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Chapter 1 My Great Grandfather is Wang Shouzhe_2

Though only nine years old, Wang Anye often received admonitions and instructions from his great grandfather, Wang Shouzhe. He had been attending the Wang Family School for three years and thus was not like ordinary children. Whenever he spoke, he did so with an air of maturity.

"This..." Liu Lizheng immediately began to perspire heavily. He had been confused as to why the heir of the prestigious Wang family had come to inspect the village school of a small village.

Upon facing such pressure, Liu Lizheng promptly knelt down, "Young Master, it was I who was blinded by lust. I forced Zhao to become my concubine... engaged in vile deeds..."

"That's enough," Wang Anye waved his hand impatiently, "You don't need to explain all this to me. I'm only nine years old, I don't understand all these abominable matters. Zhao from the Clan School complained to me, and since you've admitted your faults... Wang Xing."

"Yes, Young Master," replied the shrewd servant Wang Xing, gazing menacingly at Liu Lizheng, "What should we do with this criminal, Master?"

"Hmm~My great grandfather once said that even garbage can be useful. I also heard from him that the Green Luo Guard had trouble with a place called Storm Bay during their reclamation work," Wang Anye pondered briefly, "So, let's get him a flying carriage ticket and send him to be useful in Storm Bay."

"Wise decision, Young Master." Wang Xing seized Liu Lizheng at once.

"Spare me, Young Master! I dare not do it again!" Liu Lizheng wailed miserably, "You... you have no right to punish me. I am the Lizheng, the minor official who was appointed by the local government."

"So, you are a minor official, and we must respect the rules and laws," said Wang Anye, touching his chin and looking very serious, "My sixth great grandfather seems to have been transferred to become the Keeper of Changning City. Therefore, we should first send him to the City Guard Mansion for questioning, and if the evidence is conclusive, send him to the Storm Bay in the Qingluo Sea."

Thus, the decision was finalized.

Liu Lizheng, who was crying, had his mouth stuffed with a rag and was dragged off and bound by the household head. For the rest of his life, he would not have an opportunity for a turnaround.

Two hours later.

On a carriage drawn by a Spirit Cow, Wang Anye was happily munching on roast chicken and mulberries. The villagers had given him these as tokens of gratitude. He had declined the expensive gifts and only accepted some cheap food and interesting stones.

"Young Master, you are so kind-hearted. You came all this way to bring justice to the people over a trivial matter," said the servant, flattering him.

"Oh...," Wang Anye sighed deeply, "This can't be regarded as a trivial matter! My great grandfather once said, 'A dam thousands of miles long may be breached by an ant's nest. Do not neglect small good things just because they are small.'"

"Furthermore, as the eldest son of the main family line, I can't really do anything grand. All I can do is wait to inherit the family business. It's such a monotonous and dull life without any surprises. If I don't do some good deeds to relieve my boredom, should I waste my life being a playboy?"

"Eh, this stone seems a little strange. Wang Xing, cut it open."

A stone provided by the villagers was cut open, revealing a shiny Spirit Stone...

"Young Master, it's a Spirit Stone. Could there be a Spirit Stone mine hidden underneath the small Dongbin Village? We'll be rich!" The servant exclaimed excitedly.

"A Spirit Stone mine, huh. That's fine," Wang Anye responded without any excitement, looking rather bored, "Since it has not been discovered for so long, it should be just a minor Spirit Stone mine. Report to the family and have them investigate."

"Yes, Young Master. Are you planning to return to the main residence next?" The servant was used to their young master's character. Wherever the young master went, he always managed to encounter good fortune and the servant was no longer surprised by it.

"Recently, I've been feeling a bit bored. I'll go to the flying carriage station in New Peace Town and take a ride to the Hundred Islands Guard to watch the sunrise. Then, I'll head over to the Northwest Guard to watch the sunset for a few days. Next...

I'll head over to the Longzuo County Town and visit my maternal grandfather, my maternal great grandfather, my third great grandfather, and my seventh great grandfather," Wang Anye said.

The servant broke out in cold sweat. Was this considered on the way? Their Young Master's itinerary practically crossed through the entire Longzuo County! But he could not defy the Young Master's command. With a Spiritual Platform Realm household head and Heavenly Human Realm Guards watching over him, no one in Longzuo County would dare touch him with his status.

The carriage drawn by the Spirit Beast cheerfully headed towards the center of New Peace Town.

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Meanwhile, in New Peace Town.

Without realizing it, several decades had passed since the construction of "Shouzhe Pass". The once desolate New Peace Town had now evolved into a bustling and increasingly prosperous city.

The only thing that remained unchanged was the "Shouzhe Pass".

The gate, roughly ten yards high and several yards wide, was awe-inspiring and majestic. Like a grey Jiaolong, it spread across the mountains for about ten miles. Standing at the foot of "Shouzhe Pass", one could not see the end.

It was like a natural chasm, separating the inner and outer regions.

There were two different worlds on either side of the wall.

Not far away from the "Shouzhe Pass" was the town guard's mansion of New Peace Town.

Guarding the territory and maintaining the safety of the people was the duty of the town guard's mansion. To ensure the city gate was protected, the town guard's mansion was built close to the "Shouzhe Pass". From the mansion, all one needed to do was open the door to see the towering "Shouzhe Pass".

Besides, there was a Zun City between the town guard's mansion and the "Shouzhe Pass".

In Zun City was the "Trade Office", which was responsible for supervising trade.

Independent Cultivators, returning from explorations in the outer regions, could establish stalls here and sell the items they obtained during their explorations.

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Anyone conducting trade within Zun City only needed to pay five percent of tax to the government and five percent to the prominent family. Moreover, only transaction tax was required, with no need for customs duties.

If someone went outside Zun City to trade, they would have to follow the Daqian Law and pay twenty percent transaction tax. When entering the pass, an additional ten percent "customs duty" had to be paid to the Changning Wang Clan as a reward for the establishment of the pass by the Wang family.

This rule existed so unless an item was truly valuable, most independent cultivators would choose to directly sell it within Zun City.

As a result, Zun City blossomed into an extremely bustling trade center and distribution hub. Every day, countless independent cultivators would come and go, setting up stalls to sell goods. Many representatives of prominent families also came to purchase supplies.

Even in the entire New Peace Town, there were few places busier than here.

Noon.

The dazzling sun hung high in the sky, emanating scorching heat. The shadow cast by Shouzhe Pass only covered a small section of Zun City, with most areas exposed to the sunlight.

This was the time of day when Zun City was the warmest and least populated.

Independent cultivators who had been busy for most of the morning took a rare break, closing their stalls and gathering in groups to chat.

"This 'Shouzhe Pass' is truly extraordinary," a round-faced independent cultivator with big ears mused, using an oilcloth to wipe his sharp steel sword, "I've stayed here for more than thirty years and witnessed four beast surges. The way we hold them off is just too easy. If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I wouldn't believe that beast surges could be repelled so easily."

"Isn't the beast surge itself not that large?" another independent cultivator responded nonchalantly, "I heard that it only took ten years to construct 'Shouzhe Pass'. How sturdy could it really be, considering how quickly it was built?"

"Heh, do you really think I've never seen a beast surge?" the big-eared independent cultivator rolled his eyes dismissively at him, "In terms of scale, the most recent two beast surges each had over a hundred fierce beasts. They weren't small in scale at all, and yet they didn't even manage to break through the city gates. If that's not sturdy, what is?"

"Moreover, the fierce beasts involved in these beast surges were of no low grade. I saw three or four level five fierce beasts with my own eyes. If this was anywhere else, it would be a big deal."

With these words, he couldn't help remembering the past.

"During the most recent surge, I was standing on the city wall. I watched as a Level Five Earth-splitting gigantic tiger roared and pounced towards the city gate. I was holding a bow and arrow given by the Wang family, I was completely terrified, I even forgot to hide."

"Then I saw a figure descending from the sky. With just a light flutter of a sword, the Level Five Spotted Tiger was frozen solid into an ice sculpture, then sliced in two."

As he spoke, he gestured animatedly, completely immersed in his vivid recollections of the thrilling and shocking event.

At first, the independent cultivators beside him were skeptical, but seeing his sincere and emotional recitation, they began to believe him.

However, a realization suddenly struck a few of the independent cultivators: "Ice-bloodlines are rare, and the ability to freeze a Level Five beast in one swing is even rarer. Could it be that the one you saw was the Old Ancestor of the Changning Wang Clan?"

"That Old Ancestor?"

"Who else could it be but Ancestor Longyan?" roused by gossip, the independent cultivator's enthusiasm was piqued, "You guys may not know, but this Ancestor was severely injured back then. Many people said she wouldn't live for much longer. But guess what happened during that period? Master Shouzhe of the Wang family...."

Just as the conversation was heating up.

A young master, with some guards, appeared in the independent cultivator's market.

This young master was extremely generous, directly buying any good stuff he saw without bargaining, and then threw it into his bottomless storage ring.

Apparently, a big spender had arrived.

The independent cultivator vendors all stopped their chatter, hastily bringing out their best goods, crowding around the young master and enticing him, "Young Master, this is the unique horn of a four-stage Moon-Viewing Savage Rhino, a gem for crafting spiritual artifacts or for alchemy. It costs only four, no, three thousand Qian gold."

The independent cultivator initially wanted to shout out an inflated price but after a glare from the Spiritual Platform Realm head of household next to the young master, he immediately retracted the falsehood and gave a relatively honest albeit slightly high price.

The moment he finished speaking, the young master took the Savage Rhino horn and put it away. Then, another servant stepped forward to pay.

In a short span of time, he had already bought several tens of thousands of Qian Gold's worth of goods. However, he was still worried about grabbing more good alchemy ingredients for his great grandfather's alchemy session.

Gifts for his maternal grandfather were taken care of, but what about his great grandfather's...sigh, what a headache.

There were a bunch of relatives in Longzuo County, didn't he, the seventh young master, need to bring gifts when visiting them? Not to mention, which visit didn't involve bringing a portion of gifts and receiving even more presents back?

Not far away, several independent cultivators in the Spirit Platform Realm with somewhat ferocious expressions watched the spectacle. After exchanging a glance, it seemed that they had made a certain decision.

"Young master, this is a six-stage Water Spirit Bird—Primordial Water Spirit Crane's egg that we picked up riskily in an outer-territory lake... Since it's meant for you, we will only charge you three hundred thousand Qian Gold."

These independent cultivators were apprehensive, but they were determined to pull off this job and then leave New Peace Town as quickly as they could, never to return.

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"Primordial Water Spirit Pattern? What a wonderful pulsing rhythm, full of endless vitality," said the young master, stopping in his tracks, "It does bear some resemblance to the Primordial Water Spirit Crane egg. Thirty thousand isn't too cheap, is it?"

"Your keen observation skills are truly commendable, young master. They say that treasures are bestowed upon heroes, and only a young lord like you..." At this, the independent cultivators' faces lit up in delight.

But before they could finish, the young master interjected, "Unfortunately, you all lack education and have never seen a real Primordial Water Spirit Crane egg. Typically, these eggs weigh more than two pounds. This egg, however, is rounded at both ends and weighs less than a pound... it's most likely a large goose egg, right?"

Alas, even frauds are lackadaisical these days among independent cultivators."

"This...this..." The independent cultivators broke into a sweat on being exposed, and forced a chuckle, "Perhaps we were mistaken, young master. Your ability to discern the truth is truly extraordinary... We will take our leave, take our leave~"

Inwardly, they cursed, who would have a freaking chance to see a Primordial Water Spirit crane egg? They just found an unknown egg and pretended it was a crane egg.

"Wait a moment," the young master sighed. "You failed in your fraudulent attempt, but the amount you attempted to scam is quite significant. This is no small crime."

"There's an idea. Storm Bay in Qingluo Sea is short-staffed, a three-year punishment should suffice. Wang Xing, you take care of it, let's arrange a few free carriage tickets for them."

Is he kidding us? The independent cultivators glanced at each other, dropped the "large goose egg," and attempted to flee rapidly. But as they hadn't got far, they felt the explosive aura of a Heavenly Human Realm cultivator. "You little rascals are blind! Young master is offering you carriage tickets which is a favor!"

Quite naturally, those skillful Spirit Platform Realm independent cultivators were captured, then according to young master's instructions, they would definitely be sent to Storm Bay.

The rest of the independent cultivators were looked at each other in shock, horrified.

Who is this young master? He even brought Heavenly Human Realm Guards with him...

Isn't this simply bullying?

Gradually though, Wang Anye managed to buy a pile of gifts at reasonable prices. Totaling no less than hundred thousand Qian gold.

An hour later.

On the flying carriage heading to Hundred Islands Guard, Wang Anye, leaning against the window, looked at the rolling clouds, his face expressionless, utterly bored. This kind of carefree life, where one can gaze leisurely to the end, was too monotonous.

He could only do something to promote justice and eliminate evil, to spice up his dull life.

Heaven help him!

For now, he decided to roast the goose egg he had just picked up, to soothe his ennui.

Retrieving the 'goose egg', Wang Anye looked at it under the clear sunlight coming in through the glass window and the Primordial Water Spirit Pattern on the egg suddenly lit up, almost blinding him.

"Wait! Is this the Primordial Water Dao pattern?" Wang Anye touched his chin thoughtfully. "The egg has mottled spots, both ends are round and there are ink spots, weighing around a pound and naturally possesses the Primordial Water Dao pattern. Could it be ..."

"The egg of a level seven Spirit Bird, the Primordial Water Heavenly Sparrow?"

"Congratulations, young master, congratulations," the servant and bodyguards all congratulate in unison. Even the Heavenly Human Realm Guard sitting in the corner raised his eyes, marveling at young master's extraordinary luck.

"My great aunt Li Yao, possess the Primordial Water Bloodline. I can make a trip to the Academic Palace and gift her the hatched bird as a pet," said Wang Anye after pondering for a while, deciding on the egg's fate.

Wang Xing, his attendant, hesitantly asked, "Young Master, what about those fraudulent independent cultivators? Are we still sending them to the Qingluo Sea Storm Bay?"

"Hmm, my great grandfather once said that it is called a failed crime where the perpetrator did not voluntarily terminate their act. The fact that they themselves got tricked does not absolve them of their crimes."

Wang Xing suddenly realized that the Spirit Platform Realm independent cultivators were wrongly accused. Not only did they misjudge a treasure, but they were foolish and audacious enough to con the young master... They had no idea how eccentric the seventh young master was!

Chapter 2 The Incomparable Young Master_1

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The so-called Level Seven spirit bird's egg, although very precious, wasn't a big deal for a young noble like Wang Anye, who was counted among the most prominent figures in Longzuo.

After all, hatching a Primordial water celestial sparrow and nurturing it to Level Seven is not a trivial feat. The resources and time it consumes are astronomical.

It might be cherished by an ordinary Purple Abode prominent family, spending several generations to cultivate a single Level Seven Celestial Sparrow ancestor. But Wang family simply wasn't lacking Sky Prides, or even Great Heavenly Prouds...

Following the minor incident.

The flying carriage traveled along the Peace River, all the way to the Donghaei Guard. After a brief rest, it followed the maritime route to the Hundred Islands Guard.

Theoretically, from New Peace Town to Hundred Islands Guard, there is a straight-line route. However, that route would mean traversing the wilderness which hadn't been developed, making the journey potentially dangerous for the flying carriage.

Once the Hundred Islands Guard was reached.

Wang Anye checked into a beautifully scenic island, where the Wang family had invested in a private seaside villa for relaxation and recuperation. As the seventh young noble, he naturally received the best treatment.

Not doing anything else, he listlessly fed sea birds on the beach and then earnestly watched the sunrise.

The ocean was vast and the sunrise was beautiful.

Sitting on a broken stone, the Young Master's otherwise calm mind stirred slightly. After some contemplation, he gained a slight understanding of the Sword Intent. Unfortunately, his cultivation base was too shallow to fully utilize this newly understood Sword Intent.

"This stone shall be called Sword Enlightenment stone," Wang Anye drew his sword, and like a dragon, carved some large characters haphazardly on the broken stone. He then admired his work with satisfaction.

The attendants and guards at the side could only marvel, "Despite being young, Young Master has already attained the initial form of Sword Intent. He will surely be a force to be reckoned with among his peers and feared by Sky Prides."

"Alas! What use is being invincible as an individual? As the heir, it is not my place to take action," Wang Anye shook his head without joy or sorrow. "After all, my great grandfather once said, it's not hard for a person to be powerful. What's difficult is to maintain and enhance the strength of a family line generation after generation."

"Young Master is wise..." The sycophantic praises flowed freely.

Just as Wang Anye was preparing to leave, there were minor ripples on the sea surface. The waves splashed onto the seashore, creating a beautiful rain.

"Huh?" Wang Anye noticed a large dark object on the coastline. Under the sunlight, it gave off a rainbow-like black color. "Wang Yun, take the guard and fetch it. If it's garbage, burn it to avoid polluting the ocean."

"Yes, sir." A servant named Wang Yun led a guard and with a lot of effort, fetched the dark lump that weighed several hundred pounds.

"It's as black as ink, glows under light, it must be the legendary Rainbow Black", cut a little piece by Wang Anye and sniffed lightly, "It has a fishy taste with a hint of bitterness, yet also a long-lasting fragrant scent. This must be the Dragon Whale Ambergris."

"Master, I have seen descriptions of Dragon Whale Ambergris when I was studying, it's a superior type of spice and can be used to concoct some special Dan medicines," Wang Yun asked puzzledly, "However, Dragon Whale Ambergris is usually only about ten pounds or so, but this is hundreds of pounds. Is there a mystery here?"

"The ancient records by the Artifact Spirit note that Dragon Whales are giant creatures in the sea, and the ambergris produced in their stomach is particularly valuable. A Level Seven Dragon Whale

produces several pounds up to ten pounds, a Level Eight Dragon Whale might produce thirty to fifty pounds.

Only the Dragon Whale Ambergris produced by a Level Nine Whale Dragon King can weigh about a hundred pounds..."

"So does this several hundred pounds... could it be...?" Wang Xing and Wang Yun looked at each other in shock.

"Yes, it should be a product of a Level Ten Whale Dragon King." Wang Anye said calmly, "This is worth a little money, the seventh great grandfather is going to love it."

Worth a little money?

The two Spirit Platform Realm guards, even the secretly accompanying Heavenly Human Realm guards barely kept their balance. How could their values be so wildly different?

However, for the seventh Young Master, that was indeed the case.

There was no helping it. Temple could be chosen from the throng who he was - the offspring of the two direct long lines of the Wang and Qian families, and both of such great wealth...

But what the guards admired more, was the seventh Young Master's seeming ability to find treasures wherever he went. This time, he just got extremely lucky...

"The Qian Gold, give it to Old Qian and the brothers." Wang Anye casually pulled out a stack of Qian Gold Notes.

"Thank you for your graciousness, Young Master." And so, the guards all had broad grins as they shared it, with the thickest portion naturally delivered to the hands of the Heavenly Human Realm guard, Old Qian.

Working under the seventh Young Master was a smooth job. Not only did they receive their rightful benefits every year without fail, they would occasionally receive generous rewards. Most importantly, it was relatively relaxed. After all, who would dare provoke the seventh Young Master in Longzuo County?

Furthermore, their futures were also promising compared to other Spirit Platform Realm guards. Once their Young Master grew up, they would gradually take on important tasks in the family. By then, these bodyguards and servants would most likely be relied upon.

Hence, every servant and bodyguard serving Wang Anye were elites chosen with great care.

After packing away the Dragon Whale Ambergris, Wang Anye followed his plan and went to the Northwest Guard's Prairie to watch the sunset.

Soon, the flying carriage landed in the rough and unrefined Northwest Guard. Compared to the Southern Six Guards with their interlaced waterways, and agriculture-based economy, the Five Guards in the Northwest had vast terrain, focusing on animal husbandry with a slight emphasis on mining.

Chapter 2 The Incomparable Young Master_2

The vast prairies stretched to the horizon, with the brilliant hues of the setting sun illuminating the grasslands in swaths of radiant red.

Young Master Wang Anye's serene heart was touched by a ripple of emotion, gaining a new understanding in this moment. The guards and attendants surreptitiously backed away, afraid to disturb their young master's insights.

Several hours later.

He slowly opened his eyes, his mind calm and clear as ice.

The night was dark, moonlight bright and pure.

Two horses, one large and one small, appeared beside him, their coats as white and immaculate as the moonlight itself. Smooth as refined spiritual silk, their handsome heads adorned with a horn-like jade.

What was more striking were the wings that grew from their sides.

[Jade Horned Heavenly Horse]

These mysterious creatures lived in the depths of the Great Plains, extremely rare spirit horses. A glimpse of them would attract a crowd and inspire a search. Legend had it that only people with pure and untarnished hearts could get close to and be favored by the Jade Horned Heavenly Horses.

"Neigh, neigh." The young Jade Horned Heavenly Horse, seemingly interested in Wang Anye, nuzzled against him repeatedly.

Wang Anye laughed warmly, gently petting the creature and taking out various foods from his bottomless storage ring to feed it.

Jade Horned Heavenly Horses were very picky about their food.

But Wang Anye had a wider variety of snacks. Ultimately, he found that the Jade Horned Heavenly Horse was particularly fond of Ice Crystal Jade Dew, Immortal Water Spirit Melon, and Soul Cakes made from an assortment of high-grade Spirit Rice.

The Jade Horned Heavenly Horse ate with great enthusiasm, growing increasingly fond of Wang Anye.

Soon, the adult Jade Horned Heavenly Horse led its foal away, only for the small Jade Horned Heavenly Horse to rub against Wang Anye reticently.

Quickly, the adult Jade Horned Heavenly Horse gave Wang Anye and the foal a deep glance, then spread its wings and took to the sky.

The little Jade Horned Pegasus seemed reluctant to part, watching its mother fly until she disappeared from sight. Only then did it nuzzle against Wang Anye affectionately and whinny.

"So...?" Wang Anye stroked his chin in thought, "Do you want me to look after you?"

"Neigh, neigh!" The Jade Horned Pegasus responded cheerily, prancing around Wang Anye excitedly.

"Alright." Wang Anye took out more of the spirit food it likes. The Jade Horned Pegasus happily wolfed down the food, seemingly delighted with its new master. As for its mother, it had already left it high up in the Ninth Heaven.

In the distance.

The hidden guards and attendants were dumbfounded at this sight.

Is this possible?

Did their Young Master just come back from the prairie with a Jade Horned Pegasus, an entity of legend?

While this Pegasus might not have great combat abilities, it was incredibly swift and extremely rare. Its striking appearance would undoubtedly draw attention wherever it went.

Their Young Master truly is the unmatched Young Lord!

...

At the same time.

Lingyun Holy Ground.

Xuanmiao Peak.

Ever since Gong Yang Ce temporarily left, there were fewer visitors on the peak. The tranquility offered a stark contrast to the hustle and bustle of the disciples' quarters halfway down the mountain.

On the peak, the majestic palace sculpted out of metal stood quietly, emitting a powerful aura that seemed to tear through the heavens.

But perhaps due to the lack of inhabitants, the powerful aura also carried an indescribable sense of solitude and chill.

On this day.

Xiaoyue was sorting through the recent news from "Dawn."

Suddenly.

A streak of golden light soared across the sky before landing at the entrance of the palace. When the light faded, a man in white leisurely stepped out and made his way into XuanMiao Palace.

There were restrictions placed around XuanMiao Palace, and no sooner had the barriers been disturbed than Xiaoyue came out of her room to inspect the situation.

Once she saw the figure walking towards the inner hall, her eyes lit up. She quickly approached to greet him, "Master, you've returned."

Indeed, the gentleman in white was none other than the master of XuanMiao Palace, Master Gong Yang Ce.

"Rise."

Gong Yang Ce made a casual hand gesture then slowly walked towards the inner hall.

Seeing him seated, Xiaoyue immediately began brewing tea for him. Soon, a cup of tea was presented before Gong Yang Ce.

After observing his expression, Xiaoyue smiled, "Master, it seems your trip to the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty was a success."

Though Gong Yang Ce was usually reserved, Xiaoyue had served him for nearly two hundred years and could tell that he was in good spirits.

"Although there were a few hiccups, the outcome was fairly positive." Gong Yang Ce took the cup of tea. As he recalled the gains from his trip, he couldn't help but smile.

He took a sip of tea, and couldn't help but think, the tea from Da Qian was simply more enjoyable. Even though the Immortal Tea from the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty was of excellent quality, after a while, it just felt like something was missing.

As Gong Yang Ce enjoyed his tea, Xiaoyue briefed him on the major events that happened in the past thirty years in the Sacred Land and Great Qian Land.

With the upcoming "Emperor's Son Contest," there had been many shifts in power in Great Qian Land. Several officials with key positions had undergone changes and even members from a few of the Grade Three and Four Prominent Families had been implicated. Some were even disgraced and demoted.

Chapter 2 The Incomparable Young Master_3

The situation within the military system was indeed complex.

It was not until half a cup of tea later that she managed to report everything in general.

Gong Yang Ce had a rough idea of the current political situation after sorting out the situation.

During his absence, the political situation had changed significantly. Based on the current situation, their probability of winning was getting higher and higher.

With just a few more nudges, they would be able to secure their win steadily.

He was satisfied with this and a hint of mirth could be seen in his eyes.

Taking a sip of tea, he was suddenly reminded of something and asked Xiaoyue, "By the way, what's the situation in Longzuo County?"

According to his estimation, Qian Xuehan and Wang Shouzhe should be able to withstand the joint forces of the Zuoqiu family and the Cao Family for ten to twenty years. But by now, the outcome should be clear.

"Master, please forgive me."

Xiaoyue's face suddenly changed.

She knelt down with a thud, nervously admitting, "The plan for Longzuo County has failed, and, and Cao Youqing, the immortal, has fallen."

Gong Yang Ce's hand, which was holding the tea cup, slightly paused, and his eyes suddenly darkened.

He looked at Xiaoyue, "What happened? Tell me."

"This is what happened..."

Xiaoyue lowered her head and slowly recounted the events that occurred over three decades ago.

As Xiaoyue recounted the events, Gong Yang Ce's speed of fiddling with his tea froth became slower and slower until he finally stopped, placing the tea cup back onto the tea table.

A few seconds after Xiaoyue finished, he took time to digest all the information before he asked, "Are you saying that all these plots, including the proposal to establish the Qingluo Guard, are all the work of Wang Shouzhe?"

"Yes."

Gong Yang Ce tapped his fingers on the tea table, falling into deep thought.

After a good while, he sighed deeply, "It seems that I have underestimated Wang Shouzhe after all..."

Any technology, from the beginning of research to maturation and popularization, requires a fairly long process. Even with a special bloodline to accelerate this process, it still needs time to build a strong advantage.

During this process, the efforts and energy of countless people are invested.

That's why most of the high-end technologies in the world today are held by prominent families.

Only prominent families have the financial resources, materials, and manpower to research and operate these technologies.

The Zuoqiu family's grain, the Gongye clan's artifact refining heritage, the animal husbandry in the Southern Desert, and all the technologies owned by Lingyun Sacred Land are all examples, without exception.

Wang Shouzhe could propose to develop the Qingluo Sea, and shortly after the Qingluo Guard was established, he could build large-scale marine farming bases in a very short time and quickly open the market with the Air Cold Chain System, supplying in large quantities. This could only indicate that the Wang family already had mature technology.

Moreover, Wang Shouzhe must have great confidence in marine farming and the market for sales coordinated with the Air Cold Chain System.

In other words, he must have long planned for Qingluo Guard and marine farming.

The defeat of the Cao Family, besides their problem, another significant reason is that they clashed with the Wang Family's strategy.

Gong Yang Ce couldn't be entirely sure when Wang Shouzhe began planning. Perhaps it was after the Air Cold Chain System was successfully implemented, or maybe even earlier...

Wang Shouzhe, with his deep thoughts and far-reaching strategy, is truly extraordinary.

"Master, I'm worried about making another mistake regarding the Wang family, so I didn't dare to make decisions arbitrarily. Wang Shouzhe should not have found out about our involvement in this matter." Xiaoyue looked at Gong Yang Ce's expression and carefully said, "Master, I..."

"Not making decisions arbitrarily is correct." Gong Yang Ce waved his hand, "Get up~ This is not your fault. Wang Shouzhe's cunning and strategy is not something you can handle. The more you do, the more mistakes you make."

With his cultivation base and perspective, he had seen through many things.

In this world, what people and actions fear is not stupidity, but being oblivious of one's stupidity.

In the end, Cao Youqing repeatedly lost to Wang Shouzhe and even lost her life because she was too "good" at making decisions arbitrarily while lacking the cunning and strategy.

What a pity~

"Thank you, master."

Xiaoyue breathed a sigh of relief and quickly stood up.

Seeing that the tea had cooled slightly, she refilled his cup and respectfully handed it over, "Master, considering how capable Wang Shouzhe is, do you want to..."

"No need." Gong Yang Ce waved his hand, "No matter how deep his cunning and strategy are, the Wang Family is after all just an average prominent family. They are nothing more than a mantis trying to stop a chariot in the face of the tide."

Although Longzuo County had not been successfully captured due to Wang Shouzhe's interference, Liaoyuan County and Lingbei County have been secretly under their control. The overall situation has been set, and no matter how capable Wang Shouzhe is, he cannot change it.

What he needs to do now is to do his best to help "him" win the battle for the Emperor's throne.

Once the dust settles on "the battle for the Emperor's throne," no matter how clever Wang Shouzhe is, he would still be a subject under the new Emperor and have to obey his orders.

However, Cao Youqing, after all, was one of his people; she didn't deserve to die in vain.

This debt, he must collect.

He had to let Wang Shouzhe know that his men were not to be messed with.

Gong Yang Ce picked up the tea cup and took a light sip. A sharp glint flashed in his eyes, "So the fifty-year agreement between Long Wuji and the Wang family is about to expire, isn't it?"

"Master, there are still about two years left." Xiaoyue whispered, "Could it be that the master wants to..."

"Arrange a meeting with Long Wuji for me." Gong Yang Ce drained his spiritual tea in one gulp, "It's time for him, the 'Royal Uncle,' to lend a hand in the Emperor's affair."

"Yes, master."

Xiaoyue couldn't help but feel sympathy for Wang Shouzhe. He was unfortunate enough to incite the master to take action personally.

Chapter 3 My Wife is Sky Pride_1

...

Peace River, is one of the two most important rivers in Great Qian Land.

Its source is on the Western Sea Plateau. It passes through the Western Sea and the Northern Ridge Provinces, where several tributaries merge into it. Finally, it flows into the sea from Longzuo County after covering tens of thousands of miles.

As the dominant force of Peace River, the Jiaolong Gang has a vast sphere of influence. A nearly ten-thousand-mile-long stretch of the river, from Northern Ridge to the estuary, which is the middle and lower reaches of Peace River, all fall within the Jiaolong Gang's territory.

To facilitate management, the Jiaolong Gang has set up a subrudder every thousand miles, each overseen by a Tianren Realm Cultivator.

Together with the Second Master "Crimson Jade Jiao" Jiang Yusong, Third Master "Slaughter Spirit Hand" Du TianGang, adopted son "One-Eyed Jiao" Zhao Wu Qing, who are always with Long Wuji, the whole Jiaolong Gang has over fifteen Tianren Realm powerhouses.

Among them, there are three or four masters in the advanced stage of Tianren Realm. Their strength is undeniably formidable.

The Lingbei Xianyu Subrudder in the midstream of Peace River.

This subrudder is located in Xianyu Ridge, the northernmost point of Northern Ridge Province. The ridge is backed by mountains and faces the river, and is just across the river from the capital of Great Qian Land. It is the closest place along the entire Peace River to the capital.

There is a sizable shipyard located by the river, where the Xianyu Subrudder is located.

In the shipyard, a man in white is leisurely discarding the froth from his cup of tea.

There is a chessboard crafted from spirit jade on a tea table in front of him. The chessboard is crisscrossed with white and black pieces, showing that the game has been going on for some time.

Across the chessboard, Ji Chen, the rudder owner of Xianyu Subrudder, who's known as "Flying Sky Sculpture", is holding a black piece and hesitating.

After a while, he put the piece down with a troubled look.

The man in white didn't even lift his eyelids, he raised his fingertip and a white chess piece flew out of the basket and landed on the chessboard.

After focusing on the move, Ji Chen immediately broke into a cold sweat.

"You lost."

The man in white had a sip of his tea and said calmly.

"Yes, yes, yes. I lost."

Ji Chen wiped the sweat from his forehead. He pulled a face and pulled out a note from the gold tickets in front of him and put it in front of the man in white.

It's unclear how long they have been playing, but Ji Chen's gold tickets have dwindled to just a few, while there is a thick stack in front of the man in white. It's easy to imagine how badly Ji Chen has lost.

Although the Jiaolong Gang has power comparable to that of a generic Purple Abode Prominent Family, Ji Chen is just a Tianren Realm Cultivator who only manages one of the ten subrudders of the Jiaolong Gang. The profit he makes in ordinary days is just enough for his own cultivation, he doesn't have much savings.

Now, the pile on the table is almost all he has. If he loses any more, he will be on the brink of bankruptcy.

But there wasn't an ounce of sympathy in the man in white.

He gestured casually, and the chess pieces on the board returned to their basket.

"Next round."

"Another round?"

Ji Chen was already struggling, upon hearing this, he almost burst into tears.

He quickly clutched his golden tickets and pleaded, "Mr. Gong Yang Ce, playing against me is pointless even if you win. Why don't we take a break? Or, once our Second Master arrives, you can play with him? He's much better at chess than I am."

As it turns out, this man in white is the Great Heavenly Proud from the Sacred Land, Gong Yang Ce.

"No need. Changing the person wouldn't make much difference." Gong Yang Ce looked at Ji Chen without concern, "make your move."

With no other choice, Ji Chen picked up a black piece and looked at it with a distraught expression.

He had the feeling that his gold tickets would be cleaned out today.

Just then.

Outside the shipyard, a domineering and robust voice rang out, "Hahaha~ Mr. Gong Yang Ce, I am but an elderly person who couldn't meet you far away. Apologies for the discourtesy."

Along with it came an overwhelming forceful aura, surging like a tide, brimming with an indescribable sense of grandeur and dominance.

Ji Chen paused his move and looked outside quickly. He saw a brilliant glow enveloping a powerful aura hurtling towards them from the horizon. In an instant, it reached the entrance of the shipyard.

Soon, the glow dissipated, revealing a figure who strode into the shipyard like a dragon or a tiger.

It was a middle-aged man dressed casually in a white robe and knee-length pants. He had stubble on his chin and didn't show the dignity expected of a powerful figure from the Purple Abode Realm. Instead, he exuded a strong wild air.

However, the overwhelming aura that still lingered around him clearly demonstrated his strength and majesty.

The man who had arrived was the boss of the Jiaolong Gang, Long Wuji.

"Boss, you're finally here."

Ji Chen sighed with relief like he'd been pardoned. He quickly put down his chess piece and went to greet him, respectfully offering his chair to Long Wuji.

Meanwhile, Gong Yang Ce also stood up, raised his hand and offered a courteous greeting, "Dragon Master."

"Mr. Gong Yang Ce, you're too kind."

Long Wuji raised his hand in reciprocation. They both took their seats again after exchanging greetings.

Despite the difference in status, Long Wuji gave Gong Yang Ce some respect. As the Great Heavenly Proud of the Sacred Land, who would likely become a Divine Power Territory powerhouse in the future, Gong Yang Ce deserved it. Even though Long Wuji remained laid-back, his tone was unusually courteous.

After exchanging a few pleasantries, Long Wuji spoke about the main agenda, "Mr. Gong Yang Ce, someone of your stature must be busy with important matters, why would you bother with an old man like me? And sending someone specifically to invite me to meet?"

Chapter 3 My Wife is Sky Pride_2

"Dragon Master, I must admit, I came here for the Changning Wang Clan. My follower, Cao Youqing, fell because of the Wang family. I am here to invite Dragon Master to join forces against them," said Gong Yang Ce, looking at Long Wuji, "Currently the Wang family is vigorously developing marine cultivation in the Qingluo Guard region and the sea trade is frequent. You must be well-aware of this.

As long as you are willing to take action, the future benefits from this area will be fully handed over to you, I won't step in."

"Mr. Gongyang's proposal is very tempting," Long Wuji laughed, "but haven't you forgotten that I have a fifty-year agreement with the Wang family?"

Otherwise, why would he have allowed the Wang family to grow to the scale they enjoy now?

"It's just a verbal agreement~" Gong Yang Ce didn't care, "As long as we achieve our goals, what's wrong with some tactics? Moreover, verbal agreements have a lot of loopholes. It's not difficult to break the agreement and act against the Wang family in advance."

He thought it was a trivial matter.

There have been many cases where celebrity families and various forces have made agreements, only to break them later. He wouldn't care, and Wang family probably never hoped that Long Wuji would abide by the agreement completely.

To his surprise, upon hearing this, Long Wuji's smile faded, and a hint of coldness flashed in his slightly narrowed eyes: "You want me to break my promise? Hmph~ Gong Yang Ce, although I respect you as the Great Heavenly Proud, I am willing to show you some face. However, I, Long Wuji, do not need you to teach me how to handle my affairs."

Although Gong Yang Ce is a Great Heavenly Proud with the backing of the Sacred Land, and has a strong background, he himself is of royal blood and naturally has his own pride. He can be polite to Gong Yang Ce and show him some face, but Gong Yang Ce can't command him.

He snorted: "I, Long Wuji, may not be a good person, but the only thing I can't do is to break my promise."

"Stubborn and ignorant."

Gong Yang Ce's face also looked bad when he heard this.

He had heard of the title of this "royal uncle" Long Wuji, and knew that he had a strange temper, but he didn't expect him to be so obstinate.

The two of them glared at each other, and the atmosphere instantly became tense.

Ji Chen was breaking out in a cold sweat on the side.

Oh my god would the boss and Gong Yang Ce start a fight?

Both of them are strong figures in the Purple Abode Realm. If they start fighting, his shipyard would be in danger.

After an unknown period of time, Gong Yang Ce suddenly snorted coldly: "Since Dragon Master insists, let's wait for another two years. By then, Dragon Master should have no reason to refuse anymore."

"Certainly." Long Wuji raised his head, arrogantly saying, "By then, I will take action against the Changning Wang Clan, even without you mentioning it, Gong Yang Ce."

"Good. I hope Dragon Master will not regret today's decision." Gong Yang Ce finished speaking, unwilling to waste any more words with Long Wuji, and left the scene.

Wait for another two years? So, be it.

We've already been late for more than thirty years; what's another two? Plus, he can use these two years to make some other preparations.

As these thoughts flashed through his mind, he was already outside the shipyard.

He waved his wide sleeve and a white-gold ray of light completely enveloped his figure.

The next moment, the light soared into the sky, quickly disappearing over the distant horizon, like a rainbow piercing the sun, then rushed out like a sharp sword, and disappeared into the distant horizon with powerful force.

...

Changning Guard of Longzuo.

In the northwest direction of Changning City, there is a medium-sized volcanic crater.

Because of its existence, a large area of land is covered with boulders and the rocky nature is severe, making it hard for the land to be extensively reclaimed.

As a result, this large piece of land has long existed as vast grasslands.

However, the volcanic ash from the ancient times has become one with the soil, making the land rich in nutrients. The grass grows particularly lush here.

The beef, pork, and mutton raised on this pasture are of high quality and have a considerable market in the Southern Six Guards area.

Originally, the Huangfu Clan held this large ranch, which was called Huangfu Ranch. Now, the ranch has fallen into the hands of the Wang family, becoming Wang's Large Pasture.

The Wang's Large Pasture, despite not ranking high in terms of annual income among all Wang's businesses, is one of the fundamental industries of Wang's family.

The ordinary yaks, wild pigs, and mutton produced every year, apart from supplying the two towns of Ping An and Xin An, the rest are basically consumed in Changning Guard and nearby areas.

Wheat and rice, the two main crops, are of course necessities for the Human race. But supplementing the diet with meat can make one's vitality more vigorous, which is also quite beneficial for the growth and development of young people.

The common people and even tenant farmers in Changning guard today lead fairly affluent lives. Their average consumption of meat, fish, eggs, and milk is far higher than that of Changning guard a hundred years ago.

The heightened nutrition of these generations has resulted in the younger generation in Changning guard, including in physical fitness, far surpassing their ancestors. Their average height and even the rate of bloodline talent surpass the overall level of the Longzuo county.

Moreover, the production of spirit meat, including Spirit Horned Yaks, Iron-backed Wild Pigs, and Northwestern Spirit Meat Cows, is also increasing year by year. However, due to the long production cycle and the huge consumption of spirit meat, it has always been difficult to meet the growing demand for spirit meat in the whole of Changning Guard.

Chapter 3 My Wife is Sky Pride_3

The most difficult livestock to raise are the Northwestern Spirit Meat Cattle. Although their growth cycle has been reduced to a hundred years, the average cost of breeding them still reaches tens of thousands of Qian Gold per head.

Even though through many generations of premium breeding, the physical stature of these Spirit Meat Cattle has become as large as adult elephants and their meat yield per individual closely reaches ten thousand jin, the pure cost per jin of several Qian Gold is also extremely terrifying.

However, as a Level Three Spirit Meat, it has a strong effect on replenishing a cultivator's energy and blood, and can also help cultivators grow faster. Therefore, even if the cost is exceptionally high, Wang's Large Pasture has to raise them on a large scale.

Now, the total number of Northwestern Spirit Cows raised by the Wang family has reached more than five hundred heads. And it is steadily growing each year. It is expected that in the near future, we will be able to slaughter ten heads every year, which will just be able to supply the Wang family.

It can't be helped, the Wang family has so many Sky Prides and Great Heavenly Prides. A variety of spirit foods rich in energy, blood and nutrients are indispensable, as are various Dan medicines. Otherwise, it would affect their Cultivation speed, delaying their progress.

Even Wang Shouzhe, Wang Longyan and other Great Heavenly Prides in the Heavenly Human Realm, in order to accelerate their Cultivation, all consume Level Five Spirit Meat. But which ordinary pasture has the ability to raise Level Five Spirit Beasts?

They either wait for a blind Level Five Spirit Beast to charge into Shouzhe Pass to seek death. Or they have to purchase them over the long term. In any case, the prices are extremely high, and very unstable.

Therefore, Wang's Large Pasture is also trying to raise Level Four Meat Cows. However, this technology requires long-term accumulation, the Wang family's foundation in livestock breeding is too weak.

Pasture's volcano mouth.

Outside the volcano mouth, the Wang family has built a small base.

This small base is for the Wang family's core members and the heads of the household to live and work for a long time. It is in this base that the entire Wang's Large Pasture is controlled.

Over time, the person in charge of Wang's Large Pasture has always been Wang Luotong from the Luo generation of the Wang family.

She has worked diligently to grow the livestock industry for fifty to sixty years. She has expanded the overall scale of breeding by approximately three times. The current total output value has exceeded one million Qian Gold. She has also accumulated a lot of technology for livestock breeding for the Wang family.

More importantly, during this process, she switched from her original primary cultivation technique "Profound Origin" to the fire cultivation technique "Red Dragon True Verses". Relying on the Fire Spirit Vein inside the volcano, she continuously improved her cultivation base and achieved the Heavenly Human Realm.

Of course, if she hadn't actively asked Wang Shouzhe for a Bridal Clothes Blood Gu in the first place, she would not have had such potential to reach the Heavenly Human Realm at the age of eighty-seven.

Meanwhile.

Inside the Wang's Pasture base.

A middle-aged man with a moustache jumped out of a carriage, in his arms a boy of about four or five years old.

The middle-aged cultivator in charge of the Spirit Platform Realm, Wang Chong, hurriedly led a few clan warriors to greet him, saying: "Greetings to Master Lei, greetings to Young Master Zongbo." He waved his hand, and there were clan warriors leading the coachman to rest and unload some living supplies from the carriage.

They were all fruits and poultry produced in the various farms of the Wang family. Although this was Wang's Large Pasture, the production of fruits and agricultural and sideline products was extremely limited.

"Wang Chong, where's my wife? Don't tell me, she's gone on patrol in the pasture again?" Lei Bowu, holding the child, walked towards the base, asking as he went. As a son-in-law of the Wang family, he was originally able to assist Wang Luotong in the management of the pasture.

However, thirty-nine years ago, when they gave birth to their eldest daughter, Wang Limei, according to the family rules, the child must be raised in the main residence until she was sixteen years old, and it was best if one of the parents was present.

Therefore, as the weaker side in the marriage, Lei Bowu could only return to the Wang family's main residence to raise the child.

Thankfully, the distance from Wang's Large Pasture to the main residence was only half a day's journey by fast horse, so Wang Luotong could find time to return for a reunion, and Lei Bowu could also occasionally bring the child to visit Luotong.

As such, after Wang Limei turned eighteen, Lei Bowu returned to the pasture to assist Luotong. Until five years ago, Wang Luotong, still honing at the Peak Level Nine of the Spirit Platform Realm, gave birth to a son, Wang Zongbo.

Lei Bowu had to return to the Wang family's main residence once again, dedicating himself to being a stay-at-home dad. It couldn't be helped. Who made him infatuated with Wang Luotong in his youth? As an incoming son-in-law, it stood to reason that he had to pay some price.

It's just as well that Lei Bowu didn't have any complaints. After all, his wife was a Sky Pride of the Wang family. After all, she should earn more contributions for the family, right? Cultivating a Sky Pride would consume lots of resources if she wanted to advance quickly.

Even though the Wang family gave ample to Luotong, she would also need to earn additional contributions by completing extra tasks to sustain her rapid Cultivation. Whereas Lei Bowu at the main residence never lazed around, he would always take on some family tasks that didn't require travelling, to make up for the greatly exhausted resources of his Sky Pride wife.

Now back to the main topic.

The household head Wang Chong responded respectfully: "Master Lei, you know our Wang's Pasture is growing larger and larger. There will always be fierce birds and beasts swimming ashore from the Great Wilderness Marsh, crossing the border of the Zhenze Defender, and sneaking into our pasture to steal Spirit Livestock."

"A few days ago, patrolling household heads discovered several traces of Wild Marsh Fierce Crocodiles. They are very cunning and have secretly dragged off several Spirit Horned Yaks. Old Ancestor Luotong personally led the household heads and clan warriors to encircle and annihilate these Fierce Crocodiles."

"Wild Marsh Fierce Crocodiles?" Lei Bowu's eyebrows knitted tightly, "What is the Wang family at Zhenze doing? Their defense against the Great Wilderness Marsh is too loose. I've also heard that this kind of thing has been happening repeatedly over the past few years."

Chapter 3 My Wife is Sky Pride_4

"We from the Wang family had previously sent men to investigate. It couldn't have been done intentionally by the Wang family." Wang Chong stated, "Their loss is even more severe, and they have coincidentally lost a clan member."

The two talked on.

From afar, a strong horse sped towards them saying: "Is the Old Ancestor Ruotong here? Our Young Master Wang Shihao has been ordered to escort over a batch of livestock, all of which are high-quality breeds transported all the way from the Southern Desert."

"Ruotong is not here. I will take care of this." Lei Bowu handed over his child Wang Zongbo for the Clan soldiers to care for, then led the affairs-manager and other stalwart clan soldiers of the base to welcome Wang Shihao.

The number of cattle, sheep and horses brought from the Southern Desert was vast and they were mostly superior breed cows and horses. It could be seen the support the Southern Desert's Wang family provided to the Changning Wang Clan this time was substantial.

Besides, these cattle, sheep, and horses, were just part of the gift. The rest, like iron ingots, were personally escorted to the Wang family storeroom by Wang Shizhao.

A considerable crowd worked throughout a whole day to accommodate the livestock properly and record their transfer.

When they finally finished, Wang Shihao and Lei Bowu had the chance to sit down, drink tea and have a meal.

"Oh Shihao, I heard that you applied again to assist Qingluo Guards in managing the fisheries, only to get rejected by Master Shouzhe?" Lei Bowu drank his Spiritual Tea with a playful tone, "What's wrong with you? You prefer to run far to raise fish with Qingluo Guards than to be in the company of lovely ladies at home?"

Wang Shihao, the second son of the Young Clan Leader Wang Zong'an, was playful and keen on adventures in his youth, unlike his more stable older brother, Wang Shizhao.

"Uncle Lei." Wang Shihao complained with a gloomy face, "My dream includes a boundless ocean and the desire to visit the fabled Tianji Continent. But, my wife is draining, she daren't let me do

this or that. Moreover, she's surprisingly good at gaining my grandmother's affection. Consequently, my grandmother has personally given me a beating twice!"

Upon speaking of his grandmother, Lei Bowu's expression turned solemn promptly and said, "Boy, you deserve a beating! Don't you know how dangerous it is to voyage out to sea? Do you wish for Miss Yuwen to become a young widow? Also, now that you've had only one child, Anyu, Master Shouzhe won't let you go unless you have few more children."

"Sigh, uncle, you really think like my grandfather." Wang Shihao grumbled, "Grandfather said that as long as I have five children, I can go wherever I want... Before I have five, I can't step out of the safe zone..."

"Five... That's a bit harsh." Lei Bowu's mouth twitched, "But you should sympathize with your grandfather. Young people of your generation have not experienced the times when the Wang Family was nearly wiped out due to their meager strength and lack of manpower. So, Master Shouzhe wishes for the Wang Family to prosper as soon as possible.

After all, now Wang Family has the wealth to raise more children."

After giving birth once, Wang Luotong was no longer inclined towards it. She had held off for several years, but each time she saw him, she would be scolded severely by Master Shouzhe. She had no choice but to reluctantly try again, managing to give birth to another boy before advancing to the Heavenly Human Realm.

Bear in mind, the more potent Profound Martial cultivators have an inferior chance of giving birth. Both husband and wife had to struggle much more once they advanced to Spirit Platform Realm since each conception had a suspiciously low chance of occurring.

Thankful for the magnificent pressure from Master Shouzhe, Lei Bowu felt that period was the most impressive of his life, full of both pain and pleasure.

Recalling those days...

A smirk filled with deep emotion appeared on Lei Bowu's face. Having a strong, talented wife indeed brought great variety to life.

Suddenly!

Right at this moment.

Inside the base, a "thud", sounded like something had fallen.

Everyone rushed out for a look.

They saw a massive Fierce Beast's skull horrifyingly situated on the ground in the plaza. Beside it floated a voluptuous woman with a whip ablaze like a flame. Her face didn't look so good, seemingly she was somewhat angry.

"Mother, darling, you're back?" Lei Bowu hastened to move forward. Seeing the fearsome beast's skull, he gasped, "This... is, it's a huge Wild Marsh Fierce Crocodile skull, can it be... It's a Level Five Fierce Crocodile?"

"Why are you here?" Wang Luotong glanced at him indifferently.

Lei Bowu's heart trembled, and he hastily piled on a smile, saying: "Darling, it's Zongbo. The boy missed you and insisted on coming to see you."

Upon mentioning Wang Zongbo, Wang Luotong's countenance relaxed a bit: "Stay for two days, then take him back early. Some unrest is likely to occur on the ranch these days."

"Aunt Lei." Wang Shihao looked at the beast's skull and as well offered his salutations, "It turns out that a Level Five Fierce Beast had made its way all the way to our ranch from the Great Wilderness Marsh. This hasn't happened in many years."

He secretly admired his Aunt Lei, she was truly incredible. She had only recently ascended to the Heavenly Human Realm and she was able to slay a fierce beast of the same level without seemingly being injured.

"So Shihao is here too." Wang Luotong's attitude towards Wang Shihao was much friendlier, she responded with a slightly serious expression, "It shouldn't be the Wang family's plot at this time, they simply do not have the ability to command a Level Five Fierce Beast. In my estimation, there may be some issues within the Great Wilderness Marsh which led to the migration of some amphibious beasts."

"If not dealt with carefully, this could lead to a major problem. We need to report it to my brother immediately. If necessary, we can join forces to clear the Great Wilderness Marsh. You guys rest for a while, I am going to write a letter and send the news by carrier pigeon. Lei, you dispose of the skull." After that, she left swiftly.

"My dear, don't worry. I will handle it properly." Lei Bowu loudly responded, simultaneously feeling delighted in his heart. He had an excellent eye for choosing such an imposing wife for himself.

Life was full of joy, his only regret was that she was temporarily unwilling to bear another child.

Chapter 4: My Great Heavenly Proud Wife

...

The capital of Great Qian Land, Return to Dragon City.

As the national capital of Da Qian, Return to Dragon City is not just the location of the imperial city, but also the political, economic and cultural center of Da Qian.

Inside the city, the cream of the crop of the entire country is gathered, not only attracting the top talents of numerous professions, but it is also the place with most Strong ones congregated in the whole of Da Qian.

Similarly, the majority of members from the Da Qian's royal family are also concentrated here.

In the eastern part of the city, near the edge of the central urban area, there lies a vast mansion.

This mansion expands several miles in length and breadth, containing numerous grand houses, countless pavilions, towers, and a small lake in the middle. Both its scenery and layout are impeccable.

However, in the incredibly expensive city of Return to Dragon City, such a mansion is beyond the reach of most of the aristocratic families.

More importantly, this huisache even contains several top-quality spirit veins, which are exclusively used by the owner of the mansion for cultivation. This clearly shows that a Divine Skills Enlightened One has been hired to bring the spirit veins to this place.

And the reason why this mansion can be so extravagant is because it belongs to the Wu's family, one of the branches of the Great Qian royal family. It is therefore, the mansion of Wu Chengsi, the "Kang Commandery Prince".

One day, after the morning court, a carriage drawn by four spirit horses and bearing the emblem of the royal family, came to a slow stop at the gate of the Commandery Prince's mansion.

"It's the carriage of the Commandery Prince."

The guard at the entrance recognized the carriage and hurriedly opened the gate to let it in.

Once the carriage had passed the middle gate, it slowly came to a stop.

The coachmen descended, then respectfully swept the curtains off the carriage and withdrew. A young man in a green Commandery Prince's robe with an extremely handsome face steps out.

He is naturally the owner of this mansion, Carm Commandery Prince Wu Chengsi.

Compared to the Heng Commandery Prince, the Kang Commandery Prince appears far more youthful and his demeanor is especially composed, as if there is nothing in the world that can trouble him.

To be a member of the royal family, one must have cultivation above the Purple Abode Realm, and must earn Merit Points on foreign battlefields to be entitled a "Commandery Prince". Moreover, in order for this title to be inherited, the successor must also meet certain requirements in terms of merit.

The fact that Kang Commandery Prince looks so young yet already holds the title of a Commandery Prince shows that he does not lack in either war merits or cultivation base. It goes to show that his cultivation speed is far beyond that of any ordinary person, earning him the title of a Sky Pride.

However, even the guard of the gate had seen that horse carriage many times. Once the gate was opened, the carriage smoothly made its way inside.

In fact, he is indeed a great Sky Pride of the direct lineage of the royal family, and one of the Quasi Emperor's Sons participating in the struggle for the throne this time.

"Your Highness."

The Kang Commandery Prince alights from the carriage and a maid servant immediately comes to meet him, bowing in respect.

The Kang Commandery Prince waves her off and tells her to retreat, then quickly moves into the inner court.

Today is the semi-annual Grand Assembly and there is much to be done. He is required to maintain constant concentration. Despite his being a Purple Abode Realm cultivator with vast spiritual power, such prolonged exertion has left him somewhat tired.

He decided to dispense with the usual greetings from his grandchildren descendants. Assisted by the maids, he changes out of his green court clothes, goes to the lake within the mansion, and plans to try Luya fishing for relaxation.

It should be mentioned that this "Luya" fishing method was popularized by the Commandery Prince of Longzuo County. Because of its novelty, it has gradually become a fad in the Return to Dragon City.

A few of his grandchildren found it interesting and presented him several sets as a filial piety gesture. Having tried it, he must say he's been rather taken by it.

However, it was not destined for him to rest today.

Just as he had thrown a few rods, a guard rushes over from the courtyard to report, "Your Highness, Master XuanMiao has arrived."

The Kang Commandery Prince paused for a moment, a glint flashed in his eye, "Quickly get him in."

Soon, a young master of the Gong Yang family, led by the guards, steps into the courtyard from outside. This person is naturally Gong Yang Ce, the Master XuanMiao referred to by the guard.

"Your Highness."

Gong Yang Ce immediately paid his respects after seeing the Kang Commandery Prince.

"Dearest brother." Kang Commandery Prince Wu Chengsi laughed and quickly stood up to receive him, "It's been a long time since we last met. Your Sword Dao cultivation has progressed again, hasn't it?~"

"How can I compare with you, Prince?"

After exchanging pleasantries, the two sit down at the lakeside pavilion. They then ordered the attendants to bring tea and began to discuss official matters.

"Your Highness, this time I've been lucky enough to complete the mission given by the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty. I've brought back the things you asked for."

Gong Yang Ce and Kang Commandery Prince knew each other from when they were young, and they had fought together in the war. In front of the Kang Commandery Prince, Gong Yang Ce was a little less aloof, and his smile was much more sincere and relaxed.

He then takes out a box from his Storage Ring, places it onto the stone table in front of them and gently pushes it forward toward the Kang Commandery Prince.

Kang Commandery Prince, however, does not immediately open the box, but instead turns to Gong Yang Ce and asks, "Was the journey smooth? Did you encounter any danger?"

The Hurricane Ocean is fraught with stormy weather and dangers at every corner, and requires no little courage to cross, even for an Enlightened being of the Purple Abode Realm.

"You can rest easy, Your Highness. Although there were a few twists and turns, I managed."

Feeling a warm emotion in his heart, Gong Yang Ce's smile becomes more apparent.

He pushes the box a bit more forward, "Your Highness, please open it and have a look."

"Alright."

Only then does Kang Commandery Prince Wu Chengsi open the box and takes out what's inside to examine closely.

Chapter 4: My Great Heavenly Proud Wife

It was a palm-sized bronze bell, adorned with complex inscriptions and a ferociously carved beast on its surface, giving it a delicate yet profound appearance.

"Indeed, it is the Divine Treasure 'Soul-shaking Bell'!" The Commandery Prince from Kang Province, Kang, nodded satisfactorily while casting a rare pleasant smile and said, "Good brother, you are indeed reliable. Even in the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty, this is a rare artifact. I was actually worried that you'd go in vain."

"As long as your highness is satisfied."

Gong Yang Ce chuckled.

One must know that the Soul-shaking Bell was a Divine Spiritual Treasure. The heritage of artifact refining within the Great Qian Land wasn't complete. Even the Gongye Clan, which was best at artifact refining, only mastered a few formulas for crafting Divine Spiritual Treasures. The method to craft this Soul-shaking Bell was only known to few in the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty.

To access this, he had to make a lot of efforts. First, he found a renowned Master Refiner from the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty and persuaded him to craft the Soul-shaking Bell for him, which wasn't easy. Then, due to the lack of raw materials, he had to collect them himself.

After barely gathering all the materials and waiting for twenty years, the bell was finally crafted by the Master Refiner.

Fortunately, all the efforts paid off.

"The chimes of the Soul-shaking Bell can vibrate a Divine Soul, especially effective against extra-dimensional demons with a weak Divine Soul Power." Kang, stroking the inscription on the bell surface seemed fascinated, "With this, I can secure great achievements on the battlefield of the outer realms, which will further ensure my chances of becoming the Emperor's son."

The so-called "Battle for the Emperor's Son" is indeed a battle for people's hearts.

Unlike arena fights, where the strength of martial power solely determines the victor, it needs a comprehensive assessment of the qualifications of a future Emperor's Son from cultivation to the abode realm, charisma, governance, military leadership, and many aspects of past performance.

The more exceptional he performs, the more people will support him. During the clan conference to decide the Emperor's Son, there is a chance that he will receive more votes.

The process is complicated.

In each battle for the Emperor's Son, the candidates have to go through a long process of wrestling before the final winner is decided.

Right now, he has already secured a considerable advantage in controlling the court's affairs, but he can't ignore the military achievements as the Great Qian Land was established on martial prowess.

If he can make extraordinary contributions on the battlefield of the outer realms, it would surely increase his standings in the eyes of other clans, especially the Princes, and would make it easier for him to earn their approval.

"This Soul-shaking Bell is a Divine Spiritual Treasure that requires a divine soul to refine and control." Gong Yang Ce reminded Kang, "You should accept its recognition first."

"Alright."

Without hesitation, Kang started to refine the "Soul-shaking Bell".

Normally, only Divine Realm Powerhouse could control the Divine Spiritual Treasure.

However, Kang was a Great Heavenly Proud user, his bloodline was superior to an ordinary Purple Abode Realm powerhouse, and his Divine Soul Power was significantly stronger than an ordinary Purple Abode Realm powerhouse. He could just manage it by fully utilizing his Bloodline Power.

Nevertheless, as the Divine Spiritual Treasure was, indeed, a divine treasure, it had a certain level of spirituality. Kang failed miserably in refining it independently.

In the end, Gong Yang Ce lent a hand, and both of them activated their bloodlines, using the Power of Dharma shadow to suppress the Soul-shaking Bell, and finally succeeded in refining it.

After a successful refining, the Soul-shaking Bell transformed into a golden light and disappeared into Kang's forehead.

"Phew~ So close." Kang released a long breath, "To control a Divine Spiritual Treasure with only the Purple Abode Realm, it indeed is a bit overwhelming."

Gong Yang Ce also breathed a sigh of relief after removing the Dharma Shadow.

Having completed the primary task and relaxing, he remembered his unpleasant parting with Long Wuji: "Speaking of which, has your Royal Uncle always been like this?"

He told Kang about his sour encounter with Long Wuji.

Hearing this, Kang couldn't help but sigh, "The Royal Uncle indeed always behaves like this. He's stubborn, and no advice or persuasion works on him."

"Even your highness can't persuade him?" Gong Yang Ce asked, not really convinced.

"He's unpersuadable." Kang looked helpless, "Considering you as my own brother, let me tell you the truth. I don't have much rapport with my Royal Uncle. The fact that he's willing to support me is only because of our Old Ancestor's demand. We merely met a few times."

In the past, the Royal Uncle fell out with his family and left to Longzuo County due to his intransigent character. Even the Sixth Ancestor and the Old Ancestor were often at their wit's end with him. Expecting Kang to be capable of persuading the Royal Uncle was nothing but an illusion.

"Even so, he has been pretty disrespectful towards you." Gong Yang Ce was still angered recollecting the stale map, "I am one of the Quasi Sacred Sons, and you are the worthy prince, the established candidate for the Quasi Emperor's Son, most likely to become the Emperor's Son and take the throne. The way he behaves is way too high-handed."

"Brother, there's something you don't know." Kang wasn't surprised, and explained to Gong Yang Ce, "The Royal Uncle's mother is from the direct line of the An Duke of the Zhao Clan. The Zhao Clan wields immense influence in the court today. Being a Second Rate Supremacy himself and the favorite in front of the Old Ancestor, he naturally holds a firm stand."

Chapter 4: My Great Heavenly Proud Wife

Seeing Gong Yang Ce's expression still somewhat resentful, he continued to persuade, "My royal uncle has great popularity among the clan relatives. Not only among the uncles and cousins who are strong beings in the Purple Abode, but even among the ancestors, many personally mentored him."

"Now that I'm vying for the position of the Emperor's son, I need the support of clan relatives. With uncle's help, my efforts can be greatly reduced. Provoking my uncle for such small matters isn't worth it."

The imperial household of Great Qian Land, as the only first-grade prominent family in the country, has an unimaginably profound foundation. Not to mention other aspects, there are several Divine Realm Powerhouses, each with a huge vested interest group behind them.

Although he is the first in line and the most powerful contender for the Emperor's son's position, he is not the only Great Sky Pride in the imperial household. Therefore, he must act cautiously.

"Your Highness, rest assured, I understand the stakes." Gong Yang Ce nodded, "I have already made an appointment with him to take action in two years."

"That's good." The Kang Commandery Prince nodded and added, "Also, if Wang Shouzhe really is as formidable as you described, even if he doesn't have concrete evidence linking you to this matter, he most likely has already guessed the truth. After all, Cao Youqing is your follower, it's no secret in the Sacred Land and it's not hard to find out."

"After so many years, he probably has fully investigated you. You should notify your family to prevent Wang's clan from draining the firewood under the pot and dealing with the Gong Sheep Family. Moreover, always keep a backup plan in the Sacred Land. Don't underestimate him and give him a loophole."

The Kang Commandery Prince, after all, has been through ups and downs in the court for many years, and in such a short period of time, he has thought so far ahead for Gong Yang Ce.

Gong Yang Ce was utterly respectful, and nodded immediately: "Your Highness, rest assured, I will arrange this matter, so as not to give the Wang family an opportunity."

"Good. You're not a child anymore, so I won't nag you." The Kang Commandery Prince laughed and looked at Gong Yang Ce, "I'll be going to the outer battlefield soon. Since you're not in a rush to make a move, why don't you accompany me for a tour? We haven't fought side-by-side for a long time."

Upon hearing this, Gong Yang Ce couldn't help but feel a bit nostalgic, and nodded, "Sure, I'll accompany Your Highness on a trip."

They both looked at each other and laughed, recalling the times when they fought side-by-side.

The friendship between men is often simple and pure.

...

Ping'an Town, Wang family's main residence.

These days, Wang Shouzhe had been living a peaceful and carefree life.

He spent his days telling exciting and timeless stories to younger members of the family or his great-grandchildren.

Or he would be invited by Liu Ruolan to the Water Moon Heavenly Pavilion, where they could discuss recent cultivation insights.

The only thing that Wang Shouzhe secretly cursed was a growing probability of Ruoling's inexplicable appearance.

Often, he would just finish discussing with Ruolan when Ruoling would appear, and of course, he would end up terribly distressed by her equal-objective doctrine.

Fortunately, what pleased Wang Shouzhe was that, due to the efforts of generations of the Wang family, the current Wang family had grown significantly. Not only had the population flourished, but the members were also capable of supporting and managing the family.

Most of the time, Wang Shouzhe just needed to control the rudder, and the giant ship of the Wang family could sail steadily forward.

Although he was a transmigrator, after so many years, he had completely integrated into his current life. The memories from Earth gradually fell into the deepest part of his memory. Only occasionally, by chance, would he feel a little perturbed by them.

The only things that hadn't been buried were those insights and foresights that transcended time.

"Husband, taste this newly developed 'Chilled Three-colored Ling Lotus Seed Purple Mushroom Soup.' It has a special effect of detoxification and skin moisturizing and, it's delicious too."

While Wang Shouzhe was frolicking with his grandson, Liu Ruolan, with her glowing skin, approached with a bowl of bizarre chilled soup that was steaming, looking very virtuous.

Clearly, she was very confident in her new icy beverage, believing it would definitely please her husband.

Her role as a virtuous wife of the Family Head, what else could satisfy her more than the praise of her husband?

Behind Liu Ruolan was a graceful woman, who had become her close sister and best friend, Sky Pride Tian Yan.

Her face still veiled, she looked serious, but her eyes were filled with sympathy when she looked at Wang Shouzhe.

Wang Shouzhe felt a tremor in his heart and looked pleadingly at his great-grandson Wang Anru and his beloved little granddaughter Wang Ying Xuan.

As a result, the pair of little rascals ran away without showing any loyalty, shouting as they fled, "Grandpa/Great-Grandpa, we almost forgot, we haven't done our homework today~"

"Grandma/Great-Grandma, hello, sister Tian Yan, we need to go study."

Then, the two of them vanished in the blink of an eye.

The allies were not incompetent; the enemy was just too fierce.

Chapter 4: My Great Heavenly Proud Wife

The isolated Wang Shouzhe had to stand up, holding Liu Ruolan's hand intimately and tenderly, he said, "My wife, you manage all sorts of trivial matters within the family, and also find time to develop new drinks for your husband. It is truly too hard for you. How is it that I, Shouzhe, poor in virtue and ability, am lucky to marry such a gentle and virtuous wife like you?"

From now on, leave such small matters aside, you can just let the chef in the kitchen handle it."

"Being married to you is the greatest luck in my life." Liu Ruolan said with a sweet smile, "Being able to personally cook delicious food and brew fine drinks for my husband is the greatest achievement that I, Ruolan have as a wife. Come, husband, while the drink is still cool, take a sip. Tian Yan sister just tasted it, she said the taste is very unique and it lingers in the mouth for a long time."

"Yes, yes, Master Shouzhe, this drink tastes amazing, don't let down Ruolan's sister's good intentions." With a covered lip and a mischievous smile in her eyes, Immortal Tian Yan apparently also happens to be a victim.

Engulfing Liu Ruolan's thigh, she must do so vigorously, every year or two, she tends to stay a little while in Wang's house. By now, she and Liu Ruolan have become very close and call each other "sisters."

The most exaggerated part is that she, at such age, still shamelessly calls her "Sister Ruolan".

Initially, Wang Shouzhe thought she was on the "indirect approach to save the country" route, intending to get close to Liu Ruolan, and use this method to conspire against him."

But, decades passed...

She took such a winding path, yet she never saw her take any "saving the country" action, making Wang Shouzhe worry in vain for decades."

"Since that's the case, then I can't be impolite." Wang Shouzhe picked up the dark concoction-like drink with an "excited" and "grateful" face, downing it in one gulp. Afterwards, he let out a sigh of admiration, "My wife's talent indeed, becomes more and more indescribable."

As expected, it always tastes awful.

Of course, Wang Shouzhe always feigns the appearance of finding it delicious, his expression calm and composed, as if rehearsed millions of times.

Indeed, it has been over sixty years, what is there to be not accustomed to?

"Ah~" Liu Ruolan, watching Wang Shouzhe's joyful and content appearance, sighed with emotion, "I really envy people like you who have a complete sense of taste. Unfortunately, every time I taste the food I cooked, I feel like the taste is a bit off."

What 'a bit off'...It's heavenly handiwork!

Wang Shouzhe vehemently comments in his heart.

"Luckily, everyone approves more or less, which finally gives me some confidence." Liu Ruolan said with a contented smile, "My husband, Sister Tian Yan said she wants to talk to you about something. I will go and check on An Yu and Xuan'er's homework in the study. These kids get naughty easily, and they will also slack off the moment you let them."

Unlike Wang Shouzhe who loves coddling the grandchildren, Liu Ruolan likes to supervise the children's homework. Under her strong yet tender guidance, the children's studies go pretty well. Even Wang Shihao who always wreaks havoc from a young age, doesn't dare to provoke under her Five Finger Mountain.

After saying that, Liu Ruolan turned around and left elegantly. Wang Shouzhe sat across Tian Yan, sipping tea and chatting leisurely.

Over the course of time, these two have become very familiar with each other. Especially after Wang Shouzhe found out that Immortal Tian Yan's "indirect approach" never turns back, he was no longer averse to her as he was before.

After three rounds of tea.

Only then did Immortal Tian Yan say, "Master Shouzhe, first of all, congratulations to Changning Wang Clan's ascension to Rank Six. Although this sixth rank..."

While saying this, she couldn't help but cough, revealing a slightly mysterious and strange tone.

Others may not understand the Wang Clan, but Immortal Tian Yan's understanding of the Wang Clan grows deeper.

Is this an ordinary Rank Six family? It's almost a weirdly powerful Rank Six! Even an ordinary Fifth Grade Family might not be a match for the Wang Clan.

Sister Ruolan is too scary, and their Old Ancestor Longyan is completely inscrutable!

And the family head, Wang Shouzhe, is also elusive and always leaves her in the dark about him.

In addition, there is the widely famous 'Great Heavenly Proud ' Miss Li Yao of the Longzuo Academy. Her master is the dean of the academy, an old-school Magic Realm big shot!

Such resources and backings are not even the Wang family's biggest advantage. Their biggest advantage is – they can make money!

Even if she visits the Wang family every few days, Tian Yan still couldn't figure out how much money they quietly earn!

The only thing she can confirm is that average Purple Abode family's income is generally not a match for Wang Clan's!

"Ah~ it's all because Prefect Taishi loves face." Wang Shouzhe bemoaned, "Whether to rank up to sixth or not, it really doesn't matter that much."

In fact, if it were just for Taishi Ankang's face, Wang Shouzhe wouldn't bother at all.

But now, the Wang Clan's territory has become too vast. Just having Ping'an Town and Xin An Town is enough considering their position as a Seventh-Rank Aristocratic Family. But what about Qingluo Guard?

Qingluo Guard has extensive sea territory and numerous islands. Even though it's called a 'guard', it governs a very large sea area and numerous islands. It is almost half the size of a county.

Unless the Wang family wants to give away the benefits they have worked so hard to gain, they can only properly govern Qingluo Guard if they rank up to a Sixth Grade Family.

Immortal Tian Yan rolled her pretty eyes and didn't help but give Wang Shouzhe a disdainful look.

Chapter 4: My Great Heavenly Proud Wife

How many 7th-rank aristocratic families have sought to upgrade to the 6th rank and found no opportunity yet here you are, reluctant despite having the chance.

However, she did not wish to linger over this matter and stated solemnly, "Master Shouzhe, we at Sky Pillar have received news that Gong Yang Ce has returned from the Immortal Dynasty."

"Gong Yang Ce?" Wang Shouzhe furrowed his brows slightly, "Who is that?"

"Master Shouzhe, do not attempt to insult my intelligence." The celestial Tian Yan chided him teasingly, her annoyance palpable, "How could you not know the identity of the master behind Cao Youqing? When Cao Youqing repeatedly posed difficulties for the Wang family, there was always someone pulling strings in the shadows. Surely you know?"

"Oh~you mean Master XuanMiao?" Wang Shouzhe seemed to suddenly comprehend, "I have indeed heard of him vaguely. He is said to be a mighty Sky Pride from the sacred land of the Purple Abode Realm, with a limitless future and destined to be the pillar of our Great Qian Land."

"Although Cao Youqing was his follower, he was ultimately executed on the spot for his crimes. Our Prefecture Mansion of Longzuo County had rendered judgement on this matter long ago.

According to your inference, would the esteemed Master XuanMiao really trouble our humble Wang family over a criminal who repeatedly violated the Daqian Law and has already been executed?"

"Hehe Master Shouzhe, please stop pretending." Tian Yan laughed derisively, "Would you swear that you truly did not know that Gong Yang Ce had already taken part in the battle for the throne? If so, I, Tian Yan, will crawl in circles on the ground and bark like a dog."

"Alright, alright, what if I did know?" Wang Shouzhe responded with a laugh, "If Gong Yang Ce really comes looking for trouble, are you, a celestial, going to protect me?"

"Naturally, I do not possess the ability to protect you." Tian Yan meets his gaze with a mysterious look, "However, His Highness might be able to do something for you if Master Shouzhe is willing to agree..."

"Join your side?" Wang Shouzhe considered briefly before shaking his head, "It seems the situation isn't looking good for the individual whom Sky Pillar is supporting. Otherwise, they wouldn't only be exerting some pull."

The expression in Tian Yan's eyes changed and she quickly explained, "Our monarch is compassionate and doesn't want to..."

"Stop, stop." Wang Shouzhe interrupted, "We appreciate all the assistance Sky Pillar has given to the Wang family, and we remember your kindness. However, as I have said, the Wang family is just a small, leaky boat that cannot withstand the turbulent waves of the power struggle for the throne."

"The Wang family only wants to peacefully till our land, earn a little money, establish ourselves, and provide for our family."

Tian Yan sighed regretfully, "I understand Master Shouzhe's intentions. However, out of a myriad of things in this world, the majority do not proceed as wished. As the saying goes, 'the tree may prefer calm but the wind will not subside.' You may want a quiet development, but others might not let you."

"Thank you for your kind advice, Celestial. I have made my decision and have taken some precautions." Wang Shouzhe courteously responded with a bow.

"In that case, I shall offer no further counsel." Tian Yan hesitated slightly before advising in a hushed tone, "Master Shouzhe, do take care. Long Wuji is of mysterious origin and is known for his capricious conduct. Do not be swayed by his fifty-year promise. If you truly have no other options, our illustrious Lord's doors will always be open to the Wang family."

"Our Lord might not be as powerful, but if it is only about keeping the Wang family safe, it shouldn't be difficult."

"Alright, I thank you in advance, Celestial." Wang Shouzhe responded politely.

With Tian Yan again failing to persuade him, Wang Shouzhe's regrets lingered.

However, she knew that Wang Shouzhe was a man who was good at making firm decisions, and was not easily swayed once he made up his mind.

She'll just have to bide her time~

Just after he gently refused Tian Yan,

Liu Ruolan appeared from afar carrying another bowl of the strange icy soup, giving Wang Shouzhe a cold glance, "Drink."

"This..." Wang Shouzhe hesitated, weakly asking, "Ruolan?"

"Enough chatter, drink!" It was easy to tell Liu Ruolan apart from Liu Ruoling. One quick look at their demeanor, style, and manner of speech was enough.

"This..." Wang Shouzhe looked at the frightening soup which was identical to the one earlier and could not help but feel nauseous, "I've already had a bowl just now."

"Hers, mine." Liu Ruolan chided him with a gaze that felt like a pressure to perform.

The implication was clear - the previous bowl was Liu Ruolan's, this one was hers, he couldn't play favorites.

A chill rose from the depths of Wang Shouzhe's heart. Why all this? Wouldn't Ruolan and Ruoling be one... do they already have to compete at such a level?

Under the intangible yet icy pressure, Wang Shouzhe consumed the terrible soup in one gulp, forcing a satisfied expression onto his face: "Ruoling, your soup is just as good as Ruolan's."

See him finish, Liu Ruolan's cold demeanor eased slightly as she glanced at him and commanded, "Water Moon Heavenly Pavilion, let's spar."

"This..." Wang Shouzhe felt a chill creeping over him, his gaze darted around, "The kids are still here."

"They're asleep." The chill in Liu Ruolan's demeanor surged, "Do you intend to default on your portion?"

Default?

Wang Shouzhe cried out in lament and gazed mournfully to the sky. For how many lifetimes had he acted the villain to end up with such a high-quality Sky pride as his wife?

Tragedy!

Chapter 5 I am Shou Zhe! Also a Great Heavenly Proud_1

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Today seemed destined to be a restless day.

Wang Shouzhe had barely managed to deal with "Liu Ruoling" when Wang Zongchang returned from outside the realm and immediately reported to him.

The task Zongchang had undertaken was of great importance; Wang Shouzhe attached extreme importance to it.

In the study, Wang Shouzhe met with Wang Zongchang.

"Fourth Uncle," Wang Zongchang apologized with folded hands, "I was delayed while exploring outside the realm some time ago, preventing me from returning in time for the family promotion ceremony."

Though Zongchang is of the 'Zong' generation, he is only five years younger than Wang Shouzhe and is now in his early eighties.

The one who was first activated by the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu to unleash the Wind Vein, he has been Wang Shouzhe's right-hand man and one of the main pillars of the family.

With his repeated merits, combined with his extensive combat experience gained from long-term exploration and fighting, Wang Zongchang's cultivation progress has consistently held the second place within the family.

In fact, a few years ago, he had already successfully advanced to the Heavenly Human Realm.

However, due to special arrangements by Wang Shouzhe, Wang Zongchang has kept a low profile, appearing as invisible, and his brilliant achievements are rarely circulated. Consequently, many unfamiliar prominent families are even unaware of the existence of such a person as Wang Zongchang in the Changning Wang Clan.

Because of Wang Zongchang's familiarity with the realm, coupled with his fast wind vein speed and his proficiency in hiding, Wang Shouzhe gave him the most critical task.

For the Wang family, there are many important matters. Among them, one of the most significant related to the realm is the issue of the [Shenwu Army Headquarters Training Point].

Many, many years ago, Wang Shouzhe was searching for information and exploring maps in the Academic Palace, and he combined these with the maps given by the Artifact Spirit in the trial field. Finally, he roughly located the [Shenwu Army Headquarters Training Point].

It was regrettable, however, that the location identified was at least ten thousand li away from Ping'an Town, where the Wang family resided.

The ten thousand li outside the realm was entirely different from the ten thousand li within the Great Qian Land.

The region outside the realm, with few human footprints and densely populated with fierce beasts, was becoming increasingly more dangerous with every several hundred li stepped into. The various dangers could multiply tenfold or even a hundredfold.

Fortunately, the clan was gradually growing stronger, and with Wang Zongchang, who was best at exploring and hiding, advancing to the Heavenly Human Realm, his safety in the realm greatly improved.

Wang Shouzhe's interest in the Shenwu Army's training point could no longer be suppressed.

After stuffing a bunch of life-saving items to Wang Zongchang, along with equipping him with magical treasures for hiding and stealth, he sent him out of the family to explore the way.

"Fourth Uncle," Wang Zongchang took out a stack of detailed sketches, spreading them out one by one on the office desk and the floor, "For nearly two years, I have been expanding the exploration area outward. These are all maps within five thousand li of our New Peace Town."

Open map.

Wang Shouzhe vaguely remembered that he always needed to open the fog when playing games before. He used to think that this design was cumbersome, but now in reality, he, Wang Shouzhe, enjoyed opening maps more than anyone else.

The reason was simple: without a prior map, rashly diving into the realm could easily lead to disaster. If luck was good, there would be no major problem; if luck was poor, one might plunge into a great Yao's nest, not only finding one's end with no place to bury, but may also trigger catastrophic consequences such as a beast wave.

At that time, the Changning Wang Clan, located next to the realm, would bear the brunt of it and absolutely wouldn't escape.

For Wang Shouzhe, each clan member isn't a game NPC, to him they are each a part of the family's bloodline, living people, and his relatives.

He wouldn't bear to lose any of them.

"Little Snow, help Zongchang record the map into the system," Wang Shouzhe instructed, "and make corrections and repairs."

"Ding-dong! Yes, Master." The projection of the clan's Artifact Spirit Lil Snow with twintail hair appeared out of thin air, greeted Wang Zongchang, "Elder Zongchang, it has been two years since we last met. Apart from a bit tanned, you are still as handsome as before."

"Li, Lil Snow..."

Wang Zongchang moved his gaze away awkwardly and stuttered a greeting.

Many, many years have passed, and he still wasn't very used to Lil Snow's image and didn't dare to look straight at her. After all, there were rumors within the clan that Lil Snow's image was related to his Clan Leader Fourth Uncle's secret past.}]

One shouldn't look where it's inappropriate.'

With the cooperation of Wang Zongchang and Lil Snow, the newly explored maps were quickly recorded into the system.

Immediately after, Wang Zongchang made meticulous corrections to them. Soon a beautifully depicted projection map was presented to the uncle and nephew.

This map covered the terrain and landforms within approximately 1500 li around New Peace Town.

The map was clear and easy to understand. Mountain ranges, rivers, canyons, forests, wetlands, lakes, and other geographical features were extremely comprehensive and each dangerous area is marked on the map. On it were several red markers indicating the known locations of level five fierce beasts. Additionally, dozens of blue and green markers indicated noticeable veins or good spirit veins.

Of course, in the realm, most spirit veins and fierce beasts are in the same place.

The stronger the fierce beast, the better the spirit vein it occupies. Many of them are middle to top grade spirit veins. This precious map cost the Wang clan countless human and financial resources.

Chapter 5 I am Shou Zhe! Also a Great Heavenly Proud_2

Even then, several heads of households and dozens of clan soldiers sacrificed their lives.

Apart from the vast breadth of one thousand five hundred miles, Wang Zongchang managed to create a narrow, tunnel-like map by exploring in a strip no more than one hundred miles wide in a zigzag pattern.

Furthermore, this tunnel-like map doesn't follow a straight line.

When Wang Zongchang detected a danger point ahead during his exploration, he would usually mark it and bypass it. Over time, this map twisted and turned like a snake.

This clearly showed the difficulties and dangers Wang Zongchang encountered during his exploration. It was only due to his Xun Feng bloodline, known for its speed, as well as his expertly-trained Heavenly Human Realm Genius Profound Martial Cultivator, that he could accomplish this.

If it were Wang Shouzhe or Liu Ruolan, they would probably have to fight their way through, causing great disturbances and potentially triggering chain reactions, leading to unknown dangers.

"Fourth Uncle, all those danger points up ahead are fine. They are at most Level Five or Level Six Fierce Beast nests. We can just go around them," Wang Zongchang pointed to a large area of the huge disc five thousand miles away, which he had circled in deep red on the map and said, "The key is this vast area. I encountered several Fierce Beast nests on just the outskirts.

After my careful investigation, I am certain that a Level Seven Great Yao is harboring in the middle of this vast area."

"A Level Seven Great Yao...is it possible to go around it?" Wang Shouzhe asked, his expression heavy.

A Level Seven Great Yao possesses the power of a Purple Abode Realm Old Ancestor at least. Some of them possess terrifying combat power due to their strong bloodline and long lives.

Generally speaking, these Fierce Beasts are raised in the Law of the Jungle environment and fighting, hunting, brawling over territories are a part of their daily lives. They possess greater combat power than Profound Martial Cultivators of the human race at the same realm.

"Most likely, we can't go around it," Wang Zongchang said, his expression serious. "Level Seven Great Yao are highly intelligent. They have strong territorial concepts and often occupy thousands of miles of land as their habitat. After my estimation, our ultimate destination is likely located near the Great Yao's nest."

"A reasonable deduction," Wang Shouzhe nodded in agreement. "The military camps of the Divine Martial Dynasty are usually built atop abundant Spirit Veins. Even if there are no Spirit Veins there, it wouldn't be hard for the Divine Martial Dynasty to relocate the Spirit Veins. Given the changes over tens of thousands of years, it is only normal for the Spirit Veins to shift position."

"In that case, we have to prepare properly to eliminate the Level Seven Great Yao," Wang Shouzhe said calmly. "We have to expand the training point of the military camp of the Divine Martial Dynasty as soon as possible. The vortex of the Emperor's son's struggle is growing larger. If the Wang family doesn't wish to be an expendable pawn, we must speed up our growth."

Unconsciously, the Wang Family had gradually grown to that extent. In Wang Shouzhe's heart, a Level Seven Great Yao was no longer an insurmountable obstacle.

"Zongchang, in the next one or two years, you should form a team with Old Ancestor Xiao Han and Shu Yong to clear all Level Five and Six Fierce Beast nests along the route," Wang Shouzhe instructed. "If you encounter strong targets, you can ask Old Ancestor Longyan to help."

"Yes, Fourth Uncle."

Wang Zongchang was thrilled. His years of exploration, braving risks in outer territory had not been in vain. The information that he brought back was laying the foundation for his clan's future expansion in the outer territory.

Given the overall strength of the family, Level Five and Six Fierce Beasts were no longer obstacles. Clearing the way was also preparing for the Wang Family's future expansion.

After settling matters in the outer domain, Wang Shouzhe was about to rest, but a head of household hurriedly reported with news from Wang Luotong sent by a carrier pigeon.

Wang Luotong, who had been in charge of the Wang's Large Pasture in the northwest of Changning, was capable and rarely had any serious issues. Urgent messages delivered by pigeons were therefore rare, and Wang Shouzhe took it seriously.

After reading the urgent message, he found that there was a problem in the Great Wilderness Marsh in the direction of Zhenze We.

For a moment, Wang Shouzhe fell into deep thought.

He wondered whether it was a scheme concocted by Wang's of Zhenze We or Gong Yang Ce, who had recently returned from the Immortal Dynasty.

However, both possibilities were soon ruled out by Wang Shouzhe.

If the former had done this, Zhenze We would undoubtedly be at the forefront of the issue, and the damage would only be greater. As for the latter, if Gong Yang Ce stirred up a disaster just to harm the Wang family, his plan was too low-level.

From his previous understanding of Gong Yang Ce's character, although he could be ruthless for the sake of his goals, he wouldn't stoop to such an inferior level that would harm others without benefiting himself.

Regardless, speculation is always just speculation.

The most pressing matter was to go to the scene and check it out.

...

In the evening.

Outside the main base of Wang's Large Pasture.

A series of carriages, pulled by Northern heavy draft horses, approached from afar.

Heads of household and clan soldiers on horseback guarded the front and back of the carriages. The carriages at the front were loaded with large chunks of Fierce Beast meat.

They were all from a Fierce Beast - the Level Five Wild Marsh Crocodile, which had been slain by Wang Luotong.

Wild Marsh Crocodiles are commonly found in the Great Wilderness Marsh. They breed and grow quickly and are massive in size. They can reach thousands of pounds in weight even at Level Three. They can even exceed ten thousand pounds when they reach Level Four!

Chapter 5 I am Shou Zhe! Also a Great Heavenly Proud_3

The fifth-level Wild Marsh Fierce Crocodile was very rare, even in the vast expanses of the Great Wilderness Marsh, they were not commonly found. After one such fifth-level Beast was killed, the meat, post-slicing, weighed over twenty-three thousand pounds.

The skin of the Fierce Crocodile, once peeled, was an excellent material for protective gear. The select, essence parts could be used to craft magical protection armor of the Spiritual Instrument Level.

In addition, the carriage also pulled along some third and fourth-level Wild Marsh Fierce Crocodile meat. These had been processed by the head of the household. The skin was kept separate from the meat, teeth, and bones, each categorized and loaded onto the carriage.

The history of a feud between humans and fierce beasts over territory was long-standing and countless. Every part of a fierce beast's body was utilized to perfection, without a shred of waste.

If the livestock losses and public unrest caused by the beast invasion were disregarded, this wave of beast invasion had brought huge benefits to the Wang family.

Especially the meat from the fifth-level beasts, which was in high demand within the Wang family.

The Generals of the family, the Pride of the heavens, were all big eaters. For a Heavenly Human Realm General like Wang Shouzhe, consuming thousands of pounds of meat a month, if allowed to feast openly, was easy despite the amount.

The considerable harvest brought joy to the heads and clan soldiers. This bounty signaled that an award from Old Ancestor Luotong was certainly on its way.

As the caravan entered the base, it drew the attention of many farmers and herdsmen who were beholden to the Wang family.

The barbaric beast's disturbance and the damage caused to the livestock were well known. But before the consequential damage occurred, the beasts were slayed by Old Ancestor Luotong. These beasts transformed from predators to human food.

This steadied the hearts of the agitated farmers. With Old Ancestor Luotong around, no fierce beast could create a storm.

This was the influence an all-powerful Old Ancestor had over the family.

An Old Ancestor of the Heavenly Human Realm, acted like a Sea Stabilizing Needle, stabilizing the core of a family: the family's "hearts".

Within the base, core family members like Wang Luotong, Lei Bowu, and Wang Shihao watched as the household heads enthusiastically carried the meat into the cold storage room in the cellar. Their hearts felt both joy and worry.

During lean times for the family, ice blocks were the main means of keeping the cellar cold.

Shipped by boat from Northern coastal regions during the winter, the ice blocks were pricey but essential for the survival of a prominent family. Otherwise, they could only resort to preservation through salting.

But consuming too much cured food was detrimental to the body.

The Wang family of today utilized the more temperature-stable Cold Crystal Array cold storage. Although more expensive, it maintained temperature stability and was beneficial for food preservation.

Having a supply of Spirit Meat was obviously good, but the continuous, stable production of Wang's Large Pasture was more important. Even a single year of interruption could cause massive losses for the Wang family.

As long as the issue with the Great Wilderness Marsh remained, it would be a thorn in the side of Wang Luotong and others.

Suddenly!

A long, distant call of a crane echoed from the sky above.

A Spirit Bird Flying Carriage spiralled down from the cloud layer, landing gently in the pasture base. The emblem on the litter of the flying carriage denoted that it was the personal chariot of Family Head, Wang Shouzhe.

Progressing to the current state of the Wang family, the Family Head would lose face if they didn't have a personal flying carriage.

After all, surely Wang Shouzhe wouldn't resort to public carriages or fly on his own?

Seeing this, Wang Luotong was overjoyed and rushed to welcome him. She bowed to Wang Shouzhe who walked out of the flying carriage saying, "Fourth brother, you're finally here."

Then she saluted Old Ancestor Longyan who followed behind Wang Shouzhe, "Luotong pays her respects to the Old Ancestor."

"Luotong, no need for formalities," said Old Ancestor Longyan, glancing at Wang Luotong. Her eyes revealed a hint of admiration and affection.

Luotong didn't have much of a presence as a child but she'd worked hard and managed to secure family resources. She became a Heavenly Human at a young age and now was revered as Old Ancestor Luotong.

She had become a legendary figure within the family.

After encountering Wang Shouzhe and Old Ancestor Longyan, Wang Luotong and others were relieved, their tensions dissipating.

Both Family Head Wang Shouzhe and Old Ancestor Longyan were the stabilizing pillars of the family. As long as one was present, their hearts would be at ease.

Now that both had arrived, what problem could there be that they couldn't handle?

Moreover, Luotong's fourth brother had powerful resources. Even if the problem in the Great Wilderness Marsh was severe, they would surely solve it.

After conversing briefly with Luotong, Wang Shouzhe turned to Wang Shihao and frowned, "What are you doing here?"

Wang Shihao hurriedly laughed and bowed, "Grandfather, my brother is dealing with the Southern Desert Wang family's gifts. I'm here to help and earn some family contribution points."

"Stop loafing around," Wang Shouzhe waved with a disgruntled face, "Go home to your wife and child. Try to have some more children soon."

Wang Shouzhe hadn't been too impressed with his grandson, Wang Shihao lately. He had even arranged a match with the main daughter of the Yuwen Clan for him. But Wang Shihao still complained privately.

Moreover, they had been married for several years and had only one child, Wang Anru. He was still young, but he never strove to achieve more!

Chapter 5 I am Shou Zhe! Also a Great Heavenly Proud_4

How could Wang Shouzhe show a pleasant expression to a child who does not work hard to expand his family?

Wang Shihao's face has stiffened, and he was inwardly crying out in misery.

Grandfather, I may only be your legitimate grandson, but is this treatment too different? I have already sacrificed for the family by getting married, do I seriously need to become a baby-making machine?

I, Wang Shihao, am a man who aims to conquer the sea, I don't want to spend my whole life just bearing and raising children.

However, he could only grumble about these thoughts privately. If he dared to say them out loud in front of his grandfather, he certainly wouldn't fare well.

At that moment, he could only force a laugh and say, "Grandfather, I will go back and accompany Ping'er and Anyu."

"You should spend more time with Ping'er, and Anyu is taken care of by your grandmother, no need for you to worry." Wang Shouzhe waved his hand, "Wang Shihao, you should better focus and lead a serious life. Otherwise, the next time your grandmother beats you, don't blame me for not intervening. Go!"

"Yes, Hao'er takes leave now."

Wang Shihao left in a gloomy mood, constantly grumbling in his heart. He must comfort Ping'er properly after returning, otherwise, if she lodges complaints to grandmother, how would he survive?

After Wang Shihao left, Lei Bowu smiled and said to Wang Shouzhe, "Master Shouzhe, do not be too harsh on Shihao, he's still young. Which young man does not have dreams?"

"Hao'er is restless and ostentatious. If I don't put some pressure on him, he would become an unbridled wild horse," said Wang Shouzhe, looking Lei Bowu up and down. "Speaking of him, you only have two children yourself. As an elder, you should set a good example. If you don't reproduce and I don't reproduce, when can our family flourish?"

Lei Bowu's face darkened.

Could this matter be blamed on me? Whether to have children or not, is it all up to me, Lei Bowu? Even if I want to have more children, I dare not force my wife to do so.

At this moment, Wang Luotong too became nervous and quickly changed the topic, "Fourth brother, let's go sit in the house first. Let's discuss the current investigation results with you and the Old Ancestor."

However, she couldn't help but sigh in her heart. The fourth brother is pretty good at everything, it's just that he has a strong phobia of the family population being too small. Whoever has more children not only gets his respect, but also receives valuable contributions to the family.

But anyone who has fewer children, just look at the fate of Wang Shihao. However, if it was not for the fourth brother's compulsion, she would not have had her son, Zong Bo, before entering the Heavenly Human Realm.

"Fine, let's discuss the Great Wilderness Marsh incident first, and then discuss this matter with you," said Wang Shouzhe's attention, finally returned to the matter of Great Wilderness Marsh.

It seemed as if in his mind, the matter of Great Wilderness Marsh is not as important as having more children in the family.

...

Several days later.

To the west of the Town Marsh Guard, there is a vast marsh, named the "Great Wilderness Marsh".

The Northern Ridge Province and Longzuo County are separated by the Great Wilderness Marsh. To the west of the Great Wilderness Marsh is the Northern Ridge Province, and to the south of the marsh is the Longzuo County.

However, in reality, the marsh in this boundary area between the two provinces is just a small part of the entire Great Wilderness Marsh. Its actual area is extremely vast and extends far to the outside domain in the south. Even the Peace River has a small segment of the river flowing through the middle of the Great Wilderness Marsh.

This is also why, the Fierce Beasts in the Great Wilderness Marsh are never completely eradicated. No matter how many are killed, beasts always follow the marsh from the outer regions.

This is why, why occasionally there are Level Two and Three fierce fish and crocodiles in the Peace River, these are from the upstream Great Wilderness Marsh.

Fortunately, although it is impossible to completely clear the fierce beasts in the Great Wilderness Marsh, the Longzuo Academy and the Prefecture Mansion regularly patrol the Great Wilderness Marsh and clear up the more dangerous beasts. So there are many Fierce Beasts in the Great Wilderness Marsh, but their ranks are not high, basically below Level Four aquatic beasts and amphibians.

Like Marsh Fierce Crocodile, reaching Level Five is already considered a ruler within the Great Wilderness Marsh.

Moreover, whether it's an aquatic beast or amphibian, before reaching Level Seven, they rely heavily on water and they dislike leaving water to go to other places. As long as the common people are careful, and don't act recklessly, there won't be a big danger.

Therefore, over the years, although the Town Marsh Guard lies adjacent to the Great Wilderness Marsh, the region is still relatively peaceful.

However, recently, for some unknown reason, the Fierce Beasts in the Great Wilderness Marsh have been migrating in large numbers. Already several villages and common people have been injured and even killed.

The Wang Family's territory in Marsh Town, being closest to the Great Wilderness Marsh, naturally bears this responsibility.

Not long after realizing the seriousness of the situation, the Marsh Town Wang Family reported the incident to the Prefecture Mansion, started organizing the relocation of civilians, and assembled forces to eliminate the migrating beasts.

At the same time, the Wang Family also dispatched a scouting team to investigate the situation in the Great Wilderness Marsh.

Because the situation within the Great Wilderness Marsh was unknown, to be on the safe side, this time the scouting team was personally led by the Wang Family's First Ancestor, Old Ancestor Kun Yuan, who was already at Level Eight in the Heavenly Human Realm.

Along with the Second Ancestor, Old Ancestor Cheng Ye, and more than half of the Wang Family's Spirit Platform Realm Cultivators, you could say that they were quite cautious.

Without realizing it, the scout team had been in the Great Wilderness Marsh for several days, and the range of their exploration was becoming deeper and deeper.

However, as they continued investigating, they encountered many ordinary beasts in the Great Wilderness Marsh, but haven't made any valuable findings.

Chapter 5 I am Shou Zhe! Also a Great Heavenly Proud_5

"These Wild Marsh Fierce Crocodiles don't seem to be voluntarily migrating, but rather appear frightened," muttered a young Spirit Platform Realm clansman on the exploratory boat, looking askance at the Level Three Wild Marsh Fierce Crocodile that was quickly swimming past the boat, seemingly oblivious to its presence.

He couldn't help but wonder, "Old Ancestor, do you think a Great Yao could have been born in the Great Wilderness Marsh?"

The term 'Great Yao' is a legacy from the Divine Martial Dynasty Era, usually referring to a Level Seven or Eight Fierce Beast, equivalent to a human cultivator at the Purple Abode Realm.

"There's an old saying, 'No Great Yao in shallow waters.' The waters of the Great Wilderness Marsh are inherently shallow, and its aquatic beasts are frequently hunted by independent cultivators, thus their numbers are far fewer than outside the region. It has been several hundred years since a Great Yao could be nurtured here," the middle-aged scholar at the helm of the boat replied indifferently.

He was the Second Old Ancestor of the Wang Family in charge of the Marsh, Old Ancestor Chengye.

Fierce Beasts can be broadly classified into three categories based on their diets: herbivores, omnivores, and carnivores.

In most cases, the level of herbivorous Fierce Beasts wouldn't be very high, a mere Level Four at best. Only a small fraction with special bloodlines could exhibit potent potential.

The majority of Level Five and higher Fierce Beasts were carnivorous or, at the very least, omnivorous.

In essence, the level ascension of Fierce Beasts wasn't much different from human cultivation. Without an adequate supply of meat, their powers could not increase. This was the origin of the saying "No Great Yao in shallow waters."

When the Old Ancestor spoke, the young clansman scratched his head, with a somewhat abashed smile: "I was just making a wild guess. Just a wild guess~".

On another boat sat the incumbent Clan Leader of the Marsh's Wang Family, Wang Xingzu.

Hearing the young man's words, he chuckled and shook his head, subsequently reminding everyone: "Although the Great Wilderness Marsh is unlikely to nurture a Great Yao, it doesn't mean a powerful Fierce Beast from elsewhere couldn't break in. I suspect that this situation is exactly that. We just don't know the level of the Fierce Beast. If it's Level Five, we could manage.

But if it's Level Six, we may be in trouble. Everyone stay alert."

"Rest assured, Clan Leader."

They were the first squad of the exploratory team.

Due to the shallowness of the Great Wilderness Marsh, large river boats couldn't navigate it. They had to use smaller ones to venture in. The first wave consisted of two boats, each carrying three cultivators, with the Second Old Ancestor Chengye in charge.

A few miles away was the second squad, also with two boats, each carrying three cultivators, overseen by the Wang Family's First Old Ancestor, Old Ancestor Kunyuan.

This method of deploying exploration squads in smaller teams mitigated risks and prevented the entire team from being wiped out at once. As the smaller squads were not too far apart, they could support each other promptly in case of an emergency.

This was a standard exploratory formation and standard protocol. If there were more cultivators in the exploratory team, they could be divided into a third and fourth squad.

Every so often, one or two members from each boat would leave to scout the surroundings. After ensuring there were no problems, they would continue their journey.

At this moment, both boats were missing a member each, presumably out on a scouting mission. They were waiting for these scouts to return.

Just as they were talking, suddenly, a roar echoed from the distance.

"Roar~~"

The cry was magnificent and piercing, with strong resonance.

Simultaneously, a figure shot up from the water surface in the distance.

His clothing was stained with blood, and he appeared very disheveled and terrified. He seemed to have not noticed the boats and continued to dash forwards.

People on the boat were taken aback, but they quickly recognized him as a member of the Wang Family who had been out exploring.

Old Ancestor Chengye instantly flashed forward to halt him, asking, "What happened?"

The clansman finally snapped out of his daze, grabbing hold of the Old Ancestor's arm in fear: "Old Ancestor, a Dragon... There's a dragon! Run!"

As he was speaking, the water behind him exploded with a 'bang,' and a massive Green Jiao leaped out, tilting its head and letting out a long howl.

A robust force was emitted from it, exuding dominance, ferocity, and violent aggression.

Its size was truly massive, with just its head being about the size of a small building. Most of its body was submerged under the water, obscuring its true length. The magnitude of it alone was overwhelmingly intimidating.

Its body, covered in shimmering green scales, its sharp claws, and those pointed teeth still dripping water, all amplified its immense power and ferociousness.

However, Old Ancestor Chengye's attention was instantly drawn to its eye color and the color of the scales on its cheeks.

A typical Green Jiao would have green eyes encircled by golden irises, and its cheek scales would be a mix of colors instead of a solid hue. The Green Jiao in front of them, however, had pure golden eyes, and the scales on its cheeks were an unblemished blue-green color, quite unlike any other Green Jiao.

Blue-green scales, golden eyes, and a pair of horns at the top of the head are the characteristics of the legendary True Water Dragon.

This Green Jiao, with its single horn yet to shed, seemed almost indistinguishable from the legendary True Water Dragons in tales. It was a sign that it was about to morph into a dragon!

"Peak Level Six!"

Old Ancestor Chengye's pupils contracted rapidly, and he reacted almost instantly. He held up the distracted clansman and swiftly retreated.

"Retreat quickly!"

Wang Xingzu also trembled, and without hesitation, yelled out the command. At the same time, he swept up the junior member next to him, rapidly retreating.

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At his shout, the other members of the Wang family also reacted, turning and running.

Those selected for the recon team all were cultivators above the Spirit Platform realm. Their movement techniques have already reached a masterstroke level. At this moment, by fully operating at maximum speed, they immediately turned into several afterimages.

However, even though their reactions were extremely fast, they were still too late.

The Green Jiao monster was at the peak of Level Six, just a step away from evolving into a dragon. It was as powerful as a human cultivator at the peak of the Heavenly Human Realm. Moreover, it was fighting on its home terrain; its speed was unparalleled by any cultivator from the Spirit Platform realm.

With a roar, the Green Jiao's figure rushed across the water like a dragon, and in the blink of an eye caught up with the Wang Family's exploration team. Its claw reached out to grab the slowest Wang family member at the Spirit Platform realm.

Old Ancestor Chengye, who was carrying an injured clansman, had already flown some distance away. Seeing this, he immediately let go of his clansman and turned back alone, positioning himself in front of the Green Jiao, trying to block it with his own middle-grade Spirit Sword.

Although his talent is not as strong as Old Ancestor Kun Yuan - who was considered a Sky Pride - he himself was still considered a Lesser Sky Pride. Being already close to two hundred years old, and although most resources were devoted to Kun Yuan, slowing his cultivation, his strength had already reached the second level of the Heavenly Human Realm.

He couldn't afford to buy a magical treasure, so he could only use a middle-grade Spirit Sword passed down from his ancestors.

However, faced with the Green Jiao at the peak of Level Six, his cultivation level was not even worth mentioning.

With a single claw swipe, he was sent flying outwards, vomiting blood before crashing heavily into the water.

How could the flesh of a Spirit Platform Realm cultivator have more spiritual energy than that of a Heavenly Human Realm cultivator?

Seeing this, the Green Jiao immediately gave up chasing the Spirit Platform realm cultivators and turned excitedly, roaring loudly before trying to bite Old Ancestor Chengye.

Old Ancestor Chengye had been severely injured in that previous attack. Not only were his internal organs damaged and his meridians shaken, but his consciousness was also somewhat blurred.

Watching as the Green Jiao bit towards him, he instinctively mobilized his Mysterious Energy to struggle, but he wasn't even able to leave the surface of the water.

Just as Old Ancestor Chengye was about to be bitten by the Green Jiao, a sound of tearing through the air suddenly appeared in midair, and a figure abruptly flew over.

The newcomer was Old Ancestor Kun Yuan.

The two scouting teams were originally only a few miles apart. After Kun Yuan old ancestor perceived the commotion here, he immediately rushed over, spending just over ten breaths of time in total.

Seeing the scene before him, he gritted his teeth in fury: "Fiend! You're courting death!"

Without any further thought, he immediately mobilized all his Mysterious Energy. A giant phantom suddenly appeared behind him.

That was his Dharma Shadow, a large bear.

Because the outline was vague and it was hard to distinguish which bear it was specifically, once the large bear shadow appeared, a heavy and vast aura spread out in the sky.

As a heavenly proud, Old Ancestor Kun Yuan had already reached the Fourth Level of the Spiritual Body when he elevated to the Heavenly Human Realm. At this moment, his Bloodline Power was activated without any reservation. The majestic power instantly occupied half of the sky.

"Crash~~"

Amidst the overwhelming noise, Old Ancestor Kun Yuan's magical treasure inherited from his ancestors, the "Crack Ground Axe", swooped down directly towards the giant Jiao.

As the strong wind howled, the large axe covered with inscriptions glowed with a earth-yellow light, conveying an overbearing and extremely sharp aura, as if it could crack the earth and divide mountains.

If this axe landed, even the Green Jiao's thick dragon scales might not be able to withstand it.

The Jiao, which was about to bite Old Ancestor Chengye, stalled. A fleeting seriousness appeared in its golden eyes and it immediately gave up Chengye, turning to fight with Old Ancestor Kun Yuan instead.

Old Ancestor Kun Yuan, being currently at the eighth level of the Heavenly Human Realm, and also a Sky Pride who had already achieved a Spiritual Body, fought the Level Six Green Jiao without much disadvantage, especially with the assistance of his magical treasure.

However, Old Ancestor Kun Yuan was over three hundred years old. Both his energy and physical strength were far from what they once were. As time passed, his face gradually turned pale, and his moves and reaction speed began to fail to follow. He made several clear mistakes, giving the Green Jiao a chance to injure him.

Unknowingly, the scale of victory gradually tilted towards the Green Jiao.

Old Ancestor Kun Yuan's injuries multiplied and his condition worsened. But he had no way out. Behind him were all his descendants and clansmen. He could only wave the Crack Ground Axe and squarely confront the Green Jiao's every move.

His heart began to cool. Ever since extraordinary fortune had allowed him to become a Sky Pride, his heart had swelled. The only thing on his mind was to dominate the Southern Six Guards on his own, and then ascend to the Purple Abode Realm and elevate his family to a Fifth Grade Prominent Family.

In the end, it was all for naught.

"Go! All of you, go~ Hurry to the Wang family for help!" Elder Kun Yuan roared, locked in brutal combat with the Origin Water Green Jiao.

Unfortunately, the progress of the Origin Water Green Jiao was a hair's breadth away from Level Seven. Its bloodline was strong, its potential limitless. Even when facing the Heavenly Proud Level's Elder Kun Yuan, it didn't use all its strength, treating the fight as if it was toying with him.

"Old Ancestor!"

Wang Xingzu watched from a distance, his heart burning with anxiety.

Although they had indeed exhausted many of the Wang family's resources maintaining Elder Kun Yuan's Cultivation Base over the years, even utilizing the resources originally intended for cultivating the third Tianren realm ancestor, it wasn't out of personal favoritism for Elder Kun Yuan.

It was for the long-term benefits of the family, not for the personal gain of Elder Kun Yuan.

Elder Kun Yuan was a generous and righteous person, looking after his clansmen with great care. As the clan leader, Wang Xingzu had benefited greatly from his generosity over the years, and his feelings for Elder Kun Yuan ran deep.

Seeing the situation going from bad to worse, Wang Xingzu had no choice but to prepare to join the battle after making arrangements for Elder Cheng Ye.

Suddenly.

A cold command echoed from the sky: "Everyone, out of the way."

An impressive purple sword light descended from the heavens.

The sword light was surrounded by flickering purple lightning, and the implication within it was an aura that was both sinister and icy cold.

The speed of the sword light was extremely fast, like a bolt of lightning.

"Boom!"

The Origin Water Green Jiao was unable to evade, hit directly by the sword light. The massive impact sent it sprawling onto the surface of the water. A deep wound was now on its back, where bursts of electricity surged in and out. A chilling, terrifying energy crawled inside its body like maggots in bone.

"Aaah!"

The Origin Water Green Jiao let out a roar akin to a dragon's roar, seemingly screaming, who dares to sneak attack this Green Jiao?

Lifting its head to survey, it saw a veiled woman in white standing high in the sky, holding a sword wreathed in purple lightning. She looked just like a sword fairy descending from above.

If she was in the Academic Palace, it would undoubtedly captivate numerous admirers.

However, for the Origin Water Green Jiao, what used to be an attractive human was now redundant. Without hesitation, it roared and seemed to express, "How dare this lowly human to sneak attack me!"

As it was about to take action, another exceptionally handsome young man in white appeared in the sky. Floating in the air, he casually glanced at the Green Jiao and said in a heavenly tone, "Oh, a Green Jiao that's about to transform into a dragon? It seems to have a pure bloodline, very interesting, indeed."

"What, you have a problem? I'm from the True Dragon bloodline! Why don't you bow down to me?" Seeing the other side had more people, the Green Jiao recoiled, in fear. Despite its near-to-Level Seven cultivation and high spiritual intelligence, it still wasn't able to verbally communicate its retort.

"Old Ancestor, my beloved daughter Li Yao has been cultivating too hard these days, sigh, her master is too strict." The handsome man who resembled a heavenly Immortal spoke earnestly, "Why don't we just slaughter it and send it to the Academic Palace as a supplement for Li Yao's cultivation?"

"Good." The graceful woman replied coldly, releasing a massive surge of sword light, she charged towards the Origin Water Green Jiao.

What?

Like a bolt out of the blue, the Origin Water Green Jiao thought to itself, damn it, what the hell do your daughter's hardships have to do with me?

Retreat, retreat, retreat!

These humans are too ruthless; I must return deep into the Great Wilderness Marsh.

Chapter 6: Son of Fortune! My Direct Line Great-grandson

...

The elemental water green jiao dove into the bottom of the swamp, scrambling madly to get out.

Unfortunately, most of the water areas in this swamp were too shallow. Wherever it passed, it stirred up massive ripples on the water surface that made it impossible to hide its form.

It didn't get far.

Suddenly!

Another fairy treading on the waves came, and wherever she went, waves cheered like they were carrying her forward. She made no noticeable moves, just a slight flick of her sleeve.

"Boom!"

It was as if an invisible bomb had exploded in the water, causing a column of water to soar into the sky and waves to roll like clouds. The shock wave beneath the water, ploughing through the soil, left the green jiao dazed, nearly turning belly up.

Before it could comprehend the situation, the water in the swamp, which was just seven or eight zhang deep, began to churn as if stirred by an invisible hand, spinning faster and faster to form a whirlpool.

The huge green jiao was like a pair of jeans in a washing machine, spinning around in disarray.

"Nicely done." Wang Shouzhe's voice chimed in again, "It's said that Jiao blood is incredibly nourishing—and right now is when the kids at home are growing. When you slaughter it, be mindful not to waste any of its blood."

"Roar~~~~~" The green jiao roared in rage. What made you humans so detestable? What does it matter to this jiao if your kids are growing or not?

Couldn't you stop coveting the flesh and blood of this jiao?

However, the situation was indeed more powerful than the jiao. The previous human was already powerful, and the few who followed seemed even stronger. The old Ancestor Dragon was right, good jiao do not eat immediate loss.

Retreat is the best option.

After all, this green jiao was at the peak of level six and seemed to have a strong bloodline. Despite facing repeated losses, it was still able to react quickly. Its massive tail coiling and uncoiling.

Taking advantage of the waves, it leaped into the air, like a lively and slippery eel soaring through the currents, fleeing towards the distance. In just over a dozen breaths, it had escaped to a great distance before fiercely diving into a larger, deeper bubble.

The journey, however, wasn't smooth. Relying on its thick skin and strong physique, it barely handled another sword attack from Old Ancestor Longyan, suffering additional injuries.

The ripples in the bubble stirred up waves of spray.

That was the nature of the Wild Marsh. It comprised a multitude of small and large bubbles linked together by mudflats, forming a vast swampy land. During the rainy season, all kinds of mudflats would be swallowed up, forming a huge ocean-like swamp.

By the time Wang Shouzhe and the others arrived, the green jiao had either hidden itself or slipped away quietly— there was no trace of it.

"That big mudfish sure runs fast," Wang Shouzhe laughed lightly, showing no signs of disappointment.

Longyan Old Ancestor rolled his eyes, It only ran so fast because you kept talking about slaughtering it and feeding it to your kids. Of course, it would run desperately when the situation turned dire.

Meanwhile.

The two old ancestors of the Wang Family came flying in, supporting each other in mid-air, looking rather battered and seriously injured.

As soon as they arrived, they excitedly bowed to Wang Shouzhe and the others, saying, "Thank you, Master Shouzhe, for coming to our aid. Thank Old Ancestor Longyan and this... Immortal for saving us."

Liu Ruolan, who usually stayed at home, had a completely different appearance when she came out to handle affairs. Therefore, the prominent families among the Southern Six Guards only knew that Old Ancestor Longyan was formidable, but they didn't realize that the Duchess of Wang was an even more fearsome hidden figure.

At this moment, Fairy Liu Ruolan was shimmering with an extraordinary aura, completely unlike the traditional woman who loved to take care of her husband and teach her children. Instead, she resembled those peerless beauties from the sacred land....only that her aura was more serene.

"Elder Kunyuan, Elder Chengye, you are too polite," Wang Shouzhe returned the bow warmly, "The Wang Family of the Guardian City and the Wang Family of Zhenze are kin and kindred of the Southern Six Guards of Longzuo. It's our duty to help each other out when facing external enemies, no need for extra etiquette.

Besides, the current upheaval in the Great Wilderness Marsh is a threat to our Wang's Large Pasture. We also need to resolve this crisis."

Wang Shouzhe's words were truthful and sincere, without any pretence

After exchanging glances, the two old Wang ancestors felt a wave of shame. They had been rushing to support Elder Kunyuan's breakthrough the Advanced Stage of the Celestial being to dominate the Southern Six Guards and accumulate the resources of the Southern Six Guards to support Elder Kunyuan's breakthrough into the Purple Abode Realm.

Compared to the attitude of the Wang family, they felt that their horizons had been too narrow.

"Master Shouzhe's broad-mindedness truly makes me ashamed," Elder Kunyuan bowed again.

"Not at all," Wang Shouzhe shifted the topic, "Elder Kunyuan, do you have any clues about the upheaval in the Great Wilderness Marsh?" What he referred to as the Great Wilderness Marsh was actually just this small area.

The actual large-scale Great Wilderness Marsh was a vast swamp area across the Peace River, reputed to be inhabited by several level seven Great Yao creatures, into which even cultivators of the Purple Abode Realm dare not venture recklessly.

Only there could it be called the actual Great Wilderness Marsh. The area in front of them, according to Wang Shouzhe's naming convention, could only be called the Small Wild Marsh.

However, even as just a corner of the Great Wild Marsh, this swamp area was still extremely spacious, at least the size of several Guard City territories.

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Old Ancestor Kun Yuan thought for a moment, then shook his head, "Our Wang Family has been guarding this wild marsh for generations, and we have always paid attention to and explored it. Neither our Wang family's patrol team nor those Independent Cultivators risking their lives for resources have found any abnormalities in the marsh."

"Logically, that Green Jiao is very likely to have swum across from the other side of Peace River. Whether it came here unintentionally or for a specific purpose, we are not sure."

"The intelligence of a peak Level Six Fierce Beast is almost no different from humans," Wang Shouzhe frowned slightly, "Fierce Beasts are very fond of their nests and will not leave unless forced to. Moreover, it has reached a bottleneck period... its biggest goal is perhaps..."

"Family Head Shouzhe's meaning is... this beast is looking for a chance to advance?" Old Ancestor Kun Yuan revealed a keen glint in his eyes, "And this opportunity is likely in this Marsh? Correct, normal Fierce Beasts seldom migrate randomly. Even if they migrate or pass through, they would never cause such a fuss."

"Old Ancestor Kun Yuan, do you have a map of the marsh?" Wang Shouzhe asked.

"This..." Old Ancestor Kun Yuan somewhat hesitated, but finally took out a large map from his Storage Ring, "This map of the marsh is given to Family Head Shouzhe to repay for his life-saving favor."

This map is a detailed one of the marsh, handed down from generation to generation by the Wang family and continually improved. The terrain of the marsh changes quickly, with the rainy season and dry season differing, so it was extraordinarily difficult to create a map that includes the year-round cyclical changes.

"I just want to take a look and think of a way to deal with the Green Jao. I don't intend to encroach on your family's territory of the marsh," Wang Shouzhe laughed lightly, then took over and began to study the map in detail.

For the Wang family, they have already explored almost all of the area outside the thousand or so miles radius, ready to expand at any time.

Why bother coveting the benefits of the Wang Family's territory?

This is Wang Shouzhe's way of the world. He would rather expand outwardly to develop his family than squeeze the local prominent families by internal friction. This is why, nowadays, the prestige of the Changning Wang Clan is in the ascendant in the Southern Six Guards.

Once other prominent families have become powerful, they are all based on squeezing or exploiting other prominent families.

But the Wang family not only does not squeeze, but also provides better money-making opportunities, allowing the people in their community to live a more prosperous life, and truly implementing the great strategic thinking of first becoming rich and then leading others to wealthiness.

Subsequently.

Under the lead of the Wang Family, everyone first moved to a highland area where the Wang family's ancestors had established a safe spot and have maintained it. This area is on high terrain. Even in the rainy season, it is well-fortified and can withstand attacks from Fierce Beasts up to Level Four for a short period of time.

Most importantly, this place is comparatively clean and doesn't require relying on Mysterious Energy to float in the air all the time. People like Old Ancestor Longyan and Liu Ruolan would not like to step into the mud casually.

After a brief rest, Wang Shouzhe studied the map carefully and occasionally discussed with Family Head Chengye. Over the years, it has been Family Head Chengye handling various matters. Old Ancestor Kun Yuan, in the Advanced Stage of the Heavenly Human Realm, has always been indifferent to worldly affairs and only focused on Cultivation.

After half a day, Wang Shouzhe came up with a plan: "Observe this Gourd Mouth, Family Head Chengye. During the rainy season, this area is a shallow marsh. But in the dry season, it becomes a narrow gourd mouth. This controls the traffic like a throat, holding this marsh in its grasp. Now it's just the dry season, and the water level is shallow."

"All we need to do is build a large flood control dam within this Gourd Mouth, and we can completely seal off this marsh. Then we can drain the water through the dam, and in the dry season, we can use facilities such as water dragon cars to irrigate the marsh."

"In this way, we will have the chance to tame this large marsh."

Wang Shouzhe is best at planning. When his family was weak, he initiated the "great project" of dredging and farming. Although that project, when compared to the current Wang family, can only be considered as a small project, they all contributed to it with all they had.

"This..." Family Head Chengye, who was not good at planning, was puzzled and asked weakly, "Master Shouzhe, what's the use of taming the marsh?"

"Family Head Chengye, can't you see this?" Wang Shouzhe glanced at him, "The economic potential of this marsh is not small. Once it's thoroughly tamed and managed, the annual income could conservatively estimate to be more than a million Qian Gold."

M-More than a million?

The two Old Ancestors of the Wang family looked at each other. Isn't this an astronomical figure?

For the current Wang family, the gross annual income is about 300,000 at most. Still, they have to cover the family's considerable expenses and the consumption for Old Ancestor Kun Yuan's cultivation. After all that, the family doesn't have any money left.

An annual income of more than a million was something the Wang family dare not even think about.

If the annual income is over a million Qian Gold, does this represent? Family Head Chengye looked at Old Ancestor Kun Yuan in surprise, his old man's resources for cultivation are enough. They could even accumulate some surplus to gradually buy the Rank Six Dan Medicine, the "Spirit Communication Treasure Pill", needed for advancing to the Purple Abode Realm, and various auxiliary materials.

Even better, there could also be extra resources available for the youngsters of the family to cultivate.

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The two ancestors of the Wang Family felt profound feelings of excitement surge up into their hearts. They stared expectantly at Wang Shouzhe. "Master Shouzhe, are you telling us the truth?

Can we truly gain a yearly revenue of a million Qian Gold?" Forget about a million, even fifty thousand, thirty thousand, would be enough to pull the Wang Family out of their predicament, enough for them to reverse their fortunes.

Wang Shouzhe looked thoughtfully at Kunyuan Old Ancestor and said, "When I saw your Dharma Shadow earlier, it was powerful and lively, your combat capability was extraordinary. You must have achieved the state of Spiritual Body, right?"

With a shudder, Kunyuan Old Ancestor's expression became somewhat unpredictable. After a long moment, he unveiled a bitter smile, "Master Shouzhe, your judgement is spot on. I have indeed achieved the Fourth Blood Vessel."

"Old Ancestor..." Confused, the other old ancestor, Chengye, couldn't help but shout. This was the family's most significant secret. If people found out that the first ancestor of the Wang Family was a Sky Pride, it would undoubtedly prompt unwanted trouble.

"Don't worry," Kunyuan Old Ancestor stopped him, standing tall with stern expression, "The Wang Family has been our savior. It is only right that we trust them completely. Besides, although I cannot detect Master Shouzhe's or Elder Longyan's cultivation base, I can tell they are very strong. They might even be remarkable figures within the Sky Pride.

In comparison to the Wang Family full of talents, they pose no threat."

"I see," Wang Shouzhe didn't deny Kunyuan Old Ancestor's observation. A mere Sky Pride, indeed, could not spark any interest in him anymore. However, he still looked regretfully at Kunyuan Old Ancestor, "Considering your age, if you had chosen the Academic Palace path, and put forth full effort, by now, you probably would have become a cultivator of the Purple Abode Realm."

"One misstep led to a series of blunders." The expression of Kunyuan Old Ancestor became calm. "If there's anyone to blame, it is my greed which dared to swallow what it couldn't handle."

"That's not quite true. There is still a chance." Wang Shouzhe contemplated briefly, "If we can find some Heaven and Earth Treasures that have the capability to extend life and replenish vitality, and then rush to break through to the Peak of Tianren Realm at maximum speed and find opportunities to ascend to the Purple Abode."

Assuming that we follow the optimal solution, it will roughly take twenty-five to thirty years, with a fifty to sixty percent chance of successful progression."

In recent years, due to the increasing number of Great Heavenly Proud in the Wang Family, Wang Shouzhe had no choice but to scour everywhere for materials relating to the advancement into the Purple Abode Realm, then commit them to memory after thorough assimilation.

Throughout the history of the Great Qian Land, cases like Kunyuan Old Ancestor's aren't uncommon.

"Fifty to sixty percent chance?" Kunyuan Old ancestor asked, his body trembling with excitement, "Master Shouzhe, would you be willing to guide this old man? If I can succeed, I am willing to become the guest elder of the Wang Family, no, the head of household!"

Wang Shouzhe smiled faintly, "Kunyuan Old Ancestor, you overstate. We are, after all, fellow townsmen of Southern Six Guards. It is beneath your dignity, being a venerable ancestor, to serve in my household. It's merely a minor matter. Let's discuss it now."

A minor issue? What seemed like an insurmountable task to the Wang Family, in the eyes of Master Shouzhe was just of minor importance?

Kunyuan and Chengye, the two old ancestors, instinctively prostrated themselves, prepared to listen attentively.

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During the same period.

In the northwest direction of the Great Qian Land, there was an expansive desert called the "Dala Desolate Desert".

The word "Dala" originates from the ancient language of the Barbarian Tribe, meaning "vast and lifeless".

As its name suggests, the Dala Desolate Desert was indeed immense and lifeless. The vegetation was scarce and apart from a few oases, most parts of this desert were desolate with sparse wildlife, which consisted mostly of lower-tier creatures such as snakes, insects, mice, and ants.

The soil in this area was mostly sandy and infertile. The lack of water made it impossible for crops to grow or even grass for the cattle to graze. Thousands of years ago, some Prominent Families had attempted to develop this area, but after several failed attempts, the endeavor was abandoned.

Over the years, this region was left in a state of desolation, except for the remains of ancient city walls left by early settlers, and some resilient grass that managed to survive. There were no traces of humans left.

The "Dala Desolate Desert" was situated at the watershed of the Southern Desert County to the northeast and the West Sea Prefecture to the southwest.

The border of Southern Desert County.

Where once there was only barren land with no signs of life, there now stood a small grove of trees.

Though the area of the grove was small and extended only a few miles into the desert, every tree within was carefully nurtured. Compared to the vast yellow of the adjacent desert, the grove was a rare patch of green that attracted attention.

Within the grove, closest to the desert, a group of people crouched on the sandy ground, carefully observing every tree. They took notes in small notebooks as they inspected.

Their faces were covered with dust blown by the wind, but they were intent on their task.

Among the group, there was one individual who held neither pen nor notebook. He was pressing his hand to the ground, feeling something.

A moment later, he released his hand and smiled contentedly. "Just as I expected, the condition of the earth vein and the surface interact. As the grove expands, the status of the earth vein has improved slightly as well."

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He swept a glance around, looking at the tiny green buds displaying on the deep brown branches, sensing the vigorous vitality contained within, his smile grew even brighter.

At this moment, a middle-aged scholar walked over with a delighted smile on his face, holding a small notebook and reporting: "Your Highness, we have good news. The statistics are out. A third of the newly planted Bodhi trees planted three months ago have survived, a significant improvement in survival rates. Your Highness, you're amazing, you even predicted this correctly."

The man referred to as "Your Highness" wiped his face, stood up from the ground, and said: "The situation of the earth veins is improving, it's normal for the survival rate to increase. But the area of this forest is far from enough. We need to expand it at least tenfold to resist the onslaught of the sandstorms."

He and his group have been stationed here for fifty years, fighting the desert winds and sand for fifty years.

In the beginning, he and his group managed to grow a batch of tree saplings with great difficulty, and they were very happy about it, but then a sandstorm came, and all the newly grown saplings were buried.

Half a year's efforts were all in vain.

Only in the last few years, as the area of the forest has been expanding year by year, has the situation become less and less prevalent. But it's still not safe.

Every few years, the Dara Desert will experience a large-scale sandstorm, that's the real challenge.

"Your Highness, the next batch of saplings is on its way. Shall we proceed as usual?" the middle-aged scholar asked.

"Of course." The man nodded, "You're familiar with the process, there's no need for my repeated reminders. Just arrange it as you see fit."

This man, known as "Your Highness," is named "Wu Mingyuan," a descendant of the current Emperor Longchang, with the title "An Commandery Prince."

And he is one of the two Quasi Emperor's sons participating in this "struggle for the throne."

Gazing at the vast expanse of the Great Desert, An Commandery Prince Wu Mingyuan stood with his hands behind his back, unable to help but envision: "This protective forest is just a start. Next, what we need to do is to keep expanding this protective forest, and then expand it again. In less than a thousand years, the environment here will be completely transformed.

By then, this place will also become fertile land suitable for human habitation."

"Given the vast area of the Great Desert, if we succeed, human habitats can expand a great deal, and the total population could also experience an explosive growth."

"That's too hard."

The middle-aged scholar couldn't help but sigh upon hearing this.

Your Highness has been stationed here for fifty years, and so has he assisted His Highness for fifty years. He fully aware of how much difficulty they've gone through for this forest over these fifty years.

It's hard enough just for a small patch of forest, let alone an entire Great Desert?

This is undoubtedly going to be a long-term projet.

Actually, with the cultivators' skills, it's not that difficult to change the terrain and geography within a certain range.

Even if they want to build a garden with a little bridge over the flowing water in this great wilderness, and plant different types of Spirit Flowers and Spirit Plants from all around the country in it, they're fully capable of doing that.

After all, they not only have Tianren Realm Cultivators with distinctive bloodlines here, but also several Array Masters. Given enough time, careful combination and adjustment, it is not a problem to set up a formation to adjust the climate within a small range.

But this only covers a small range, and the Great Desert is simply too large.

Moreover, if such a formation is not directly set up on the Spirit Veins, it must be maintained by Spirit Stones, which would consume a lot daily. Relying on this method to transform the Great Desert is simply not feasible.

"What's so fearful about that? We have plenty of time and talents." An Commandery Prince Wu Mingyuan stretched out his arms, like he wanted to embrace the wilderness before him. "Sooner or later, I will turn this place into a fertile oasis, rich in resources, making it a place where humans can live and multiply!"

"Someday, I will make the lack of water no longer a problem for the cultivation of grain crops."

"Someday, I will make the grain produced here exceed that of Qing An Prefecture and become the biggest 'granary' in Da Qian!"

As he spoke these words, his eyes glowed with bright light. Despite the dust on his face, which made him look a bit shabby, he was radiating an indescribable brightness, deeply moving those around him.

The middle-aged scholar and the other followers around him were somehow ignited with determination as they watched him.

As they looked at the vast desert, their eyes no longer showed any hesitation or uncertainty. All that remained, was a firm resolve to conquer it!

At this moment, it was nearing dusk.

The sunset hung on the horizon, appearing particularly round and large, coloring the surrounding sky a brilliant red,

Their figures, silhouetted against the sunset, seemed etched in time, filled with a certain unutterable charm.

Just then.

A loud cry of a hawk suddenly echoed in the sky.

Then, an angry yet soft female voice simultaneously rang out: "Wu Mingyuan!"

"Qing Rui?"

An Commandery Prince Wu Mingyuan was startled, his lofty ambitions disappeared instantly.

His intuition told him to find a place to hide. However, the Bodhi trees around him were all young saplings, barely reaching his waist, where could he possibly hide?

Should he run away?

No, no~ given her temperament, if he dared to run, she would definitely become even more furious. It would be impossible to salvage the situation then...

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Just as he was deliberating, in the sky, a flying carriage pulled by a giant dragon hawk was spiraling down, landing outside the protective forest.

The emblem of the Great Qian Land is an azure dragon.

The dragon hawk pulling the carriage possesses the bloodline of the azure dragon, has golden pupils and colorful feathers, jade claws and blue scales. It is an exotic and precious bird specifically bred by the Imperial Household of Da Qian, not only does it look mighty, its actual strength is quite formidable as well.

As such, a Dragon Hawk Flying Carriage has also become a symbol of status. It has always been the case that only members of the Imperial family have the privilege to travel in a dragon hawk flying carriage.

Quite obviously, the person who has arrived also possesses no ordinary status.

Just as the flying carriage steadied, the carriage curtain was lifted. A beautiful woman, dressed in a crimson-purple spirit silkworm silk dress, stepped out gracefully.

She exudes an air of regality and walks with composure.

A cloak was casually draped over her shoulder. The wind-driven sand which didn't get a chance to touch her body, was deflected by the luminescent light projected from her cloak. Hence, compared to the dust-covered Prefectural Governor An and the middle-aged scholar, she looked particularly glamorous.

Upon seeing her, Wu Mingyuan subconsciously stepped back. His face was filled with the big-lettered word "Fear".

The beautiful woman had not shown a good face to Wu Mingyuan since she saw him.

As she approached, she stretched out her hand, pinched Wu Mingyuan's ear and twisted it skillfully, "You scoundrel, what did you tell me in the morning? You said you were going to Prefecture Mansion to understand the court dynamics, you said you'd think of a way to reclaim the lost land. Is this the Prefecture Mansion? Huh?!"

Prefecture Governor An shuddered in pain, "Ouch! Ouch! Ouch! Dear, please be gentle~ If you twist any harder, you'll rip off my ear!"

"Of course, you deserve it!" The beautiful woman glared at him, her eyes wide open, "Now, you're becoming more and more capable, even learning how to lie!"

Seeing this scene, the subordinates present tried to hold back their laughter. Even the middle-aged scholar had a smile on his face.

This beautiful woman is naturally Wu Mingyuan's wife, the Consort of Prefecture Governor An.

The Consort of Prefecture Governor An is the "legitimate daughter" of the Gongye third-class aristocratic family, named "Gongye Qingrui".

Truthfully, when the Consort first married into the family, she had a graceful and gentle demeanor, but somehow after spending time with Prefecture Governor An, her temperament started to become increasingly bold and fiery.

Now, whenever she gets angry, not just their subordinates but even Prefecture Governor An becomes a little fearful.

Seeing the subordinates reveling in their misfortune, Prefect Governor An glared at them, "What are you looking at? What is there to look at? Do your own work!"

"Yes, we'll get back to work immediately."

The middle-aged scholar coughed and quickly led the others away.

After they left, Gongye Qingrui continued to chastise Governor An for a good while, and her anger only subsided slightly after.

"I'm not stopping you from doing this, but there are other matters that you can't ignore," she sighed and let go of his ear. A look of worry crossed her beautiful face. "We have suffered continuous losses in Lingbei and Liaoyuan, and now we only have the Southern Desert base left. You're not even thinking about a solution.

We can't touch the West Sea, but among Tiance, Longzuo, and Qing'an, we must find a way to capture one, don't you think?"

"I just heard news that Wu Chengsi has taken people to the border battlefield again. Damn it! In case he scores a significant merit on the battlefield, then what's left for you over here?"

She was genuinely worried.

Compared to Kang Commandery Prince Wu Chengsi, their foundation is inherently weak. Whether it is among their clan relatives or in the court, there is a certain disparity.

Even the hard-won "Sky Pillar", is merely cooperating with them out of respect for Wu Mingyuan's maternal ancestor Princess Qingluo. This 'Sky Pillar' won't listen to them in everything.

Yes, Princess Qingluo did marry a son-in-law and left a bloodline behind. The current Emperor has granted the title of quasi emperor's son to Wu Mingyuan partly due to him truly being excellent in all aspects, including his bloodline. But also, it's due to an old pledge made, that Princess Qingluo's descendants would have the right to succession.

But in such a situation, Wu Mingyuan has been wholeheartedly investing in his protective forest, showing no urgency at all. How could Gongye Qingrui not be worried?

"Yes, yes, yes, you're absolutely right."

Seeing the expression on the consort's face, Prefectural Governor An quickly tried to appease her.

But just as he was speaking, he couldn't help but weakly say, "But if I really can conquer the Dala Desolate Desert, just this extraordinary achievement of benefiting thousands recently will be enough to counter Wu Chengsi."

"I, of course, understand the principle. But this huge desert is not easy to conquer! How many more years are you going to spend on it? A hundred? Or two hundred? Once you conquer it, the situation would have already changed."

Seeing him like this, Gongye Qingrui couldn't hold back her anger, yet she also felt helpless.

Who can be blamed for this?

Initially, wasn't she attracted by his pioneering spirit and dedication, leading her to willingly marry into the family? Otherwise, with her second-rate supremacy bloodline talent, wouldn't it be just nice to cultivate at home?

Catching a glimpse of his dusty appearance, she couldn't help but express her disgust: "What a mess! You are all beridden with dust! Why don't you get rid of the dust?"

"Alright, alright, I'll get rid of it right away."

Prefecture Governor Wu Mingyuan, channeled his mysterious energy into shaking off the sand all over his body. In an instant, he was free from dust, looking renewed from his previously dusty appearance.

In fact, with his current strength, warding off wind and sand is truly not a difficult task.

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However, the sandstorm here was too intense. Even if he cleaned temporarily, he would be covered in sand again within the time it took to brew a pot of tea. Using Mysterious Energy to protect against the sand was not cost-effective, and wearing a cloak was inconvenient... Over time, he gradually lost the will to struggle.

Just let the sand cover him~ He can shake it off when he gets going, anyway.

"Madam, I know you worry about me. It's my fault that I haven't found a solution yet," he softly cooed, stepping towards Consort Gongye Qingrui. "Let's go home. I'll have the kitchen prepare snow pear and bird's nest soup for you."

"Go home? I still have things to do." Gongye Qingrui scolded, giving him a glance of disapproval.

"Huh?"

Gongye Qingrui peered at him with mock amusement. "Didn't think I came specifically to find you, did you?"

Commandery Prince Wu Mingyuan gaped in confusion. "Isn't... isn't that why?"

Gongye Qingrui gave him another reproachful glance. "Why on earth would I go out of my way just to find you? I came with important business."

With that, she pulled out an object from her Storage Ring and handed it to Wu Mingyuan.

"Take a look at this."

"Hmm?"

Wu Mingyuan received the item and discovered it to be a long cylindrical metal tube, with holes punctured at regular intervals.

He scrutinized it, uncertainly hazarding a guess. "Is this... for watering plants?"

"I thought as much. You are always quick to catch on." Gongsun Qingrui sneaked a pleased look towards him, "I got this from Longzuo County. The Huangfu Clan uses it for watering their pastures, and it seems to work quite well. Weren't you just worrying about irrigation? I asked them for a few and brought them for you to see."

For the planting of protective forests, irrigation is a considerable challenge.

The structure of this tube was indeed simple, but because of its simplicity, it could be mass-produced, which might just solve his problem.

Excited, Wu Mingyuan immediately embraced his wife. "I knew it, even though you don't say it, deep down you are still supportive of me."

"Stop being mushy." Gongye Qingrui flushed and quickly pushed him away. "Have them try it out. If it works, I can ask my uncle to go to Longzuo County and buy the formula from the Changning Wang Clan."

"Wait, the Changning Wang Clan?" Wu Mingyuan paused. "Are you sure they own the formula?"

"How could I not be sure?" Gongye Qingrui rolled her eyes. "I asked specifically, it was given casually by the Family Head of Changning Wang Clan while dining with the Sky Pride sister of the

Huangfu Clan. They were discussing the irrigation of pastures, and he sketched out this. They later optimized the formula to its current state."

On hearing this, Wu Mingyuan put his thoughts together.

He had heard the name "Changning Wang Clan" many times from Tian Yan.

As for the Family Head of Changning Wang Clan, he had admired him for a long time. Previously, he only heard of his strategic foresight and thorough planning, but he had no idea about his aptitude in this area.

Besides, the Sky Pride from the Wang Clan had a promising future at the Longzuo Academy, and was regarded as having the potential to rival Gong Yang Ce.

It seemed that it's indeed time for him to get in touch with the Family Head of the Wang Clan. He didn't know that while he was fighting the sandstorm, he had been invited to meet the head of the clan many times by Tian Yan but was declined by Wang Shouzhe each time. Clearly, he didn't want to see him...

Wu Mingyuan murmured, "Madam, if they could research this, do you think... they could have other methods to solve my current dilemmas?"

"It's all talk and no action yet, you'd better ask Tian Yan to arrange a meeting with Wang Shouzhe. I've seen his information, he seems like a promising person." Gongye Qingrui was worried about her husband's prospects in the struggle for the Emperor's son title.

Wu Mingyuan nodded enthusiastically, "Alright, whatever you say, dear." He paused, looking around and asked, "By the way, where is our Yiluo? I haven't seen her for quite a few days."

Wu Yiluo was the newborn daughter of Wu Mingyuan and Gongye Qingrui. Due to her exceptional Talent and resemblance to nymph Qingluo in her youth, the Emperor named her "Wu Yiluo", in memory of the old Qingluo.

Between a Purple Abode Realm Sky Pride and a Sky Pride in the advanced stage of Heavenly Human Realm, it was certainly not easy to produce an offspring.

Moreover, the birth rate of the progeny with the royal lineage had always been low due to their overpowering Bloodline.

Therefore, most likely credit should go to Gongye Qingrui due to her persistent efforts.

"Silly man, you must have been so busy that you've lost your head." Gongye Qingrui reprimanded him. "Didn't she get invited by the great-great-granddaughter of Wu Dianshan from Longzuo County as a guest? She learned that Qingluo Sea was developed and wanted to visit the place where Old Ancestor Qingluo perished to pay her respects."

"I see~" Wu Mingyuan sounded a bit disappointed, "I'm tired. Let's wash up and go to bed."

"Tired? How about a bath and bed?"

Gongye Qingrui's anger skyrocketed. Just after she finally managed to trick that annoying little vixen out to play, when she was about to bask in alone time with him, he blurted out 'have a bath and sleep'?

"Wu Mingyuan!"

"My lady, why do your eyes look as if you want to eat someone?"

"I'll eat you."

"Ah~~~"

...

Meanwhile, in Longzuo County City.

As the core city of the whole Longzuo County, it has always been the center of economics, culture, and politics.

The Spirit Bird Flying Carriage System of Keep Achieving Commercial Firm, after many years of development, has entered a relatively mature stage, and has gradually expanded its business to Southern Desert County, Liaoyuan County, Qing An Prefecture, and other places.

The only slight regret is that they can't enter other counties and the national capital.

Even more so, the elites of various counties and the national capital have started to imitate the business model of the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm, and have made it thrive within their spheres of influence.

This is something that can't be helped.

The influence of the Wang family and the Qian Family is, after all, somewhat limited in the whole Da Qian.

However, this has already been sufficient for the Wang family and Qian family. The already occupied market has made the two clans extremely rich, placing them on the track of rapid development.

Now, for the wealthy people in the county city, taking a flying carriage for travel and relaxation has become one of the common ways of life.

In particular, Longzuo's newest Guard City, Green Luo Guard, has launched several island leisure tourism projects all at once, combining gourmet food, entertainment, adventure, and relaxation projects, which has garnered a lot of attention.

People who have experienced it first hand have brought back excellent reviews, making Green Luo Guard's tourism project flourish all the more.

Even if the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm increases many more services, flying carriage tickets to Green Luo Guard are still hard to come by!

But this is problematic for others.

Whereas for Wang Anye, who was born of noble birth, it wasn't an issue. After a short stay in Longzuo County City, he enjoyed an immense amount of care from the Qian family, and naturally returned with a wealth of gifts and red envelopes.

To what extent were his gifts sumptuous?

In one sentence, Wang Anye started to feel that his storage ring, "Endless Abyss," was too small!

"Seventh Young Master, this way please." The Great Steward of the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm's county office personally came out with his guards to clear the way and arrange an independent flying carriage for the Seventh Young Master.

You must be joking, the dignified Seventh Young Master traveling, how could he share a flying carriage with others?

Just as Wang Anye walked ahead, expressionless and undisturbed.

Suddenly.

Noises came from behind: "Hey, hey, that little beggar, you didn't buy a ticket, you're not allowed to rush in." "Stop, you stop for me."

Then, Wang Anye saw a scrawny beggar covered in grime, who, while being chased, bumped into him head-on.

When the two of them tumbled down together, the eyes of the "skinny beggar" were pure as stars, filled with shock and disbelief. It was odd, with her skills, she could've easily dodged the impact, so why didn't she?

Huh!?

And she was being held!? Her starry eyes widened as if struck by lightning.

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Meanwhile.

Wang Anye's clear and flawless eyes were bulging, similarly filled with disbelief.

Clearly, he had reacted when this little beggar crashed into him, even tried to avoid, but still ended up bumping into him?

This is strange.

Could it be... this little beggar deliberately staged the bumping, trying to set up Wang Anye?

Huh?

There was no foul smell on him, but a faint fragrance, quite pleasant. Moreover, he is thin and small, his body so soft, it feels comfortable to hold. This is really weird.

Wang Anye felt as if something had grown in his heart. With unusual occurrences, his ordinarily dull heart experienced a rare flutter.

The eyes of the little beggar also met Wang Anye's at a close distance.

They were clear and bright eyes, yet they held a sense of tranquility that other teenagers lacked.

Her initially panicked heart quickly calmed down.

That comfortable and content feeling was like reading a book in a bamboo chair while drizzling rain fell, her heart quiet and relaxed.

Time.

It felt like an eternity, and yet it felt like an instant.

The two lay down quietly on the ground, their gazes intersecting, and time seemed to stand still. Even the wind that brushed past them seemed gentler and more loving.

However.

This beautiful atmosphere was disrupted by a series of sudden, abrupt shouts.

"Little beggar, get up quickly."

"Oh, my goodness, Seventh Young Master, are you alright?"

"You little beggar, don't you watch where you're going, daring to run into the Seventh Young Master."

"Seventh Young Master, are you alright?"

The guards and servants around Wang Anye rushed up in haste, intending to pull away the little beggar.

"Enough." Wang Anye got up, raised his hand calmly to stop the noise of the crowd, then helped the little beggar up and asked with a tranquil gaze, "Little brother, are you alright?"

"No, no problem." The little beggar's face was burning hot as he struggled to retract his hand, lowered his head, and dared not look at Wang Anye.

"That's good." Wang Anye took out a small gold note and handed it to the staff who had chased after him, "This is for his flying carriage ticket."

"Seventh, Seventh Young Master..." The worker was so frightened he didn't know what to do and didn't dare to take the money, "It's, it's all my fault for running into the Seventh Young Master."

Such a young master carried such an exceptional status, if anything went wrong, how could he bear the consequences?

"It's alright, don't panic." Wang Anye patted him gently on the shoulder, "You were just doing your job earlier, there's nothing wrong."

Although Wang Anye was only ten, being from a well-off family, he grew taller than most boys his age.

"Yes, yes." The worker breathed a sigh of relief, wiping his sweat as he hesitated, "But, but... Young Master, the flying carriage ticket to Qingluo Guard has been sold out, the earliest date available is seven days from now."

The Great Steward nearby was nearly choking on his own anger, reprimanding, "Fool, how dare you run out of tickets for the Seventh Young Master? Just cancel someone else's."

"Yes, yes, but..." the worker was breaking out in cold sweat.

"Don't make it hard on him." Wang Anye spoke calmly to soothe, "If the ticket is sold, it's like a promise to the customers. There's no reason to back out at the last minute. Let's do this, since my flying carriage is quite empty, let him join me."

"The Seventh Young Master is correct. I was thoughtless." The Great Steward was feeling greatly guilty, "However, this little beggar is filthy dirty. I'm afraid he may disturb your mood. We should arrange a flying carriage ticket for him seven days later."

"No." The little beggar became anxious when he heard that and opposed in a clear voice, "I can't wait, I must leave today. I can go with this young master, I don't mind him."

The Great Steward rolled his eyes: "What do you mean you don't mind him? Do you know how noble our Seventh Young Master's identity is... Letting you ride together, it's him being kind-hearted, he's the one not minding you."

"Fine, fine, fine, you can say whatever you want, but I must leave today." The voice of the little beggar was clear and crisp, and inexplicably pleasant to the ear.

As she spoke, she looked around nervously, looking both guilty and helpless, like she was trying to avoid something.

Wang Anye saw this and remained expressionless, "Alright, alright, since you're in a hurry, then let's go together. You being there or not, doesn't make much difference. Mr. Qian, the Steward, you need to make arrangements."

The discipline in Wang family was strict. Wang Anye had been influenced since he was young, although his noble air was not ostentatious, his every move was orderly, fully demonstrating the upbringing of a Wang family's son.

"Not at all, not at all, Seventh Young Master." The great steward from the Qian family, was overexcited as if invigorated, passionately saying, "I guarantee complete mission."

Subsequently, under the arrangement of the steward, Wang Anye, his accompanying guards and servants, as well as this "little beggar" of unknown origin, all boarded a special VIP flying carriage.

It was led by a Level Five Zhu Topecrane, and the coachman was an old man with white hair at the Heavenly Human Realm.

The cabin of the flying carriage was constructed from the light yet robust Thousand-Year Suspended Spirit Wood. The craftsmanship was exquisite and intricate runes had been carved on it. Also, the space inside this flying carriage cabin was more than double that of a typical one, partitioned into several positions by fixed screens, and even featured a private bedroom for resting.

Chapter 7: The Untold Story of Wang Anye and the Little Princess _2

Every piece of furniture inside was a careful creation made from Spirit-hanging wood by a master craftsman, and fixed in the litter so that it would not shift regardless of the jolting.

The upholstery of the litter was made by the famous tailoring masters from the Longzuo Zhou family, designed with great refinement and handmade. The litter's wallpaper, carpet and even the soft cushions on the chair were all meticulously sewn by masters using Spirit Silkworm Silk.

As soon as one steps into the carriage, a sense of coolness hits the face.

It turned out that there were two small formations in the litter, one Cold Crystal Array and one Red Crystal Formation, which could adjust the temperature in the carriage according to different weather conditions, providing a more comfortable experience for the guests riding the flying carriage.

Although the more powerful a Profound Martial cultivator is, the higher their tolerance for high and low temperatures; Tianren Realm cultivators can even survive in an environment filled with lava. But toleration does not mean comfort.

The appropriate temperature is ultimately what pleases people.

Even Wang Anye, who had superior living conditions, was slightly impressed by such a luxurious flying carriage.

His uncle had said he had arranged a top-grade flying carriage for him, but he didn't expect it to be so good.

The bright eyes of the little beggar also revealed a look of surprise, apparently, the luxury of this flying carriage was somewhat shocking to her.

Without a doubt, those who are eligible to ride in such a luxurious guest-level Spirit Bird flying carriage, are all rich or noble. Some ordinary 7th-rank Aristocratic Family Tianren Elders would definitely not be willing to waste this much money.

"Welcome, Young Master Seven, to ride the Supreme Comfort Level No.3 flying carriage of the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm." The Tianren Realm driver doffed his hat towards Wang Anye, announced his introduction with a glowing face, "My name is Li Fangyao, from a humble little 7th-rank Aristocratic Family from a small town. It's my honor to be able to drive for Young Master Seven."

Wang Anye looked mildly surprised: "Elder Li, you're a patriarch of your family, aren't you? How come you are out here driving?"

Although he had lived a prosperous life since childhood, he still had common sense. Generally, a patriarch of a 7th-rank Aristocratic Family has a fairly high status, they're expected to be the top dogs in their area...

"Young Master, you don't know about this," Li Fangyao explained with a smile. "In families like ours from the countryside, the entire family has to work hard all year and can hardly earn up to 200,000 Qian Gold. Being a Tianren Realm Cultivator, even if I don't want to go any further, just to maintain my cultivation base, the minimum cost is 10 or 20,000 Qian Gold.

If I want to make further progress, I would have to consume a lot of Dan medicine and Spirit Food."

"While if I were to drive for the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm, I would only need to work half a year and I can earn around 50,000 in remuneration, and I can also enjoy good meal benefits during work. In this way, I can earn extra wealth to subsidize the potential younger generation in the family.

The stronger the younger generation of our family is, the more likely our Li family is to flourish in the future."

"Besides me, there are several Spirit Platform Realm Elders from our Li family in the driver's team, but they only qualify to drive normal carriages. Thanks to the Wang Family, Qian Family, and Keep Achieving Commercial Firm, our Li family is having a better life now, and we can simultaneously cultivate two Celestial-type juniors."

Wang Anye nodded in comprehension, "I see, then I wish Elder Li's family prosperity and early promotion to a Rank Six Prominent Family."

His dry and calm heart trembled slightly.

It turns out that the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm, founded by my great-grandfather, can change the way many people live and also change the destiny of many families.

My great-grandfather is really an amazing person. I hope that in the future, I, Wang Anye, can also be as amazing as him, be looked up to and respected by so many people, and sincerely appreciated.

Wang Anye seemed to have found some life goals, which injected some vitality into his dull and boring heart.

Yeah, it's the right choice to go out and walk around.

The little beggar, her eyes were also constantly moving around, obviously deeply shocked in her heart.

The world's noble families are all nobles bestowed by the Old Ancestor himself, and the fact that family patriarchs and elders are working energetically...

She had never seen such a scene, even in the National Capital...

It seems that this Keep Achieving Commercial Firm is indeed very unusual.

"Neigh, neigh."

Suddenly, two young boys, Wang Xing and Wang Yun, led in a unicorn horse, which was the mount Wang Anye had acquired on the prairie—the Jade Horned Pegasus.

The Jade Horned Pegasus was still young, and not suitable for long rides.

And in the event that Wang Anye departed with the Pegasus, what then of the other attendants and guards? Even Old Qian, the Heavenly Human Realm Guard, wouldn't be able to keep up with the Jade Horned Pegasus during long airborne journeys.

Although the Jade Horned Pegasus was reluctant to get close to the two boys, with its remarkable wisdom, it knew they were the servants of its owner, so it followed them reluctantly.

As soon as it saw its master, it became excited and flung itself at him, rubbing its head against him over and over again, neighing and imploring him for food.

The Jade Horned Pegasus is extremely beautiful, like a celestial horse coming down to the world. However, its neighing is actually quite piercing to the ears.

Jade-horned Pegasus?

The little beggar's eyes widened in shock.

Could it be that this supposed seventh young master, also owns a Jade Horned Pegasus? Even she had been refused one by her indulgent father when she asked for it last time.

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This unique breed of flying horse was hard to come by, and it only got close to those it chose to. Otherwise, no matter how strong or influential, it would be of no use!

"That's enough."

Wang Anye was itching all over from its rubbing, and slapped the horse's head irritably. He took out a large pile of spirit fruits, spirit crisp, and some valuable Dan medicine to feed the Jade Horned Pegasus.

These Dan medicines were all concocted by his seventh great-uncle, Wang Shouye, who could make the Jade Horned Pegasus grow better. He had sent a large piece of Level Ten Dragon Whale King's Saliva Fragrance to the seventh great-uncle, making the old man extremely happy, and he in turn presented him with the best Dan medicines.

In fact, both Wang Anye and his seventh great-uncle, Wang Shouye, were quite fateful, as they both had the word "business" in their names, and they both ranked seventh in their generations. Wang Anye had heard that the seventh great-uncle was highly celebrated by the girls when he was young, with countless ladies from prominent families paying him attention constantly.

In the end, it was the seventh grandmother from Lei family who emerged victorious.

"Ah, according to the seventh great uncle, girls are all very troublesome..." Wang Anye said, stuffing some Dan medicine into the Jade Horned Pegasus's mouth, while feeling quite worried about his own future. His family members had praised him for his handsome looks, and now as he was growing day by day, wouldn't there be a pile of troublesome girls in the future, disturbing his tranquility?

What should he do then? It's so troublesome...

As Wang Anye wallowed in self-pity, the extremely luxurious way of raising horses left the little beggar dumbfounded. No wonder her father wasn't willing to buy her a Jade Horned Pegasus. Even the money she gets for her personal expenses wouldn't be enough to maintain it!

The most frustrated was Old Ancestor Li Fangyao, the driver. He had been quite envious of the Jade Horned Pegasus at first.

However, as he watched Wang Anye feed the precious Spirit Food and Dan medicine, he felt a sense of envy accompanied by a profound sense of melancholy. The Spirit Food and Dan medicine he, a self-proclaimed celestial being, ate every day, was far less than what this beast consumed...

Their life as sons of these rich families was truly enviable.

It was such a blow to his self-esteem that he couldn't bear to watch anymore.

After nodding in agreement, he excused himself and went to the driver's seat, his restless heart still unsettled for a long time. He had never tasted those rare spirit fruits in his life.

Not much time went by.

The extravagant flying carriage, which was being pulled by a Level Five Zhu Topcrane, took off into the sky. In the hands of Old Li Fangyao, who had "driven" for 20 years, the ride was extraordinarily smooth. Especially this time, he was particularly careful, fearing any unintended harm to the seventh young master. Even selling himself, Old Li, wouldn't cover the loss.

The flying carriage headed east, fast and stable. Compared to common flying carriages, this one's speed was incomparable. In just about four hours, they had arrived above Tianjin Port.

However, the flying carriage did not stop at the port, but instead, continued straight to Qingluo Guard. Looking down from the sky, the vast blue sea appeared like a beautiful canvas.

The little beggar was practically glued to the glass window, greedily looking at the sea. Occasionally, she lost herself in deep thought, looking like someone who had never seen the world before.

...

At the same time.

In the Great Wilderness Marsh, several enormous river vessels entered Gourd Mouth harbor. Under the instructions from Master Shouzhe, work was already underway.

The two Old Ancestors of the Wang family were amazed by the sight of the bustling construction.

The Wang family's speed was indeed legendary, they began working as soon as they pledged to!

This part of the Peace River's northern wilderness was merely a small corner of the Great Wilderness Marsh. However, even though it was only a corner, it was still the size of several Guard Cities. And the narrow Gourd Mouth was the waterway that could control the water flow in this marsh.

"Old Ancestor Kunyuan, please rest assured. Our Wang family's construction team is seasoned and among them are many Spirit Platform Realm cultivators and Spirit Platform Realm Puppet helpers. This small project, should be completed in less than a month," Wang Shouzhe said inside the temporary pavilion while chatting and drinking tea with the two old ancestors.

A cute little red fox was crawling around his lap.

The fox seemed to love this position: safe, comfortable. It truly desired to continue sleeping like this forever.

"This is truly the famous construction team of the Wang family." Old Ancestor Kunyuan said with endless admiration, "The majority of this elite construction crew are cultivators in the realm of Qi Refinement... Overlooking Longzuo, I'm afraid only Master Shouzhe has such capacity."

Cultivators in the Qi Refinement realm serving as workers was a setup that the Wang Family had started decades ago. After mastering the mass production of Third Grade Dan medicine "Enlightenment Pill", they began to offer bloodline enhancement services to ordinary people who were barred from the Path, due to their lower aptitude.

Although the cultivation techniques they practiced were of lower grade, they still enhanced strength, speed and stamina significantly. A Qi Refinement realm worker could often accomplish tasks that a normal worker couldn't. They had high adaptability, and their efficiency was extraordinary.

The only minor issue was that they needed a certain amount of Spirit Food and Dan medicines for supplementation, and the annual contract salary needed to be between fifteen to thirty Qian Gold.

Only a family lineage as rich and keen on infrastructure construction, as well as constantly ready to explore outside territories like the Wang family, can train and maintain such a formidable construction workforce dedicated to tackling difficult construction tasks.

"It seems that the Green Jiao is unfortunate." Old Ancestor Chengye said with schadenfreude, "It is trapped in this wilderness, with no way out." No wonder, the Wang family had lost family members and house heads in this calamity.

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In reality, this Primordial Water Green Jiao could still fly, but given its huge body and immunity to certain limitations, it could not fly high or far. It would have to reach Level Seven, evolve into a Primordial Water Azure Dragon before it could truly soar into the Ninth Heaven.

If it truly reaches that moment, then it cannot be trapped anymore.

But currently, the Primordial Water Green Jiao has no plan of action; it either moves inland. But the land is a human domain. If it were to wreak havoc upon entry, the Heavenly Human Realm Cultivators would eventually be alerted and collectively kill it.

Wang Shouzhe calmly drank tea and laughed: "It's just blocking water to catch a fish, my sixth uncle also did this when he blocked a Spirit Fish that strayed into the river."

Of course, the scale of Wang Shouzhe's plan was much larger than catching a small Spirit Fish.

This was a Primordial Water Green Jiao that had reached the peak of Level Six and was about to evolve into a dragon.

The two old ancestors of the Wang Family admired Wang Shouzhe to the extreme. Not to mention this unique approach, the most challenging aspect still lay in the construction difficulty of the floodgate.

Only the construction team of the Wang family could construct so quickly under such a challenging environment, and there was also a large-scale logistics team transporting materials like cement and stones.

"What Master Shouzhe impresses me most is," the Old Ancestor Kunyuan said in a good mood, "This project can achieve two goals at once. It can trap and kill the Primordial Water Green Jiao, and it can also tame this wild Marsh. The idea of using the wild Marsh Fierce Alligators as carnivorous Spirit Beasts to farm... It's ingenious, too ingenious for words!"

The growth rate of Marsh Fierce Alligators is very high, fish fry can be bred in the marsh bubbles, providing the alligators with abundant cheap food. Additionally, pigs, yaks, and other carnivorous foods can be fed to the alligators in moderation to increase their growth rate.

The investment cost is not low, but the returns are similarly not low. The yield of meat from the Marsh Fierce Alligators is not small, and many byproducts from them can be utilized; their skin, claws, teeth, and so on all have high value.

The only small problem is that the upfront investment is substantial, and the return period is extremely long.

Therefore, the Wang family has completely pledged allegiance to the Wang family. They will cooperate with the Wang family on this industry, with the Wangs making the main investment and providing some old and physically weak animals from the ranch.

The Wang family is responsible for providing labor and has become a happy working family. Although the ultimate interests are mainly held by the Wang family, the Wang family doesn't need to bear any risks.

In addition, the two parties agreed that before the Marsh Fierce Alligator industry makes a profit, the Wang family will lend a certain amount of funds to the Wang family every year to assist their younger generation and Old Ancestor Kunyuan in obtaining resources for cultivation in the Purple Abode Realm.

Such noble acts have completely won over the Wang family, whom could only sigh at the grand plans of the Changning Wang Clan.

The Wang family has made up their mind to stick with the Wang family from now on.

Right now, they must lend assistance to the Wang family to capture or kill the Primordial Water Green Jiao. This time, they must perform well to leave a good impression on Master Shouzhe.

Longzuo County.

Commandery Prince's Residence.

In the backyard of the Wang Family residence, various Spirit Flowers and exotic plants were stretching out their leaves under the sun. The green was lush, the red vibrant, with a faint spiritual light flowing in the veins of their leaves, making them look vibrant and lively.

It was evident that their master was taking good care of them.

In the flowerbed, Zhen Zuo Wang, Wu Dianshan, wearing a white casual short robe, was bending over, holding a Spirit Instrument Level small hoe in his hand, turning the soil one hoe at a time.

As a leisurely commandery prince, he didn't wield much real power. Aside from going to the battlefield a few times in his early years to seize the throne, he spends most of his time at home gardening and fishing.

As he grew older, he has even less involvement in the affairs of the Commandery Prince's Residence, leaving everything to his great-grandson, who was about to inherit the title, and he focusses solely on tending to flowers and plants, enjoying the happiness of family, and lives quite comfortably.

The Spirit Flowers and exotic plants in this backyard are mostly taken care of by him.

He puts the Spirit Instrument Level small hoe in his hand to the ground, the Mysterious Energy surges in, the inscription on the hoe's body immediately lights up, A series of spiritual light bursts out from the tip of the hoe and disperses into the soil.

This Spirit Instrument small hoe was specially crafted for him by an Artifact Refiner. It not only serves to loosen the soil but also guides the Earth Vein Spiritual Qi, making it easier for the Spirit Flowers and the exotic plants to absorb.

Soon, the soil under the roots of the trees would automatically churn, quickly becoming loose and breathable.

Then he would switch to the next tree.

Unknowingly, Wu Dianshan leisurely loosened half of the yard's soil.

At this time, an old manager dressed in a scholar's robe came over through the lush vegetation to Wu Dianshan and said softly: "Your Highness, a few days ago, An Commandery Prince and An Commandery Prince Consort sent a note saying they would visit. Calculating the days, they should arrive this afternoon or tomorrow."

"Oh, I remember now, there was such a thing." Wu Dianshan's life was too leisurely, and he almost forgot about this, casually asking, "Are the guest rooms prepared?"

"It has been cleaned up for a long time, all according to the standards of the Commandery Prince. The food materials are also well prepared. They are all seafood shipped from Green Luo Guard this morning, chilled in ice, to ensure freshness." The old manager respectfully reported his preparations.

"As long as it's well-prepared. Send someone to stand guard at the door, and as soon as they arrive, immediately notify me."

This old manager has been with him for a hundred years, and Wu Dianshan trusts him very much, only giving him a simple command and letting him go.

However, after this brief interruption, he couldn't help but think of the increasingly intense "Prince's struggle", and his mood for loosening the soil was gone.

Chapter 7: The Untold Story of Wang Anye and the Little Princess _5

Inside the imperial household, other than a few princes who were at the Divine Power Territory, the number of Great Heavenly Prouds weren't many, just five or six. However, not every Great Heavenly Proud was eligible to compete for the position of the Emperor's Son.

Among them, one was too old, currently at the Peak Purple Abode and would breach the Divine Power Territory in a few decades, he was unfortunately born too early. There was also one who was too young, barely in his teens, and absolutely out of the race.

The rest were those whose bloodlines were too distant, not of the direct lineage, hence, lacked the eligibility to compete for the inheritance.

After evaluating these, only the Kang Commandery Prince and An Commandery Prince were suitable in terms of age, cultivation base, and status.

However, Wu Dianshan himself did not hold a high opinion of An Commandery Prince.

Firstly, An Commandery Prince originated from Princess Qingluo's line, hence, his status was not so stable in name.

Princess Qingluo indeed contributed great merit to the Great Qian Land, and the late emperor also left a last decree, but after thousands of years, how many would remember their old sentimentality? Especially when even the princes had been replaced once.

If the name was not right, then the words wouldn't follow.

Today, within the imperial clan, privately, there were some who disputed An Commandery Prince's inheritance rights. It was only because Emperor Longchang was sentimental about his first daughter and declared the last decree left by the late emperor before his reign. Furthermore, he also announced the promise he made when he ascended the throne, so others had no say in the matter.

Therefore, the clan always held reservations about An Commandery Prince. Apart from the princes and commandery princes from Princess Qingluo's line, there were few who openly supported him.

Unlike Kang Commandery Prince, who up to now, had already two princes openly supporting him, and there were many more commandery princes than on An Commandery Prince's side.

Secondly, it was about marital relations.

Kang Commandery Prince was of the direct lineage, and his wedding partners were always from the current era's top Second Class, Third-Class Aristocratic Families, who were of higher standing within the family. Hence, his connection with these prominent families was very deep.

While An Commandery Prince was significantly inferior in this aspect.

Although Princess Qingluo's line had been producing talents for thousands of years, because it was not of the direct lineage, the choice of marital relations was inevitably inferior. Marrying into Second-Class Aristocratic Families was practically a fantasy, and most of the time, they might only be married into Third-Class Aristocratic Families.

Even if they were Third-Class Aristocratic Families, the daughters of the direct line who were sent to marry often ranked lower within the family compared to those in Kang Commandery Prince's circle. Hence, only a Great Heavenly Proud like An Commandery Prince could marry someone like Gongsun Qingrui, who held a high position in the family and was naturally talented.

Over time, the gap between the two sides naturally widened.

An Commandery Prince's influence in the court was always inferior to Kang Commandery Prince, and the crux of the problem was here. After all, the officials of higher standing in the court, apart from those from the imperial household, were mostly from these top class families.

Thirdly, it was about personal reputation.

An Commandery Prince was overly low-key.

Although he was a Great Heavenly Proud, the court heard too few tales about him before he became the Quasi Emperor's Son and formally participated in the "Emperor's Son Contest". Everyone was nearly oblivious of his character and style of work.

In comparison, Kang Commandery Prince was much more high-profile.

Before becoming the Quasi Emperor's Son, he had already made a considerable contribution in the court as well as the battlefield with his Great Heavenly Proud status and formidable strength.

Comparatively, Kang Commandery Prince's momentum naturally surpassed that of An Commandery Prince.

Now, with the court officials and clan relatives increasingly taking sides, the dispute was becoming more intense. The gap between the two was growing bigger, and the situation was becoming more apparent.

That An Commandery Prince and his consort would visit him at this moment was, honestly, quite surprising.

Nevertheless, he was not very concerned.

He was detached from the political center as an idle Commandery Prince. Apart from the distant bloodline, his influence in the court was quite limited and even his value for alliance was minimal. How the competition for the Emperor's Son would end did not concern him in the slightest.

They could execute normal interactions, and he had nothing to worry about.

Unconsciously, half a day passed.

At the afternoon, a Dragon Hawk Flying Carriage hovered down from the sky and gently landed on the small square outside the Wang Fu.

Soon, An Commandery Prince Wu Mingyuan, wearing the Commandery Prince's attire, and his consort, Gongye Qingrui, lifted the carriage curtains and stepped down from the carriage.

Wang Fu's old manager had been waiting for a long time and immediately led the people to welcome them through the main gate.

Accompanying him was a teenager in his teens.

He was Wu Dianshan's great-grandson, and also the eldest son of the princely heir.

Actually, it was more appropriate for the princely heir to receive An Commandery Prince and his consort. However, the Princely Heir of Zhenzuo was currently in seclusion for impacting the realm of heaven and humankind, so his eldest son was receiving on his father's behalf.

After ushering An Commandery Prince and his consort to the main hall, the teenager withdrew.

Inside the main hall, Zhenzuo Lord Wu Dianshan had already arrived and immediately greeted them.

"Uncle, It's been a long time since we last met. How are you?" According to seniority, An Commandery Prince and his consort first paid their respects to Wu Dianshan and amiably started the conversation.

"Hahaha~ Mingyuan, Qingrui, You both are rare guests ~ come on, come on, sit inside, sit inside." Wu Dianshan also courteously returned the greetings, "You came a long way here, I hope your journey was smooth?"

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After a round of courteous conversation, the two sides quickly divided into hosts and guests and resettled.

The attendant from the Commandery Prince's Residence served tea, and after a few sips of tea and idle chats, they finally talked about the main matter.

"Ming Yuan, it's quite rare for both of you to visit Longzuo," Wu Dianshan took a sip of his tea and laughed, "We're all family. If there's anything I can help with, do tell me. Don't hesitate."

"It's nothing big. We're mainly here to pick up Yiluo, and incidentally to handle some matters at the Academic Palace." Wu Mingyuan smiled, "Did Yiluo cause you any trouble recently?"

"Oh, Ming Yuan, you're exaggerating." Wu Dianshan laughed heartily, "We're all family. How could we talk about causing trouble? Plus, Yiluo is very obedient. She usually stays with Qianrou. She doesn't cause any problems."

"Uncle, don't make excuses for her. I know her temper very well," Gongye Qingrui chuckled, "She is a fierce little tyrant at home. It's gracious of her not to stir up trouble, how much quieter could she get?"

While the two sides were chatting, Wu Dianshan sent people to Wu Qianrou's yard to bring Wu Yiluo over to see her parents.

However, a quarter of an hour had passed, but the handmaid, who should have returned earlier, was nowhere to be seen.

Both Wu Dianshan and Wu Mingyuan and his wife felt something was wrong and immediately sent more people to investigate. The old butler was worried that something might have happened and went personally.

After a while, the old butler returned, looking pale.

Following him were two Heavenly Human Realm guards with blue faces, and a pretty little girl with restless eyes, Wu Qianrou.

However, Wu Yiluo, who should have appeared with them, was nowhere to be seen.

"What...what happened?" Wu Dianshan's previously relaxed body immediately tensed, and his expression became somber.

Wu Mingyuan and his wife also became anxious, "What happened? Where is Yiluo?"

The two Heavenly Human Realm guards knelt down in fear, their voices trembling, "Your Highness, Your Royal Highness Consort, the Little Princess, she, she is missing."

They were both assigned by An Commandery Prince and An Commandery Prince's Consort to protect Wu Yiluo.

Over these days, they diligently guarded the Little Princess.

Nevertheless, the girl's private chambers were not suited for them to enter, so they remained outside in the yard, secretly following her out when she left the residence.

During this time, the Little Princess hadn't left her residence. They occasionally saw and heard her through the stained-glass windows, leading them not to suspect anything. It wasn't until Wu Dianshan sent people over and they couldn't find her, that they realized something was wrong.

The old butler added, "Your Highness, I've already sent people to look for the Little Princess in every corner of the Commandery Prince's Residence, but we couldn't find her."

"Qianrou!" Wu Dianshan's face darkened at once, he glared at Wu Qianrou, who was hiding behind the two Heavenly Human Realm guards, and demanded sternly, "Tell me honestly, what happened?"

Wu Qianrou, around eight or nine years old, was taken aback by Wu Dianshan's glare, and honestly explained what had happened.

It turns out, Wu Yiluo was annoyed that wherever she went, there was always a group of people following her and she just didn't feel free, and playing outside wasn't even fun anymore. Moreover, when people saw the guards around her, they instinctively kept their distance, making it impossible for her to make friends.

So she came up with an idea. She used the Sky Mechanism Recording Disk to record her own voice and figure, even specially arranged for someone to make a doll that could simulate her aura to distract the guards, and had Wu Qianrou to help her cover up. Then she sneaked out of the Commandery Prince's Residence to Qingluo Guard to see the sea.

"What? You said Yiluo went to Qingluo Guard alone?! To watch the sea?"

Upon hearing Wu Qianrou's words, Gongye Qingrui was so surprised that she stood up abruptly, knocking over the teacup in her hand.

An Commandery Prince, Wu Mingyuan's face also darkened.

Wu Dianshan's face became even more ashen.

Seeing the guards still standing there dumbly, he immediately snapped, "What're you standing around for? Isn't it time to send people to look for her?!"

Wu Yiluo is An Commandery Prince's most beloved daughter, even recognized by the current emperor. If she really gets lost or something happens to her under his watch, that's a feud he can't afford to stir!

Even he, Lord Zhenzuo, was probably at his wit's end!

...

Just as the Wang Fu was in a state of upheaval due to the disappearance of the Little Princess.

Wang Anye's flying carriage, after a long sea voyage, had already reached the flying carriage station in Qingluo Guard.

Qingluo Guard, a brand-new Guard City.

With the involvement of Wang family, it bore many traits typical of Wang's architectural style — lofty concrete frames and thick stone walls.

The streets had well-planned, clean concrete foundations with blue stone surfaced roads.

And the buildings along the street were not without some tidy "modern-style" high-rises.

The little beggar, on his first visit to Qingluo Guard, was deeply captivated by the scene. He thanked Wang Anye, who de-boarded the flying carriage with him, with a gratefully bowed palm gesture, "Thank you, Seventh Young Master, for your chivalrous aid, I will definitely repay this act of kindness."

"Young brother, wait a moment," Wang Anye grabbed his arm and cheerfully offered, "Wang family is like half a landlord in Qingluo Guard, I like to hang out here, there is nothing I'm not familiar with. Now that you're here, why don't I show you around first, and we can eat something before we part."

The little beggar blushed and stiffened up at the proposal. Though he couldn't turn down such a warm offer, who could resist the seventh son, who was not only kind to him but also so handsome?

Then, Wang Anye took him around sightseeing, "Look, there's an entire street selling live seafood; it's mainly rare, high-end ingredients from inland. Here, you can stuff yourself for just one Qian Gold."

"This is Qingluo School, which provides basic education for children in Qingluo Guard. However, to get a higher level of education, you would have to go to Wang Family School."

"Little brother, look, that's the Qingluo Guard City Defender's Office. Although my grandfather isn't the city lord, he also works there." Wang Anye excitedly introduced the place while pulling him into the Defender's Office.

The little beggar blushed with embarrassment, he was too timid to resist. What was this naughty child up to? Could it be that he's uncovered her identity as a girl, developed feelings for her, and now wanted to introduce her to his grandfather?

This... this wouldn't do? It goes against the rules of the prominent families and it's not the right procedure.

Her heart pounded as if a little deer was bouncing inside. Her thoughts jumbled, she wanted to refuse, but felt weak as he continued to guide her.

"Little brother, look, that's the jail inside the Defender's Office; it's used to detain extremely wicked criminals." Wang Anye introduced it with a smile, "I heard that there are many pirates are imprisoned there?"

"Sev... Seventh Young Master, why are you showing me this?" The little beggar was a bit confused, wasn't he planning to introduce her to his grandfather?

Suddenly!

Wang Anye's face turned slightly stern, he stepped back to put some distance between them and ordered solemnly, "Guards, seize this beggar who is suspected to be a fugitive, imprison him in jail and thoroughly interrogate him."

He had noticed something was off with this little beggar from the start. However, he didn't act earlier because he was afraid of stirring up trouble. Now that they were at Rainluo Guard City Defender's Office and next to the jail, the little beggar couldn't cause any trouble.

"Aye! Seventh Young Master."

A fully armed patrol team surrounded the little beggar, aiming numerous swords, spears, arrows, and crossbows at him.

"What?"

The little beggar was shocked, as if struck by thunder. When did I, Wu Yiluo, become a fugitive?

In a moment, she was almost in tears.

She thought he was up to no good, lusting after her and was worried about it. But, in just a blink of an eye, he ordered she be arrested.

Whimper, whimper. Mom was right, there's not a single good man out there, they're all so deceptive.

Chapter 8: Girls Are Scary _1

...

An hour later.

Green Luo Guard City Defender's Office, interrogation room.

In the huge interrogation room, only Wang Anye and Wu Yiluo remained.

The soldiers and guards of the patrol camp were all outside, ready to rush in at a call.

This was a deliberate move by Wang Anye to practice the interrogation knowledge he had learned. Since he was idle, he might as well contribute to the security of Da Qian.

Wang Anye sat at the interrogation table, staring eye to eye with Wu Yiluo, the little beggar who was locked in the cell.

"On what basis do you say I'm a fugitive?" Wu Yiluo was so angry that her eyes were wide open with resentment, "Do you understand the Da Qian law?"

"The Da Qian law? That's a required course in my Wang Family School," said Wang Anye seriously. "As a descendant of the Rank Six Prominent Family personally appointed by His Majesty, I have the right and the obligation to assist the Government Office in maintaining local order, capturing criminals, eliminating bandits, and ensuring the safety of the people."

"Besides, I just said you look suspicious, like a fugitive. If after interrogation and investigation, we confirm that you're innocent, I will naturally let you go and even make some compensation for you."

"Who wants your compensation?" Wu Yiluo rolled her eyes. "Which eye of yours suspects that I am a fugitive? If you can't explain it clearly, I ... I won't let it go."

"Firstly, your skin is delicate and white, not the look of a beggar who has been battered on the streets. Moreover, although your clothes are worn out, they don't smell bad, and it's obvious that they were made from quality material from Zhou's Clothing Shop, but they have been modified to look like this," Wang Anye calmly said.

"Who dictated that beggars should look the way you think? Maybe I've just started ... haven't yet become an official beggar." Wu Yiluo stubbornly retorted.

Wang Anye ignored her and continued his analysis with a calm demeanor, "Secondly, you're wearing a storage ring on your chest. It's well known that even the cheapest storage ring costs two to three thousand Qian Gold, but yours is a top grade spiritual instrument level storage ring, worth no less than four hundred thousand Qian Gold."

"You, you ... how do you know?" Wu Yiluo was astounded, disbelieving.

This was unbelievable, he even knew the grade of the storage ring!

"When we hugged, it clicked against my chest bone, so I took it out and took a look. Although the quality of that storage ring is far inferior to the top quality Spirit Storage Ring [Endless Abyss] my great-grandfather gave me, it's not ordinary goods," he said.

Clicked, it clicked?

And he casually took it out to look at?

Wu Yiluo swayed on her small frame, her eyes darkened. Quickly, her hands flew to her chest as she cursed, "You, you ... are a rascal!"

Wang Anye looked at her curiously.

Just looking at her ring was enough to label him as a despicable scoundrel?

He continued, "Besides, your right sleeve is too long and you're wearing a bracelet on your wrist, a little spiritual treasure made of superior green enamel jade. And your waistband ..."

Seeing that he was getting out of hand with his remarks, Wu Yiluo couldn't take any more.

"Enough!" She angrily stomped her foot and yelled. "I admit my disguise was not good enough, but I'm really not a fugitive."

She felt both annoyed and ashamed, and her patience had hit its limit. If she let him continue, he might end up revealing the color of her underwear. To think she had felt a flutter of attraction towards him when they first met - it drove her crazy.

"So, whether you're a fugitive or not, you don't get to decide." Wang Anye slapped the table, imitating an adult's stern reprimand, "If you are not a fugitive, why would you sneak around like you're afraid of being caught? Why not confess your name, origins, and crimes?"

"All right, all right. There's no point in hiding it now. I'll lay my cards on the table," Wu Yiluo glared at him, exasperated. "My name is Wu. I am the Little Princess of the Commandery Prince's residence. This time, I'm in disguise to get a breath of fresh air in the Green Luo Guard City, and also to escape those annoying bodyguards."

Wang Anye raised an eyebrow and bowed slightly. "Oh, so it turns out to be the Little Princess in person. I'm sorry for misunderstanding."

"Humph, you're scared, aren't you? If you're scared then release me quickly." Wu Yiluo gestured with her hand. "In consideration of your ignorance being no crime, I, the Little Princess, will be magnanimous and spare you this one time."

"Ha! Do you think you're a monkey? You really know how to take advantage of the situation." Wang Anye's face suddenly turned cold. He scoffed scornfully, "A theft suspect like you dares to pretend to be the Little Princess? If you're the Little Princess, then I am the Commandery Prince. Shout 'Old Ancestor' and let me hear."

"You... how dare you insult my father!"

Wu Yiluo, red-faced, was pushed to her limit at this point.

She kicked open the bars in front of her, made a few quick movements, and was suddenly right in front of Wang Anye. Then she clenched her small fist and took a swing directly at his chest.

The moment she swung, the effect of the restraining little spirit treasure or secret technique dissipated, the aura of the Profound Martial cultivator exploded outward, causing the air around her to roil.

"Huh? A cultivation base as high as the third level of the Qi Refinement Realm?" Wang Anye, instead of being afraid, was excited. He also clenched his small fist and faced her head-on, "You're so young and yet you've accomplished so much, it seems your bloodline talent isn't low. No wonder you're so arrogant. Come on, let your dear brother Anye teach you about life."

Chapter 8: Girls Are Scary _2

As their words hung in the air, their fists had already clashed mid-air.

"Boom!"

A loud blast resonated, as wave upon wave of air exploded around them, creating a miniature shock wave.

"Da Da Da!"

The attacking Wu Yiluo felt a slight tremor run through their body, sending them staggering backward.

Feeling a numb sensation in their arm, they widened their already beautiful eyes in disbelief, "You, you, you have already cultivated to the peak of the third level of the Vital Energy Refining Realm? How is that possible? Are you also a Sky Pride?"

You must know that their cultivation base was top-grade Class A. Such a base, even among Sky Prides, is the most top-notch, which allowed them to cultivate to the third level of the Vital Energy Refining Realm at the tender age of just nine.

But in front of them, this so-called "seventh prince," who is about the same age, has a higher cultivation base. This means that he must also be a Sky Pride same as them but a much higher level, to have such fast cultivation rate.

"What's so odd about being a Sky Pride?" said Wang Anye disinterestedly.

In his household, Sky Prides were plentiful and numerous Great Heavenly Prides too. His cultivation level was merely of average rank among them. He felt too embarrassed to even mention it.

Wu Yiluo initially flabbergasted, heard him utter those words and couldn't help but scoff, "You keep bragging~"

Even a Tianjiao Rating A cultivation base like hers at such a young age in the Imperial Household was already quite rare, you know?

After all, a Rank Six spirit pill like the Boundless Treasure Pill had its own requirements for one's physique. Being still too young, she could not take it. When she turns fifteen and consumes the Boundless Treasure Pill, perhaps she could become a Great Heavenly Pride.

This guy, who seemed unimpressed, must be putting on airs!

As the two spoke, the guards and soldiers outside the interrogation room heard the commotion and rushed in.

"Seventh Prince, are you alright?" The guards were full of anxiety and began to berate Wu Yiluo, "You little beggar suspect, you have the audacity..."

"Enough, you all leave for now. He can't hurt me," Wang Anye casually waved his right hand while his left hand rested on his waist, looking very much at ease.

Seeing his confidence and that he was not injured, the guards and soldiers obediently retreated.

Could the seventh prince be afraid of a fight with someone of his age? If he wished to have a little fun, then they were okay with it~

Seeing that the interrogation room was empty, Wang Anye turned his eyes back to Wu Yiluo and beckoned them, "If you're not willing to admit it, then this young Master will continue to beat you until you do."

Wu Yiluo also sneered, "Just you try. I've never been afraid of a fight with anyone my age!"

She was favored in the Commandery Prince's Residence and also beloved by the reigning emperor. Besides her mother, Gongye Qingrui, she was a fearless person who could turn the sky upside down.

With that, the two started "banging" each other in the interrogation room. In no time, even the room's table was smashed.

Outside the interrogation room, the soldiers and guards exchanged uneasy glances as they heard the commotion inside.

Unexpectedly, the little beggar actually wasn't just bluffing. They could hold their own against the seventh prince?

"Do you admit defeat?" After a while, Wang Anye's voice rang out from inside. "If you don't, we can continue."

Quite clearly, in this little skirmish, Wang Anye had the upper hand.

"I don't admit defeat!" Wu Yiluo shouted back.

"Hey, hey, come on now—you sure have nerve bringing weapons into this! Fine, if you've drawn your sword, don't blame me for not going easy on you. Let me show you the sword intent and sword moves I mastered in one incense stick's time."

"Boundless Sea~~"

Shortly after...

"Ah~ My clothes..." A chilling scream from Wu Yiluo echoed out, followed by a sharp 'slap'. "You ruffian, you rogue, you, you, you!"

"What?" Wang Anye voice sounded somewhat horrified, "You, you, you... you're actually a girl... that's... that's terrifying."

"You jerk! How dare you say that's terrifying?" Wu Yiluo was simply stunned by his shameless remark.

Outside the room.

The soldiers and guards all exchanged glances, and couldn't help but press their ears to the wall.

What on earth was going on? The beggar was actually cross-dressing, and they didn't even realize it?

Well, it made sense. The little beggar seemed to be less than ten years old. After altering their appearance and voice, they could certainly pass as a young boy. A mature woman trying to disguise as a man would have had a much harder time.

It seemed that the seventh prince's Boundless Sea attack was so overpowering that it...

"Indeed, just as my seventh grand elder says, girls are really troublesome," Wang Anye sounded a tad exasperated. "Alright, alright, enough about it. Are you still fighting or not?"

What does he mean by "girls are too troublesome"?

Curled up in a corner with a piece of cloth guarding herself, Wu Yiluo was astounded by his words, "How am I supposed to fight when I am in this state?"

"You've got a Storage Ring. You must have a spare set of clothes. If you're not satisfied, we can continue fighting."

"Alright, alright. The place was too small earlier. I couldn't use my special move. If I don't make you kneel and beg for mercy today, my name is not Wu! You turn around, no, get out."

"Okay, let's fight outside where it's more spacious."

Chapter 8: Girls Are Scary _3

Having said that, Wang Anye walked out with his hands behind his back.

The two guards and the patrolling soldiers around them all looked at the seventh young master with an admiring gaze.

Who would've thought, not only handsome, his charm even extends to how idiosyncratic and overbearing he handles women.

"You all come and witness how I win her over." Wang Anye said, fondling his sword hilt with a hint of excitement in his heart.

It's been so long, how long has it been since he has felt so elated.

As for his younger siblings at home, he was too embarrassed to bully, and those who are older than him, he couldn't beat any of them.

It was joyful to finally encounter someone of similar age who also possesses decent skills. Could this be what his great-grandfather meant by "meeting a worthy match", and "feeling regret for not meeting sooner"?

Under the loud cheers of the guards and the patrolling soldiers, everyone arrived at the open ground, formed a circle, and began to cheer for the young master.

Soon enough,

the girl came out with a huff.

She wiped her face clean, donned pretty female Profound Martial attire, and even held a sword in her hand, looking exceptionally spirited and handsome.

From a young age, it was clear that she was a rare beauty, and in the future, she would undoubtedly become a stunning beauty.

"Yo, this little beggar turned out to be so handsome~" Guard Alpha commented, "Seems like she does match well with our seventh young master".

"Don't talk nonsense," Guard Beta said, "No matter how good-looking, what's the point? It has to be about matching social status. With our seventh young master's status, even a legitimate daughter of Purple Abode has to queue up."

"What do you know? This young girl must not be even ten yet, and she already has achieved the cultivation base of the third level of Vital Energy Refining Realm. That outfit she wears is priceless, and she certainly didn't come from an ordinary family. Could it be, was what she said actually true?"

"Really? If that's true, that would be extraordinary. Alternatively, why don't you go inform the young clan leader?"

I want to stay and watch the contest, why don't you go instead~" "

While the two guards Alpha and Beta were having this exchange, Wu Yiluo and Wang Anye had already started their confrontation.

"Little girl, it's impressive that you've managed to cultivate to the third level of the Vital Energy Refining Realm at such a young age. However, my Sword Intent Skill 'Boundless Ocean', which took me only an incense stick's time to comprehend, is not so easily broken. If you lack confidence, better admit defeat ahead of time!"

Wang Anye stood with his sword, his gaze was cold and austere, looking like a world-class expert.

"Hmm, it's indeed impressive that you could cultivate to the peak of Vital Energy Refining Realm at your age. However, even I am afraid of the technique I'm about to use..." Wu Yiluo's gaze was equally full of pride.

"Alright, alright, let me experience this fear."

"Impudent youth, watch my sword!"

After the customary tough talk, the two started clashing swords again. Their fight was quite a spectacle, and the guards and soldiers cheered them on.

But honestly, their moves were extremely childish, just like two headless chickens pecking each other.

No choice, even though both of them possess top-notch talent with extraordinary bloodline and cultivated at an extremely fast pace. In the end, they are too young. One ten and one nine years old, how much time did they have to polish their Profound Martial fighting techniques?

Ironically, while they fought, they continued to flatter each other.

"Excellent move, a world-class excellent move. Little Beggar, what do you call this sword technique?"

"Hmph, I'm called Wu Yiluo, not Little Beggar. This sword technique is called 'Eastward Purple Energy', invented by my father. Little Impertinent, your movement technique is interesting."

"I'm called Wang Anye, not Little Impertinent. This movement technique is the martial art of my Wang family: 'Willow Catkin Body Technique'. It's only middle-grade but once practiced to a profound level, it can be unpredictable like mine,"

Such mutual flattery made even the guards and soldiers bearish. Don't you two know how novice your techniques are?

However, who makes them such insignificant guards without even a name? They could only quietly grouse while mechanically cheering them on.

"Wang Anye, in facing someone of the same generation like you who is Heavenly Proud Level, my usual techniques will no longer be effective. Watch this move, 'Azure Dragon Roar'."

After saying so, Wu Yiluo stretched out her hand in a cool pose, and suddenly, the aura around her changed.

A majestic and formidable aura began spreading from her body. However, her face turned pale and sweat dripped from her forehead, showing she was exerting a lot of effort.

Just as Wang Anye prepared to ridicule her,

Suddenly,

A faint phantom shadow started to condense behind her, forming a yellow dragon-like form. It seemed thin, and it seemed like it would dissipate any moment.

Even though it was very miniature and faint, it was indeed a Dharma Shadow!

Although this Azure Dragon was obviously still a baby dragon.

"Roar~"

The thin baby dragon shadow raised its head ever so slightly, and let out a tender roar.

Meanwhile, a faint aura of intimidation spread across the entire space.

"What?"

Both Guard Alpha and Beta were elites in Spiritual Platform Realm, they have seen a lot while serving the Wang Family, they immediately recognized it as a Dharma Shadow.

They were both shocked.

Damn it, that's a Dharma Shadow indeed!

Even though the Dharma Shadow was weak to the point of being laughable, however feeble it was, it was still a Dharma Shadow.

Dharma Shadow requires cultivation base for support but does not have a strong correlation with cultivation base. Whether one can stimulate a Dharma Shadow depends solely on how thick one's bloodline is. To be able to stimulate a Dharma Shadow during the Qi Refinement Realm, all of them are at a Heavenly Chosen Level.

Chapter 8: Girls Are Scary _4

However, she was not yet ten years old and could already invoke the Dharma Shadow, a talent that placed her among the top ranking individuals in the Sky Pride.

"Wang Anye, dare you challenge me?" Wu Yiluo expressed, brimming with pride from her gem-like eyes. "The fact that you managed to provoke this little princess to summon her Dharma Shadow is more than enough for you to feel proud. Your sword moves, which were understood through the mere duration of an incense stick cannot withstand this."

"Are you joking? You think your small, blustering creature can suppress me, Wang Anye?"

Though slightly surprised, Wang Anye became even more excited.

Around him, his momentum changed, and a strong and domineering energy filled the air.

His eyes were filled with both thrill and arrogance: "Don't assume that only you can summon the Dharma Shadow."

After finishing his sentence, a soft Dharma Shadow gathered behind Wang Anye, a green pupa tree, full of vitality.

Of course, it looked juvenile, not yet fully grown.

However, he seemed to struggle to execute this, with sweat dripping continuously from his forehead.

"What? You, you can also invoke the Dharma Shadow? A tree? Hmph, how can an ordinary tree compare to my Azure Dragon Dharma Shadow?"

"Bring it on."

Both of them invoked the Dharma Shadow and stood in confrontation, continually colliding their breaths.

Just as it was about to erupt.

A solemn and strict roar suddenly came from the sky: "Wang Anye, stop acting rashly! Put away your Dharma Shadow now."

"Grandpa?"

Wang Anye's momentum dropped, and he quickly retracted his Dharma Shadow, obediently retreating.

In fact, his current strength to use Dharma was still difficult, and even if his grandfather wasn't present, he wouldn't be able to hold on any longer.

As for Wu Yiluo, she too was struggling. Seeing the situation, she also hurriedly withdrew her Dharma Shadow, panting heavily to the side.

At the same time, in the sky above, two figures descended from heaven and set foot on the square.

The man in front was dressed in a green robe. He had a deep demeanor like a high mountain lake, elegant and graceful.

He wore a small amount of beard beneath his jaw, which made him appear calm and heavy, giving a sense of latent power, a demeanor shaped by long term high-ranking positions.

This man was none other than the current Young Clan Leader of the Changning Wang Clan, Wang Zong'an.

Alone, he had been responsible for developing the Green Luo Guard for decades, his capabilities had been fully exercised, becoming a ruler who could govern his own territory.

His cultivation base was already at the Heavenly Person Stage decades ago, and now it had reached Level Three of the Heavenly Person Cultivation Stage.

And the middle-aged man in official dress behind him, although he had also reached the Heavenly Person Cultivation Stage, his temperament and momentum were far inferior to Wang Zong'an.

Moreover, considering his position, it was clear that he positioned himself half a step behind Wang Zong'an, obviously following the lead of Wang Zong'an.

The patrol camp and guards rushed to give their respects as they saw them: "Greetings to the Young Clan Leader, greetings to the City Lord."

Everyone knew that the real decision-maker in Green Luo Guard was Young Clan Leader Wang Zong'an of the Wang Family.

However, because of his pedigree, it was inconvenient for him to join the Government Office system. In that case, ruling the Green Luo Guard would be inappropriate.

Therefore, Taishi Ankang simply sent an average City Lord to the Green Luo Guard, solely to assist Wang Zong'an in his development and management of the Green Luo Guard.

Wang Zong'an was usually a friendly and kind-hearted person, but now he didn't have the mood to reciprocate his subordinates' courtesies.

After waving his hand indifferently, he turned his attention to the young girl. The more he looked, the more wrinkled his brow became, as he sternly asked, "Young lady, do you have the Azure Dragon bloodline? Can it be that your family name is Wu?"

In the Great Qian Land, the Azure Dragon bloodline was a symbol of the Imperial Household. However, due to the great variety of bloodlines among the Profound Martial cultivators today, even among the Imperial Household, the proportion of those who could activate the Azure Dragon bloodline was not high.

"Hello, grandpa, my name is Wu Yiluo." With that said, she also behaved appropriately and gave him her respects.

Despite Wu Yiluo's unruly behavior at home and her harsh confrontations with Wang Anye, she was still a child who had received strict education and training, and was very well-mannered and polite in front of her elders.

Indeed!

Wang Zong'an's brows furrowed as he glared at Wang Anye.

This mischievous lad was so bold he would even bully those with royal bloodlines.

Wang Anye had an innocent look on his face.

He was just catching a criminal...

The corner of Wang Zong'an's mouth twitched.

This child, relying on his good luck, had become increasingly unrestrained. He'd deal with him later!

He retracted his gaze, but he wasn't too worried internally.

The Changning Wang Clan was no longer the rootless and weak family of the past. They were unafraid of ordinary Commandery Princes.

"Miss Yiluo, which Commandery Prince or Prince's family do you belong to?" Wang Zong'an asked kindly.

If it was a weaker Commandery Prince family, it would be a bit troublesome but not difficult for the Wang Clan with its current reputation to handle.

"Responding to your words, grandpa, my father's name is Wu Mingyuan, and his title is An Commandery Prince." As Wu Yiluo politely responded, she didn't forget to throw a triumphant look at Wang Anye.

"An Commandery Prince?"

The color on Wang Zong'an's face suddenly became serious, and the look he gave Wang Anye was full of anger.

In recent family upper-level meetings, the name of the Quasi Emperor's son, An Commandery Prince, had been mentioned quite a bit.

He had not anticipated that his grandson when causing trouble, would provoke the daughter of An Commandery Prince's household!

Just at this moment.

A clear eagle cry rang through the sky.

Immediately afterwards, two gorgeous flying carriages circled down from high above and landed in the square.

Before the flying carriages even stabilized, the voice of Lord Zhenzuo Wu Dianshan came from one of them: "Young Clan Leader Zong'an, quickly gather your men and put the entire Green Luo Guard under lockdown."

There was a clear note of anxiety in his voice.

The occasions that could make such a powerful Commandery Prince nervous were not many, could it be...

Wang Zong'an's eyelids twitched as he looked at the innocent faces of Wang Anye and Wu Yiluo, feeling a succession of headaches.

Well, it seemed that these two little ones weren't easy lights to handle!

Chapter 9: This Day! Afraid It's Going to Change _1

...

However, even if it's difficult, what must be faced has to be faced.

Wang Zong'an quickly collected his emotions and said loudly, "I await Commandery Prince's arrival, your highness." Without intending to increase his voice, his words projected with precision towards the two flying carriages.

His voice falling into the ears of those on the flying carriages was unhurried and clear.

"So, this is the Young Clan Leader Zong'an?" In one of the Dragon Hawk flying carriages, Wu Mingyuan sat in a dignified manner and slightly showed his admiration as he heard, "Profound and vigorous energy, calm and composed, this young clan leader seems to be no ordinary person." As a Quasi Emperor's Son, he still needed to maintain his demeanor when he's outside.

He couldn't be like Lord Zhenzuo, quite agitated.

The leader of Sky Pillar, Immortal Tian Yan would occasionally send him information about the figures in the Wang family. Even though Young Clan Leader Zong'an had been mentioned a few times, it didn't leave a deep impression.

It would seem that Immortal Tian Yan might have neglected some details.

"Wu Mingyuan." Gongye Qingrui's almond eyes wide open with anger, "Yiluo is missing, and yet you're so calm, evaluating others leisurely. Let me tell you, if anything happens to my daughter, I'll have you accountable!"

"Calm down, calm down." Wu Mingyuan tried to soothe her, "Longzuo County Town and the Green Luo Guard are places where law and order prevail. Yiluo is a smart child, nothing will trouble her."

As they were talking,

Two flying carriages pulled by dragon hawks descended from the sky. One of which was a familiar carriage from Lord Zhenzuo Wang's residence. The other, while modest in appearance, bore the royal emblem, revealing the air of majesty.

Wang Zong'an carefully observed and recognized a symbol signifying the An Commandery Prince's Residence among the others that the Wang family had been "concerned" about lately. Especially when he noticed the young girl Wu Yiluo, who looked somewhat weak-kneed, fading back, he had already grasped the situation.

Immediately, he stepped forward to greet the honorable guests in the flying carriages before they disembarked, bowing gracefully, "I, Wang Zong'an from the Changning Wang Clan, greet the respected Lord Zhenzuo."

As for recognizing the An Commandery Prince's carriage beforehand, he had to feign ignorance for now, lest others learn that the Wang family had already been focusing on him. The City Lord, Zhao Dongyi, slightly behind Wang Zong'an, saluted in the same manner.

The passengers disembarked from the carriage.

Lord Zhenzuo, Wu Dianshan, purposely stepped back allowing Wu Mingyuan, the An Commandery Prince, to step forward first. Patience wearing thin, he introduced Wang Zong'an saying, "Zong'an, no need for such formality. I will introduce you, this is the An Commandery Prince, Wu Mingyuan, and this is An Commandery Prince Consort, Gongye Qingrui." As impatient as he was, he maintained his protocol.

"Greetings, An Commandery Prince and Commandery Prince Consort. An Commandery Prince, your renowned reputation precedes you." Wang Zong'an bowed neither arrogantly nor humbly.

The An Commandery Prince stepped forward appreciatively, "Young Clan Leader Zong'an, no need for formalities. I am just an idle prince and do not deserve such high praise."

After a brief and cordial conversation,

The slightly irritable Gongye Qingrui said, "Young Clan Leader Zong'an, our daughter Yiluo deceived the guards and ran away from home to play in the Qing Luo Guard. Please, we'd like to ask for your assistance in closing off the Qing Luo Guard and finding her."

No matter if she was the Commandery Princess Consort, or even the An Commandery Prince himself, without the Emperor's authorization, they had no right to directly command local governments, or ask local prominent families to do anything.

For someone else to do their bidding, they needed to rely on the Commandery Prince's face to appeal for help. Moreover, although the Changning Wang Clan held the 6th rank, it was not any ordinary Grade Six family.

However, most local governments and prominent families, if there are no conflicts of interest or issues of major concern, will mostly grant them face.

"Zong'an, the An Commandery Prince is not just any Commandery Prince," Wu Dianshan reminded on the side, "This matter, you must put on full effort and ensure the safety of the young princess."

Wang Zong'an caught a glimpse behind him, Wang Anye and Wu Yiluo had already retreated against the opposite corners of the wall. They glared at each other from a distance, both looking quite upset with each other.

His eyelids twitched, he coughed and said, "Wang Anye, come here."

Wang Anye walked over obediently with a gloomy face, showing a state of lethargy. He had always found life to be stale and boring, but now he was finally feeling the excitement it brings.

"Oh, isn't this the seventh young master of the renowned Changning Wang's family, Wang Anye? Usually you're so spirited, why are you so dispirited today?" With a mocking tone, Commandery Prince Wu Dianshan scanned Wang Anye from head to toe, seemingly harboring ill will towards him for past grudges.

"Anye pays his respects to the Commandery Prince," Wang Anye bowed respectfully, "May I ask how has the Commandery Prince been? Has there been any successful captures of the Silvermoon Flyfish in the Jade Pond Heavenly Lake recently?"

"You little brat... stop bringing up what we don't want to talk about." Wu Dianshan puffed out his beard in anger, reproached unpleasantly, "The essence of leisure fishing lies in the process, not the size or quality of the catch. Unlike some youngsters who don't understand the true meaning, only relying on a bit of luck to show off.

Forget it, you wouldn't understand at this level, don't ever bring up this topic again."

"Alright, I'll change the topic. How has Miss Qianrou been recently? I heard she was unwell some time ago. I even sent her some spiritual medicine, but it was thrown out." Wang Anye blinked and showed concern, "A few days ago, I planned to visit Miss Qianrou.

However, I was told that the Commandery Prince instructed that if I dared to step into the Commandery Prince's Residence, my legs would be broken..."

Chapter 9: This Day! Afraid It's Going to Change _2

Wu Dianshan's face froze instantly. You little lad have gone too far. This was no longer about skirting around the issues, it was completely ripping off old wounds.

Wasn't Qianrou's "illness" and refusal to see guests caused by your troublemaking?

However, considering the stark age and generational gaps between both parties, Wu Dianshan, despite his belly full of dissatisfaction, found little sense in taking it out on a child of around ten years old. He could only glare at Wang Zong'an, saying, "Young Clan Leader Zong'an, did you bring your grandson here just to cause me trouble?"

Wang Zongan, although choking back laughs, had to put on a serious face and say, "Commandery Prince, let us focus on the matter at hand."

Watching this scene from the side, the An Commandery Prince and his consort were surprised. What, in fact, could have happened to cause such discord between a dignified commandery prince and a handsome, striking little boy?

If they were not in such a state of anxiety, they might have found the situation rather amusing, given how much the Commandery Prince had lost face.

"Right, let's focus on matters," Gongye Qingrui quickly interjected, "Young Clan Leader Zong'an , what should we do next...?"

"Consort, please don't worry, the Little Princess is unhurt," Wang Zong'an turned around and said loudly, "Little Princess Yiluo, the Commandery Prince and his residence have come to find you. Please come out."

Yiluo?

Here!

Following Wang Zong'an's gaze, the An Commandery Prince and his consort indeed saw their darling daughter, hiding and shrinking in the corner.

"Wu Yiluo, you dare... come over here right now!" Gongye Qingrui, relieved of a huge burden, berated her immediately.

Wu Yiluo and Wang Anye were of the same ilk, as they came up twisting and turning from the corner, their faces downcast and showing no sign of liveliness. On reaching Wang Anye, she even gave him a stealthy glance, seeming to blame him; otherwise, she, the little princess, would've been free as a bird now.

"Wu Yiluo, tell me exactly what happened!" Gongye Qingrui grasped Wu Yiluo's hand, unable to contain her rage, "I want every detail, and if you dare hide anything..."

In the face of this, Wu Yiluo shivered, her eyes turning crafty. "Mother! I, I've been wronged. It was Wang Anye, look, he was the one bullying me."

The only way to escape in this situation was to divert the attention.

And so, the eyes of the An Commandery Prince and his consort, as well as the Lord of the Left County, fell on Wang Anye. A chilly atmosphere instantly enveloped the place.

"I?" Wang Anye stared wide-eyed, "When did I ever bully you?"

"Are you denying it? Didn't you deceive me into a jail and used the sword move - vast as the sea - which took you just the time of burning one incense stick to learn, to shatter my clothes?" Wu Yiluo brought up charges against him, "You, you even held me, is that not humiliating me?"

Clothes... shattered? Held?

The An Commandery Prince and his consort exchanged a glance, stricken as if hit by a bolt of lightning. Did this mean their darling daughter was...?

"You insolent brat, you..." Gongye Qingrui was trembling with rage, almost choking on her own ire.

Even the An Commandery Prince's face turned ashen gray. His darling daughter, whom he had protected and cherished so dearly, was actually violated by this damned boy...

Even Lord Wu Dianshan of Left County was dumbstruck. Wang Anye, you are adventurous, aren't you? You'd made my great-granddaughter ill due to some blunder at a matchmaking event half a year ago.

And it's been so little time since then, you're now involved with Little Princess Yiluo? So, are you aiming at the little princesses of the Commandery Prince's family?

Wang Zong'an felt a tremendous headache coming on and quickly said, "An Commandery Prince, Consort, please calm down. There must be some misunderstanding. Please give Anye a chance to explain."

Even though he was tempted to rebuke the boy himself, he knew his grandson well enough to be assured that he wouldn't have acted so inappropriately.

"That is true." Wu Dianshan, standing off to the side, also felt compelled to step in and mediate. "The Changning Wang Clan has a strict upbringing. While sometimes Wang Anye's actions may be infuriating, he would never stoop so low. An Commandery Prince, Consort, let's give him a chance to explain."

"Of course." The An Commandery Prince took several deep breaths to regain his composure, and restrained the raging Gongye Qingrui. "We of the An Commandery Prince's Residence believe in justice. We will not solely listen to Yiluo's version. Even if we are to hold him accountable, we need to have the facts and evidence." He too knew that the Changning Wang Clan was not one to be trifled with easily.

"Very well." Wang Anye remained as calm as ever. He took a moment to gather his thoughts before speaking, "This incident started at the County Town Post Station..."

He narrated the whole incident without rushing, using clear and eloquent language. Although Wu Yiluo tried to interrupt him a few times, Wang Anye only stated the facts...

A moment later!

Everyone now understood the ins and outs of the situation. When Gongye Qingrui asked softly, Wu Yiluo finally admitted saying: "Yes, that's what happened, but he blamed me unfairly. He held me and shattered..."

Before she could finish her sentence, Gongye Qingrui covered her mouth. She was tired of her granddaughter's habit of readily discussing such embarrassing topics.

"This young lad..." Gongye Qingrui sized up Wang Anye, finding him quite pleasing to the eyes. He had a refined appearance, the picture of sun-kissed purity, and at his tender age, he had already managed to best the little demon at home.

Mmm? He seems pretty respectable.

"Ahem!" As an old and seasoned figure, Commandery Prince Wu Dianshan reminded after a bout of coughing, "The young princess is tired. Everyone should rest for now, we'll talk about this matter later."

"Young Clan Leader Zong'an, it appears this matter can't be resolved by you alone. Dispatch someone quickly to summon Master Shouzhe to discuss how to address this issue."

"Thank you, Your Highness, for your arbitration. I'll send someone to fetch my father right away." Wang Zong'an's lips twitched at the corners. This matter was no small feat, nor was it some trifling concern. As expected, it was beyond his capability!

No matter what, the first thing was to entertain and provide for the Commandery Prince and his wife generously. Everything else would have to wait until his father personally handled it.

...

Meanwhile, at the same time...

In the southwest of Longzuo County lies the Great Wilderness Marsh.

Near the direction of Peace River, at Gourd Mouth, the Wang family's construction crew was actively bustling about. In such a short span of time, they'd already begun establishing the dam as outlined in the project plan, and the Water Dragon Array was already in effect.

The sound of churning waters echoed as it was poured out. Gradually, the water level in the marsh decreased, revealing the sandbars that were previously submerged.

On top of the dam, Wang Shouzhe, Liu Ruolan, and two members from the Wang family who were senior celestial beings were gathered. As they enjoyed tea and refreshments, they discussed the future development plans for the marshland.

The Old Ancestor Longyan had long since found a quiet place to meditate, leaving the rest behind. The Firefox Old Ancestor was snuggled up in a little ball, curled up asleep in Wang Shouzhe's arms.

The scene appeared relaxed and content, without a hint of strain. If one was unaware, they might have mistaken their gathering for a casual tea party~

At the same time...

In the marsh, the continuous decrease in water level spelled trouble for the Green Jiao of Elemental Water.

The bubbles that once disguised its figure were becoming ineffective, causing it to constantly alternate between them. It was left awkward and stifled as a result.

The Green Jiao of Elemental Water, as a creature of the dragon lineage, was naturally endowed with an immense capacity for battle. Even more so, considering the purity of its dragon bloodline.

When in rivers or seas, its combat power reigned supreme amongst its peers. Only a few were of an exotic bloodline which could match its prowess.

Since birth, it had never been stifled like it was now!

Unfortunately, the situation prevailed.

The water in the marshes was shallow. Before its bloodline fully transformed into a True Dragon, the jiao's reliance on water was high. It possessed immense power but could not utilize it fully due to the shallow water. What's worse, its enemies were too strong to contend with. What could it do other than hide?

Slowly but surely, without realizing, the Green Jiao of Elemental Water had taken refuge in the largest bubble of water. If the water level were to recede further, it might not be able to hide any longer.

Its large tail was swaying uneasily, and its golden eyes were staring at the bottom of the water. The jiao was becoming increasingly agitated.

In the midst of the stalemate...

A carrier raven suddenly dived from the high sky, crowing, "Ga ga..." as it swooped towards Wang Shouzhe on the dam.

Wang Shouzhe twitched his eyebrows, skillfully flicking his finger. A thin tendril shot out, instantly ensnaring the diving raven into a zongzi (dumpling).

"Ga ga ga~"

The raven appeared utterly unperturbed, instead it ardently crowed at Wang Shouzhe, all the while trying to flutter towards him.

Wang Shouzhe's lips spasmed in a wry smile, understandably at wits' end.

These carrier ravens that were reared by the Wang family always became unduly excited when they caught sight of him, constantly crashing into him.

Peculiarly enough, they behaved normally in front of everyone else. He had no idea why they singled him out in this behavior.

Wang Shouzhe casually grabbed the crowing raven, removed the small bamboo tube containing a message from its ankle, and then tossed it aside. He withdrew the paper from the bamboo tube and started reading.

Upon inspection, his face turned serious yet peculiar—caught between a state of contemplation and an urge to laugh.

"Husband?" Liu Ruolan, who had a keen sense of impending issues, queried, "Has something happened?"

"Uh... you better read it for yourself." Wang Shouzhe shook his head, chuckling, as he passed Liu Ruolan the paper, "Get Shi Zhao too. This issue won't be as easy to resolve."

Liu Ruolan perused through the paper, her eyes reflecting the same odd expression. Her precious great-grandson wasn't troublesome, but he had a knack for unwittingly getting involved in all kinds of strange incidents.

However, this time, it was clearly exceptional.

Wang Shouzhe himself hadn't expected that his several refusals for a meeting with the Commandery Prince An, despite the celestial immortal Tian Yan's repeated attempts to make it happen, was not because he looked down on Commandery Prince An. It was just that the struggle for the throne was a matter of great import. He wanted to ponder it more.

Of course, the best course of action was to remain a bystander.

However, he was cognizant of the fact that the chances to remain aloof were slim.

Surprisingly, it appeared he could not avoid it this time.

The couple exchanged glances, intuitively arriving at a decision. After discussing the matter briefly, they set off towards the Green Luo Guard immediately.

Chapter 9: This Day! Afraid It's Going to Change _4

Under the water surface.

The restless Spirit Water Green Jiao paused, sensing the scurrying away of two auras that evoked some fear in it.

Its large gold pupils suddenly brightened.

The opportunity had arrived!

When those two breaths completely disappeared from its perception, it could no longer restrain itself, and with a "whew" rushed out from the water bubble, shooting straight towards the dam.

Once beyond this dam, not far away, was the Peace River. Once it reached the river, it would have the run of the place!

Then, it would devour all the humans who had bullied and scared it!

However, as the Spirit Water Green Jiao soared into the sky and happily daydreamed about its future, a crisp female voice echoed from the shore, "Ugly mudskipper, you dare try to escape with your grand aunt here?"

At the same time, a small red fox that had been inconspicuously lying under the table yawned and raised its head.

As it turned out, although Wang Shouzhe had left to leave, he left the Seven-tailed Fire Fox behind.

Under the dumbfounded gaze of the Spirit Water Green Jiao, its petite figure inflated in a blink, turning into an enormous monster body.

Seven fluffy red fox tails swayed gently behind her, bursting with formidable pressure that instantly engulfed the entire wilderness.

Seven... a Level Seven Fierce Beast?!

Frightened, the Spirit Water Green Jiao instinctively turned to run.

But it was too late.

Just as its neck twisted, intricate fire-red patterns spread across the forehead of the Seven-tailed Fire Fox, the fox fire blazing on her tails.

This was the signature Divine Skill of the Fire Fox clan, "Fox Fire".

With a flick of her fox tails, a deluge of crimson fox fire engulfed the Spirit Water Green Jiao from above.

With a "bang", the giant Green Jiao, having not flown far, was instantly flung back into the marshland.

The red fox fire was so hot that the blue-green scales of the Green Jiao curled up instantly upon being baked.

That's such a bully to water snakes!!!

The Green Jiao yelped and writhed in pain, its giant golden pupils filled with tears, filled with resentment and unwillingness, and a hidden deep force of malice.

The Seven-tailed Fire Fox rolled her eyes at it without any mercy.

It served him right! Didn't it know this was human territory? How dare it single-handedly crash into human habitats, it would be weird if it didn't end up disastrously.

She lazily lay down on the dam, yawned and said, "Brother Shouzhe said you can't leave, so you can't. Behave, and you might survive. Otherwise, I might roast you for dinner."

"Growl~~!"

The Green Jiao roared at Seven-tailed Fire Fox in anger, its giant tail "splattering" against the water, questioning ferociously.

You're a Fierce Beast too, how could you help humans against Fierce Beasts?!

The Seven-tailed Fire Fox couldn't be bothered to argue, she flicked her tail, and another sweeping wave of Fox Fire came crashing down.

Immediately, the Green Jiao yelped in pain from being baked again.

The two elders of the Wang Family looked at each other in awe, shrinking their necks and sipping tea to calm down.

That was too cruel~

Although they knew that the little fox in Wang Shouzhe's arms was actually the Fire Fox old ancestor from the Yuwen Clan, they didn't expect the adorable and sweet little ancestor who fawned and looked cute in front of Wang Shouzhe, to become so cruel once it lost control.

However, they didn't sympathise with the Green Jiao at all.

Because for this Green Jiao, the Wang Family had lost two members. Towards this snake, they were filled with annoyance. They don't just lack sympathy, they wished they could run forward and deliver a strike too.

After being thrashed by the Fire Fox Old Ancestor several times, the Green Jiao, seeing it was impossible to escape, could only give up and return to the water bubble.

Deep within the bubbles in the soft sludge of the water, there was a place that was emitting faint light, radiating a strong spiritual aura.

A group of Spirit Fish hovered around the light, wanting to approach it to feed. However, before they got close, the faint light disappeared without a trace.

After a while, once the group of fish dispersed, the faint light reappeared.

The group of fish was instantly attracted once again.

And so, it continued in a cyclic pattern.

The Green Jiao descended to the source of the faint light, flicked its tail, and the surrounding sludge scattered, revealing the real situation beneath the mud.

It turned out, there was a huge river clam hidden beneath the sludge.

It was hard to tell how many years this clam had existed—it was huge and its shell was filled with pits and scars, creating a visual sense of vicissitude.

The trace of light that had earlier gushed from the mud was actually seeping out from the gaps in this clam's shell.

Staring at this huge clamshell, the golden eyes of the Green Jiao were full of frustration.

It had been watching this Pearl Clam for a long time.

This time, it followed this river clam's trace all the way from outland to this wilderness.

Although the Pearl Clam itself was only Level Five, inside its clamshell, it was nurturing Pearl Grass, which would soon reach Rank Six.

Pearl Grass, a very rare parasitical aquatic Spiritual Medicine, does not grow on Spirit Veins but instead parasitizes inside river clams and grows by stealing spiritual energy absorbed by the river clams.

The moment the river clam that the Pearl Grass is parasitic upon dies or its own rank increases, it will hide in the water until it finds another suitable river clam to inhabit.

Because it hides inside the clamshell all year round, it is covered with a thick layer of pearls on its surface, making it look like a peculiar pearl. Hence the name, "Pearl Grass".

Pearl Grass can grow up to Rank Six. It is one of the most favorite spiritual medicines of water-dwelling Fierce Beasts. It is also one of the main ingredients of the Rank Six Spirit Communication Treasure Pill, which stimulates blood circulation and aids in breaking through the Purple Abode Realm.

The Pearl Grass nurtured inside this river clam would transform into Rank Six Pearl Grass within two more years.

Just give it two more years. Once this Pearl Grass breaks through its rank, it can swallow it and rely on the medicinal power of Pearl Grass to complete the final transformation from Green Jiao to True Water Dragon.

Only two more years!

The Green Jiao roared in unwillingness: "Awoo, Awoo!"

Why, why did it run into a bunch of these aberrant humans at this time? Why?!!!

Why is its luck so bad?

...

Three days later.

In the back garden of the Qingluo Guard City Defender's Office.

After digesting their moods for several days, the Commandery Prince and his consort finally felt ready to face the Wang family.

Under the arrangement of Lord Zhenzuo Wu Dianshan who acted as the mediator.

Wang Shouzhe and his wife met with the Commandery Prince and his consort in a non-formal setting.

"I am Wang Shouzhe of the Changning Wang Clan. I pay my respects to the Commandery Prince and the Commandery Prince Consort." Wang Shouzhe greeted with a smile on his face.

"The prestige of Master Shouzhe has long resonated in my ears." Commandery Prince Wu Mingyuan stepped forward, enthusiastically took Wang Shouzhe's arm, "Don't be too polite, don't be too polite."

As for Wu Dianshan who considered himself a leisurely Commandery Prince, his eyes narrowed slightly like those of an old fox. Although this incident was somewhat dramatic, it seemed... it was very likely to add a huge variable to the future struggle for the throne of the emperor's son.

Others might not understand Wang Shouzhe, but Wu Dianshan had dealt with him too many times and knew that this man was truly unfathomable!

If they were not careful.

The world might change.

Chapter 10 "Happy Life"! Two Childhood Sweethearts_1

...

Meanwhile, as Wu Dianshan was absorbed in his thoughts, the couples of Wang Shouzhe and Wu Mingyuan had skilfully separated into two groups.

Wang Shouzhe and Wu Mingyuan formed one group. Sitting side by side, their faces adorned with smiles as gentle as spring rain, they started to make inconsequential small talk.

Liu Ruolan and Gongye Qingrui, on the other hand, sat separately and commenced the diplomacy of housewives. Between the two mature and attractive women, it wasn't hard to find shared topics of interest.

"Sister Qingrui, how does your skin manage to stay so moisturized and delicate, and your hair so glossy? Do you have any secrets?" Liu Ruolan revealed another facet of her character – elegant and amiable like a breeze in spring.

This side of her seemed like a different person, when compared to the imposing War Goddess persona she adopted while fighting with her sword.

She had no choice. After all, it was her great-grandson who was the hero this time, saving the Little Princess from a significant disadvantage.

"You might not be aware, Sister Ruolan, but our Anbei Territory is constantly battered by harsh winds and a dry climate. It's only the stubborn men in our family who are willing to take such a desolate place as their granted territory," responded Gongye Qingrui, throwing a sideways glance at Wu Mingyuan, before laughing delicately, "There was a time when my hair was all dry and split.

Luckily, the wife of the Left County prince occasionally sends me some beauty treasures such as Ice Skin Jade Flesh Nourishing Cream, and Moisturizing and Silky, for skin and hair care, which have brought my hair and skin back to good health."

Liu Ruolan burst into laughter upon hearing this, and said with a charmed smile, "Sister Qingrui, these products are actually produced by the Wang family. If sister is satisfied with them, I can arrange for special shipments to be sent to you every year."

"Really? That's wonderful! Sister Ruolan, you're my saviour..."

"Sister, you are too kind~ I also have some exclusive secret formulas on hand, they're not mass-produced, so..."

The "friendship" between women can sometimes come with a surprising degree of speed and groundlessness. In just a few exchanges, the two had quickly become familiar, and the intimacy in their conversation suggested they were like old friends who had known each other for decades.

On the other side, Wang Shouzhe and Wu Mingyuan had moved on to the next round of mutual flattering following their first.

That's how the meetings between those in power go: upon meeting, they first indulge in rounds of business flattery to get closer, and then they get down to business. Sometimes, when it comes to important matters, one round of flattery isn't enough, and several more rounds need to be done.

There's no way around it.

After all, at the level they've reached, any decision they make affects the fate of hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of family members. Therefore, they never confront others directly unless it's absolutely necessary.

They don't rush into important discussions. Instead, they often require multiple rounds of careful probing.

Experienced leaders are able to derive the other party's temperament, structure, and bottom line through these discussions, adjusting their strategies accordingly.

The reason Wu Mingyuan, the An Commandery Prince, isn't hurried to discuss official matters is due to his cautious nature. His understanding of Wang Shouzhe and the Wang Family comes mostly from Tian Yan's information and judgments, which inevitably have their limitations and biases.

Considering the Changning Wang Clan might become his future family through marriage and Wang Shouzhe is a potential ally, he needs to converse and delve deeper into their affairs before making any decisions.

After all, his daughter's happiness for the rest of her life is at stake. If the Changning Wang clan's family environment is not good or the news is inaccurate, he would rather find a way to dispel the issue instead of accepting this marriage.

"Master Shouzhe, this tea is quite nice, and it tastes somewhat familiar to the Immortal Tea at uncle's house," he commented while tasting the tea.

A corner of Wu Dianshan's mouth twitched.

What do you mean somewhat similar? This is obviously the Immortal Tea that he had bought from the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty...

He felt wronged, casting a surreptitious glance at Wang Anye, who was silently standing behind the elders, looking as innocent as a quail.

It was all this brat's fault. He shouldn't have competed with him in the first place. Not only did he lose face, but he also lost two amounts of Immortal Tea.

That tea must have been given to great grandfather Wang Shouzhe as a sign of respect, and ended up in Wu Mingyuan's hands.

Was it easy for him, Wu Dianshan, to get some Immortal Tea?

"Since the prince cherishes it, if you don't mind, I have another amount here," said Wang Shouzhe. He reached out, took a delicate tea leaf canister, and gave it to Wu Mingyuan.

This is indeed my Immortal Tea...

Wu Dianshan's pupils slightly shrank, and a sense of loss invaded his heart. He then secretly vowed to improve his skills. Sooner or later, he would get revenge for that fishing contest and strip every treasure from that bratty kid's Endless Abyss.

He had to admit, the dazzling treasures kept in the storage ring of that boy were indeed tempting, even for a prince like him.

"Oh... If Master Shouzhe insists, I won't refuse," Wu Mingyuan said, appearing to really enjoy the Immortal Tea, and happily accepted it.

Watching this unfold, Wu Dianshan rolled his eyes.

"Master Shouzhe, this is a bottle of 'Purple Jade Immortal liqueur.' I hope you'll accept it, even though it's not the original," said Wu Mingyuan, pulling out a bottle of wine as a return gift, "The 'Purple Jade Immortal liqueur' from the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty is a rare delicacy. But the wine is just too expensive, and it pains me to drink it, so...

I tried my best to import the Purple Jade Immortal grapevines, spent a lot of effort to successfully plant them in a small patch of top-quality Spirit Veins, and finally replicated the brewing process to produce my version of Immortal liquor."

Chapter 10"Happy Life"! Two Childhood Sweethearts_2

Wu Dianshan was slightly dumbfounded...

Speaking of the An Commandery Prince, he indeed lagged behind the Kang Commandery Prince in many areas, who was of the same Quasi-Emperor's Son status. But he had two significant advantages.

First, his daughter, Little Princess Yiluo, was deeply loved by the emperor.

Second, the An Commandery Prince was adept at farming and had a large group of experts with advanced agricultural cultivation skills under his command. His ability to cultivate the Purple Jade Immortal Vine was indicative of his mastery and accumulated knowledge in agricultural technology.

Moreover, the Northwest Guard was bathed in abundant sunlight, with a thick fertile soil layer beneath the sandy soil. The Purple Jade Immortal grapes cultivated at the core of top-level spirit veins were surprisingly no worse than those from the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty.

The only regret was the small quantity produced. The majority of the Purple Jade Immortal Wine he brewed was offered up to the Emperor. Most of what remained was divided up amongst the elders

in the Imperial Household. Even he, the mighty Left Commandery Prince, could only occasionally taste a glass.

Having spoken so long with An Commandery Prince Wu Mingyuan and even exchanged small gifts, Wang Shouzhe had developed a closer relationship and gained a better understanding of the other party.

It was only then that they began discussing the main topic.

"Your Highness Commandery Prince, my family's disobedient monkey was indeed rude. The fault lies in my negligence and poor discipline," Wang Shouzhe got up and deeply bowed.

The An Commandery Prince quickly helped Wang Shouzhe up, "Shou Zhe, don't be like this. I have already investigated the truth. It was only a series of misunderstandings."

"Though there may have been some misunderstandings, that little monkey's behavior was too impulsive, resulting in the insult to the Little Princess. I assure you, Your Highness, that I will take responsibility for this,"

Having said that, Wang Shouzhe sternly glanced at Wang Zong'an behind him, "Wang Zong'an, that is your grandson. It's up to you to deal with it."

Wang Zong'an's face paled, and he quickly bowed, "Father, I understand."

Then, he angrily turned around and stared at Wang Shizhao behind him, flinging his sleeve, "You are clearly incompetent in teaching your son. Deal with it yourself."

Wang Shizhao's face dropped, and his heart trembled. He quickly bowed to his father, begging for his anger to subside, then turned to Wang Anye with furrowed brows, scolding, "You little beast, how dare you commit such outrageous acts?"

Wang Anye was so frightened his eyes were wide open, "Father, it was all a misunderstanding..."

before he could finish, Wang Shizhao picked him up with one hand, carrying a prepared rattan whip in the other, and began a fierce whipping, while cursing, "I will beat this small beast to death! I might as well not have birthed you."

Wang Anye was screeching. His two short arms and two short legs thrashing in the air, but he couldn't wriggle free from his father's iron grip.

That look was both pitiful and distressing, and hilariously unexpected.

This scene brought great joy to the Little Princess Wu Yiluo hiding behind, covering her mouth and giggling quietly.

You little brat! This serves you right for bullying me and blasting my clothes off with that sword technique you suddenly mastered. You deserve this beating!

"Why does seeing this little kid being beaten make me feel so satisfied? How strange~" On the other side, Wu Dianshan stroked his beard with a "loving" and contented expression.

However, to both Wu Mingyuan and Gongye Qingrui, this was received differently. The husband and wife glanced at each other from a distance, both noticing the other's wrinkling eyebrows.

During these past few days of cool-down.

The couple had also privately discussed the matter.

Overall, although Yiluo was at a disadvantage in this matter, firstly, the cause of this incident was due to her willfulness. Secondly, Wang Anye was only ten years old and Yiluo was only nine. They were both small children, so the impact wasn't significant.

Their initial anxiety and anger stemmed primarily from Yiluo's disappearance which made them feel anxious, resulting in the loss of calm and an overly sensitive reaction.

Once they had calmed down entirely and thought it through, their perspective had gradually changed.

Gongye Qingrui even thought that this incident might not be a bad thing.

Wang Anye was the main descendant of the direct line of the Changning Wang Clan and his maternal family, the powerful Longzuo Qian family.

Although the Wang family was currently only Rank Six, for anyone paying a little attention, it would be easy to see the enormous potential of the Wang family.

On the contrary, the Longzuo Yan family, another old prominent family with Purple Abode status, had gradually declined in recent years.

The primary force of the Longzuo Yan family was located in the north of Longzuo County, focused on livestock raising, secondary farming, and mining. These industries were still okay during the early stages of development of Longzuo County, but later on, with the emergence of various other families, they gradually lost their advantage.

Moreover, the main problem with the Yan Family was that their family's Old Ancestor was now six to seven hundred years old. Unfortunately, a hundred years ago, their family's Purple Abode Seed failed during the challenge and their Spiritual Platform was severely damaged. This had an almost fatal impact on the Yan Family, which was not in a very good state to begin with.

This was also the essential reason why the Yan family had been keeping a low profile recently.

They had no choice but to lay low~

Just the transition of the Purple Abode was enough to make the Yan family worry to death. How could they have the spare capacity to deal with other things? Therefore, they have been focusing their main efforts on the north, striving to maintain their increasingly competitive industries.

In the meantime, they even sold a lot of their industries in the Longzuo County City, on one hand, striving to extend the lifespan of the elderly Ancestor of the Purple Abode, and on the other hand, training the second Purple Abode successor at the fastest speed.

Chapter 10 "Happy Life"! Two Childhood Sweethearts_3

If another accident were to occur, the Yan family of Longzuo might repeat the fate of the Yuwen and Wang clans of Longzuo, falling from the fifth to the sixth rank, and even, possibly, to the seventh rank several centuries later.

The hierarchy of prominent families in Great Qian Land has never been constant. Most clans, after many generations, unavoidably decline. This was the case for the Wang family of Longzuo in the past, and is now the fate of the Yan family of Longzuo.

Those prominent families that continued to prosper after thousands of years are truly rare exceptions.

Therefore, while the Yan family was declining and keeping silent about it,

The Changning Wang Clan, Longzuo Qian Family, and Longzuo Yuwen Clan, tied together, were equivalent to a giant force controlling Longzuo County. If they managed to gain the support of this alliance, An Commandery Prince, originally weak and isolated, would gain a mighty reinforcement.

Of course,

The affiliations were not enough to completely win over Gongye Qingrui. The crucial factor was Li Yao, the Great Heavenly Proud of Longzuo Purple Abode Academic Palace.

Wang Shouzhe, the current Family Head of the Changning Wang family, was Li Yao's biological father. Gaining the support of the Wang family would certainly secure the backing of Miss Li Yao, and indirectly, the endorsement of the Enlightened One of Tianhe.

What An Commandery Prince lacks most now is the backing of a Heavenly Proud future contender for the title of Saint from an Academic Palace or Sacred Land.

Like Gong Yang Ce at the side of Kang Commandery Prince, who is a clear symbol.

Once Kang Commandery Prince successfully secures the position of the Emperor's son, he would in return help Gong Yang Ce strive for the title of Saint. The future structure of Great Qian Land would then resemble the current scenario, with the Sacred Land and the Imperial Household working together to govern and develop Great Qian Land.

Of course, Gongye Qingrui would not disregard her daughter's feelings because of these considerations.

However, she could see her daughter's fond animosity with Wang Anye. From her understanding of her own daughter, she didn't believe this girl wasn't moved at all.

Plus, Wang Anye was quite handsome, clever and smart. His bloodline talent was exceptional, making him a good match with Yiluo.

The couple had already discussed and planned to see if they could manoeuvre things in a certain direction...preferably having the Wang family propose a marriage alliance.

Unexpectedly,

Before their plan was put into action, the Wang family apologized and severely punished the "trouble-causing child".

Undoubtedly, this was conveying a message: their child made a mistake, they should apologize and severely reprimand the child. . .but their trains of thought were not moving towards an arranged marriage.

Gongye Qingrui, a legitimate daughter from a Third-Class Aristocratic family who had been carefully nurtured since childhood, was naturally not comparable to ordinary people in vision, awareness, and pattern of thought.

She understood that at this moment, she could no longer let her usually passive and non-competitive husband make the decisions.

She glared at Wu Yiluo, who was laughing at the misfortune, and couldn't help but roll her eyes. This heartless girl didn't care about Anye at all.

She plucked up her courage, pulled Wu Yiluo over, and thrashed her heavily, shouting as she hit, "You naughty girl, you are willful enough, and now you even got Anye beaten."

"I will kill you for this, as if I...labored in vain to give birth to you."

Wu Yiluo was caught off guard and got beaten, crying out and struggling to escape. However, how could her petite figure be a match for her own mother, who was at the advanced stage of the Heavenly Human Realm?

Gongye Qingrui used just one hand to pin her down firmly.

For a while, there was a flurry of slapping noises and the successive wails of the two children, creating a lively scene.

Hey, the little princess got a beating too? Serves her right.

Wu Dianshan, standing at the side, gloated even more.

When the little princess ran away without making a sound, she almost got him in trouble. As far as he was concerned, Wu Yiluo and Wang Anye were of the same ilk, naughty children who did not deserve sympathy, they deserved it!

Wang Shouzhe and Wu Mingyuan looked at each other, both seeing a hint of helplessness in the other's eyes.

Everyone knew what it meant for them to discipline their own children in such a manner.

At this point, there was no need to continue punishing the naughty kids. They, as elders, naturally pitied their own children and turned to Wu Dianshan, who was always ready to smooth things over.

Wu Dianshan, a wily old fox who was adept at fishing in troubled waters, remembered his mission despite his joy.

As soon as he received the looks from the two, he coughed deliberately and said, "Enough, enough~~ These two are still young. Don't beat them so badly that their health suffers. It's just a misunderstanding, there's no need for such harshness, no need at all~"

His persuasion caused Wang Shouzhe and Gongye Qingrui, who were originally distressed for their children, to slow down and eventually stop after a couple more hits.

"You little beast, if it weren't for the Commandery Prince pleading for mercy, I would beat you to death," Wang Shizhao threatened "fiercely".

Gongye Qingrui also warned, "If it wasn't for your Great Uncle pleading for your life, you'd be dead."

After saying that, she gently pushed her daughter.

The two beaten and pitiful children then had to drag their "wounded bodies" to Wu Dianshan, thanking him for helping them out of the situation with teary eyes.

Chapter 10 "Happy Life"! Two Childhood Sweethearts_4

Hehe~

Wu Dianshan glanced at Wang Anye. So, even you have seen a day like this, huh~ He looked again at Wu Yiluo. Hehe, you ran away from home and almost got me into a heap of trouble, this is sweet retribution.

However, while he thought this in his heart, his face still warmly accepted the gratitude.

As the two little ones who were beaten turned to go back, they had a brief eye contact and saw the sympathy of their shared predicament in each other's eyes.

However, in the next moment they both spontaneously recalled their previous altercation, their eyes immediately sparked as if they both were saying: It's all your fault! If it weren't for you, why would I have been beaten up?!

"Humph!"

Two cold sounds were heard at the same time.

Both of them turned away angrily, ignoring each other.

Leaving aside what was going on in the minds of these two mischievous children for now.

Through this first round of communication, An Commandery Prince understood what Wang Shouzhe was thinking, and Wang Shouzhe understood what An Commandery Prince was thinking.

"Cough~" Entrusted by Gongye Qingrui, Wu Dianshan planned to offer a helping hand at this time, "Shouzhe, your two families' children have had their fight. Let's talk about the main issue."

"While it was a misunderstanding, the Little Princess is after all the rightful heiress of Qingluo's lineage, a heavenly noble descendant of noble status. She has also awakened the imperial household's Azure Dragon blood lineage, and her resemblance to Princess Qingluo during her childhood is extremely alike, and she is deeply favored by the emperor.

If this incident reaches the ears of the emperor, it is likely to cause a big fuss."

Here it comes.

Wang Shouzhe had some idea of what he was getting at, but had to go along with the flow, "According to your highness's suggestion, how should this matter be resolved?"

"It's simple, looking at both of these children, they are like golden boy and jade maiden, a match made in heaven, why not just accept the error and have them bound in matrimony? In this way, there won't be any more questions about innocence." As Wu Dianshan said these words, he also felt regretful.

His own Qianrou and Wang Anye were of suitable age, so he had the Qian family organize some minor activities when Wang Anye visited his maternal family, the Qian's, to celebrate the New year.

The original intention was of course to let Qianrou and Anye spend time together, and if they were compatible, they might make a good match.

Unfortunately, the events that followed made Wu Dianshan headaches.

First of all, he, Wu Dianshan, lost completely in the fishing competition with Wang Anye.

Later, his Qianrou took a liking to Wang Anye, but the brat complained about girls being too troublesome, he didn't want to get married and so on and so forth. He made Qianrou so angry that she didn't go out for a long time. It was only after inviting Wu Yiluo over that she was somewhat better.

Now it seems, Qianrou and Wang Anye are probably destined not to be together.

While Wu Dianshan lamented, the two bear cubs who were still mad at each other were stunned. What? They want to pair them up? This is a big joke, right?

"No way, girls are all troubles." Wang Anye was the first to shake his head like a drum, distancing himself like a snake, "I was doing just fine until I ran into this little beggar and things went downhill from there."

"You little jerk! I'm the one who's been cursed since I met you." Wu Yiluo was so angry that her lungs were about to explode, "Marry you? In your dreams! You rascal!"

"Who are you calling?!"

"I am talking about you!"

"Come on, looks like it's necessary to teach you another..."

"Thwack!" Before Wang Anye could finish his sentence, Wang Shizhao, who was driven to rage, grabbed him and started another round of thrashing, "It's the adults' turn to discuss matters, is it your turn to speak yet? And you dare to shout at the little princess..."

The An Commandery Prince Consort over there was not willing to be outdone, she also grabbed Wu Yiluo and began to spank her, "It's all my fault for spoiling you so much and letting you talk irresponsibly. How good a boy is Anye? Handsome, superior family background, even his bloodline is the top-grade Sky Pride..."

The symphony of yowls, screams, and thrashing rose and fell, resounding once again.

Poor Wang Anye and Wu Yiluo, they were pleading for mercy while they cried, their hearts filled with agony. Have these adults all been poisoned? They didn't even let them finish two sentences before doling out a beating.

Can they even live through these days?