

## Resonance 721

### Chapter 0721: Ocean's Spirit Pearl

After seeing her determined expression of kindness, some of the wariness in Li Luo's eyes dissipated. However, this was not the main thing he was concerned about.

Li Luo's eyes were riddled with worry as he sincerely said, "Um... Aunt Yun, I have a very important situation that I require your help with. Hopefully, you can assist me. I will forever embellish this favor onto my heart!"

Jiang Qing'e's Heart of Light was still blazing, quickly exhausting her lifeforce. If this were to continue, she would perish without a doubt.

He was willing to casually give away the Heavenly Emperor's Writ for the sake of saving Jiang Qing'e's life. Although it felt slightly awkward to address the lady as his aunt, he was willing to do anything, even beg, for the sake of Qing'e's life.

If Ox Biaobiao and Chi Chan were unable to come up with a solution, he could only place his hopes in the even mightier and more well-traveled Li Rouyun.

"Is it because of her? Who is she to you?" Li Rouyun glanced at Jiang Qing'e, who Li Luo was tightly clutching at the moment.

"She is my fiancée," Li Luo replied without hesitation.

Jiang Qing'e gave him a look, and a trace of happiness could be seen in her eyes.

"Fiancée?" Li Rouyun was slightly taken aback as she sized Qing'e up. A look of pleasant surprise surfaced in her gaze and she smiled. "You little brat, you have good eyes."

She then walked forward, slowly examining her heart. A moment later, she seemed immensely surprised. "Is this a ninth-grade light resonance? In terms of innate potential, she can also be considered to be a proud child of the heavens, even in the inner divine continent. Since it's a ninth-grade Heart of Light, she must have indeed been pushed into dire straits. I truly must have arrived too late."

Li Rouyun's expression became solemn. "A ninth-grade Heart of Light is like a scorching supernova. Once it's sacrificially ignited, it will explode forth with unimaginable strength at the price of one's life, and it is almost impossible to reverse the effects. Not even the average King can save her, much less a Duke. The only way is if a Heavenly Emperor chooses to act."

Listening to her words caused Li Luo's face to turn pale, and his breathing halted momentarily. A Heavenly Emperor? Such an existence couldn't be found in the entirety of the East Divine Continent... and even if he managed to get a hold of one, why would they deign to help him?

"The Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li has a Heavenly Emperor, yes? Is that elder around? Can he help us?" Li Luo anxiously asked.

Alas, the only Heavenly Emperor he could possibly be connected with was Heavenly Emperor Li himself.

Listening to Li Luo's words, Li Zhiqiu lightly chuckled. "The ancestor has guarded the Heavenly Origin continent for countless years. He is an old man who is responsible for the survival of the entire human race. How could he have the time to spare on a junior's minor affairs?"

Li Rouyun fell into a moment of silence as well. "The ancestor has not returned to the clan for many years. We can't even find him. If you want his help, I'm afraid your fiancée's situation can't be delayed for so long."

Hearing these words caused Li Luo to feel as though he had been struck by a bolt of lightning, and his complexion turned ghastly pale. The usual calm he possessed was nowhere to be seen; it was evident he was at a complete loss.

However, Jiang Qing'e remained unfazed and collected. Perhaps she had already expected this result.

Li Rouyun sighed deeply and then said, "I might not have a solution to the problem, but I can temporarily alleviate the speed at which the Heart of Light burns. Although it won't be for long, it will buy some time for her."

Li Luo was shocked as he looked at Li Rouyun with great elation. "More time means more opportunities. I would like to beseech you to help out, Aunt Yun. I will owe you a great debt!"

"Family members don't have to go to that extent." Li Rouyun slightly smiled as she removed a dark blue pearl from between her fingers. It shone with an enigmatic light, as though it contained a piece of the pristine ocean within. At the same time, copious amounts of lifeforce seemed to emanate from it.

When the object appeared, Chi Chan's attention turned towards it. She possessed a water resonance, and the dark blue pearl seemed to contain boundless amounts of water resonance power. It was clearly a treasure for water resonances.

"Ah. Li Rouyun, I'm surprised you're willing to part with that. Isn't the Ocean's Spirit Pearl something you bought in the clan's treasure pavilion? If I recall correctly, weren't you planning to use it on your feeble and sickly niece? You're using it here? Aren't you concerned your niece will hate you?" Li Zhiqiu grinned.

"Li Zhiqiu, you're full of crap." Li Rouyun frowned.

She then turned towards Li Luo, who now had a complicated expression on his face. "There is no need to think too much about it. The situation with your fiancée is dire and time is of the essence. Your father helped me out in the past, and this can be considered returning the favor."

Li Luo attentively nodded. The situation with Jiang Qing'e was indeed the most important thing on his mind, and the favor he would owe Li Rouyun would forever be remembered in his heart. If the opportunity came about in the future, he would definitely repay it.

Li Rouyun's gaze then shifted onto Jiang Qing'e as she warmly asked, "What is your name?"

"Jiang Qing'e," she replied softly.

Li Rouyun smiled. "That is such an incomparably pure Heart of Light. Even after all these years, this is the first time I've seen one like this. However, the more pure it is, the harder it is to stop. The Ocean's Spirit Pearl's essence was condensed in the depths of the sea, and it possesses boundless amounts of life

force. I will guide it into your heart and use the life force within it to fuel your sacrificial ignition, therefore shielding your life force for the time being."

"Thank you, Aunt Yun, for your timely rescue. I have no words to express my utmost gratitude," Qing'e replied. She was not afraid of death, but being able to live was an even more wonderful experience. Additionally, she was not willing to see Li Luo fall into the depths of despair. Li Rouyun waved her hand before raising her palm. The Ocean's Spirit Pearl began to radiate with gentle light and the ocean within it began to roil with waves.

In the end, the Ocean's Spirit Pearl floated into the air and landed right on Jiang Qing'e's chest. When it came in contact with her skin, it liquefied and entered her body, tunneling into the shining Heart of Light.

After the Ocean's Spirit Pearl entered her body, the light erupting from the Heart of Light seemed to have become even more resplendent.

But its radiance dimmed with the passing of time.

"Ah. The Ocean's Spirit Pearl is being degraded at a speed even greater than my expectations. The strength of your Heart of Light is, frankly speaking, terrifying." Li Rouyun frowned as she watched what was happening. At the same time, she felt that things were a little strange. A ninth-grade Heart of Light might be rare, but she was from the inner divine continent and of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. Thus, she had seen and heard things the average individual never could have. Still, the phenomenon with Jiang Qing'e's ninth-grade Heart of Light seemed a little unique.

"Aunt Yun, is there something wrong?" Li Luo anxiously asked. He had been closely observing them.

Li Rouyun shook her head. "Her Heart of Light is burning up too fiercely. I will use a secret art to seal and suppress it. Otherwise, I'm afraid the Ocean's Spirit Pearl will be exhausted in less than ten days."

Li Luo's expression changed. Even a priceless treasure could only buy her ten days worth of time? It seemed the sacrificial ignition of Jiang Qing'e's Heart of Light was even more serious and troublesome than expected.

"Then I will have to rely on you, Aunt Yun," he said.

Li Rouyun nodded, and a light-blue sword light arose from the top of her head. It moved in a meandering fashion, seemingly turning into an illusory, blue dragon that had come to life. The only difference was that it exuded a sharp sword energy that instilled a sense of fear in anyone who saw it.

The illusory, blue dragon waved its tail and pierced through the void, directly shooting into Jiang Qing'e's chest.

The next moment, Li Luo could see that Jiang Qing'e's burning Heart of Light had an illusory, blue dragon coiled around it, as though it was sealing it. Endless sword light radiated from it, and it forcefully suppressed the blazing Heart of Light bit by bit.

After which, Li Rouyun gently exhaled as she explained to Li Luo, "This is the Water Dragon's Sword Heart Lock. It has sealing capabilities that can suppress the burning Heart of Light slightly. This way, the Ocean's Spirit Pearl's lifespan can be extended, taking up to three months before it is exhausted.

"However, the Heart of Light will erupt once again with even greater intensity in three months. If a solution has not been found by then..."

Li Luo fell silent. This also meant that Jiang Qing'e had managed to snatch another three months of time from the jaws of death.

Although this was akin to drinking poison to quench one's thirst, no matter how difficult things got, he would not give up hope. As his heart sank, sonic booms resounded in the air from afar and countless streams of light descended upon them.

The college and Yu Hongxi had finally arrived.

Chapter 0722: Responsibility

When Yu Hongxi and Vice Principal Su Xin descended as rainbows of light, they saw that a group had gathered. They were astonished by this before turning their attention to the two strangers.

Li Rouyun and Li Zhiqiu.

Just by being present, the aura that they gave off was oppressive.

However, what caused them to be at ease was that neither of them had launched an attack. This meant that the two mysterious Dukes were not enemies.

"Li Luo, what happened to Shen Jinxiao?" Vice Principal Su Xin surveilled the area and noticed that there were no traces of him. However, based on the resultant energy undulations that could be felt, a large fight had obviously occurred here.

"We seem to have arrived a little too late." Yu Hongxi had a look of apology on her face. "I was restrained by Zhu Qinghuo, and even though I injured him, he was able to restrict me for quite some time."

Li Luo first clasped his hands together and thanked them before giving them an explanation of what had happened.

"What? Qing'e sacrificially ignited her Heart of Light?" After hearing about what had happened to Jiang Qing'e, their expressions changed and they hurriedly rushed over to her, inspecting her condition carefully.

"Qing'e, you've been too hasty," Vice Principal Su Xin said with a pained tone. She was very clear of the implications. Jiang Qing'e was the Astral Sage College's brightest sprout, and her actions had doomed her life.

"This is a very intricate seal. It has indeed managed to suppress the burning of the Heart of Light. I think it should have bought a bit of time for you," Yu Hongxi commented as she inspected the dragon-shaped seal. The seal was something she could not grasp, so it must have been the work of the mysterious Dukes.

Li Luo expectantly looked at the two and asked, "Vice Principal, Aunt Yu, the two of you are well traveled and knowledgeable. Do you happen to know of any way to heal a sacrificially ignited Heart of Light?"

Vice Principal Su Xin and Yu Hongxi glanced at each other before falling into a moment of silence.

"An energy heart like this can only be condensed by individuals who are extremely talented. Once cultivated, it is of great benefit to their own growth and future development. It is akin to a divine tool. And as the energy heart is very pure, it will explode forth with terrifying power once it is sacrificially ignited. Resolving this is no easy task. I'm afraid even Principal Pang wouldn't be able to either." Vice Principal Su Xin bitterly smiled.

Yu Hongxi similarly nodded. Although she had been in charge of the Golden Dragon Bank's Xia Kingdom branch for a long time and had been exposed to all sorts of magical and mystifying treasures, a ninth-grade Heart of Light was something she had never seen, much less figure out a solution to resolve the sacrificial ignition.

Li Luo's gaze turned slightly dismayed.

He was already prepared for disappointment, but hearing the truth from the two of them personally still hurt.

"That damned Shen Jinxiao, he truly is a plague. It's all my fault that I was not more vigilant." Vice Principal Su Xin blamed herself. The entire situation at the college might have been orchestrated by the Origin Reversion Institute, but Shen Jinxiao was a critical part of their ploy. If he had not been allowed to sow seeds of corruption and weaken the foundations of the college, not as many Violet Vibrance mentors would have been controlled.

In fact, he wasn't just satisfied with destroying the college, he had even harmed Jiang Qing'e to such an extent.

This was a vile creature, one that instilled fury in everyone.

When Li Luo heard Shen Jinxiao's name, his eyes remained emotionless. It was not because he no longer wished to kill him, but rather the absolute loathing he felt towards that vile cretin was so immense that it no longer had to be revealed.

He no longer wished for Shen Jinxiao to die a quick death. Otherwise, how could he vent his frustrations on him in future?

Li Luo exhaled deeply, suppressing the restless emotions in his heart. All these thoughts of revenge were useless. He was currently too weak! Even if Shen Jinxiao were just a first-grade Duke, he'd still be able to easily steamroll him.

This encounter allowed him to further appreciate the importance of personal strength.

A Duke!

At this moment, a new obsession had taken root in his heart. He had to enter the Duke as swiftly as possible.

Only when he was able to do so could he possess sufficient strength to protect himself!

Of course, more importantly, he first had to resolve the issue of Jiang Qing'e's burning Heart of Light. Otherwise, it would threaten her life once again in three months, and this was something Li Luo did not want to see.

His mind blazed with numerous thoughts. Li Luo waved his hand to signal Cai Wei and Yan Lingqing to take care of Jiang Qing'e whilst he informed Yuan Qing and the rest to prepare to reorganize the convoy and head south.

At this point, Yu Hongxi and Vice Principal Su Xin were in conversation. They now knew that the two foreign figures had come from the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent and were also from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li.

"I never had expected Li Taixuan to be from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. It is no wonder he demonstrated such amazing talent." Vice Principal Su Xin wryly smiled. As the college's vice principal, she naturally understood the behemoth that was their clan and how the powers of the East Divine Continent could not hold a candle to it.

A Heavenly Emperor expert was a figure that stood at the apex of the world. Each one of them was a giant in their own right, an invincible existence.

Even Principal Pang had to be respectful before such an expert.

Yu Hongxi's eyes flickered, but she still remained calm. The Golden Dragon Bank was also an extraordinary organization. The branch in the Xia Kingdom was just one of many, and it naturally could not compare with the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. However, the headquarters of the Golden Dragon Bank held strength and background that was not inferior to the former.

To be fair, she already had an understanding of Li Taixuan's identity long ago.

Li Rouyun treated Vice Principal Su Xin and Yu Hongxi courteously and without arrogance despite her background. In a certain way, the Astral Sage College and the Golden Dragon Bank also possessed titanic influences that backed them. Whether it was the Academic Federation or the headquarters of the Golden Dragon Bank, both were organizations that could surpass their clan.

However, Li Zhiqiu was a little impatient, only disdainfully saying, "Li Rouyun, stop wasting time and complete our assignment. I don't want to spend more time in this backwater place. Now that we've found Li Luo, we can just bring him back."

When Li Luo heard those words, he frowned. He coldly stared at Li Zhiqiu. He had marked him in his heart.

He had clearly discovered them much earlier on and had not deigned to report the news to Li Rouyun. Instead, he had hidden at the side and watched Shen Jinxiao cause a ruckus. He could have intervened, and if he had, he could have easily repelled Shen Jinxiao.

If that happened, Li Luo would never have had to utilize the black plaque, nor would Jiang Qing'e have to sacrificially ignite her Heart of Light.

Everything could have been resolved easily, but this bastard had chosen to stand by idly and watch a show!

Of course, Li Zhiqiu and him did not have any sort of prior relationship, so Li Luo couldn't really blame him for not taking action. However, the moment he made his presence known, he attempted to fool him into handing over the Heavenly Emperor's Writ and even acted to hurt Jiang Qing'e, causing her situation to worsen!

This was something he could never forgive.

Li Luo's unfriendly gaze was not hidden, and Li Zhiqiu naturally felt it. Of course, he didn't care, only smiling. "Wow, what a vengeful brat. No matter, when you have the strength one day, feel free to come at me."

"Mhm. I will."

Li Zhiqiu nodded before he once again composed himself.

"Li Zhiqiu, can you shut up for a moment? I am the leader for this assignment. If you don't like it, you can leave," Li Rouyun icily warned him.

Li Zhiqiu coldly smiled and could not be bothered to bicker any longer. He turned and simply vanished.

Li Rouyun, on the other hand, was not concerned either, sighing deeply as she turned towards Li Luo.

"Li Luo, our task is indeed to bring you back to the clan. This is the message that Li Taixuan sent us, so I hope you can cooperate."

Chapter 0723: That Year

Return to the clan of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li?

When Li Luo heard these words, he was immediately at a loss. Although the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li was simply a titanic clan beyond his wildest expectations, he was born in the Xia Kingdom, so they were no different from strangers to him.

To him, his family was House Luolan, and everyone he knew and loved were here.

Thus, when faced with Li Rouyun's words, Li Luo shook his head. "Aunt Yun, House Luolan is unstable right now and in a critical situation. I cannot simply leave."

Li Luo's rejection did not cause Li Rouyun to become angry. It was an expected response. Li Luo had grown up here and the entire Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li was a foreign concept to him. Additionally, it didn't look like Li Taixuan had told him about his background.

Even she was a stranger—Li Luo had only just met her for the first time.

Li Rouyun pondered over the situation before continuing, "I understand where you're coming from, but the Xia Kingdom, no, the entire East Divine Continent is simply too small a pond for you. Your father was a heavenly genius that shocked the entire Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. And your mother..."

When Li Luo's mother was mentioned, a complicated expression surfaced on her face.

"When Tan Tailan roamed the skies of the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent, she was known to be a peerless and exceptional beauty with both brains and brawn. She might not be from a prominent family,

but her actions lent her a radiance that suppressed all of the best amongst the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. With such exceptional parents, I believe you are extraordinary as well. Furthermore, you have the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li running through your veins. Thus, I believe that you can only grow to your fullest potential in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. Do you really want something like this to happen again in the future? Where you're simply not strong enough?"

Li Rouyun's words caused Li Luo to fall into silence as he processed her words. The Xia Kingdom had gone through an upheaval and even the Astral Sage College had been destroyed. This would inevitably affect his cultivation, and from a certain point of view, remaining in the desolate Xia Kingdom would restrict his progress.

Resonant power cultivation required both talent and sufficient amounts of resources, something which the inner divine continents definitely possessed in greater amounts compared to the East Divine Continent. No matter what, the inner divine continent was a cultivation holy land.

"Additionally, the Xia Kingdom definitely does not possess any means for you to solve the problem of Jiang Qing'e's burning Heart of Light. Only by entering the inner divine continent can you find a solution." Li Rouyun's following sentence was lightly spoken, but it struck Li Luo's heart like a heavy hammer, triggering violent ripples within.

This problem was his biggest heartache. If there was any hope of resolving it, Li Luo would move the mountains and seas just to do it.

Li Luo sighed deeply before giving his answer. "Aunt Yun, give me a little bit of time to decide. House Luolan needs to settle down, and even though my family's foundation cannot compare to that of the clan, it is still the lifeblood of my parents."

Li Rouyun smiled and nodded. She knew that Li Luo's heart had already been moved. So long as he was logical, he would naturally choose to go back with them.

After a brief conversation, he turned towards Vice Principal Su Xin and Yu Hongxi to exchange a few words. Neither of them overstayed their welcome and they still had to resolve their own complicated situations on their ends. As a result, they turned to leave not long after.

Li Luo sent off the two of them before he planned to find Duze Yan to express his gratitude. However, he realized that that fellow had once again disappeared and he could only record this favor in his heart.

Li Rouyun, on the other hand, had taken the initiative to approach Ox Biaobiao, who seemed to have been trying to evade her gaze.

"Ox Biaobiao, it's been a while," she said as she looked at him. A trace of a smile bloomed on her beautiful face.

Ox Biaobiao dryly coughed. "I didn't think you'd become a sixth-grade Duke so quickly. When we left the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent that year, you had just entered the Duke Stage."

Li Rouyun nodded with a smile that was not a smile. "Indeed. I still remember you teasing me with your superior strength."



Embarrassment flooded his face. He and Li Taixuan were the best of friends that year, and when he met Li Rouyun, she had just become a Duke. Thus, whenever he was bored, he'd prank her. Who would have thought that she would reach the sixth-grade just a few years later, not inferior to him in his prime.

"Why have your resonant power fluctuations weakened so much? You were a sixth-grade Duke when you left the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent, and everyone feared you, the Mad God's Executioner. Your fame resounded throughout the continent..." Li Rouyun frowned.

Ox Biaobiao gave a bitter smile. "I was protecting both Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan as they escaped that year. As a result, my Duke Bergfrieds were shattered. I've just been struggling at death's door for all these years. How could I possibly advance any further?"

Li Rouyun was completely shocked by this revelation before she fell into a gloomy silence. A moment later, she erupted in fury. "Those bastards were too vicious! They were the ones who were acting over aggressively. In the end, it forced Taixuan to leave in shame. Otherwise, with his talent, he would long have suppressed everyone in Heavenly Origin!"

Ox Biaobiao frowned as he unceremoniously replied, "You blithering idiots from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li weren't willing to protect them, so what's the point of speaking about this now?"

"Why are you venting it on me? Do you think I could have made a decision then? The ancestor has not returned to the clan since then, and the Dragon's Blood Lineage has controlled the mountain ever since. Taixuan even left behind a giant mess for us to clean up! Even the Dragon's Fang Lineage was helpless... And it wasn't as if we weren't willing to protect Taixuan, it's just..." Li Rouyun glared at Ox Biaobiao.

Ox Biaobiao glanced at Li Luo, who was standing not too far away and directing the convoy, before he coldly smiled. "Of course. You were only willing to protect Li Taixuan but not Tan Tailan, right?"

Li Rouyun fell silent.

"Hmph! With Li Taixuan's personality, do you think he would be willing to abandon Tan Tailan and escape alone? Did you actually think he would do such a thing? In the end, he was forced to leave the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent, all the whilst being chased down by those bastards. Tan Tailan was already pregnant at that point in time!" Ox Biaobiao gloomily said. Thinking back to what happened that year as they escaped, cutting a bloody swathe through their enemies, the three had been left with grievous injuries. Even Tan Tailan's baby had been injured.

Li Rouyun sighed. The situation was complex, and speaking of it now was meaningless.

"The old man has always worried about this. Taixuan was his most doted-on and valued progeny. When you escaped that year, he had a massive quarrel with the Mountain Ruling Council. After that, he ceased all communications with them. I can feel that he still harbors some guilt towards Taixuan... The moment we received news from him, the ancestor knew that he had given birth to a child. And even though we couldn't see it on his face, his mood definitely improved significantly. In fact, we already knew of Li Luo's existence a few months ago, but the reason we couldn't come earlier was because he went to the Mountain Ruling Council to throw a temper tantrum. He declared that Li Luo had to be brought back to the clan, and if anyone were to cause any trouble, he would personally go to Tianyuan to seek the ancestor's intervention. Simply put, the situation that year only involved the elder generation. If anyone dared to let this issue spill into the current generation and bullied the young, he declared that he would

have to let them have a taste of whether the Dragon's Fang Lineage's Heavenly Dragon Mace still had the power to slaughter Kings." Li Ruoyun finished explaining the situation.

Ox Biaobiao was then reminded of the taciturn old man who was exceptionally stubborn... He was left completely speechless at his determined actions.

Li Rouyun also continued to watch over Li Luo, gently sighing.

"The old man really wants to meet his long-lost grandson after all..."

Chapter 0724: The Hypnotizing Color of the Moon

House Luolan's convoy continued to make its way towards the south.

They no longer encountered any obstacles after repelling Shen Jinxiao, so the convoy quickly arrived at the Tianshu Province.

Even though things were easy, the atmosphere was anything but. Jiang Qing'e's situation had not been resolved and everyone knew that she only had three months of time left. After that, if the sacrificial ignition of the Heart of Light was not resolved, her life would be at an end.

Jiang Qing'e held a very special position in House Luolan, and even though Li Luo was considered to be the rightful House Lord, the pavilion masters would usually still look for Jiang Qing'e out of habit whenever they had to report any matters.

Thus, if something really happened to her, the atmosphere would definitely be brooding.

As they rushed along for the next two days, even though Li Luo could feel the stifling pressure, he had no time to turn his attention towards these other matters, only spending all of his time by Qing'e's side.

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The night sky descended like a black curtain dotted with the most radiant stars, a beautiful portrait of the universe.

House Luolan's convoy was like a long dragon. Numerous lamps were lit and tents were pitched one after another like small, white umbrellas that dotted the forest.

Jiang Qing'e and Li Luo were currently standing side by side atop a mountain, lowering their gazes to watch the clusters of campfires being lit coupled with sounds of life.

"You've spent too much time with me in the past two days. You are the core of House Luolan, so you should also take some time to reassure them. The migration of House Luolan has already caused the hearts of your people to be shaken. You, as the House Lord, can no longer afford to be as casual as before." Qing'e pushed away a strand of hair that had been blown loose by the chilly night wind as she smiled at Li Luo.

Jiang Qing'e's ethereal beauty was even more evident beneath the moonlit sky. Her porcelain-like face had a luster akin to the finest jade, and the short cape behind her was fluttering gently under the cool breeze. Moonlight bathed her slender and exquisite body, every curve embodying a work of art.

"Now that you're like this, how could I bother with anything else?" Li Luo sighed.

"House Luolan might be important, but it can't be compared to you!"

"Don't be so depressed. Let us worry about it when it happens. After all, don't we still have three more months?" Jiang Qing'e seemed very relaxed as she consoled him.

"You're taking this too lightly!" Li Luo's voice became a little heavier and his gaze turned downcast.

"I won't give you a chance to do this ever again. Let me settle things first. I should have just used the Heavenly Emperor's Writ a second time and shattered all of his remaining pillars!" Li Luo fumed, but a tinge of remorse could also be heard.

The last two days were full of self-loathing as he knew he should never have let Qing'e take action.

"That's still better than this. Now that the situation has come to a head, you only have three months left..."

Jiang Qing'e paused to think before she shook her head and gave a wry smile. "I would have gone crazy if I let you do that."

"Well, I've already gone crazy thinking about all of this! You were just being selfish!" Li Luo emotionlessly batted an eye at the slightly amused girl.

When faced with Li Luo's accusations, Jiang Qing'e smiled like a flower. Although her life force was constantly burning away, she had been full of smiles for the past few days.

"I've been thinking about how to resolve your situation... I concluded that if nothing changes, I will follow Aunt Yun back to the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent and I will bring you along. There are countless experts there who might be able to solve your problem." Li Luo sighed.

Although they were unwilling to leave the Xia Kingdom and House Luolan, there was no other option. Qing'e's life was the highest priority.

Qing'e's gaze moved slightly. "What about House Luolan? If we were to leave, it would be difficult for them to rebuild from the ashes."

"I'll temporarily leave it in the good hands of Sister Cai Wei. I don't expect it to grow significantly anyway. So long as we can protect its legacy, we will return eventually," Li Luo replied. Jiang Qing'e did not reject Li Luo's decision. With the changes in the Xia Kingdom, things had become chaotic. From a certain point of view, if one wanted to chase further heights, they would naturally have to leave for a location with more abundant resources.

The inner divine continents, on the other hand, were like cultivation holy grounds. Comparing the East Divine Continent to the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent was like comparing a backward county to the center of civilization.

Jiang Qing'e similarly had not forgotten that Li Luo's own lifespan was a ticking clock. He had five years to reach the Duke Stage.

More accurately, he only had four years left. Although he was at the Fiend Palace Tier, there were still quite a few more stages before the Duke Stage, and time was tight.

Entering the inner divine continent and relying on the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li would definitely make his path a lot smoother.

"Now that I look at it, aren't we afflicted with the same curse? One of us can only hold on for three months, while the other has four years. Truly a fateful and tragic pair of mandarin ducks," Jiang Qing'e said self-deprecatingly.

Li Luo nodded before he calmly said, "Indeed, life is tough. Thus, I do need a little sweetness in my soul to keep me going on."

Jiang Qing'e was slightly taken aback and was a little unresponsive. However, before she could ask what Li Luo meant, he had already reached out to grab her right hand and pulled her into his embrace, all while she was at a loss for words.

"Sister Qing'e, my heart aches. I need a little bit of sweetness." Li Luo adoringly looked at her. Her delicate features that were now so close to him looked even more exquisite under the moonlight. Without giving her a chance to react, he lowered his head. With a slight roughness, pressed his lips against hers.

Her delicate body froze up like a deer in headlights, a rich crimson surging up from her jade-like earlobes.

She had never expected Li Luo to act so brashly!

He actually dared to steal a kiss!

The heat coursing through her lips caused her heart to beat ever so quickly.

Her clear, golden eyes focused upon Li Luo's handsome face as he too stared right back into her eyes. Their gazes collided, and Jiang Qing'e could see all of the deep emotions running rampant within him.

There was terror and unease.

He was afraid.

He was afraid that he could not find a solution for her within the limited three months.

Although he seemed to be calm on the outside, it was only now that Qing'e realized that deep down, he was absolutely frightened.

This was a fear that had never surfaced. Not during the Housemeet, not when the Regent attacked—this was something she had never seen before.

However, her situation truly frightened him.

She could feel a deep sense of tenderness towards him surging up in her heart as she raised her palm.

Seeing her raise her hand, Li Luo's body shuddered and he reflexively and hurriedly retreated, covering his face with both his hands.

"Don't hit my face!"

Jiang Qing'e was completely taken aback, and a look of amusement surfaced on her face. "Weren't you being bold just a moment ago? Why are you scared of getting hit?" she coolly asked.

Li Luo gave a sheepish smile. He had acted in the spur of the moment, his decisions compounded by the complicated thoughts that flooded him. He had almost forgotten how mighty Jiang Qing'e's was right now... and she could probably swat him to death like an irritating fly.

However, after all these years... he had actually managed to kiss her. Perhaps being beaten up right now would be worth it.

Li Luo subconsciously glanced at her little, red lips and swallowed a mouthful of saliva. He had acted too recklessly, but that kiss was like the finest ambrosia, leaving behind a wonderful aftertaste.

Noticing Li Luo's slightly lewd gaze, complex emotions flashed through Qing'e's eyes. However, she, who always acted fiercely and valiantly, did not want to let her inner little girl out before this ravenous tiger. Instead, she glanced at Li Luo with a straight face.

"Tell me, Li Luo. How should I deal with you?"

Li Luo, on the other hand, didn't seem very concerned anymore. It was all worth it. Instead, he declared victoriously, "If you want to hit me, then do it!"

Jiang Qing'e sighed lightly. She would not be courteous then. She grasped Li Luo's robes and forcefully yanked.

Li Luo was astonished to feel that he was being pulled forward a step, and in the next instant, a familiar fragrance permeated his nose as Jiang Qing'e tiptoed slightly.

He could feel a delicate and warm sensation on his lips.

At the same time, a cool sensation passed through him when their bodies touched, almost like that of smooth jade.

Li Luo's eyes widened. At this distance, he could even see a rosin bloom within Qing'e's snow-white skin. However, this was what she was truly like. She had a valiant character, but it was a shell for her inner shyness. At the same time, whenever she acted, she was direct and straightforward, unwilling to be controlled by Li Luo. This was who Jiang Qing'e was.

Ecstasy swept through Li Luo's heart like a storm.

He no longer held anything back, directly cradling her waist in his bosom. This was his rough counterattack against her slightly shy initiative!

Under the starry night, this was a breathtakingly beautiful scene.

Beneath the mountain, Ox Biaobiao, Chi Chan, Cai Wei, and the rest of the people of House Luolan suddenly raised their heads and watched the two figures who were isolated in their own world, traces of smiles blooming on all their faces. It was the sweetest scene that they could not bear to interrupt.

Still, all good things had to come to an end eventually.

Two beams of light pierced through the sky, directly appearing atop the mountain.

Li Luo naturally felt their presence, so he reluctantly loosened his embrace. Jiang Qing'e, on the other hand, was as red as a beetroot, half panting as she buried her face in Li Luo's chest.

Li Luo raised his head and looked at the two figures in the sky, helplessly sighing.

One of them was Vice Principal Su Xin, whilst the other was a surprise to Li Luo. She had a head of long, golden hair and was a mature female beauty. Li Luo had seen her once before—she was the Resonance Artificers Hall's head, Ling Zhaoying.

At this point, she was smiling cheerily at the two. "It looks like we came at an inopportune time."

Li Luo nodded in agreement.

Vice Principal Su Xin, on the other hand, smiled unhappily. "Do you think this brief moment of warmth is more important... or is saving her life more important?"

When Li Luo heard those words, he felt like he had been struck by a bolt of lightning and his eyes were like saucers.

Extreme joy surged from the depths of his heart.

Chapter 0725: Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College

Inside a tent in House Luolan's convoy.

Li Luo had graciously invited Vice Principal Su Xin and Dean Ling to take a seat before fetching Ox Biaobiao, Li Rouyun, and Chi Chan. They were currently the three mightiest experts in the convoy.

"Why don't you speak first, Vice Principal Su Xin? Did you have a solution to Qing'e's burning Heart of Light?" Li Luo blurted out immediately as he couldn't restrain himself any longer.

Everyone in the tent looked at Vice Principal Su Xin in surprise.

Under everyone's scrutiny, she nodded before shaking her head. "There is indeed a solution, but it lies with Dean Ling." She gestured towards the golden-haired beauty next to her.

"She has spent the last two months gathering resources to refine spirit liquids and purifying lights and has thus been away from the Xia Kingdom. I reached out to her when the school was going through a crisis and then she hastily returned. As things were already over, I also explained Jiang Qing'e's situation to her, and she did come up with a suggestion."

"Dean Ling, is this true?" Li Luo couldn't hold in his excitement any longer. Ling Zhaoying's presence was not significant to most of the students in the college. In addition, she seemed a little mysterious, only because she held the title of dean in the Resonance Artificers Hall. Normally, she was not involved in day-to-day activities and she spent her time focused on spirit liquids and purifying lights research.

It was also rumored that she was someone that Principal Pang had managed to recruit with much difficulty.

This was normal. Without even talking about her combat abilities, she was an eighth-grade resonance artificer. This was more than sufficient for her to look down upon the entire Xia Kingdom's resonance

artificing world. Any resonance artificer with her capabilities would be able to live a prosperous life even in the inner divine continents.

When faced with Li Luo's expectant gaze, Ling Zhaoying smiled before sighing. "Who would have expected that the college and the Xia Kingdom would undergo such a catastrophe in a mere two months? Old man Pang has really miscalculated."

Perhaps the only person in the entire Astral Sage College who was daring enough to call the Principal an old man was her.

Ling Zhaoying then turned to face Jiang Qing'e, who was beside Li Luo, and said, "Qing'e, you're the first person I've met in so many years that was willing to sacrificially ignite their ninth-grade Heart of Light. When Vice Principal Su Xin told me about it, even my heart ached for you."

Qing'e lightly pursed her lips. "Dean Ling, Li Luo is more important to me than my Heart of Light. I have no regrets."

Li Luo scratched his face. Even though he had thick skin, her bold words caused his face to turn red-hot.

"Willing to love, willing to hate. I'm truly envious." Ling Zhaoying was full of praise, and the appreciation in her eyes increased ever more.

"Dean Ling..." Li Luo impatiently watched the two, his eyes full of anticipation as he awaited the solution to save Jiang Qing'e.

Ling Zhaoying didn't mind his impatience. "I personally do not have the ability to stop your burning Heart of Light, but I know a place that can. They definitely can."

"What place?" Li Luo immediately asked.

"The Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College." Ling Zhaoying no longer held anything back, directly giving the answer.

"The Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College?" When the name was spoken, everyone in the tent looked at each other with a little bit of confusion.

"Is that the ancient college in the Central Core Divine Continent?" Li Rouyun asked.

Vice Principal Su Xin nodded as she looked at Li Luo and Jiang Qing'e. "The Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College is the most elite college in the entire world. They are also one of the founders of the Academic Federation. Thus, its heritage is beyond your wildest dreams. Additionally, the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College specializes in light resonant power. From a certain point of view, it is an extremely suitable place for Qing'e. Although the amount of geniuses in the college are like clouds, I believe that with Qing'e's talent, she will definitely be able to shine there."

Dean Ling also spoke up at this point. "The Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College has a mystical Radiance Pool. It is said that all high-grade Tree of Resonant Power seeds have to be refined inside it before they can survive in the outside world. That is what can possibly save Jiang Qing'e's life."

"Radiance Pool..." Li Luo murmured to himself as a trace of anticipation formed in his gaze.

Although he had plans to bring Jiang Qing'e to the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li, he did not know if he would be able to find a solution within three months. Ling Zhaoying's solution, on the other hand, was truly a pleasant surprise.

He then turned towards Li Rouyun, hoping to get some confirmation from her. After all, she was from the inner divine continents, and although she was not from the Central Core Divine Continent, she definitely knew more than him.

When faced with Li Luo's expectant gaze, Li Rouyun sighed deeply before answering, "The Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College does have a Radiance Pool, but I heard that it is a sacred ground for the college. They will not open it lightly for people to use. I heard that there was once a light resonance ninth-grade Duke that had wanted to borrow the Radiance Pool but was rejected by the college."

In the end, what Li Rouyun wanted to confirm was that even if Jiang Qing'e went to the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College, would she even be able to utilize the Radiance Pool to save herself?

"Indeed, your average person would not be allowed to utilize the college's Radiance Pool. One has to fulfill certain criteria to do so. Even if they are a King, this is an immutable rule," Ling Zhaoying explained.

"What sort of criteria?" Li Luo felt a little apprehensive. If a ninth-grade Duke was unable to do so, then how harsh were the requirements?

"In a way, the criteria can both be very simple or very difficult depending on the individual." Ling Zhaoying grinned.

"The fortunate thing is that you guys probably belong to the former."

Li Luo and Jiang Qing'e were both a little surprised before they saw Ling Zhaoying stretch out a finger. "If one wants the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College to open up the Radiance Pool for them, they simply have to obtain a Violet Resonant Tree Brooch."

Li Luo was taken aback, and he felt a surge of joy well up within him. No wonder she had said it would be a simple task. He and Jiang Qing'e had each managed to obtain one during the Holy Grail Meet!

This criteria was indeed extremely harsh in some senses. Only he and Jiang Qing'e had managed to obtain Violet Resonant Tree Brooches in the entire East Divine Continent during the Holy Grail Meet.

"Although the Holy Grail Meet was only conducted in the East Divine Continent, it is a competition sanctioned by the Academic Federation. Student Qing'e followed the rules and achieved great distinction to be rewarded with the Violet Resonant Tree Brooch. This signifies that she has obtained the ancient college's recognition." Vice Principal Su Xin smiled.

"With the Violet Resonant Tree Brooch, student Qing'e has satisfied the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College's requirement."

Ling Zhaoying nodded. "Well, other than that, there is one other condition: one has to be a student of the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College. This is rather simple as I wish for Jiang Qing'e to follow me back to the Central Core Divine Continent. I will sponsor her entry into the college. With your



outstanding talent, even the ancient college will agree to have you join them. In addition, you might even be able to enter the Heavenly Star Hall to cultivate."

"The Heavenly Star Hall?"

"The Astral Sage College has four halls, the One, Two, Three, and Four Star Halls. The distinction in the Ancient College is even more significant. Anyone in the Four Star Hall and above will also be separated into several grades. One of them is the Heavenly Star Hall, and all those who are part of it are the unsurpassed peers of their generation. In a way, if we wanted to exaggerate, all of them are destined to become Dukes." Ling Zhaoying smiled. Li Luo and Jiang Qing'e's faces twitched. Was this the difference between an ancient college and a sage college? The Heavenly Star Hall possessed an absolute foundation!

Li Luo felt a little moved. "Thank you, Dean Ling. If the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College's Radiance Pool can resolve Sister Qing'e's burning Heart of Light, we are willing to go there!"

When Li Rouyun heard this, she felt a little anxious. Wasn't this child supposed to follow her back to the clan? How had he suddenly decided to run off to the Central Core Divine Continent to join the Ancient College?

Ling Zhaoying just smiled and she shook her head at Li Luo.

"Li Luo, I can only bring Qing'e. I only have one nomination..."

The excited look on his face stiffened.

### **Chapter 0726: Choice**

"Dean Ling, what you're saying is... Do you mean only Sister Qing'e can enter the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College?"

Li Luo's eyes were wide like saucers and he had a slightly ugly expression on his face. This result was out of his expectations, and he then hurriedly shook his head. "No, no, no. Dean Ling, I can't let Qing'e go alone! I won't be at ease! Could it be that the only way to enter the college is through a recommendation? Although the inner divine continents are full of outstanding individuals, I believe my talents don't fare too badly compared to them. I might not be peerless, but don't you think I'm qualified to join an ancient college at least?"

Li Luo had an expression full of reluctance. He was a Violet Resonant Tree Brooch holder too, and even if the Holy Grail Meet was a little lacking in the college's eyes, it wasn't something to be disregarded, right?

He was also a triple resonance user. From the perspective of talent and rarity, it shouldn't be at all inferior to a ninth-grade resonance, right?

Could it be that the standards were so strict that even a triple resonance user was not good enough?

"Vice Principal Su Xin has told me about your triple resonances. You truly have heaven-defying talent, and frankly speaking, if you were placed amongst the ranks of the ancient college, you would definitely

be an unparalleled genius. If you were to apply during the usual admission season, you would definitely be accepted."

Ling Zhaoying then gave a helpless smile. "However, you're now trying to join the college in the middle of the year. Thus, a nomination is required, and this is a rule of the college. I can't change that."

Li Luo froze upon hearing this, feeling a little depressed. Come on! He had triple resonances! Wasn't this worth making an exception for?!

However, from another point of view, the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College was one of the founders of the Academic Federation. They had a foundation deeper than anyone could imagine, and who knew how many talented individuals had passed through their halls. Even though a triple resonance user was rarely seen, it might not be enough to change their minds. They were an ancient superpower and were particular about the rules that allowed them to maintain their power to this day. He did not possess the power to ask them to make an exception, at least not now.

"If I can't join the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College, then so be it. I'll just spend my time outside the college earning money for my fiancée!" Li Luo retorted.

Ling Zhaoying didn't know whether to laugh or cry, while Li Rouyun quickly shook her head. "No, you can't! How can you delay your own cultivation? You're still young, you should take advantage of the time you have. You cannot waste your potential!"

Even Jiang Qing'e seriously advised him, "Li Luo, the situation with your body cannot be disregarded. If you really end up going to the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College and cannot enter it to cultivate, you'll be wasting precious time. If this is the case, I have no need to go there either."

"Well, that's great to hear. I don't want to be separated from you. Why don't we head back to the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent together, then? It's also one of the inner divine continents, and there might be another solution for your Heart of Light..." Li Luo continued before falling into silence momentarily. Qing'e only had three months left. This was tight enough to make someone feel that it was hard to breathe. There was no guarantee that a solution could be found there, and he didn't even know where to start looking. The price of failure was something he was unwilling to bear.

He gazed deeply into Jiang Qing'e's eyes. Time was fleeting.

"Li Luo, the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent might be an inner divine continent, but you don't have time to waste. You have to consider that Jiang Qing'e's life is at stake. You have to make a choice." Ling Zhaoying's gaze turned heavy.

"I know that the two of you are inseparable, but you have to distinguish between what's important. Would you choose a temporary separation or one that could be permanent?"

Vice Principal Su Xin similarly cautioned, "Li Luo, the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College is one of humanity's cultivation holy grounds. You can rest assured that if Qing'e goes there, she will not only resolve her situation but also borrow their resources to grow even more quickly. With her talent, she might reach the Duke Stage in just two years."

The rest did not say more, only looking towards Li Luo and awaiting his final decision.

His expression remained complicated before he finally sighed dejectedly. "Dean Ling, if Sister Qing'e enters the college, will she truly have a chance to remedy the burning Heart of Light?"

Dean Ling nodded. "The most mysterious aspect of the Radiance Pool is that it can extinguish the flames igniting the Heart of Light. Additionally, the quenching of the flames will be extremely gentle, and there has also been precedence for this. The number of ninth-grade Heart of Light cultivators who have sacrificially ignited their Heart of Light might be small, but this is not the first time it has ever happened. However, I also have to caution that it can only put out the flames and resolve the immediate danger to her life. Since her Heart of Light has burned for so long, her body has definitely been injured. If she wants to recover and get rid of this sequelae, she will require further treatment. And most importantly, she will require King-grade light resonance treasures to allow her to become whole once again."

"King-grade light resonance treasures?" Li Luo frowned. Such natural treasures were rare and hard to find. Such exquisite treasures might only appear once every couple of decades in the Xia Kingdom. They were of great benefit to Dukes, and even experts of that stage would covet it.

Li Rouyun hurriedly chimed in at this point. "Our clan has a Nine Marks Sacred Heart Lotus in the treasure pavilion. This is something the ancestor brought back many years ago, and it would satisfy the requirements Dean Ling has mentioned."

"I think you two can split up and get to work independently. Qing'e can return to the college to extinguish the flames afflicting the burning Heart of Light whilst you return to the clan and find a way to obtain the treasure. That way, you can resolve the accumulated damage and prevent longer term injury. Isn't that a good idea?"

She was clearly more concerned that the stubborn Li Luo would be unwilling to leave and loiter around outside the college. At that point, she would not be able to accomplish her assignment and thus she racked her brains for a reason to have Li Luo leave with her.

Hearing these words caused Li Luo to be slightly moved before he suspiciously asked, "Aunt Yun, you aren't trying to pull a fast one on me, are you?"

She smiled. "You can relax, I am speaking the truth. If our treasure pavilion truly doesn't have this treasure, you can give me an earful and I won't retort."

Li Luo bitterly smiled and sighed. Since she was willing to go to such lengths, what else could he say?

"When I obtain the Nine Marks Sacred Heart Lotus, can I directly send it to the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College? Will it reduce the amount of time Sister Qing'e needs to recover?" he asked.

"That won't be any trouble. The Heavenly Origin Divine Continent also possesses an ancient college that holds a Tree of Resonant Power. The tree has a special connection with all the other trees in the Academic Federation's ancient colleges, and you can borrow it to send the treasure over. There will be someone who will then deliver it to Qing'e," Dean Ling explained.

This response kept Li Luo silent.

"Have you made your decision? We can't delay any longer," Ling Zhaoying asked.

Vice Principal Su Xin waved her hand, indicating that she did not have to speak any further, and led Zhaoying out of the tent. The rest took it as a cue to leave as well, giving the two of them some personal space.

Li Luo then flashed Jiang Qing'e a bitter smile. "What do you think, Sister Qing'e?"

She lightly smiled. "I would obviously prefer to stay with you. The Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li might be your father's clan, but it's simply too huge and there are too many interests. I'm afraid you will be drawn into countless disputes, and if I don't watch over you, you might get bullied."

"Are you still treating me as a child? Hmph!" Li Luo fumed and grasped Qing'e's slender, jade hands.

Jiang Qing'e continued to watch Li Luo's handsome face, her golden eyes full of immense yearning as she took a step forward and hugged him.

"Li Luo, if anyone ever bullies you in the clan, you have to tell me. I will make sure they get their retribution," Jiang Qing'e declared as she leaned against Li Luo's shoulder affectionately, seemingly cute and helpless-looking but casually uttering domineering words.

Li Luo didn't know whether to laugh or to cry. "Did we get it backwards?"

Wasn't he supposed to be the one protecting her and telling her those very same words? How had their roles reversed?

However, it was clear from Jiang Qing'e's words that she had made her choice.

Thus, he stretched out his hand and tightly hugged her slim waist, burying his face into her head of long hair as he breathed deeply.

It was as though he was trying to etch the familiar fragrance into his heart forever and ever.

Jiang Qing'e laughed. "Li Luo, do you want to make a bet with me?"

"What?"

Li Luo raised his head as he looked at Qing'e, whose eyes seemed to be watching him with a look of amusement.

"Let's bet on who will reach the Duke Stage first." Her red lips curled up.

Li Luo grumbled. "That's not very fair, you have such a lead over me... I have no chance of winning."

Jiang Qing'e's white skin seemed to shine at this point as she lightly bit her lip. A rare gleam seemed to flash through her eyes as she whispered into Li Luo's ear.

"It might not be fair, but the prize will be more than tempting. Are you sure you don't want to give it a try?"

A subtle and hot stream of air wafted by Li Luo's ear, letting him realize the deeper meaning of her simple words. He couldn't help but to gulp down two mouths of saliva as he stared fixedly at Qing'e, whose earlobes had turned scarlet. His breathing turned labored and ruddy. No matter how bad the

odds were, this was something he could not reject, even if he were even more calm and collected right now.

"I'll do it!" he declared.

### **Chapter 0727: Annulment**

Jiang Qing'e's departure was fixed for two days later.

This also meant that she would be unable to return to the City of Southwind together with House Luolan's convoy. However, everyone knew that this was unavoidable. Time was of the essence for her as the burning Heart of Light was taking a toll on her lifeforce. Each day that passed was another day her condition worsened.

Once it was known that the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College's Radiance Pool could resolve the tenuous situation, even though Li Luo was unwilling, he had to let Jiang Qing'e leave as soon as possible.

...

On the wide roads, House Luolan's convoy was like an endless snake that spanned the distance.

As they gradually left the vicinity of Xia City, the atmosphere seemed to regain its sense of peace and tranquility. There was no trace of corruption here, and even the sun seemed to be warmer as it bathed one in its glow.

Although the influence of the corruption had vanished, a hint of gloominess hung over the convoy as everyone knew that the pillar supporting House Luolan, Jiang Qing'e, would leave the Xia Kingdom in a few days for the unfathomable inner divine continents.

Jiang Qing'e's departure definitely affected the entire mood as her influence within the house was outsized. This was something Li Luo could not compare with.

During House Luolan's most precarious times, she had stabilized the internal turmoil and chaos with her own strength. At that point in time, she had just entered the Astral Sage College, and her presence had been deeply inscribed in the hearts of the people in the past few years. They seemed to see a future Tan Tailan within her.

It was known that she had paid the ultimate price for the sake of repelling Shen Jinxiao, and if she did not leave, her life would extinguish with the wind. With that being the case, they would much rather see her leave for the Ancient College.

They believed that once she resolved this situation, her talent would bloom resplendently no matter where she was.

Within a carriage in the convoy.

Li Luo and Jiang Qing'e were currently sitting across from each other with the windows drawn open. The dense forest on both sides was gently illuminated by the sun, creating large, shady areas for everyone who passed.

Jiang Qing'e had an indolent expression on her face. Such a relaxed attitude was rarely seen coming from her. Perhaps it was a result of the changes happening to her body, but she seemed particularly laid back these days.

Li Luo's gaze was focused upon the gorgeous goddess. He might have long become accustomed to this sight over the last ten years, but it was something he never got tired of. There was no choice—her beauty was otherworldly. Her exquisite facial features seemed to have been carved from the finest jade by the gods with utmost effort. Every single expression she made seemed to exude an ethereal and infinite charm.

Jiang Qing'e fiddled with a teacup as she helplessly said, "The morale of the people seems pretty low... and we haven't even let them know that you will be leaving as well."

One could only imagine that if news of Li Luo leaving for an extended amount of time were to be released, the entire atmosphere would also worsen.

Additionally, there might even be fears that the house would disband.

With the two supporting pillars leaving, House Luolan would definitely become much more disorganized.

However, Li Luo did not reply. His eyes were focused upon Jiang Qing'e, his gaze constantly flitting across her tender, red lips... seemingly reminiscing something.

When faced with Li Luo's increasingly unrestrained looks, Jiang Qing'e's laid back temperament disappeared in a flash and her eyes regained their usual, indifferent, and sharp gaze, giving Li Luo a dire warning.

Only when faced with an existential threat did Li Luo unwillingly peel his gaze away. "I have no choice, I have to go. It will definitely affect morale, but the good thing is that the Xia Kingdom's situation has changed drastically. House Jinque, House Jiyan, and the Regent have left for the north, so they cannot directly target House Luolan. In the short term, there will not be many external enemies, so things should improve for them. House Luolan may not be able to expand with just Sister Cai Wei and Sister Lingqing, but it can definitely be maintained. Additionally, with Mentor Chi Chan babysitting them, there shouldn't be any problems." Li Luo then sighed as he said with a hint of resentment, "Just why is it that Dean Ling can only sponsor one individual?"

Seeing this fellow continue to harp over spilt milk caused Jiang Qing'e to smile. "Well, that is because Dean Ling used to be a mentor in the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College. Thus, only she has the right to do so in the entire Xia Kingdom."

Looking at Li Luo's depressed attitude, Jiang Qing'e felt a little helpless and stretched her hand out. "I will set off with Dean Ling in the next two days and will not be able to make the journey back to the City of Southwind, thus I will do what I promised now."

"What do you want to do?" Li Luo was still in a daze. The situation with Jiang Qing'e had left a blight upon his heart and he was in no mood to think of anything else.

Jiang Qing'e gradually raised her snow-white chin as she reminded him, "The engagement agreement."

In a blink, Li Luo sat with rapt attention as he focused on Jiang Qing'e for a few seconds. At this point in time, she removed an exquisitely carved box from within her pocket sphere. When she opened the box, a piece of pale, yellow paper was revealed.

On it were words written in delicate and slightly immature handwriting.

Jiang Qing'e smiled as she looked at this piece of paper, and a trace of reminiscence appeared in her eyes. The memories that she had buried deeply resurfaced. As a young girl, she had grasped the pen and attentively written out every word upon this engagement agreement.

To be fair, the agreement had no binding power and no one would take what was written within as fact. To an outsider, this had been drawn by a little girl having fun. However, Jiang Qing'e had always taken it as fact.

"Father was truly hateful. When this happened, Mother beat him up for three days in a row and his bitter cries resounded throughout the entire house..." Li Luo sighed expressively when he saw this.

Tan Tailan was furious when it happened. His father had randomly spewed some words in drunken stupor and Jiang Qing'e was similarly stubborn. Once she agreed to something, she would not back down.

Thus, Tan Tailan wreaked a path of devastation in her anger, and every single individual in the house attempted to placate her. However, none dared to remain near her, with the exception of Li Luo.

Jiang Qing'e had a warm smile on her face. "I really love this family. So I never resisted the idea."

"Sister Qing'e, you not resisting the idea is one thing and loving the family wholeheartedly is another," Li Luo attentively pointed out.

Her eyes fluttered as she replied to Li Luo with a half-smile, "So, do you think I'm acting wholeheartedly now?"

Li Luo paused to think. "Well, it doesn't matter to me. I wholeheartedly like you."

"When did that start?" Jiang Qing'e's golden eyes seemed to be shining at this point. At the same time, her words were bold and without shyness.

"I think it started when you gave me my first beating as a kid..." Li Luo grinned.

"So it turns out you're masochistic," she replied in surprise.

Li Luo rolled his eyes as he suddenly asked, "Now that we're talking about it, I have never heard my parents talk about where you came from."

Thinking back, Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan had suddenly brought Jiang Qing'e back one year when she was already four or five years old. However, they had never talked about her origins.

Jiang Qing'e fell silent momentarily. "I don't have any recollection either."

She frowned. "My memories only start when I met the Master and Mistress. Everything else is just darkness."

Li Luo similarly frowned. Didn't that seem a little strange? Her origins were a little mysterious, and he also remembered that Tan Tailan's projection had also mentioned that they owed her a lot. What did that mean?

He continued to mull over these thoughts in his heart, but nothing came to mind, so he shook his head.

Recollecting himself, he removed the engagement agreement and pushed it back towards her.

"Sister Qing'e, I'm going to return the agreement back to you." He looked very solemn, as though he had completed a sacred ceremony.

Jiang Qing'e's jade-like fingers gently picked up the agreement as she swept her gaze over him with upturned lips. "Li Luo, from this moment on, we no longer have any relationship binding us."

Her tone turned a little indifferent. "Do you remember when I returned to the City of Southwind? That was the first time you raised the idea of annulling this agreement. I had told you that if you backed out, you might never have another chance again. What do you think of this now? Do you regret it?"

The playfulness in her golden eyes became more intense as she stared at Li Luo, who was now clearly unsettled and squirming in his seat.

"Li Luo, tell me... are you feeling the heat yet?"

Chapter 0728: Separation

Whether Li Luo was nervous was something he would never admit to. The words he had thought of were forcefully swallowed down with gritted teeth.

Time flew by, and the appointed moment arrived. Ling Zhaoying had dropped by to pick Jiang Qing'e up, while Li Luo stood all alone, his heart trembling uncontrollably.

The sun was setting and the receding light hung in the sky like a dimming flame.

House Luolan's convoy stopped, and everyone looked towards their right. There was a slender and graceful figure standing there. As the evening wind waltzed past, her long hair trailed with the breeze and her short, azure cloak rippled lightly behind her.

When Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan left, this elegant figure had taken up the burden of being the spiritual pillar of House Luolan.

She had forcefully turned the tide and sealed up the rifts that were created by the collapsing House Luolan. This bought Li Luo ample time, and without her presence, the House might have fallen to pieces as soon as Li Luo discovered his blank palaces. Lei Zhang tightly gripped his long spear with a solemn expression, barking out a command. "Everyone, salute and bid farewell to the House Lady!"

He thumped the ground with all of his strength using the butt of the spear.

At the same time, this was the cue for all of the bodyguards of House Luolan to do the same, releasing a crisp echo as they did it in tandem.

They all had looks of utter reverence as they roared with all their might, "Salute and bid farewell to the House Lady!"



Jiang Qing'e's golden eyes swept across the crowd and a gentle smile floated on her beautiful face. Her crisp and melodious voice breezed through everyone's ears. "My family members of House Luolan. This world might be vast, but in my heart, only this can be called home. Thus, no matter how wondrous the wider world might be, no matter how exquisite the sights are, I will return one day. I hope that all of you can protect the house in the meantime. I would forever be thankful if you did that." She then bowed lightly.

Every individual present unanimously thumped their hearts with a fist, demonstrating their commitment.

She then smiled lightly before walking towards Cai Wei and Yan Lingqing, who both had red eyes. She gave them both a tight hug. "House Luolan will be in your hands for a while. Thank you for taking on this burden."

Cai Wei's charming eyes were misting up before tears uncontrollably fell. "Qing'e, you have to return as soon as you can."

Yan Lingqing similarly had a face full of sadness because of the sudden parting. She was reluctant to see her go, but she also knew that there was no other choice. Thus, she could only endure the sadness in her heart. "Qing'e, you can be certain that I will bring the Suncreek Villa to new heights!"

Qing'e lightly patted their backs. She didn't want to leave House Luolan. It was as she had said, no matter how exciting the greater world was, what she truly wanted was this little family.

She enjoyed being in this place full of memories.

Alas, her current situation had to be resolved.

She was not afraid of death, but she was afraid of what could happen after. Li Luo would be heartbroken to the point of depression, and that would affect his cultivation. He only had four more years of life, and any setback would spell his end.

Consoling Cai Wei and Lingqing, Jiang Qing'e turned and walked towards the staring Li Luo.

She stood before him, her slender figure and porcelain-like face wrapped in the radiance of the setting sun, giving her a rosy look. Li Luo's sad reflection could be seen in her deep, golden eyes.

"You look like you can't bear to see me go. It looks like annulling the agreement has affected you more than I expected." Jiang Qing'e wryly smiled.

After which, her thick eyelashes blinked. "I'll give you a chance to beg for forgiveness. I'll let you off one time. I wanted to rewrite a new engagement agreement last night, but it was a pity you rejected me, even going so far as to imply that the Master and Mistress had to be witnesses as well. Are you actually trying to show off before them? To let them see with their own eyes that this engagement is something that you have managed to obtain with your own hands?" A slightly mocking smile appeared on Qing'e's face as she teased him.

Li Luo's face turned red as he retorted with a voice full of utmost conviction, "What do you know? Such an important event has to be witnessed by my parents! Only then can it be considered legitimate."

Jiang Qing'e smiled, no longer bickering with him. The agreement was not important, it was just a formality. What truly mattered were their hearts, and that was why they were willing to shelve the idea for now.

"Li Luo, come tomorrow, I will no longer be by your side. You have to cultivate hard in my absence. Today, we are forced to separate because of our weakness. I blame myself as well. If only I was strong enough, we would not be in this position right now," Jiang Qing'e lightly said.

Li Luo sighed. "If you wish to blame yourself, then I might as well finish myself off as well. Still, I feel that there is no need to do so. We have time, and whatever doesn't kill us only makes us stronger."

He stared at the girl before him with the most beautiful face in the world. "When we next return to the Xia Kingdom, we will settle all our grievances, one by one. Whether it is Shen Jinxiao, the Regent, or Zhu Qinghuo, none of them will be able to escape."

Jiang Qing'e nodded in agreement.

She then turned to glance at the waiting Ling Zhaoying before taking a step forward and embracing Li Luo with the tightest hug she could as she softly said, "Take care, Li Luo."

Li Luo returned the hug as he took one last sniff of her familiar scent, deeply imprinting it into his mind. His heart continued to churn and surge like a tide as his emotions came to a peak. "Wait for me. I will make sure the Nine Marks Sacred Heart Lotus will be sent to you." Jiang Qing'e lightly nodded once again, and before everyone's expectant gazes, she tiptoed, pressing her lips against Li Luo's.

After which, she no longer hesitated. Although her heart was unwilling, she forcefully separated herself from Li Luo's embrace and walked towards Ling Zhaoying.

Li Luo remained quietly rooted to his spot. His gaze was filled with the waning glow of the setting sun, illuminating the figure he could never forget.

Amidst the field of reluctant gazes, Jiang Qing'e walked to Ling Zhaoying, who gave her a warm smile. The Dean radiated with brilliant light that extended to cover Jiang Qing'e's body before they turned into a beam of light that pierced through the darkening skies.

Li Luo stood there, wistfully watching the light fade. Then a faint voice wrapped in familiar resonant power was heard.

"Don't forget our bet, Li Luo." The voice seemed a little ethereal, but it also carried an enchanting charm that could incite any sentient being into action. It was lightly transmitted into Li Luo's ear, triggering ripples in his heart as he looked on with a sense of melancholy.

Li Luo heavily exhaled as he calmed his spiraling emotions.

With that, he turned his head and looked towards the rest of House Luolan and the convoy. From a family of four, only one was left.

Perhaps it was time for him to leave as well.

Chapter 0729: Returning to Southwind

With Jiang Qing'e's departure, Li Luo spent his time solitarily laying upon a carriage full of equipment, quietly watching the sky for over half a day.

He then spent the next two days in a daze. He rarely appeared outside of the carriage and all his meals were sent directly to him. No one felt like it was strange, as they all understood him. If Qing'e's departure had already caused them to feel such sadness, Li Luo had it worse.

House Luolan finally arrived in the vicinity of the City of Southwind amidst the depressive atmosphere.

When the outline of the city appeared on the horizon, the spirits of everyone in the convoy lifted. The depressed atmosphere seemed to have abated at this point in time, and everyone's expressions relaxed.

Li Luo finally left the confines of his carriage for a closer look.

He was similarly staring at the city in the distance, feeling a little absentminded. Just a year ago, he had left the City of Southwind for the bustling Xia City.

At that point in time, he had just solved the issue of his blank palaces, and everyone doubted his ability as the young lord of House Luolan, even including those within the house.

These doubts were then vanquished one after another as he brought about miracles.

Li Luo then entered Xia City and did his best to turn the rising tide. He strengthened the Suncreek Villa and stabilized House Luolan's economic situation, buying them time. In the college, his fame preceded him and he became the strongest One Star Hall student in the East Divine Continent during the Holy Grail Meet.

And now he was at the Earth Fiend Stage.

His name was one that everyone knew.

He had metamorphosed in the past year, and now he was making his return.

However, things had also vastly changed.

The Astral Sage College had been destroyed and the center of the Xia Kingdom's activity, Xia City, had been abandoned with everyone running for their lives. A wave of death had engulfed the entire city.

One could only imagine how tumultuous the Xia Kingdom would be over the next few years.

"Phew."

As his thoughts turned, Li Luo lightly exhaled as he waved his hand and barked a command. "Speed up and prepare to enter the city."

The people of House Luolan acknowledged his command, spurring the beasts forward and kicking up a cloud of dust.

Tens of minutes later, the convoy arrived at the city gates. A human tide milled about the streets without rest, and countless curious eyes were focused upon House Luolan's massive entourage. News of what had happened to Xia City had already spread throughout the kingdom.

The migration of so many individuals had caused the entire Xia Kingdom to enter a state of chaos.

News of the Umbra Cave being unsealed and corruption leaking in every direction was now common knowledge. This also instilled a sense of shock and fear amidst the common populace.

The average individual did not know much about the Others, other than the fact that they were a terrifying disaster upon the world. All life would be swallowed up by them, and coexisting with them was impossible.

They could see that even the great Xia City had to be reluctantly given up despite the strength of the forces stationed there!

If the corruption spread further, the entire kingdom might turn into a wasteland devoid of life.

Li Luo looked in the direction of the city gates before he signaled for the convoy to come to a halt. A familiar figure was waiting in an area sectioned off by the city guards.

It was the Southwind Academy's principal, Dean Wei.

Beside him was another figure. Just by the look of his clothes, it was probably the new governor of the Tianshu Province, the previous one being Governor Shi.

When the convoy stopped, Li Luo dismounted and led the upper echelons of House Luolan to meet Dean Wei directly.

"Greetings, Dean Wei. It has been a year since we last met, and yet you seem to be getting more and more energetic!" Li Luo flashed a smile. He had always held great respect towards Wei Sha.

"Haha. Southwind Academy's Qilin son has returned, so of course I had to come and greet you personally." Wei Sha's wizened face beamed as he looked upon Li Luo with great appreciation. For the past year, he had been well received and praised due to Li Luo's outstanding results in the Astral Sage College.

Southwind Academy had now firmly established itself as the number one academy in the Tianshu Province. Even when compared to the academies in other provinces, they were still head and shoulders above them.

Additionally, no academy in the history of the Xia Kingdom had ever produced two students who would eventually be titled as strongest in the East Divine Continent.

"You and Qing'e are Southwind Academy's idols. Your influence has been far-reaching, and countless juniors have started to worship you as well!" Wei Sha chortled.

These words brought a smile to Li Luo's face. In a sense, he had finally received the same treatment as Qing'e. Thinking back to the time he was still studying here, he could only helplessly sit by and watch Jiang Qing'e's dazzling figure longingly, hoping to one day achieve the same.

Wei Sha introduced the middle-aged man beside him. "Li Luo, this is the Tianshu Province's new governor, Governor Zhao."

When he turned to face him, the handsome, middle-aged man hurriedly cupped his hands and greeted him with a smile. "Greetings, House Luolan's House Lord."

Governor Zhao acted humbly before Li Luo as he was clear that this was no longer the child with a blank palace. This was the House Lord who held in his hands the power of his entire House and possessed an inexplicable relationship with the First Princess. Most importantly, House Luolan was now completely different from the one battered by the elements just a year ago.

Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan had appeared during the Housemeet, and they had frightened off any rats that skulked in the dark.

Governor Zhao's gaze quickly swept past the people who were right behind Li Luo. Ox Biaobiao, Chi Chan, and Li Rouyun were all silently standing by with cool indifference. They had no plans to chat, and from the oppressive auras their presence brought about, it was clear that these were all Dukes.

This scared him out of his skin. When had House Luolan found so many Dukes?

Li Luo returned Governor Zhao's courtesy with politeness. After all, House Luolan would use the old manor as their new headquarters in the future, and having dealings with the governor would thus become inevitable.

After a brief silence, Wei Sha broke the ice with a look of worry. "Li Luo, can you tell us what the situation in Xia City is like now?"

Governor Zhao attentively looked over as well.

"I'm sure you have already received news of Xia City's situation. The Astral Sage College has been ruined, and due to the corruption spreading from the Umbra Cave, the people within the city were forced to migrate. The First Princess and the Regent have openly split into two factions, one controlling the north and the other, the south. Vice Principal Su Xin will arrive here very soon, and I have recommended Southwind Academy to her. If she finds it suitable for her needs, they will likely use Southwind Academy as their base and rebuild the Astral Sage College here," Li Luo explained.

The news excited Wei Sha. If Southwind Academy could be transformed into the new Astral Sage College, that would be amazing news. Although he may lose his position as the dean, the honor of being chosen was enough to make all the other deans drool with envy. Additionally, once Southwind Academy was transformed, the Astral Sage College would not shortchange any of the existing students. They might even give a few extra places to them, which would be a great benefit for all of them.

"I would like to thank you on behalf of all the students and staff." Wei Sha beamed widely.

Li Luo shook his head humbly, and the two exchanged a few more words. At this point in time, House Luolan's convoy had slowly made its way into the city under the gazes of countless individuals.

Li Luo stood by the city gates and sighed while looking at the tall walls that were now mottled and eroded by the passage of time.

A year had passed and things had changed. Yet he was back here once again.

Alas, he would not remain here for long.

Once things had settled down, it would be time for him to go.

Chapter 0730: Bidding the First Princess Farewell

The headquarters of House Luolan had shifted back to the old manor. This caused significant aftershocks throughout the City of Southwind, and all of the existing forces felt a trace of anxiety. After all, the Five Great Houses were behemoths that they could not compare to.

Thus, House Luolan's return had changed the balance of power within the Tianshu Province.

Many leaders of the forces here were reminded of the time when House Luolan had first been set up in the City of Southwind and the sheer amount of suppression they were under due to Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan's presence.

Although the two had left the house, the current house was no small fry either, and news of the huge battle that unfolded during the Housemeet had also been spread throughout the Xia Kingdom.

More importantly, Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan were still alive.

This meant that the foundations House Luolan was built upon were still holding strong.

Thus, all of the Tianshu Province's numerous powers quickly sent celebratory gifts when House Luolan moved in, and the once sparsely populated manor was now bustling with traffic.

However, Li Luo left all the work of entertaining the guests to Cai Wei. In any case, she would be in control of the house for quite some time moving forward.

On the third day after House Luolan had moved into the City of Southwind, the city once again burst into excitement because the Astral Sage College's entourage finally arrived.

The Astral Sage College was much more famous and respected than House Luolan.

Countless youths of the kingdom had the aim of entering the college to cultivate and win honor for their families.

The students were also the most exceptional and talented in the kingdom.

Still, things were not over. On the fourth day, an army from the royal court of Xia City made their way into the City of Southwind, and it was rumored that the First Princess and the Little Emperor were also present.

The bustling atmosphere seemed to have reached a peak

Perhaps no one in the City of Southwind had ever expected that their quaint, little city would become such an exciting place.

Every single power similarly sought to meet the governor in hopes of obtaining a chance to interact and build a relationship with the royal court through him. Alas, every single one of them was turned away at the door and forced to leave their gifts behind.

As the discouraged parties failed to seek an audience, they noticed that a single royal carriage surrounded by layers of guards had made its way in the direction of House Luolan's old manor.

They then looked on helplessly as they saw both the Little Emperor and the First Princess leave the carriage and enter the manor directly.

This caused shock amongst the powers in the Tianshu Province. It seemed that the rumors of their strong relationship was not groundless.

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House Luolan's Old Manor.

Within a quiet courtyard surrounded by a lake.

"Your Majesty and Your Highness, you have graced me with your presence and shone life upon this humble home of mine." Li Luo smiled as he looked at the two figures before him.

The First Princess was currently garbed in a purple royal dress with her long hair rolled up, revealing a slender and fair neck. Her phoenix-like eyes were sparkling with life, looking bright and beautiful. The tailored dress hugged her exquisite figure, perfectly displaying her thrilling curves and showcasing both her noble and graceful temperament with a single glance.

The Little Emperor beside her made Li Luo a little surprised as well. She was no longer dressed like a tomboy, and although she was wearing neutral clothes, her face seemed to have become even more beautiful. She was no longer concealing her identity, showing the world her true appearance.

However, Li Luo could still vividly remember that the Little Emperor's true age was only around ten. Yet her body had matured considerably, giving off the impression of a beautiful older sister.

The First Princess similarly looked at the tall and unusually handsome young man. Despite the head full of grayish-white hair, his features were that of a youth, and just looking at his face had the potential to soothe one's soul. However, she also knew that Li Luo's internal thoughts were not as cool as his current demeanor might suggest.

"Li Luo, I've heard about Qing'e's situation and I'm very sorry. I was unable to assist you then," the First Princess said apologetically.

At that point in time, the situation in Xia City was extremely chaotic as the Regent had dispatched forces attempting to seize numerous rare treasures from the treasure pavilion of the royal court. As a result, she had to deploy all her forces to halt the forceful pillaging of their items. Only after an extended period of time was the situation resolved.

When that battle concluded, she received news of House Luolan encountering Shen Jinxiao's ambush.

After which, news of Jiang Qing'e sacrificially igniting her Heart of Light was made known to her and Jiang Qing'e had been taken to the inner divine continent by Ling Zhaoying to search for a cure.

Li Luo shook his head and sighed. "Your Highness, you do not need to feel bad about this. You were also encountering endless problems of your own. I thought my preparations were sufficient, but who would ever have expected that we had still underestimated him? I suppose the good news is that even though Sister Qing'e was in a pinch, we managed to quickly find a solution. The only price to be paid is her absence for a period of time."

The First Princess nodded. She knew that any more questions would only bring Li Luo more pain and thus she stopped.

On the side, Gong Jingyao was sneakily observing Li Luo as he spoke with her sister. Whenever a look of sadness washed over his handsome face, he would quickly turn away.

Even so, his stealthy actions were noticed by Li Luo, who smiled. "Has the poison been dispelled, Your Majesty?"

When this topic came up, Gong Jingyao's little face reddened, her head lowered, and she glanced at her toes.

Li Luo was a little taken aback before seemingly understanding something, also feeling a sense of embarrassment. Whenever he treated her in the past, she had always removed her robes and Li Luo had remained in close contact with her to dispel the black lotus poison. At that point in time, neither of them had felt like it was a problem. But now? Her gender had been restored, and thinking back, his actions seemed a little improper.

The First Princess laughed upon seeing this, feeling extremely amused.

"Cough!"

In the end, Li Luo coughed lightly before he regained his composure. "I envy you, Your Majesty. You're now able to rid yourself of your shackles and return to normal."

Gong Jingyao politely replied, "Thank you."

Her personality seemed to have changed a little ever since her gender went back to normal.

The First Princess then took the opportunity to ask, "Li Luo... I heard that you will be leaving the Xia Kingdom very soon."

Li Luo nodded as he calmly replied, "I will head towards the inner divine continents and will probably return in a few years' time."

"I heard that your parents are from the inner divine continents, so your background must also be extraordinary. The inner divine continents are cultivation holy grounds and can also be seen as the most wonderful places in the world. With your talent, you're bound to achieve greater heights." The First Princess seemed a little disappointed despite her congratulatory words.

Li Luo smiled. "The inner divine continents might be interesting places, but House Luolan is my home. Thus, my journey will only be a temporary one. I will definitely return."

A look of happiness seemed to surface in the First Princess' brilliant eyes, and she revealed a beaming smile. "I look forward to the day you return. At that point in time, you should be able to suppress even the mightiest in the Xia Kingdom. I only hope that His Excellency Li Luo will remember the friendship he forged with a little girl like me."

Li Luo chortled upon hearing her words. "Your Highness, you think too highly of me. The geniuses and talents in the inner divine continents are like clouds. I might very well be lost amongst the rabble at that point in time. If you put such high expectations on me and I don't do well, won't I completely lose face when I return?"



The First Princess smiled and shook her head. If it were anyone else, she wouldn't have the confidence to say that they would thrive in that new environment. However, Li Luo was different. She had personally seen the miracles he had created the past year, and he was bound to rise and thrive even at the inner divine continents.

"When you leave, I will give you a hand and look after House Luolan. You can inform them that if House Luolan ever faces any troubles, find me and I will do my best to assist them," the First Princess generously promised. She was an extremely smart individual, so she understood that the biggest burden weighing on Li Luo's mind at the moment was his house that would soon lose both of its spiritual pillars.

In order to deepen her friendship with both Li Luo and Jiang Qing'e, she naturally would do her utmost to help them.

In addition, the First Princess seemed to have become more confident. Perhaps it was the fact that she was no longer under the thumb of the Regent that she was able to finally let herself flourish.

"I don't need to say any unnecessary words. I will forever remember Your Highness' grace." Li Luo did not stand on ceremony. The only thing he needed now was peace of mind when it came to House Luolan before he could leave.

"When do you plan to leave, then?" the First Princess asked.

"Perhaps in the next few days." Now that Jiang Qing'e had left, time had become tight. Whether it was the four year deadline to reach the Duke Stage or to acquire the Nine Marks Sacred Heart Lotus, everything required preparation, and he had to move quickly.

Remaining cooped up in the Xia Kingdom was meaningless.

The First Princess lightly nodded as her jade-like hands picked up the cup of tea before her.

"Then I will take this opportunity to wish you all the best. Come back as a Duke."

She raised her head and gulped down the tea in a single mouthful.

Looking at the tall youth before her, she suddenly had a premonition that the day he came back would also be the last day of the demons that had infuriated him.

At that point in time, not only Shen Jinxiao, but also the Regent and Zhu Qinghuo...

All of them would pay the ultimate price.