

## Resonance 681

### Chapter 0681: Kingdom Protecting Formation

Dong!

The low, rhythmic beating of the drums continued to resound throughout the square. Golden flags on each side began to wave as countless soldiers stomped the ground while knocking the shafts of their weapons against the ground, causing a corresponding rumble throughout the square in tandem with the beat. This display of vast coordination was truly imposing and grand.

An official of the royal palace who was garbed in dignified clothing began to proclaim a long speech that caused the audience to turn dizzy.

After the complicated procedures were completed, the frail Little Emperor within the carriage stood up and got off, beginning to ascend the white jade stairway step by step.

Everyone's gazes were focused upon him.

The Little Emperor's fair and delicate expression held a trace of solemnity. He took each step slowly, gradually ascending the sacrificial altar. This was a requirement as the ceremony would be completed atop this platform as it had to do with the Kingdom Protecting Formation. It was the Xia Kingdom's strongest protective formation, and once the ceremony was completed, the Little Emperor would be the sole wielder of it.

Wielding its might, so long as one remained within Xia City, even a King Stage expert could not harm them.

The Little Emperor would then become the mightiest individual in Xia City, and no faction would dare to be disrespectful before such absolute might. His position would thus be safe.

Thus, the coronation ceremony was really about gaining control of this invaluable power.

The numerous experts within the square were closely focusing upon this sight. Even Dukes had to be fearful of the domineering might of the formation. It was the Xia Kingdom royalty's strongest deterrence.

So long as one possessed it, the Xia Kingdom would never be destroyed.

Under the watchful eyes of tens of thousands, the Little Emperor finally reached the top of the white jade platform.

On top of the platform was a white jade statue of the Xia Kingdom's founding ancestor. The Little Emperor respectfully kneeled before it, and countless runes of light spread out before him, causing countless beams of light to burst into the sky from the jade platform. At the very same time, the entire city shook before this sight, and boundless energy radiated in every direction, causing even the environment's energy to turn turbulent.

It was at this point that everyone's attention focused upon the space above the royal palace.

One could see a massive and mysterious formation gradually take shape as worldly natural energy from every direction was sucked into it endlessly like a black hole.

With its manifestation, a vast pressure descended upon everyone.

Countless Dukes' expressions turned heavy. This was the Kingdom Protecting Formation.

This formation connected the hundreds of provinces throughout the Xia Kingdom. It could be said that the stronger the national power of the kingdom, the mightier the Kingdom Protecting Formation. From a certain point of view, House Luolan's defensive ward was similar to this in concept, but the Kingdom Protecting Formation was superior in terms of both scale and strength. At the same time, this was expected as the formation was something that the founding ancestor of the Xia Kingdom had spent a hundred years fashioning. In terms of both accumulation and resources, it far surpassed what was spent on the defensive ward of House Luolan.

Li Luo similarly glanced at the terrifying formation taking form in the sky before checking out what the Regent was up to a moment later. That fellow was also examining the formation, and he seemed unperturbed and completely unworried.

"You old thing, what are you really trying to do?" Li Luo frowned as he watched the Little Emperor, who had already finished activating the Kingdom Protecting Formation. He would gain complete control once the ceremony was completed, so why was the Regent completely unflustered?

One had to know that once control was transferred, the Regent would no longer be able to stir up any waves.

In fact, Li Luo was not the only one who seemed puzzled—all of the other leaders similarly sneakily glanced at the Regent. They were suspicious in their hearts too.

Could it be that it was simply too difficult and the Regent had given up? This didn't seem coherent with his personality.

The First Princess continued to watch the frail figure of the Little Emperor, her slender, jade-like fingers tightly clenched into a ball. During such a critical moment, her heart inevitably started to beat quickly. Her many years of longing would culminate at this very moment.

However, the Regent remained quiet, and she unsurprisingly felt a pang of nervousness surface within her heart.

She had a deep understanding of the Regent. He had always been ambitious and power hungry, and so if someone had said that he would choose to quietly hand over the reins to his power, the First Princess would dismiss it as an idle fantasy.

If the Regent didn't want to give up his power, then this facade was the quiet before the storm.

This required her to be on even greater alert.

The First Princess had one hand hidden away within her robes, clutching a jade tablet. So long as there were any unexpected developments, she simply had to crush it and all of the soldiers of Xia City would be summoned to this very location to surround and apprehend the Regent and his men.

She had an indifferent expression, but a slight hint of killing intent appeared within her frigid phoenix eyes. Before her father had passed away, he had informed her to support her younger brother. She was still young at the time, and when faced with the mighty Regent, she could only resist. Now the Little Emperor had matured and it was time for the Regent to pass the baton back to the royal family. If he was unwilling, then a direct confrontation was unavoidable.

As everyone stewed in their own thoughts, the Kingdom Protecting Formation began to emit even more frightening waves of power. The sky had turned dark as the massive formation continued to operate.

The Little Emperor continued to kneel down before the ancestral statue atop the white jade platform. Before everyone's eyes, he retrieved a small, golden knife which he then used to slice open his palm. The blood that oozed out did not fall onto the ground, instead floating into the sky before combining with the Kingdom Protecting Formation.

Weng, weng!

With the integration of the fresh blood, huge ripples of energy appeared on the surface of the Kingdom Protecting Formation. It seemed to be appraising the blood, ensuring that the individual was one of the Gong family line.

Everyone continued to watch this scene with trepidation.

This was the final step, and once the Little Emperor was recognized, the formation would be under his complete control. At that point in time, a single thought would provide him with the strength to resist a King Stage cultivator.

Boom!

The Kingdom Protecting Formation continuously discharged terrifying amounts of energy like a tempestuous storm, emitting huge booms throughout Xia City.

As a result, the entire city was currently focused upon this sight as well.

The Kingdom Protecting Formation continued to operate, and at the next moment, a beam of light descended from the sky, completely enveloping the Little Emperor.

Within the pillar of light was majestic amounts of energy that caused the Little Emperor's hair and robes to billow. Boundless amounts of energy then rushed into him, and he could feel his body reaching untold levels of strength.

This strength even seemed to be able to temper his body, giving him a tyrannical presence.

This caused the Little Emperor to feel endless happiness. He had been afflicted with the black lotus malady for countless years, causing him to become extremely weak. This was the first time he had managed to experience such sheer power.

At this moment, he could clearly feel that the black lotus was being refined by the Kingdom Protecting Formation, and it was purified very quickly.

It turns out that controlling the Kingdom Protecting Formation would provide such a wondrous boon!

The Little Emperor stretched out his palm, and he could see countless mysterious runes gradually take form on it. He had seen these runes in the royal family's secret tomes—they were the key to controlling the formation. The moment they were completely condensed within him was when he would have full control.

Things seemed to be progressing very well.

Everyone present could feel that the Little Emperor was gradually forming a mystical connection with the Kingdom Protecting Formation. As a result, he himself began to exude an overbearing pressure that pressed down upon them.

This was a sign of a successful connection.

Li Luo began to intently focus upon this scene before turning his focus onto the Regent. His heart skipped a beat at this very moment as he saw the previously expressionless Regent begin to smirk.

This caused a feeling of unrest within Li Luo.

Bang!

The pillar of light suddenly surged with intensity, and the Little Emperor's upper robes were partially blasted to pieces by the sudden influx.

Li Luo's eyes shrunk slightly upon this sight.

He suddenly saw the black lotus on the Little Emperor's back begin to recede with astonishing speed.

It then transformed into a green lotus.

The poisonous black lotus which had inflicted countless years of suffering upon the Little Emperor had suddenly been completely wiped out?

Li Luo could feel a trace of astonishment arising within him. At the same time, he didn't know if he was mistaken, but the Little Emperor's hair gradually grew longer and glossier.

His delicate features similarly transformed into ones that were more dainty and elegant.

Li Luo felt a sense of absurdity in his heart.

“What? Is the Little Emperor starting to resemble a female?”

## **Chapter 0682: Upheaval**

As Li Luo had that ridiculous thought in mind, similar sounds of shock and surprise arose throughout the entire white jade square.

The transformation was a little too obvious.

His hair cascaded down his back like a waterfall after it broke free of the shackles of the crown put upon his head, sable and lustrous. His originally pale skin seemed to have taken on a crystal-like sheen, then his frail body suddenly became taller. The well-fitting dragon robe that he was garbed in tightened in an

instant, highlighting the fullness of his chest. His elegant features had taken on feminine characteristics and seemed to possess a large degree of similarity to the First Princess. The only difference was that he seemed more gentle and charming compared to the graceful older sibling.

Previously, he was around ten years old and had the appearance of a little boy. In a blink, he seemed to have instantly matured into a young lady.

The changes to his body caused the Little Emperor to momentarily feel taken aback. He trembled a little at this moment, unsure of why such a disastrous change had occurred. And fear surged from the depths of his heart.

He knew very clearly that this transformation occurring at this very moment was fatal.

He had suddenly and miraculously transformed from a boy into a young lady during the esteemed coronation ceremony for his ascension onto the throne.

This was both mind-boggling and disturbing.

It would destroy all of his credibility to ascend as the Emperor!

Boom!

As the Little Emperor remained rooted in abject fear, the first one to react was not the audience, but the Kingdom Protecting Formation in the sky! Terrifying fluctuations of energy roiled like thunder as the entire sky was distorted by its fury.

It almost seemed as though the Kingdom Protecting Formation was aggravated by this scene.

The Little Emperor could feel the change within the Kingdom Protecting Formation, and his heart turned cold. He suddenly remembered a secret that was passed through word of mouth within the royal family. The Xia Kingdom's Kingdom Protecting Formation could only be controlled by the males of the royal family.

And now that he had transformed into a female, did this not mean that he had lost the right to control the Kingdom Protecting Formation?

Without this in his hand, he simply could not secure his position on the throne.

"How?! How could this happen?!" The Little Emperor's voice quivered. The sudden transformation had turned his mind into a blurry mess as it was completely unimaginable.

He had been a boy for many years, but he had transformed into a girl on the day of the throne ascension? This was just absurd!

He then glanced at his now slim palm, and the runes for controlling the Kingdom Protecting Formation were gradually dissipating.

The Little Emperor was completely alarmed as his other hand hurriedly grasped desperately at the ancient runes, leaving behind bloody furrows as he screamed in terror.

"DON'T DISAPPEAR. YOU CAN'T DISAPPEAR! I AM THE XIA KINGDOM'S EMPEROR. IT IS MY RIGHT TO CONTROL YOU! DON'T! NO! YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO DISAPPEAR!" He understood the importance of

this ceremony, and his elder sister had spent untold amounts of effort to ensure that he would reach this point today. If he failed, his uncle would use this opportunity to firmly entrench his own control and power. Eventually, he, the Emperor, would become a puppet!

The officials who previously supported him would also gradually draw a line between him and them after this transformation.

Without the deterring might of the formation, he simply had no way to hold on to power.

Alas, his pitiful attempts did nothing to change the result. All of the ancient runes gradually disappeared. The massive Kingdom Protecting Formation similarly roared in anger before dissipating before countless horrified eyes.

This was a result no one had expected, and the ceremony had failed!

Swish!

The First Princess finally snapped out of her shock and violently stood up, her charming face a steely green, a gaze full of panic and incredulity.

The change that occurred before her very eyes had surpassed the limits of her imagination.

Her precious brother whom she had depended upon had changed into a sister!

How?!

She felt sick and dizzy to the core.

A fierce gaze was shot towards the Regent as fury and resentment surged within her. "Gong Yuan! Just what have you done!?" Although he had been sitting there seemingly doing nothing the whole time, the First Princess had a feeling that this entire chain of events could not possibly be unrelated to him. He had the most to gain if the Little Emperor failed to take control of the Kingdom Protecting Formation.

Faced with the rarely furious First Princess, the Regent sighed and regretfully glanced at the Little Emperor atop the sacrificial platform. "Luanyu, this sudden change in the situation has indeed been very heartbreaking. It's understandable that you suspect me, but do you really think I have the ability to transform a boy into a young lady? Perhaps you have not considered the other possibility, which is that he, Jingyao, no... she was actually a female at birth, but this news was concealed?"

The First Princess frowned as she coldly retorted, "Nonsense!"

This news was something she had never heard of. Even her father had not said anything of the sort on his deathbed, so it was naturally impossible for it to be true!

"My brother, the late Emperor, has only ever had you two as his offspring. He had always wanted a male to continue the line as he understood that only a male could continue to wield the Kingdom Protecting Formation. Perhaps it was because you were significantly more outstanding than Jingyao that he had never planned to let you become the Empress. Jingyao's birth had ruined his hopes as she was not a male either. Perhaps in his despair, he opted to use some special means to obscure Jingyao's true gender and thus trick the Kingdom Protecting Formation's senses?" The Regent disregarded the First Princess' cold gaze, only continuing to sound out his thoughts.

"Why don't you explain it to me, then? Jingyao's back has a Yin Yang Green Lotus engraved upon it. Could it be that that was the thing hiding her true self? The black lotus' poison may have brought her suffering, but it covered up her gender. I would presume that my brother had made ample preparations and that his methods would have a high probability of fooling the Kingdom Protecting Formation. However, who would have expected that you would actually find someone to purify the black lotus? As I understand, that person was Li Luo! After he cleansed more than half of the black lotus' poison, it ruined the balance of the Yin Yang Green Lotus, causing its perfect obscuring power to lose its potency. In addition to the Kingdom Protecting Formation completely purifying the remaining black lotus poison, it caused Jingyao's true gender to be revealed!" The Regent crossed his fingers as he turned to face the pale First Princess, a deep smile forming on his face.

"Thus... Luanyu, oh, Luanyu... it looks like you were the one who ruined your father's grand plan!"

#### Chapter 0683: Gong Yuan's Wild Ambitions

The Regent spoke plainly, but beneath those words was an intent to point the finger at the true culprit. This shock left the First Princess so taken aback that the graceful demeanor she always possessed shattered to pieces. She was left pale and collapsed on the spot.

The Regent's words were simply too much for her to take.

It had completely struck at the deepest parts of her heart.

She knew that the Regent's intentions were malicious, but from a logical point of view, his words did not seem to be complete nonsense either. The strange transformation that had happened to Gong Jingyao was right before her eyes.

No one could have the ability to change a person's gender with such a small amount of time.

As Gong Jingyao's sister, she would often take care of him and would occasionally discover a few special characteristics. For example, he was slim in stature and his skin was very white. His personality seemed very gentle and his facial features had become more feminine over time.

If one were to think about it carefully, these changes started taking place at right about the time that she requested for Li Luo to purify the black lotus.

It was exactly in line with the Regent's words, and her heart sank.

Could it be that Gong Jingyao's gender had truly been hidden by her father from birth? All for the sake of tricking the Kingdom Protecting Formation? If that was the case, why had he never told her this important fact?! She had spent years attempting to purge the strange poison, searching far and wide for doctors to help. Had she ironically ruined Jingyao and completely wrecked her father's grand plan?

A deep look of depression surfaced within her usually bright and confident phoenix eyes

There was nothing more frustrating than putting all of one's efforts into accomplishing something and then realizing it had been a mistake from the beginning.

The First Princess was completely at a loss as to what to do.

Whilst the First Princess wallowed in self-doubt, everyone else discovered Gong Jingyao's change, and it left them shell-shocked and in disbelief.

"Oh!"

An uproar erupted like a wave throughout the audience.

"This..." Even Li Luo was left dumbfounded. His heart surged and his complexion changed drastically. While the others were surprised by this change, he had a sudden epiphany.

No wonder he felt like the Little Emperor was becoming more and more feminine as he cleansed the black lotus poison.

So he was not a boy but a little girl instead?

The Little Emperor had now completely changed into a fully developed young lady. Although she was supposed to be ten years old, the Yin Yang Green Lotus must have catalyzed the development of her body, making her no different from an adult now.

Perhaps it was because of this that everyone could clearly discern the difference post transformation.

"Is this a machination of the Regent?" Jiang Qing'e asked with a frown.

"I think it's unlikely to be the case?" Li Luo laughed bitterly. If the Regent had the unexpected ability to turn an Emperor's son into a daughter before everyone's eyes, would there be a need to even struggle for power?

"Such an art might exist in the world, but it's not something a Duke can do. In fact, the average King expert would also be unable to do so," Mentor Chi Chan explained.

"Could this be an illusion? Confusing one's senses?" Li Luo asked in disbelief. This was something he could not accept as the little boy he had been treating the entire year had suddenly warped into a girl out of the blue!

"There are countless Dukes here—how can all of us simultaneously be deceived by an illusion? Li Luo, you need to learn to accept reality," Chi Chan retorted.

Li Luo gave another empty laugh before inhaling a deep breath. "Well, it looks like the situation is going to be troublesome."

With the Little Emperor turning into a lady, their plan to take control of the Kingdom Protecting Formation had gone up in smoke. An Emperor who could not control the formation would not have the right to rule.

Today's coronation ceremony had inevitably not gone smoothly nor simply.

With such a great opportunity before him, would the Regent simply stand by? This opportunity had been literally served to him on a platter.

Li Luo felt his heart turn heavy. House Luolan had already taken the First Princess' side, and despite their relationship with Gong Yuan not being at the level of a blood feud, they were still a thorn in his eye. If

the Regent were to gain power, House Luolan's future would be terrible unless his parents could return quickly.

As Li Luo continued to ponder the situation, a few extremely wizened senior officials on one of the platforms gradually got on their feet. They had expressions of confusion and fury as they glared at the First Princess. "Your Highness the First Princess, what is going on? You have to provide us with a full accounting!" These were senior officials who had supported Gong Jingyao as the Emperor. They had believed in the latter's rightful identity. However, this sudden gender change had completely taken them by surprise, and they were extremely riled up by this.

They possessed significant seniority and were quite an important group amongst those that supported the royal family. Now that they had raised their doubts, the rest of those who were loyal to the royal family began to glance at each with internal turmoil as worries surfaced in their hearts. The Regent had yet to make a move, but they were already falling apart!

How was the First Princess supposed to respond? That she simply was in the dark as well? How would that be of any use? They would only lose confidence in her, seeing that she had made such a severe blunder, not even being privy to this critical secret. Would there be any point in following such a leader in the future?

"It looks like the inheriting of the Kingdom Protecting Formation has failed," the Regent announced as he stood up.

"Royal Uncle, do you want to ruin the coronation ceremony?" the First Princess cried out coldly.

The Regent calmly explained, "As per the rules of the Gong family, if one is unable to inherit the control of the Kingdom Protecting Formation, then they will not be considered the true Emperor of the Xia Kingdom! I don't wish to ruin this coronation ceremony, but if Jingyao were able to control the formation, then I would've simply relinquished all my power and retired, never to speak a word about the affairs of the royal court again. I just want to say that the Kingdom Protecting Formation is the most absolute means of protecting the Xia Kingdom. If this power is lost because the Emperor is unfit to wield it, then I believe it would not only just be me—the rest of the Xia Kingdom would also disagree with her ascension! The people would also be unwilling to live under such uncertain conditions!"

His voice was projected directly into the stands, causing unrest to foment within the crowd. The expressions of the leaders all changed as the Regent's words had directly demonstrated his ambition for the world to see.

"Gong Yuan! Do you wish to commit treason?!" The First Princess' face turned a steely green and her chest heaved. One could see her anger and the complete lack of respect she had for the Regent.

"I am doing this for the Xia Kingdom!" the Regent righteously boomed.

After which, he turned to face the royalist faction and said in a deep voice, "Jingyao has failed to control the Kingdom Protecting Formation. If you wish to continue remaining stubborn and pedantic, then how can the Xia Kingdom resist when faced with a disaster in the future? How can we have the strength to protect the kingdom? The fact that the coronation ceremony has failed is a farce! However, there is still a chance to turn our fortunes around. As per the rules of the Gong family, any natural male born of the

bloodline has the right to be accepted by the Kingdom Protecting Formation! Since Gong Jingyao is unable to do so, I will bear the burden instead!"

That last sentence resounded like thunder. Then he took a step forward, exuding boundless pressure that covered the skies. His tiger-like eyes were full of vigor as his years of cultivation produced an indomitable sight that demonstrated all of the tyranny and majesty of an Emperor. All of the leaders from the countless factions in the square had solemn expressions.

An unexpected event had occurred at the coronation ceremony.

It would be hard to prevent things from escalating after hearing the words uttered by Gong Yuan!

Chapter 0684: Qin Zhenjiang's Move

When the Regent finished his speech, the atmosphere around the entire white jade square turned extremely tense. The drums had fallen silent and the warm, festive cheer had turned freezing in but an instant.

The Regent's words had demonstrated his reckless ambition. He wanted to take the place of the Little Emperor and complete the coronation ceremony, taking control of the Kingdom Protecting Formation.

"Impudent!" the First Princess coldly exclaimed as her face turned frigid and her eyes furious. "Gong Yuan! Do you plan to commit treason?! Do you wish to violate the Gong family's ancestor's rules?"

A commotion broke out atop the viewing stands. Numerous royalists had faces full of anger as they shouted, "Don't talk nonsense, Regent! The Xia Kingdom already possesses the royal court. How can we casually just change the controller of the Kingdom Protecting Formation?!" Some of the older officials had also voiced their opinions. Although they had been taken aback and infuriated by Gong Jingyao's sudden transformation, the Regent's words were absolutely disgraceful and rebellious. He actually wanted to usurp the Little Emperor's position!

"I agree with the Regent's words. The Kingdom Protecting Formation is no small matter—it is the culmination of the effort and resources of the Xia Kingdom's founding ancestor, something they spared no expenses or lifeblood to forge into the national treasure it is today. If we are unable to control it and the Xia Kingdom encounters a disaster, who will protect it?! Whoever can control the formation should be the Xia Kingdom's Emperor!"

At the same time, those who supported the Regent stood up without hesitation to defend him. The most notable of them was Zhong Jie, who governed three provinces and was the right hand man of the Regent. He naturally knew that now was the time to strongly demonstrate his support.

Once the Regent ascended to the throne, he would be brought along with the rising tide.

For the sake of his future, he would have to pay a price today to push the Regent ahead.

"Are you planning to rebel as well?" From the First Princess' camp, Chief Steward Qin gloomily walked out, and immeasurable amounts of resonant power poured out from his body as his robes billowed. With a casual wave of his hand, countless elite soldiers stepped out from atop the high walls of the square, wielding curiously lit crossbows that were locked upon this direction.

The turmoil intensified immediately, and the heads of the factions began to show looks of caution. At the same time, they similarly released mighty waves of resonant power. Things had degenerated into the worst possible situation, so they had to take precautions.

"Hmph!"

The Regent snorted when he saw the chaotic situation, and his eyes shot daggers at Chief Steward Qin. At the same time, frightening amounts of resonant power erupted from him like a volcano, and a terrifying pressure akin to a gigantic primal beast bore down on the entire area. Then the void behind him shattered and his world space was revealed. Five Duke Bergfrieds floated in the ocean of resonant power within.

With the five Duke Bergfried's appearance, the void trembled.

The Regent was displaying his full strength as a fifth-grade Duke.

This caused the expressions of the people in the First Princess' faction to change, and a hint of panic could be seen in their eyes.

Meanwhile, atop the viewing platforms, the Astral Sage College and the Golden Dragon Bank, the two super-factions, grimaced as they watched the chaos unfolding. Neither Su Xin nor Yu Hongxi hoped that the Xia Kingdom would devolve into civil war, as neither of them would benefit from it.

However, the battle for the throne was something they could not interfere in, so merely standing aside and watching the situation develop was all they could do.

Fortunately, at this critical juncture, the First Princess opted to remain composed, quickly regaining her calmness as she stood up. "General Qin, as a pillar of the Xia Kingdom, what do you plan to do now that the kingdom has fallen into unrest?"

The moment she opened her mouth, countless gazes were shot towards Qin Zhenjiang, who had yet to move an inch since everything started.

Qin Zhenjiang, on the other hand, continued to sit unflinchingly like a coiled-up, gigantic beast, his body exuding a bloodthirsty aura. When he heard the First Princess' exhortations, he raised his head slightly and observed the situation atop the sacrificial platform. The Little Emperor was already in a state of collapse and in complete silence. He then nonchalantly asked, "What does Your Highness want me to say?"

The First Princess continued to glare at Qin Zhenjiang before removing a golden scroll from her pocket sphere. She then announced, "I have a posthumous edict from my father, the Emperor. Within is a command for the General. Do you wish to hear it?"

Qin Zhenjiang was slightly taken aback. He was an official of the previous Emperor and held him in great respect, so he was greatly loyal to him. Thus, he was more than willing to do so. He dropped down to one knee.

The First Princess unraveled the scroll when she saw this, and her clear voice enunciated every word. "I command the great General Qin Zhenjiang to protect the young Emperor and to preserve the peace of the Xia Kingdom!"

Countless gazes were shot towards Qin Zhenjiang. As the general of the frontier with a massive army in his hands, he possessed a pivotal position and unrivaled power within the Xia Kingdom. His choice would thus have an indelible impact on the overall situation.

Frankly speaking, no one knew if the edict in the First Princess' hand was real or fake. However, now that it had been taken out, this would mean that Qin Zhenjiang could no longer stand by idly.

A few old members of the conservative faction felt moved by this scene. Although they had been riled up by the Little Emperor's transformation and felt anger towards the First Princess, seeing her actions led them to sigh in admiration deep down. They were very clear that the general had spent countless years away at the border and hadn't built an intimate relationship with both the Regent and the First Princess. Only those of the older generation like them knew that the general was not one who would give face to anyone except the previous Emperor, whom he was extremely loyal to. The First Princess taking out that edict had struck at the weak point of this key individual, regardless if it was real or not.

Additionally, Qin Zhenjiang would never even have the thought to question the authenticity of the edict!

Qin Zhenjiang's rough facial features remained unmoved as he pondered for a few seconds. After which, he used a single fist to pound his chest as he replied, "I will follow the will of the late Emperor."

With that, he stood up, his tiger-like eyes glaring at the Regent. "I would like to beseech the Regent to place the Xia Kingdom's peace and tranquility first. Do not stir up any further trouble."

Countless whispers began to break out amongst the crowd. Qin Zhenjiang's words had demonstrated his choice. When faced with the edict of dubious background, he eventually opted to protect the Little Emperor instead.

"General Qin, your choice has disappointed me," the Regent placidly replied.

"Do you think that this Emperor who is unable to control the Kingdom Protecting Formation is able to protect the peace of the Xia Kingdom?" He then pointed at the panicked young lady, Gong Jingyao.

Qin Zhenjiang coolly replied, "The Xia Kingdom's peace will come from us. Alone I might not be the equal of the formation, but I believe that if the Xia Kingdom comes together, our combined might will not be weaker than it."

"A general who is used to both slaughter and conquest could actually say such naïve and ridiculous words?" The Regent shook his head disdainfully.

"Since the great General is unwilling to support me, then I will have to test out the extent to which you've cultivated your White Tiger's Breakthrough after all these years!" The Regent's gaze turned chilly. Qin Zhenjiang's support had undoubtedly restored confidence within the First Princess' faction. As a result, he would have to demonstrate his absolute power to suppress any thoughts of further resistance.

"Since the Regent has such a request, who am I to reject it?" Qin Zhenjiang was naturally a vicious individual. Now that he had made his stance clear, he would not fear the consequences of offending the Regent. With a bellow, he leaped into the air, and the void trembled behind him, also revealing his world space with four mountainous Duke Bergfrieds within, copiously absorbing worldly natural energy.

He was a fourth-grade Duke.

The moment he struck, he did not intend to hold back in the slightest. With a thought, the four Duke Bergfrieds began to churn out vast amounts of energy that condensed within the void. In a blink, they transformed into a thousand-foot-long white tiger. The tiger exuded a valiant and warring spirit, every roar seemingly accompanied by the shouts of thousands of troops and the sounds of charging horns.

Qin Zhenjiang clenched his fingers, forming a fist. With a push, the skies and the earth seemed to have been swept up by his momentum, as though one could actually see countless soldiers charging over with unstoppable vigor.

"White Tiger Breakthrough, Ten Thousand Soldiers' Fist!"

With a single punch, the sounds of war resounded throughout the area. The white tiger pounced forth like it was the commander of tens of thousands of soldiers, leading them with irrepressible power and directly striking out towards the Regent.

The void was continuously shattered as the attack passed through space.

This single punch caused the expressions of countless Dukes within the square to change.

Even the fourth-grade Zhu Qinghuo became solemn upon seeing it.

"Qin Zhenjiang has cultivated his warfare vital energy for so many years that he has managed to cultivate the White Tiger Breakthrough to the Ten Thousand Soldiers' realm!"

"A punch from ten thousand soldiers is able to suppress all enemies!"

"This single punch is comparable to a Soul Ascension-grade Duke Art!"

Zhu Qinghuo knew that if he were to directly clash with this fist, he would inevitably receive a calamitous wound. Qin Zhenjiang's strike was originally a Communion-grade Duke Art. However, over many years of continuous deduction and improvement, it had reached the stage of greater completion.

It truly was a pity... that Qin Zhenjiang's opponent was not him, but the even more unfathomable Regent!

As the numerous peak experts watched closely, the Regent's expression remained unfazed as he raised a palm. With that action, his palm seemed to grow infinitely large, covering the entire sky. Silhouettes of towering mountains and rivers began to surface at its center.

A single palm had transformed into an expanse filled with mountains and rivers.

The viewers felt a shock as they recognized this art.

This was the Gong family's most powerful Duke Art.

Soul Ascension-grade Duke Art, Imperial Mountains and River Palm!

### **Chapter 0685: A Stick of Purple Incense**

The Imperial Mountains and Rivers Palm blotted out the sun and enveloped the skies, exerting boundless pressure on everyone beneath. Before the audience's flabbergasted eyes, it collided with Qin Zhenjiang's Ten Thousand Soldiers' Fist.

BOOM!

That single exchange almost caused the skies to collapse, and fearsome amounts of energy exploded in every direction like the aftermath of a hurricane, causing a resounding boom that filled the ears of everyone within Xia City.

The massive city was completely shaken up by this scene, causing countless traumatized gazes to be shot towards the royal palace's direction.

The Imperial Mountains and Rivers Palm had manifested countless mountains and rivers, seemingly real objects that continuously smashed towards the white tiger manifestation. As each mountain and river descended, the white tiger was forced backwards, the spirit and energy of the ten thousand soldiers it contained was rapidly dissipating.

The white tiger manifestation roared as warfare vital energy spewed out from its mouth, tearing mountain after mountain to shreds.

Alas, the mountains and rivers seemed endless, and the warfare vital energy eventually ran out.

With that, the Regent indifferently closed his palm before extending out a single finger before pressing down.

A particularly majestic mountain appeared amongst the chain of continuous mountains and rivers. It was completely obsidian black and it emitted a sense of heaviness, as though it was forged from iron essence. With the appearance of this single mountain, the previously manifested mountains and rivers immediately moved aside to allow the obsidian black mountain to strike the white tiger manifestation.

Roar!

The white tiger was clearly in significant pain as it bore the brunt of the assault.

It resisted with all of its might as the ten thousand soldier spirits within clashed violently. Unfortunately, the obsidian black mountain was indestructible. Even with the torrent of attacks, the mountain remained immovable. It was the ten thousand soldier spirits that gradually dissipated, and eventually, the white tiger manifestation shattered in the void with a pitiful whine.

When the white tiger manifestation broke apart, Qin Zhenjiang's body trembled, his expression turned ghastly white, and he stumbled backwards two steps. The majestic amounts of resonant power around him violently undulated.

Qin Zhenjiang had fallen into a disadvantage when he clashed with the Regent.

Still, this was not an unexpected result. The Regent was a fifth-grade Duke and possessed a Soul Ascension-grade Duke Art. He was superior in every way compared to Qin Zhenjiang, so there was no reason for him to not have the upper hand.

When two individuals clashed, the battle was often decided in a single cataclysmic attack.

Now that the Regent held the advantage, the morale of the individuals on his side skyrocketed, their auras sharpening like blades, whereas the people on the First Princess' side held grave expressions.

"General Qin, you are a pillar of the Xia Kingdom. The borders require your stabilizing presence. No matter who the Emperor is, your position is set in stone, so why would you choose to involve yourself in this battle?" The Regent may have been victorious, but he did not give up on persuading Qin Zhenjiang.

His words had already hinted to Qin Zhenjiang that even if he were to ascend to the throne, he would not remove him from his position.

Qin Zhenjiang listened to his words before giving a coarse laugh. "Do you really think I care about this position, Regent?"

The Regent shook his head before he sincerely replied, "I just feel that the Xia Kingdom needs you."

It had to be said that the Regent possessed no small amount of personal charisma. He had remained courteous during the conversation, but it was a shame that Qin Zhenjiang was the sort of individual that would never be swayed by mere words upon making a decision. Thus, his persuasive words were unable to move him.

"I will still beseech the Regent to put the Xia Kingdom's peace before all else," Qin Zhenjiang similarly replied.

The Regent knew that he could not move Qin Zhenjiang's heart and no longer bothered with useless words. Instead, he turned his gaze to the numerous faction leaders in the square and coolly asked, "Who here wishes to support me?"

The Astral Sage College and the Golden Dragon Bank's individuals simply stood aside and did not reply. They were not the intended audience of the Regent after all.

House Jiyan's Zhu Qinghuo was the first to stand up with a slight smile. "The Regent has been the one administering the affairs of the Xia Kingdom for all these years. Its national power has risen as a result, and thus I believe in the Regent's ability. If you are able to rule the Xia Kingdom, I believe that only a bright future awaits us. We can become the strongest kingdom in the East Divine Continent." He had directly demonstrated his attitude towards the situation.

Numerous powers began to cause a commotion. Out of the Five Great Houses today, House Jiyan had become the strongest amongst the pack with the disappearance of Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan. Zhu Qinghuo himself had reached the fourth-grade Duke Stage and could be considered one of the strongest individuals in the kingdom.

Thus, his words had aroused significant surprise amongst the group.

Countless individuals on the First Princess' side had ugly expressions.

House Jinque's Si Qing similarly stood up with a smile. "House Jinque also feels that the Regent is the best choice for the Emperor."

If it was the past, Si Qing would not have deigned to participate in such affairs and take sides so openly. However, after House Luolan's Housemeet, he had to choose to rely on the Regent and hide beneath him. This way, if Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan were to ever return, he would have the Regent's aid. What was great was that those two were also a thorn in his eyes. Si Qing's words caused a raucous outburst amongst the audience.

Two of the Five Great Houses had chosen to side with the Regent, so it could be seen that he had considerable support.

Certain glances were shot towards the direction of House Luolan. Similarly, the Regent glanced at Li Luo and Jiang Qing'e with a smile on his face. "House Lord Li Luo, House Luolan and I might have had some differences in the past, but they are not irreconcilable ones. If you are willing to support me, I am willing to apologize for my actions and turn hostility into friendship when Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan return."

Li Luo laughed coldly in his heart. If and when his parents really did return, the Regent might not even have a chance to apologize.

"The matter of the ascension to the throne is a fundamental issue that involves the entire Xia Kingdom. I don't believe we should make changes so easily, as it would only lead the Xia Kingdom into turmoil." Li Luo's calm words did not have the heaven-toppling momentum the Regent possessed. Now that both parties had chosen to tear apart all pretenses, there was no need to give the other party any face.

Listening to Li Luo's words, the Regent's expression was unchanged, but his eyes turned slightly sullen. Although he had already expected such an answer, being rejected by a brat of the younger generation was an infuriating experience.

At the same time, House Duze's Duze Yan spoke with drooping eyes. "House Duze will not participate in this. This is an internal struggle of the royal family and has nothing to do with me."

His intention was to keep his house out of the fray and help neither side.

At this point, other than House Lanling, who was not present, all of the Great Houses had made their stand clear.

Outside of these houses were also a few peak level clans of the Xia Kingdom. These clans had a veritable foundation, and even though their strength wasn't equal to the Great Houses, they had always opted to act wisely and remain safe. Only the few who had been involved with the Regent since the beginning chose to express their support, whilst the rest remained neutral.

Alas, this was not good news for the First Princess. Neutrality was no different from demonstrating that they acquiesced and indirectly supported the Regent's qualifications to be Emperor!

Looking at the two parties right now, the Regent's seemed to be meaningfully stronger.

"Luanyu, what I do is for the sake of the Xia Kingdom and not for selfish desire. The importance of the Kingdom Protecting Formation is not lost on you. Now that both you and Jingyao have lost the right to control it, why not take a step back and ensure that the Xia Kingdom does not lose such monumental strength?" The Regent haughtily observed the First Princess, advising her to give up.

The First Princess' beautiful face remained unfazed. She completely ignored the laughable words of the Regent, only choosing to surveil the faces of those around. "Gong Yuan, do you really think you've won?"

The Regent remained indifferent.

The First Princess continued dryly, "Have you forgotten that there is one opinion you have yet to hear?"

The Regent's eyes squinted at this moment. "Are you referring to Pang Qianyuan? He's been guarding the Umbra Cave for years, and I'm afraid he doesn't have the time to be concerned with such minor matters."

The First Princess calmly continued, "When my father, the Emperor, was on his deathbed, I was right by his side. He told me that Principal Pang Qianyuan had once promised him that he would support Jingyao during the coronation ceremony."

These words immediately shocked every single individual present.

In fact, they even looked a little alarmed. That was the Xia Kingdom's strongest expert, and he had actually made the old Emperor a promise?

The Regent clenched the fist within his robes tightly. His gaze turned chilly as he apathetically replied, "Luanyu, stop spouting false words. This is a matter of the Gong family. With Principal Pang's position, he will not interfere with our affairs."

The First Princess then flicked her jade-like hand, and a short stick of purple incense appeared between her fingers. At the same time, she utilized her resonant power to ignite it, and a curl of green smoke lazily drifted into the sky.

The Regent's eyes shrank at this sight as he coldly questioned, "Luanyu, what are you doing?!"

"This is something Principal Pang provided my father. So long as I light this stick of incense, he will make his way over here. In order to prevent the Xia Kingdom from falling into chaos, I inevitably have to invite him over," the First Princess nonchalantly answered.

Everyone felt like they had been struck by a bolt of lightning. The First Princess actually had a method of summoning the elusive Principal Pang, who had not been seen for years?

The Regent despondently watched the stick of purple incense. His face changed through a series of expressions before eventually returning to a state of calm. He did not speak any longer, merely sneering in his heart.

Gong Luanyu was simply too young and naive. She had no idea what Principal Pang was facing.

Wanting him to extricate himself from the situation was a pipe dream.

So be it, then. Once the incense finished burning, it would inevitably shatter any remaining hopes the Luanyu possessed, causing her to descend into the depths of despair. At that point in time, no one would be left to oppose his ascension.

### **Chapter 0686: Principal Pang's Backup**

As the purple incense swirled into the sky, everyone in the white jade square was fully focused upon it.

Pang Qianyuan of the Astral Sage College was a lofty presence akin to a mountain, attracting the attention of all in the Xia Kingdom.

Why? He was the only King Stage expert in the kingdom after all.

Such strength didn't just put him amongst the strongest in the Xia Kingdom, but rather the entire East Divine Continent! This was an expert at the peak of power who could control a kingdom with but a word. It was a good thing that he was the Principal of the Astral Sage College; otherwise, every power in the Xia Kingdom would have tried to court him and the royal court might have long been destroyed.

Pang Qianyuan had spent years in the depths of the Umbra Cave and had not appeared in the outside world. As a result, his influence had waned and some newer powers might not have even heard of him. However, all those who attended today's ceremony understood the absolute suppression a King possessed.

A stick of incense that could supposedly summon the Principal was the ultimate trump card.

Even though the Regent seemed majestic and imposing right now with the momentum of the people swaying his way, if the Principal appeared in person and directly supported the Little Emperor, the forces rallied under the Regent would be forced to retreat.

A King Stage expert reigned supreme here. A King far from being comparable to the Regent.

The Regent's expression fell as though it had sunken into the deep depths of the sea. He continued to stare at the stick of burning incense, almost reaching out to extinguish it. However, logic dictated that this was something he could not stop, and the moment he did so, it would demonstrate his guilt and unwillingness to see Principal Pang in person.

Additionally, if he were to prevent Pang Qianyuan from being summoned, would the Astral Sage College continue to idly sit by and not interfere? Wouldn't this act be seen as targeting the college instead?

Most importantly, it would also offend Pang Qianyuan.

Even though the Regent was filled with loathing and killing intent towards him, it was not appropriate to open hostilities with him before their plan was complete.

As a result, the Regent forced himself to remain patient as he knew that Pang Qianyuan could not easily extricate himself from his current situation. Otherwise, he would have already been here and there would be no need for all of this.

Thinking this way allowed him to slowly regain a sense of level headedness.

Perhaps it was a good thing. Gong Luanyu had utilized her final trump card, and if Pang Qianyuan truly did not appear, then there would be no one who could prevent his plans from succeeding.

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Within the depths of the Umbra Cave.

Apocalyptic energy tides continued to rage in every direction with frightening force.

The ancient dragon elephants continued to bellow as they slowly pulled the fabric of the void, steadily causing the void tear between the two worlds to shrink. The sinister river made of evil thoughts could be seen flowing within the void tear. Numerous black lotuses began to arise from it, continually bombarding the ancient dragon elephants that were attempting to mend the tear.

As the two struggled on, the scene seemed relatively calm, but the truth was that every strike contained enough force to obliterate all matter.

Whenever a black lotus collided with an ancient dragon elephant, the resulting explosion was sufficient to cause unimaginable damage to the outside world.

Pang Qianyuan frowned as he watched this scene. His dragon elephant formation had been stalled due to the changes arising from the Tree of Resonant Power. It caused him to feel a little worried as without the Tree of Resonant Power's constant support, he could not eke out an advantage over the opponent even with the Dragon Bone Holy Grail.

He knew that the Ichythian King was borrowing the aid of the shadow world to challenge him.

At the same time, the void tear was constantly being repaired, he simply needed more time.

The Dragon Bone Holy Grail was exerting no small amount of pressure on the Ichythian King.

As he continued to ponder over the situation, his expression changed as he felt something calling out to him.

"Is today the coronation ceremony? It was as I expected. Gong Xuan, it looks like your plan to hide the truth has gone wrong."

Pang Qianyuan sighed lightly. He and the previous Emperor were old acquaintances, and he had owed him a favor. As a result, he had exchanged this favor for that stick of purple incense before the Emperor passed away.

The Emperor had hoped that Pang Qianyuan would protect his children. Originally, Pang Qianyuan had thought that this would just be a minor matter. With his position as the Astral Sage College's Principal, he had to remain neutral, but the truth was that these boundaries didn't really constrain him, considering his strength.

"What great timing," Pang Qianyuan thought to himself. The stick of purple incense just had to be lit when he was tied down in a sticky situation.

The timing seemed a little too coincidental.

Mulling over the situation, if he was unable to leave, the one who would benefit the most was Gong Yuan... But what did the issue within the Umbra Cave have to do with Gong Yuan? Could it be that Gong Yuan could control the happenings within the Umbra Cave? That didn't seem too likely.

That would mean that he had an even larger secret behind him. Pang Qianyuan's gaze turned cold. He had to go and pay a visit to that fellow. That man was full of mysteries, and he had spent too many years being held back in this cave. He no longer knew what was going on outside.

"It looks like everyone thinks that I'm out of solutions and have started to act brazenly," Pang Qianyuan said to himself.

At this point in time, the river of evil churned and a titanic, black fish tail that could blot out the sun smashed out. Stygian smoke wafted out, and whatever it passed through melted into nothingness.

Pang Qianyuan counted briefly with his fingers, and the Dragon Bone Holy Grail then tipped over. A dark-golden liquid poured out of it, forming a golden rain.

When the golden rain descended, all of the stygian smoke vanished.

"Ichythian King, you don't want me to leave?" Pang Qianyuan's eyes squinted as they turned forlorn with a hint of killing intent. "I originally had some small suspicions, but this confirms it. It looks like Gong Yuan does have some connection with you guys."

"Ah... Pang Qianyuan, you should leave the affairs of the outside world for them to handle. Isn't spending time with me much more satisfying?" A cackling laugh accompanied these words.

Pang Qianyuan shook his head. "I'm sorry, but the more you don't want me to leave, the more I have to do so."

"You can't!" the Ichythian King demanded. "You can't stop me. You have your plans, but I have my own methods as well." Pang Qianyuan grinned as he raised a palm. One could see a speck of light fly out of the Dragon Bone Holy Grail into his palm. It was actually a drop of blood essence.

"There's one drop remaining."

A flame blazed within his palm, and the drop of blood essence was gradually molded into a dark-red rune.

When the rune was created, it looked almost like a miniature man. If one looked more closely, it resembled Li Luo.

Using the dark-red rune as a medium, Pang Qianyuan formed a seal with one hand before moving the blade that had accompanied him for many years.

Shing! The sound of a blade seemed to echo out from the depths of Pang Qianyuan's heart.

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On the white jade viewing platform, Li Luo's heart trembled as he curiously looked at his pocket sphere, which was leaking rays of light.

At the same time, a mottled, ancient blade uncontrollably appeared before Li Luo, subtly vibrating before him.

Chapter 0687: Hacked At

On the white jade square, everyone was still deeply focused upon the burning stick of purple incense in the First Princess' hand. As time passed, the stick of incense gradually began to burn out.

The people on the First Princess' side had expressions that began to shift.

She herself was tightly clutching it with all her fingers, and a look of anxiety began to surface in her calm, phoenix eyes.

Principal Pang had not appeared.

In the square, a few whispers began to arise as people began to look at the First Princess questioningly. They had begun to doubt the truth of the words which she had declared earlier.

had Principal Pang really given the previous Emperor his word?

The promise of a King was as heavy as a mountain. If he truly had done so, how could he not appear at this time of crisis?

Vice Principal Su Xin was similarly observing the situation. She knitted her eyebrows and said in a low voice, "That stick of purple incense was definitely given by the Principal himself. I can feel his resonant power signature upon it. What Luanyu said was not a lie, but the Principal is unable to appear... It looks like the situation in the Umbra Cave is worse than we had imagined. We will have to initiate another purging mission after the coronation ceremony."

Mentor Cao Sheng, who looked boorish and stank of alcohol, then asked, "If it was a promise made by the Principal, then where should we stand? Do we need to help out?"

Vice Principal Su Xin pondered over the question momentarily before shaking her head. "Principal Pang made this promise as an individual, not necessarily from his identity as the Astral Sage College's Principal. Otherwise, if the Academic Federation were to ask questions and investigate the situation thoroughly, this would undoubtedly create trouble. Since that is the case, the college will remain firmly neutral."

Although she was biased towards the First Princess, this battle would embroil the entire Xia Kingdom. If the Astral Sage College were to stand on the side of the First Princess, they would have abandoned their stance of neutrality and the numerous powers of the Xia Kingdom would be on guard towards them. Most importantly, the Academic Federation did not permit such actions.

Principal Pang was a King and could therefore act more willfully. Similarly, the Academic Federation would also give him a berth of leniency. Even then, allowing him to meddle in certain affairs in his private capacity was the absolute limit, and he would never be allowed to influence the political affairs of a kingdom, especially in the name of the college.

When the other mentors heard her explanation, they nodded and continued to watch the situation quietly.

The purple smoke continued to ascend until the very last shred of the stick burned into ashes, which everyone watched fall to the ground.

A few burning embers landed on the First Princess' dainty palm, but she remained unmoving, her disheartened eyes observing the handful of hot ash.

Had her last hope burned up with the incense?

A sense of sadness arose in her heart. All the years of hard work had been in vain after all.

"Luanyu, give up. Principal Pang has not appeared, and this demonstrates that he understands that I'm the best choice. With the Xia Kingdom in my hands, I will bring about a new era of glory and prosperity," the Regent slowly enunciated with sincerity.

At the same time, a hint of coldness flashed past his eyes. It looked like the youth's words were right. Pang Qianyuan simply could not leave the Umbra Cave, and it seemed almost ridiculous that this was the First Princess' last straw.

In any case, this was great. Without Pang Qianyuan around, everything could be controlled by him.

"Luanyu, if you wish to continue struggling, there will only be one result. The Xia Kingdom will be thrown into internal conflict and the peace and stability we once had will be lost. At that point in time, there will be countless wasted sacrifices and you will be the biggest criminal to the kingdom. I feel that this is a result your father never wanted to see. Thus, Luanyu, take a step back. Without the Kingdom Protecting Formation, the Xia Kingdom cannot be complete," the Regent continued sanctimoniously.

The surroundings were silent as everyone glanced towards the First Princess, awaiting her final decision.

The First Princess seemed to be in a trance as her eyes showed that she was struggling within. The Regent was blackmailing her morally, but his words were not false. If she refused to acquiesce, both parties would immediately engage in bloody slaughter, and the end result would lead to a civil war. At the same time, countless individuals would die pointlessly.

The Xia Kingdom would suffer from a severe blow as a result.

With that in mind, the First Princess' lips trembled with sadness. She knew that her uncle had found her weakness.

More importantly, Pang Qianyuan's absence had caused her to lose the opportunity for an effortless victory.

She sighed gloomily and was about to speak.

"Hold on, hold on! I don't agree!" Suddenly, a voice piped out of nowhere, interrupting the vacuous silence. Everyone turned towards the source of this noise.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, it came from House Luolan's seats.

They saw a certain Li Luo solemnly stand up with an ancient blade in hand.

Everyone had a strange expression on their faces, with some almost uncontrollably bursting into laughter.

You don't agree? Just who did you think you are? House Luolan's situation might have changed, but Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan had yet to return!

This snotty brat who had yet to grow up clearly couldn't read the situation! How could a Fiend Palace Tier youngling speak out here?

"Li Luo..." Lu Qing'er worriedly looked at Li Luo with her crystal eyes.

"Keke. The newly ascended House Lord of House Luolan is like a calf who doesn't fear the tiger." Vice President Ning Que of the Golden Dragon Bank laughed. His words seemed to imply bravery, but they were really suggesting that Li Luo was reckless.

On the other hand, Yu Hongxi stared at Li Luo with a strange look in her eyes, and her shapely eyebrows wrinkled slightly. She couldn't say why, but when she glanced at Li Luo, she could feel a strange aura emanating from him that even led her to feel a sense of suppression.

"Where did that brat Li Luo get his courage from? He might be at odds with Gong Yuan, but even the First Princess was about to compromise. Now that he's stood up like this, won't the First Princess be dragged down with him?" one of the mentors from Astral Sage College pointed out with a tone of surprise.

Mentor Cao Sheng stroked his chin as he asked, "Li Luo is normally very astute, so why is he suddenly acting so befuddled?"

Vice Principal Su Xin sized up Li Luo with a bewildering look as well.

The rest of the faction leaders continued to coldly watch from the sides, but they held hopes for a heated show. Everyone could see that the First Princess was about to give in, but Li Luo had inadvertently rushed in headfirst. Was he planning to incite conflict between the two?

"It looks like House Lord Li Luo does not want the Xia Kingdom to remain peaceful. Still, that makes sense. The rift between House Luolan and the Regent is deep, and if the First Princess and the Regent struggle to the death, it will only benefit House Luolan. It would deplete the Regent's strength, but it would similarly squander the support the First Princess has provided to them," Zhu Qinghuo said with a wry smile.

His words were insidious, and his intention was to widen the gulf in the relationship between them and the First Princess, seeding doubts.

The Regent continued to float in the air with an unchanging expression as he indifferently looked at Li Luo. "Oh? What does House Lord Li Luo want to say?"

"Nothing much. I just feel that you're bullying someone and I had to speak out. You want the throne, yet you don't want others to resist. Do you really think that honest people are so easy to bully?" Li Luo chortled.

The Regent shot a glance at him as he placed a hand behind his back.

"So, what do you want?"

Li Luo gave a knowing smirk as he answered, "I just want to hack at you once."

As soon as he said that, he lifted up the Golden-Jade Onyx-Elephant Blade and struck out towards the Regent with a simple motion.

Seeing Li Luo's offensive action, the Regent couldn't help but shake his head. A puny Fiend Palace Tier kid wanted to wave his weapon before a fifth-grade Duke? When had he become so delirious?

Yet at the moment he had these misgivings in his heart, alarm bells suddenly went off in his head.

At that very moment, Vice Principal Su Xin, Yu Hongxi, Qin Zhenjiang, Zhu Qinghuo, and the rest of the stronger Dukes turned their attention towards Li Luo with shocked expressions.

They could all feel that Li Luo's seemingly simple chop had cleaved apart the skies above the royal palace.

Chapter 0688: Experiencing the King Stage

Weng!

Li Luo executed a clean, unadorned slash. The worldly natural energy around him was still, as though nothing had happened. But at the same time, the skies were torn apart and even the thick cloud layer was split down the middle.

A single blade light descended from the heavens, directly heading towards the Regent.

The blade light looked simple and pristine. However, the Regent's expression warped upon seeing it.

And a look of horror appeared within his eyes.

Why? At this very moment, he could feel a horrifying sense of death emanating from the unadorned and plain strike. It contained a terrifying and complex energy that was beyond his comprehension, something that surpassed the Duke Stage.

He had no time to consider how a Fiend Palace Tier brat could possess such might, but he knew that if he were to let the blade light strike him, he would undoubtedly be as dead as a doornail.

Dying in the hands of a Fiend Palace Tier youngling would indeed be laughable.

"Imperial Mountains and River Palm!"

The Regent burst forth with unrestrained resonant power. He blazed like a miniature sun in the sky, and the boundless amounts of resonant power incited looks of shock and awe, causing the entire space to tremble in his very presence.

His five fingers formed a palm that he smashed out with, utilizing his strongest resonance art from the get-go.

Countless manifestations of mountains and rivers instantly took form, and those who were familiar with the topography of the Xia Kingdom could recognize that these were some of the most ancient mountains and rivers in the kingdom. The Imperial Mountains and River Palm was created when the ancestor of the Gong family had been inspired by the landscape itself.

As the Xia Kingdom's rulers, all members of the Gong family could cultivate this Duke Art. And it would increase in strength significantly when it was utilized within the territory of the Xia Kingdom.

Thus, the Regent's single palm strike was even more tyrannical and domineering than the one he had launched against Qin Zhenjiang.

The substantial manifestations of the mountains and rivers appeared within the void, almost forming a tapestry tens of thousands of meters long that was adorned with the most majestic and impressive scenery. Its sheer presence emanated an indomitable sense of oppression that everyone within the square could feel keenly.

Compared to the imperious tapestry, the single blade light that was flying towards him was comparatively unimpressive.

Bzzst!

Ear-grating sounds of tearing rang out the moment they collided.

The audience's eyes were like saucers as they saw the manifested mountains and rivers sliced apart like a hot knife through butter. The Regent's strongest move was unable to even halt that dusky blade light.

It tore apart everything in sight.

Just a breath later, it arrived before the Regent.

The Regent trembled and swatted out yet another palm. At the same time, a golden crown seemed to have appeared above him. It was like a miniature tower with five levels to it. A violet eye mark on its surface seemed to flash with mystical light. Unsurprisingly, he had taken out his violet-eye treasured artifact.

The moment it appeared, a scintillating, golden light barrier shrouded the Regent. Weng!

The blade light continued to travel towards him, directly landing upon the golden light barrier.

This time, the blade light was unable to penetrate the barrier immediately, so a stalemate occurred. The void shuddered, and after ten breaths of time, the blade light finally dimmed and dissipated. However, the treasure did not remain unblemished—a massive crack opened up on the golden crown itself.

The square had been jolted into deathly silence.

Everyone stared flabbergasted at this scene, as though they had seen a ghost!

No one had expected that Li Luo's casual swing would force a fifth-grade Duke into such a miserable position, surpassing his strongest Duke Art and even permanently damaging a protective violet-eye treasured artifact.

What was going on?

Stunned glances shifted towards Li Luo. The previous calm First Princess had been completely taken aback by this series of events, and her phoenix-like eyes dazedly focused upon the blade-wielding youth with an unsettled mind. Who would have known that at the very moment she wished to give up, Li Luo would stand up for her?

This brat continued to churn out miracles and joyful surprises again and again.

Vice Principal Su Xin, Yu Hongxi, Zhu Qinghuo, and the other peak experts shot bewildering gazes at Li Luo. The strength he had just displayed was simply abnormal, and it could not have come from Li Luo himself.

"So, do you think that I have the right to disagree with your decision?"

Under the watchful gazes of the entire square, Li Luo hefted his blade as he stared at the Regent unblinkingly. "I was simply struck by sudden inspiration just a moment ago! My strength took a titanic leap forward and seemed to have entered the eighth-grade of the Duke Stage."

Everyone's lips began to twitch. Couldn't he have come up with a better excuse? The Regent gloomily glared at Li Luo. What sudden inspiration? That was clearly bullshit. That single blade strike contained strength that far surpassed even that of a peak Duke. How else could it have disassembled his Imperial Mountains and River Palm so easily?

His gaze then turned onto the Golden-Jade Onyx-Elephant Blade that was in Li Luo's hand.

It was then when the thought struck him, and a dark cloud formed over his heart. There was only one individual in the Xia Kingdom who could exert power beyond the Duke Stage! Pang Qianyuan!

Although Pang Qianyuan was stuck in the Umbra Cave and was unable to appear in person, it was possible that he had utilized other means to project his strength onto someone or something else.

For example, Li Luo's Onyx-Elephant Blade.

It was once Pang Qianyuan's partner weapon, and leaving behind a backup plan was normal. This was one of the reasons why the Regent had often exhorted Gong Shenjun to find a way to obtain this weapon by hook or by crook!

Clearly, the Regent's worst nightmare had manifested in reality.

"Principal Pang, this is a matter of the Gong family. Do you really want to interfere?" the Regent glumly said out loud.

"Principal Pang?" The numerous experts were shocked. Li Luo's sudden, explosive rise in strength had come from the Principal?

On the side of the Astral Sage College, the numerous Violet Vibrance mentors were similarly taken aback. At the same time, Vice Principal Su Xin's calm words rang out. "No wonder that seemed familiar. It was the Principal taking action. Although he can't appear in person, he was able to transmit his strength to Li Luo with the Onyx-Elephant Blade as a medium. His intentions were clear: to borrow Li Luo's hand to support the First Princess."

"Isn't the Principal inside the Umbra Cave? How can he actually project his resonant power so far?" Cao Sheng thought that this was unimaginable. He, like the other mentors, had traveled into the depths of the Umbra Cave more than once, so he was clear of the danger within. Although the Principal was a King and had the aid of the Onyx-Elephant Blade as a medium, this was not a simple act.

"The Principal must have made special arrangements. It's very possible that he already predicted what would happen," Vice Principal Su Xin explained. "With the Principal's presence, it looks like Gong Yuan's plans for today might no longer succeed as easily."

Cao Sheng sighed.

The rest of the mentors nodded. Although the Principal had not appeared in person, lending Li Luo a hand already demonstrated his attitude. The support of a King was a significant deterrence after all.

"I was wondering why that brat suddenly stood up. It turns out he has some sort of arrangement with Principal Pang," Yu Hongxi murmured with slightly raised lips.

Lu Qing'er similarly let out a relieved sigh as she patted her chest. On the other hand, Vice President Ning Que had a rigid expression on his face. "Principal Pang actually took action! It doesn't seem to be in line with the Astral Sage College's stance of neutrality."

"Why don't you say that to him yourself?" Yu Hongxi smirked.

Ning Que dryly laughed. Talking sense into a King? A single raised fist would turn him into a meaty pulp.

Li Luo let out a confident smile in response to everyone's surprised looks. He was not embarrassed of being exposed as he continued to grasp his blade in hand. "The Regent has such discerning eyes. I am actually just the bearer of a message from Principal Pang! That old man says that the Little Emperor is the true heir to the throne and that if you usurp him, it would undoubtedly be an illegitimate ascension to the throne. As for the Kingdom Protecting Formation, Principal Pang has said that there is no need to worry. The previous Emperor beseeched him to research its properties so it could be altered to allow a female member of the family to have the right to take control of it. He's made some progress, and even if the future Emperor is a woman, she will be able to take control of the Kingdom Protecting Formation. Thus, Regent, you should let today's situation go."

The square was left in utter silence. Li Luo's indifferent words had echoed throughout the square, and that unperturbed tone of his was like a bolt from the blue to everyone who heard it. Their hearts palpitated in light of this revelation.

His words represented the will of a King Stage expert.

It was clear, unadulterated support for the Little Emperor.

The Regent stared at Li Luo with a cryptic and dismal gaze. Perhaps it was more correct to say that he was glaring at the person that stood behind him. Now that the situation had escalated to this point, did he really expect to resolve this situation with a simple sentence?

"That King truly is bristling with arrogance.

"Does he really think that he is master of the entire Xia Kingdom?"

"Principal Pang, your words have disappointed me greatly," the Regent said with a low voice, an inexplicable emotion rising within him.

This reply shocked the people present. The Regent planned to talk back to a King? Was he planning to ruin all pretense of civility? Was he not afraid of Principal Pang returning from the Umbra Cave?

Li Luo's brows knitted together as he frowned. "Has this guy turned mad?"

"In the end, you're unable to be here in person. Even though you're able to transmit power to Li Luo, how long can this go on for?" The Regent focused upon Li Luo with a deathly chill in his expression.

"Also, do you really think I'm unable to deal with you?"

A tiny, black bell had appeared on the Regent's finger. The bell chimed out, and a formless sound wave was transmitted through the void.

#### Chapter 0689: Deep Experience

Not a single sound could be heard as the black bell lightly swayed in the wind. However, no one in the square could sense the faint wave spreading out in every direction.

Everyone in the square then stared solemnly at the Regent. His words clearly indicated that he was not planning to give face to the King.

As expected, the Regent did not wish to put a halt to his plans.

It made sense after all. The Regent had plotted for countless years, so why would he willingly back down after a single sentence from Pang Qianyuan when he was on the cusp of success? A King Stage expert might possess absolute power, but the Regent's own thirst and ambition for greater power did not pale in comparison.

With the curious gazes of the crowd concentrated on him, the Regent continued indifferently, "I wholeheartedly respect Principal Pang, but you, Li Luo, do not possess such a right. Everyone here is aware of the close relationship the royal family has with House Luolan. No one knows of the whereabouts of the Principal, but it seems he has passed power to Li Luo. Now an individual from the younger generation is in control of a weapon with massive killing potential. This child has acted recklessly and wants to use his newfound power to interfere with the Xia Kingdom's succession ceremony! If Principal Pang truly disagreed with me, he would have appeared in person. Otherwise, I can only assume that you, Li Luo, have borrowed Principal Pang's power to accomplish your own vile aims by misrepresenting his intentions!"

It had to be said that the Regent was truly gifted with words. He had dumped the blame of the entire situation on Li Luo's head with a few simple sentences. The people in the audience might have had doubts about the words the Regent had said, but ultimately, they gave him an excellent and plausible reason to proceed with his plan.

The Regent would never admit that what Li Luo had said had the backing of Pang Qianyuan. It was all his own idea.

Now that he put it this way, the people in the Regent's faction let out relieved sighs and comforted themselves. The Regent's words were somewhat logical after all!

The two already possessed a deep grievance, so this was a great situation for Li Luo to borrow the Principal's power to take revenge.

All they had to do was tide over this current situation. Once the Regent took control of the Kingdom Protecting Formation, he could deal with Pang Qianyuan unless he was willing to give up all pretenses and wreck the entire Xia Kingdom. However, if that happened, the Academic Federation would undoubtedly step in to prevent it.

Li Luo could only smile in frustration when he heard the Regent's words. He was not easy to deal with. He was able to regain his momentum even in such unfavorable conditions.

"Gong Yuan, Principal Pang has stated that even if the Gong family's heir is a female, it is still possible for her to wield the Kingdom Protecting Formation. Thus, if you still want to act wildly, then you will undoubtedly be labeled the greatest criminal of the kingdom, having incited civil strife! At that point in time, I will not back down any longer." At this point, the First Princess seemed to have recomposed herself from her depressed state of mind and uttered these harsh words coldly.

At the same time, she turned towards Qin Zhenjiang. "The Regent has revealed his treasonous heart. I have been sufficiently tolerant this whole time, but if you give him an inch, he takes a mile. If this is the case, in the name of the previous Emperor, I declare the Regent as a traitorous rebel that cannot be spared!"

Her declaration caused tremors to run through everyone's hearts. This statement signified that the faction representing the orthodox branch of the royal family had now chosen to break with the Regent's side.

"Haha. My good niece, did you suddenly gain a false sense of bravado? Is it because this brat has given you faith?" The Regent icily glared at her with a furious grin on his face.

The First Princess remained placid as she ignored the taunts coming from the Regent, only looking towards Li Luo as she saluted him and solemnly said, "House Lord Li Luo, I will leave it to you to execute the will of Principal Pang. To cleanse the Xia Kingdom of these traitors. Only by executing Gong Yuan, the main instigator, can the Xia Kingdom avoid chaos!"

She decisively took action. Before this, she had been disheartened and dismayed by the failure to control the Kingdom Protecting Formation and Principal Pang's absence. However, now that Principal Pang had transmitted power to Li Luo and mentioned that there was a way for Jingyao to take control of the Kingdom Protecting Formation in the future, she would not let this opportunity pass by so easily.

She understood that if she gave up today, the Regent would not let her and Jingyao off easily.

Since this was the case, why not struggle to the end?

Listening to the First Princess' words, Li Luo's expression remained focused as he knew that all of her hopes had been heaped unto him. They were on the same boat in anycase, and seeing the Regent succeed wasn't ideal for him either.

"Please relax, Your Highness. You can leave it to me to get rid of these traitors," Li Luo attentively replied.

The Regent stood with his hands behind his back as he stared sharply at Li Luo and sneered. "What a pretentious and rambunctious brat. You might be able to borrow Principal Pang's power, but it's no different from giving a child a huge knife. Do you really think you can bring to bear its true potential? You're not the Principal's true body, and even with the additional power, you are unable to demonstrate a King's triple resonance energy. Killing me is just an idiot's dream."

Li Luo borrowing power from the Principal had turned him into a credible threat, but killing him? Impossible!

Li Luo's gaze flickered with a hint of amusement as he listened to those words.

“Triple resonances, huh?”

He felt terrifying resonant power endlessly exuding from the Golden-Jade Onyx-Elephant Blade with a purity that was unimaginable. This resonant power had solidified, forming a crystalline dust that was both gorgeous and mystical to look at.

However, it was as the Regent had said. This was resonant power that had been transmitted by the Principal.

The King expert's triple resonance power, on the other hand, was not able to be transmitted.

It could only be wielded personally by the King himself, being refined by the three resonant palaces he had created.

However...

It wasn't completely impossible, right?

The person in question was not a King, but he had triple resonances!

Principal Pang's transmitted resonant power already possessed the will of a King-level powerhouse. It contained unimaginable amounts of spirituality, and even though Li Luo couldn't fully understand the mysticity and intricacies of triple resonance power, he could simply push the boat along the current. If he were to activate his three resonances and circulate Principal Pang's resonant power through them, it might automatically transform itself into what he was looking for!

With this thought, Li Luo sighed in praise. This temporary opportunity to experience King Stage power was extraordinarily rare and a blessing!

Thus, Li Luo no longer hesitated. He grasped the Onyx-Elephant Blade and channeled the transmitted resonant power into his body freely. To be fair, he had no way to truly control this power that left him shivering in fear

Boom!

Li Luo was currently standing atop a stone pillar in the square. His eyes were slightly closed as his body emitted frightening undulations of energy. These energy undulations caused the eyelids of countless Dukes in the area to twitch.

The methods of a King were mind-boggling. Just the energy that was being transmitted was able to let a mere Fiend Palace Tier transcend his limits and wield unstoppable power.

However, they understood the Regent's words too. Li Luo was still at the Fiend Palace Tier, and the gap between him and the King Stage was simply too vast and wide. He would naturally be unable to wield this energy as it should be. Shocking the Regent was one thing, but killing him? Unlikely.

At this moment, as the crowd continued to ponder over the possibilities, they saw a blue light ascend into the sky atop Li Luo's head.

This was water resonant power.

Immediately after, resonant power full of lush vitality similarly appeared. Wood resonant power.

This sight was not too surprising. Li Luo possessing dual resonances was no secret, and it looked as though he planned to borrow Principal Pang's strength to demonstrate his dual resonance mastery?

As the crowd continued to guess his intentions, they saw Li Luo smirk.

Swoosh!

What happened next was an eye-opening sight for them. Yet another vigorous resonant power appeared atop Li Luo's head, and it seemed to radiate tyrannical and robust vitality. At the same time, a sense of coercion spread throughout the area accompanied by a draconic roar.

This was a resonant power unlike the previous two!

A third resonant power?

This was dragon resonance power!

All of the Dukes had sullen expressions as they saw this unbelievable scene. How could Li Luo possess three kinds of resonant power? The dragon resonance power did not seem to have been created through borrowing external aid.

Li Luo had revealed his triple resonances to the shock of the audience. There was no hesitation as he continued to raise the blade in his hand. Terrifying amounts of energy containing the will of a King expert surged out, enveloping all three types of resonant power before descending back onto the blade itself.

At this point in the time, the blade was radiating resplendent light.

In a blink, everyone could see that a halo containing three colors had emerged on the blade's body.

This halo seemed both profound and enigmatic, as though it contained countless revelations of the world. When it rotated slowly around the blade, it exuded an enticing charm that would cause one to be lost within its beauty. This was a primal desire for those that sought to seek further heights in their cultivation.

The square became so silent that one could hear a pin drop.

Especially the Regent, who seemed to have become lost in a daze.

As a Duke, they knew what this triple-colored halo represented.

This was the essence of a King's strength.

The Triple Resonance Saintly Ring.

It was the manifestation of triple resonance power.

As they stared at the youth grasping on to the mottled blade, a sense of absurdness surfaced within their hearts.

A Fiend Palace Tier boy was demonstrating triple resonance power before an audience of Dukes?

Had the world gone mad?

Li Luo, on the other hand, remained unperturbed by everyone's absolutely shocked looks as he held the blade that had become as heavy as a mountain. If not for the support of Principal Pang's will, he probably wouldn't have been able to even lift the blade. The brilliant halo represented the peak of power within the world they lived in, and it was simply beyond his reach at the moment.

He could only feel how infinitely small he truly was.

On the bright side, he didn't have to do much.

He raised his head and stared at the Regent, who had yet to snap out of his stupor, with a radiant smile on his face.

"Old thief Gong Yuan... Do you think this blade can end you this time?"

Li Luo grinned as he asked this question, then he hacked downwards with all his might.

Chapter 0690: Triple Resonances Reveal

Weng!

All light seemed to vanish from the world when Li Luo hacked down with the Triple Resonance Saintly Ring imbued blade. Only a single blade light could be seen, filling everyone's vision.

The single blade light looked as though it could sever existence itself.

Wherever the blade light appeared, the space in front of it would shatter and countless sharp fragments of the void would be stirred up. After which, they would be swept along by the blade light itself, forming a ruinous force that would absolutely destroy whatever lay before it.

Even worldly natural energy seemed to give way to it.

All was crushed by the indomitable blade light.

At the same time, countless individuals within Xia City raised their heads and looked into the sky. An area of shattered space about ten thousand zhang long had opened up, revealing a dark crack that seemed to divide the sky above the city into two.

It frightened them.

However, it was not only the common members of the populace that were afraid. Even the countless Dukes at the viewing area felt their scalps go numb upon watching the collateral damage caused by that single attack.

"Triple Resonance Saintly Ring?!" On the Astral Sage College's side, even Vice Principal Su Xin found it completely eye-opening, while the rest of the Violet Vibrance mentors stared in complete shock.

"How could he condense a Triple Resonance Saintly Ring?" Cao Sheng's jaw dropped. This made no sense. Even though the Principal had transmitted energy to Li Luo via the Golden-Jade Onyx-Elephant Blade, Li Luo was merely just a tool to project his power. How could he have been able to accomplish this?

Only a true King could do so!

Vice Principal Su Xin's eyes shone brightly as she studied the youth atop the stone pillar, suddenly coming to a realization. "It's not impossible. If Li Luo possesses triple resonances, then the energy transmitted from the Principal could borrow the resonances to condense the Triple Resonance Saintly Ring."

"Triple resonant palaces? What sort of joke is that? Li Luo is at the Fiend Palace Tier, so how could he have three resonant palaces?" some of the Violet Vibrance mentors rebuked.

"He had dual resonances already, so now that he has entered the Earth Fiend Stage, isn't it possible for him to open up yet another resonant palace? His dragon resonance energy doesn't seem too strong, but it possesses a solid foundation. It doesn't look like it was created with the assistance of external aid, so this is the most likely possibility... He has a third resonance, and it's a dragon resonant power," Vice Principal Su Xin faintly explained.

"Do you remember the Duke Art he chose at the Resonant Art Pagoda?"

"The Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner?"

"I originally thought it was a little strange. Why would he choose such a Duke Art? It requires one to possess dragon resonance energy to cultivate, and I thought he was using some sort of treasure that involved the dragon tribe's blood essence to cultivate it. It looks like I was wrong. He didn't need to borrow external aid to cultivate it, he actually had a dragon resonance!"

Vice Principal Su Xin sucked in a deep breath. "This also means that Li Luo is a triple resonance user!"

The rest of the Violet Vibrance mentors were silent. This revelation stunned them, and their expressions also demonstrated that they had suffered a profound shock.

A triple resonance user!

This was terrifyingly demonic talent!

The Li Luo of the past was a dual resonance user, and Duke experts were left sighing at how fortunate the brat was. On the other hand, possessing triple resonances was something they were truly envious of!

This was something they had sought for their whole lives!

"This is even rarer than a ninth-grade resonance." Cao Sheng pouted with a face full of envy. Since the establishment of the college, this was the first time they had seen a student with triple resonances.

It was definitely something that happened even less often than being born with a ninth-grade resonance.

"No wonder the Principal chose him. Perhaps Li Luo will be the Astral Sage College's second King," Vice Principal Su Xin softly said.

The rest of the Violet Vibrance mentors were left deep in thought. A King. This was an existence that even they worshiped! No student in the Astral Sage College's history had reached the King Stage.

Could Li Luo actually reach such a level of power?

"It looks like Gong Yuan is out of luck," Cao Sheng said, reveling in another's misfortune.

Although Pang Qianyuan had interfered in the coronation ceremony in his capacity as an individual, he was ultimately the Astral Sage College's Principal. Now that he had made a choice, even if the Astral Sage College did not take action, they would undoubtedly side with Li Luo.

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"So Li Luo had actually opened up a third resonance. Truly amazing potential," Yu Hongxi commented.

As she continued to watch him, a look of appreciation and satisfaction surfaced in her eyes. "Not bad. His talent is not at all inferior to Li Taixuan's."

Lu Qing'er similarly smiled with her enchantingly beautiful face. Juxtaposed against her snow-white skin, it was reminiscent of a snow lotus and possessed an absolute sense of purity and innocence. Yu Hongxi's praise for Li Luo brought her great happiness.

"Mother, the Regent should be hacked to... I mean, he shouldn't be able to block Li Luo's strike, right?" Lu Qing'er cautiously asked as she changed her words mid speech to prevent sounding too uncouth, opting to use gentler words instead.

"Don't underestimate Gong Yuan. He's plotted for many years, so he has naturally hidden many cards up his sleeves," Yu Hongxi faintly replied.

Lu Qing'er rolled her gorgeous, raven-black eyes as she hugged Yu Hongxi's forearm. "Mother, the Xia Kingdom is about to fall into unrest. I don't think this is good for the Golden Dragon Bank's business. Gong Yuan isn't some sort of benevolent fellow. If he gains power, that wouldn't be a good thing for us."

Yu Hongxi shot a glance at her daughter, not even bothering to reply. Was she really thinking for the good of the Golden Dragon Bank? Or was it just for Li Luo's sake.

Their family possessed vast wealth and power that far surpassed what House Luolan had. Did she really plan to give up all of it for him?

"One doesn't act before they are sure of succeeding. She is so far away from Li Luo's heart and is ready to give up the family property for him?"

Yu Hongxi didn't know whether to laugh or to be furious.

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"Li Luo..." The First Princess similarly stared at Li Luo's figure, her heart palpitating. The space-rending blade light was incomparably brilliant in her eyes, reflecting all the hope she had.

Li Luo really knew how to give pleasant surprises.

When she first got close to him, her true aim was to rope Jiang Qing'e in. Li Luo and Qing'e had a complicated relationship, and thus she wanted to use him to curry favor with Jiang Qing'e.

Who would have expected that House Luolan's Young Lord would be the harbinger of miracles that far surpassed her initial plans?

This could very well be the best investment she would ever make.

"Li Luo! Do your best!" The First Princess clenched her fists, and her phoenix-like eyes blazed with light as she focused on Li Luo. She looked like a fangirl that had been smitten by her idol, and all of her hopes and dreams now depended on Li Luo.

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Amongst the shocked gazes of the audience, the Regent, who was the target of the terrifying blade light, had an incredibly ugly expression. His eyelids seemed to be twitching anxiously as this strike was even more intimidating than the previous one. This was all because of the presence of the Triple Resonance Sainly Ring.

It contained the true power of triple resonances.

Although it was a crude imitation of what an actual King could display, Pang Qianyuan's power allowed Li Luo's single strike to carry an impending sense of death.

Still, he naturally did not want to die! He had plotted for countless years, and today was the day he could finally begin the execution of his plan.

"I've already activated the heart bell! Why have you not interfered with Pang Qianyuan's assistance?" The Regent frowned. Today was supposed to mark the reversal of his fortune, and he had even prepared countless countermeasures for every possible scenario, including Pang Qianyuan's personal appearance!

Of course, he wouldn't actually have to do much in that situation—he could only rely on the power behind him.

As his mind turned, the Regent did not hesitate to form a hand seal with both hands. Five massive, mountain-like Duke Bergfrieds appeared right behind him in his world space, bringing about an absolute sense of pressure.

At the same time, the five-story golden pagoda crown had appeared atop his head, releasing rays of golden light.

Peng!

The Regent's face was cold as he pressed down on the violet mark on the golden crown. Immediately after, the crown blazed with a magical flame and very quickly melted into layer after layer of golden light, manifesting an actual five story golden pagoda that enveloped his entire body.

Swish!

On the viewing platform, countless individuals sucked in a deep breath with a look of pain at this sight.

The Regent had sacrificed his precious violet-eye treasured artifact to block Li Luo's blow! A lavish sum of wealth had just been burned up!

At the same time, they could understand that the Regent had been backed into a corner.

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While the cataclysmic confrontation broke out within the royal palace.

Within the Astral Sage College, by a clear lake.

Shen Jinxiao, who was sleepily fishing by the lake, opened his eyes. The light refracted off the lake's surface twisted to form the shape of an individual.

This silhouette had dual pupils of gold and silver that were both extraordinarily strange and eye-catching.

He stared at the fishing Shen Jinxiao with a slight smile.

"Shen Jinxiao, have you completed your preparations?"