spoke, Lu Chen used Shadow Shifting and took the lead in moving back a hundred meters. Seeing Lu Chen fall back, the Jinyiwei Guards hurriedly followed.

Finding the distance satisfactory, Lu Chen then channeled spiritual power into the firearm. The next moment, the explosive talisman pattern on the firearm emitted a blue glow.

Immediately after that, Lu Chen pulled the trigger; the moment he pulled, a huge recoil hit him.

Lu Chen was now a Pseudo Celestial, not just an ordinary one, but even someone of his realm could feel the recoil, which spoke volumes about the power of the firearm.

The next moment, the bullet flew out of the muzzle, beginning to absorb the faint spiritual energy around it. In an instant, the bullet collided with that five-centimeter-thick steel plate in the distance.

The moment the bullet collided with the steel plate, the explosive property of the talisman pattern activated, and the bullet burst explosively, sending off a burst of blue light.

The range of the blue light was not very large, but that five-centimeter-thick steel plate was instantly shattered into smithereens.

Seeing this scene, everyone present was stunned. That was a steel plate five centimeters thick, and it just shattered like that.

The power of this rune weapon was incredibly formidable!

After snapping back to reality, Lu Chen immediately said to the Jinyiwei Guards, "Add another steel plate, stack two of them."

Hearing Lu Chen's command, the Jinyiwei Guards, having recovered from their shock, quickly got to work and placed two more five-centimeter-thick steel plates in the distance.

After the soldiers returned, Lu Chen was about to pull the trigger when he noticed that cracks had appeared on the body of the gun.

This...

Lu Chen immediately understood what was happening—channeling spiritual power had exerted too much pressure on the gun's body, and the material used to make the gun wasn't strong enough.

To mass-produce the rune weapons, they would need stronger materials, but the steel they were currently using was already the strongest available.

Seeking other materials would probably have to wait until their technological level had advanced.

Seeing that Lu Chen had not pulled the trigger, Mo Xing's gaze turned towards him. At that moment, Lu Chen thought of something and then asked, "The firearms we initially made, because of the material issue, did we not thicken the gun bodies?"

When they started making firearms, the strength of the steel wasn't enough, so the craftsmen thickened the bodies and components of the guns, making each one nearly as heavy as a small mortar.

Later, as the strength of the steel material increased and the refined steel became more stable, the gun bodies were gradually made smaller.



Upon hearing Lu Chen's question, Mo Xing immediately replied, "Yes, Your Majesty."

After thinking for a moment, Lu Chen then said, "After we get back, let's make a batch of new firearms using the old method. Don't worry about the weight, as long as a Fifth Grade Martial Artist can carry it, it's fine."

Mo Xing immediately grasped Lu Chen's meaning, "Yes, Your Majesty."

Lu Chen then picked up another musket and carved the Explosive Talisman Pattern onto it. After loading the bullet and infusing it with Spiritual Power, he pulled the trigger at two overlapping steel plates in the distance.

Bang...

As the loud sound of the musket erupted, an explosion also occurred at the steel plates a moment later.

Boom...

The sound of the explosion was somewhat dull, unlike that of cannon shells.

After the blue light of the explosion, the front steel plate was shattered, and the one behind it was indented by the blast.

Lu Chen thought to himself that the power seemed limited; he had thought the second steel plate could have been penetrated as well.

Just as Lu Chen was thinking this, a system notification sounded.

"The power of the Explosive Talisman Pattern not only relates to the amount of Spiritual Power infused but also to the amount of gunpowder in the firearm, with the talisman pattern serving a supplementary role."

Hearing the system notification, Lu Chen was taken aback. It related to the amount of gunpowder?

Wouldn't that mean the power would be even greater if the Explosive Talisman Pattern were inscribed on a cannon?

With this thought, Lu Chen was eager to experiment.

However, considering there were still many unresolved issues within Great Sum, and that releasing such a powerful weapon could potentially impact himself, he decided to wait until after defeating Great Qian to add the Explosive Talisman Pattern to cannons.

At this moment, Lu Chen glanced down at the musket in his hand; just like the previous one, it had already developed a crack in the barrel after being correctly used once.

The material strength was not sufficient; it was indeed necessary to thicken the barrel. It seemed that in the future, only high-ranking Martial Artists could use Rune Weapons, as ordinary people would not be able to handle them.

Indeed, to unleash the true killing power of Rune Weapons, one needed to infuse them with Spiritual Power, and the least capable of externalizing True Qi were Half-step Grandmasters.

Rune Weapons really weren't something ordinary soldiers could use, so even if they were heavier, it didn't matter. Of course, the penetrating power of Rune Bullets was also impressive. Though ordinary soldiers couldn't fully unleash the power of Rune Weapons, the power of Rune Bullets and Rune Cannon Shells was still considerable.

Then, Lu Chen switched to another musket and said to the Jinyiwei Guard, "Replace the steel plate again."

Hearing this, the Jinyiwei Guard quickly changed the steel plate while Lu Chen took the opportunity to load another ordinary musket with Rune Bullets.

Once the soldiers had replaced the steel plate, Lu Chen immediately pulled the trigger, and with the sound of the gunshot, the distant steel plate burst into countless sparks.

This time, the bullet also penetrated the steel plate, but upon touching the steel plate, it immediately melted, leaving only a small hole.

Without infusing Spiritual Power, the effectiveness of Rune Weapons indeed greatly diminished; recall, he had only slightly infused some Spiritual Power earlier, and the steel plate was directly shattered.

Then, Lu Chen further tested the impact of the amount of Spiritual Power infused on the power of Rune Weapons. Through his testing, under conditions of sufficient Spiritual Power, a Rune Musket could completely shatter a ten-centimeter-thick steel plate, which was comparable to a modern armor-piercing bullet.

There was, however, one issue—that if he increased the infusion of Spiritual Power, the musket was very likely to explode. For safety, Lu Chen could not continue to increase the infusion of Spiritual Power.

This also made Lu Chen realize how formidable the material used to make the Slayer Spear was. The Slayer Spear could not only fully withstand his infusion of Spiritual Power but could also crazily absorb Spiritual Power.

Lu Chen immediately decided to send people to Fengyin Island to look for the materials used initially to make the Piercing Cloud Bow and Piercing Cloud Arrow.

These materials from other worlds would presumably be suitable for making Rune Weapons.  
Chapter 860 It seems that someone is about to be unlucky...

After leaving the military camp for the Imperial Palace, Lu Chen immediately arranged for the Jinyiwei Guard to go to Fengyin Island to retrieve the special materials that Great Sum used to previously craft the Piercing Cloud Bow and Piercing Cloud Arrow.

He was now very much looking forward to the Rune Weapons made from those materials.

If those materials could withstand the infusion of Spiritual Power, it would mean that they could also produce low-level Spiritual Artifacts.

With a large number of Rune Weapons, Lu Chen felt more confident about counteracting the invasions from the Misty World.

Wu Residence.

Wuhe was writing in the pavilion in the courtyard when a dark figure appeared within.

"Prince Lu Yi, you truly indulge in the finer things!"

Upon hearing this voice, Wuhe did not put down his brush. As he continued writing, he said, "You haven't given up yet?"

"I will not possibly join forces with you."

"And there's something I'm very curious about."

The dark figure asked, "Curious about what?"

Wuhe asked, "The members of the Great Wu Royal Family aren't particularly strong, and they're not much help to you. Why would you come to us?"

Upon hearing Wuhe's words, the dark figure chuckled, then replied, "Prince Lu Yi, it's a wonder you are of the Great Wu Royal Family and yet you don't understand this."

"We are merely a Sect's power, with no intention of establishing a nation. If the Sum Emperor hadn't pressed us so hard to dissolve all Sects in the world, we probably wouldn't have conflicted with the Sum Emperor."

"For us, maintaining our own existence is enough, and the Emperor should be someone else."

"After we overthrow the Sum Emperor, we need to support a new Emperor to ascend to the throne, and you are the most suitable one."

Upon hearing this, Wuhe sneered and said, "So, in the end, I am just a puppet of you Sects, devoid of any real power, and subject to your manipulation?"

The dark figure said, "To obtain something, one must pay a certain price. Right now, Your Highness is confined here, you've lost your freedom, and you can do nothing but write every day."

"Compared to being confined here, being an Emperor would suit you far better, and I believe you wouldn't want to spend your whole life in this cage."

"Furthermore, we Sects usually do not interfere with worldly affairs. As long as you become the Emperor and don't act recklessly and arrogantly like the Sum Emperor did, attacking Sect powers at whim, we won't interfere with most decisions you make."

Wuhe fell silent, his brow slightly furrowed.

To be honest, he was tempted.

After being confined for so long here, he was nearly driven mad. He used to be Prince Lu Yi, the Grand Prince of Great Wu. Although he did not hold as much power as Wu Junwan during his time in Great Wu, his life was exceedingly enjoyable.

As long as he didn't conflict with other Princes, he could do whatever he wanted in the Dawu Capital. Once a man has tasted power, losing it becomes exceedingly uncomfortable.

Wuhe wanted to agree to the person behind him, but he still harbored some apprehensions.

Firstly, those Sect Powers might not necessarily choose him as Emperor. There were many others in the Great Wu Royal Family; they could choose him as Emperor, but they could just as likely choose Wu Ming or another Prince.

Most importantly, those Sects might not necessarily be a match for Lu Chen. Although he had been confined in the Wu Residence, he still knew about events outside. Every day, people from the Wu Residence went out to buy newspapers, and he kept abreast of the situation through the newspapers.

Wuhe was naturally suspicious, and he always felt something odd about the situation outside.

He had an intuition that there was more to this situation than met the eye.

He didn't believe that Lu Chen was unaware of the fearsome nature of those Sect Powers. Although Lu Chen had already toppled two dynasties and might be somewhat inflated with pride, he surely couldn't completely disregard those Sect Powers.

What puzzled him even more was that Lu Chen had dared to lead the troops personally at this time, which proved that Lu Chen was not afraid of the sects taking action against Yan County.

Wuhe did not think of Lu Chen as a reckless emperor, so he believed there must be some deceit involved. If he stepped forward now, he might fall into an irreversible disaster.

He would rather wait a bit longer than take risks at this time.

He wanted to see if the sects could take down Yan County; if the sects managed to occupy Yan County, perhaps he could then make a move. If they failed, it would prove that Lu Chen had prepared contingencies.

At that moment, the shadow behind Wuhe asked, "How has Your Highness considered it?"

Wuhe put down his pen and turned to look at the person behind him, "Go back and tell your Sect Master that I will not intervene in this matter."

Seeing Wuhe reject again, the shadow said, "I understand. If Your Highness regrets it, just tie a red ribbon to the tree in your courtyard. Our people will come to find you again."

As the voice fell, the shadow vanished instantly.

After the person left, Wuhe turned around, looking in the direction of the Imperial Palace and muttered to himself, "If the Sum Emperor was truly arrogant, how could he have obliterated the Great Wu and Great Jue dynasties."

"Even if he is arrogant and looks down upon those sect forces, he still has people like Zhuge Zhongguang and other old foxes beside him. They must be aware of what could happen once the Sum Emperor leaves Yan County."



"It looks like somebody is going to be unfortunate soon..."

...

Half a month later.

An eerie peace had settled over the whole of Yan County: although crimes were rare in Yan County, the public order had improved even more in recent times.

The law enforcement officers in Yan County had little to do, like helping elderly women find their cats; of course, this was just an appearance.

During this half-month, the Brocade Guard was operating around the clock, with almost all of the Jinyiwei Guards not taking any days off.

Countless pieces of intelligence were sent to Lu Chen's Imperial Study Room, which was now filled with several large boxes of reports, overwhelming Lu Chen.

Almost all powerful sects were stirring, and their people were already getting closer to Yan County.

These sectarian forces had made up their mind to eliminate Lu Chen, whom they viewed as a haughty emperor.

At the same time.

Wu Residence.

In the courtyard where Wu Ming was located.

Wu Ming held a bowl, feeding the fish beside the lotus pond, when suddenly a breeze came, followed by a voice behind him.

"Your Highness, our Sect Master has arrived."

Hearing this, Wu Ming instantly threw the entire bowl into the lotus pond, and then turned to look at the people who had appeared behind him.

There were six or seven people; the leader, an old man with a Longsword hovering behind him and dressed in a gray-white robe, was clearly a Celestial.

At this time, the old man introduced himself, "I am Yuan Tian, the Sect Master of Tian Wu Sect."

Hearing the old man's introduction, Wu Ming thought for a moment, trying to recall whether he had heard of the Tian Wu Sect before.

After a moment, unable to remember any such sect, he said, "I have long heard of the great strength of Tian Wu Sect and its Celestial members. Now it seems exactly as the rumors stated."

"With Sect Master Yuan joining us, I believe we can certainly overthrow the tyrannical rule of the Sun."