

Spatial Ability 271

Chapter 271: There's No Need for You Here

In any case, there was no difference if one more person required medicinal herbs. They would let her have a taste of suffering first.

Their master had said it was okay to contract the epidemic disease a few times.

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A day later, Xue Ling successfully contracted the disease. She let out a miserable scream in the infected area.

Meanwhile, An Jiuyue and Deputy General Sun returned.

They should have returned earlier, but they were delayed because they picked a lot of medicinal herbs on their journey back.

"We're back, General."

Deputy General Sun came to Qian Jiyun's tent alone to report their return.

"We gathered—"

"Where's Jiuyue?"

Qian Jiyun did not want to hear how many herbs they had picked. He only wanted to hear of An Jiuyue's return.

"Uh..." Deputy General Sun was rendered speechless for a moment.

“Well, General, I wanted to persuade Miss Jiuyue to come back with me, but she said that she had something to do, so she didn’t come back with me.”

He did not understand either. What else would Princess Consort An have to do? She turned and left after giving him the herbs.

They were near the military camp. Even if there was something important, they could return and inform the General that they were safe first, right?

“General, this is the letter that Miss Jiuyue instructed me to deliver to you.”

Qian Jiyun immediately took the letter and opened it. He understood it after a glance.

He waved at Deputy General Sun. “You can leave first.”

“Yes, I’ll take my leave,” Deputy General Sun replied and turned around to leave.

However, he remembered that he had encountered people from the 18 Stockaded Villages on the mountain and decided to report it to the General.

“General, when I was picking herbs with Miss Jiuyue, we encountered people from the 18 Stockaded Villages. Their people seem to have contracted the disease. We were gathering medicinal herbs together, but we arrived ahead of them.

“Later, they asked us for help. Miss Jiuyue took the initiative and distributed some herbs to them.”

He still did not understand. The 18 Stockaded Villages were so far away from the epidemic outbreak. How did they contract the disease? He had been pondering it on the journey back.

“Got it.”

Qian Jiyun was not too surprised. Shen Yan had already come begging—nothing else would surprise him more.

However, he did not expect Shen Yan's people to pick the medicinal herbs with An Jiuyue. He was relieved they were not completely clueless about treating the disease.

"I'll take my leave."

Upon hearing that, Deputy General Sun left.

After Deputy General Sun left, Yan Feng walked in and looked at his master hesitantly.

"Master, the Mistress..."

"There's no need for you here. Go protect Jiuyue."

Qian Jiyun informed Yan Feng of the address An Jiuyue had written to him in the letter and asked him to protect Jiuyue.

Since she said she had more important things to do, it must be true. He would support her, but he did not want her to tire herself out doing it.

If there were tasks that someone else could do, let them do them instead.

"Well..." Yan Feng was speechless.

He admitted he was skilled at martial arts, and his skills might be comparable to Qian Jiyun. However, he was a man. It was a little inappropriate to accompany An Jiuyue alone.

It was not that he had anything against women, but he was afraid it would damage her reputation.

“Master, the Shadow Guards have always trained female shadow guards. Why don’t I select some powerful ones and send them to the Mistress?” he suggested.

Chapter 272: I’ll Skin You Alive!

Qian Jiyun pondered for a moment and nodded.

The female Shadow Guards in the Prince of the Second Rank’s Residence were trained for the future Princess Consort. They were not only strong in martial arts but also well-versed in literature.

There were not many of them. If he remembered correctly, only 10 female shadow guards were worthy of being under Yan Feng’s command.

“That’s good. Bring them here. I want to choose them myself.”

“Yes, Master.”

Since Qian Jiyun wanted to choose personally, Yan Feng had no objections and left to give instructions.

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At the 11th stockaded village of the 18 stockaded villages...

Shen Zhuxin and her group returned ahead of Shen Yan and Qi Gu. They did not gain much from the trip.

However, the people in the village had already seen the real Bipetalous Scarlet-Blue Flower and Moon Whisper Grass.

Therefore, after some discussion, and with the approval of Ai Qi, Luo Zhongyin, and the other chiefs, they chose a group of trusted people to pick these two medicinal herbs outside the village.

Shen Zhuxin and the others did not mention what An Jiuyue had said because Shen Yan had yet to return.

They sat in the meeting hall after Shen Yan and Qi Gu returned. Shen Zhuxin told the elders what An Jiuyue had told her.

However, she did not take her words to heart and only mentioned them in passing when she informed the elders that they had received a favor from someone.

“What did you say?!”

However, despite only mentioning it casually, Shen Yan, and even the other chiefs, stood up reflexly and glared at Shen Zhuxin and the other youngsters.

“Zhuxin, why didn’t you say so earlier!” Ai Qi shouted angrily and questioned Shen Zhuxin.

He did not care if Shen Zhuxin was Shen Yan’s precious daughter at this moment.

If Shen Zhuxin and her group had mentioned this earlier, they might have had a chance to chase after them and invite them back. Now that a day had passed, it was too late.

“Where are they, Zhuxin? Where are they?” Luo Zhongyin asked anxiously.

“You... You children, don’t you understand priorities? Sigh!” Ge Li shook his head and looked at his son, Ge Wei, reproachfully.

Ge Wei was part of the group that went out to gather herbs, but he also did not mention this to Ge Li.

“You brat, I’ll skin you alive!”

He raised his hand and slapped the back of his son’s head with great force. It almost left Ge Wei dumbstruck.

“Father, she only said something random. Why would I mention it?”

Ge Wei covered the back of his head that was throbbing from the slap and pursed his lips. He felt wronged.

It’s only a sentence—one without rhyme or reason! Props to Zhuxin’s good memory for even passing the message on to the elders!

They were only focused on gathering more herbs, only thinking about their brothers who had contracted the disease.

“How dare you!” Ge Li yelled again.

Sui Mu looked at Shen Yan and asked with a frown, “Big Brother, who do you think this person is? She actually told us not to owe favors easily!”

Everyone knew it was not easy owing someone a favor. However, she rejected the chance to make the 18 Stockaded Villages owe her a favor.

Shen Yan pondered for a long time before speaking softly.

“There are two possibilities. The first is that the two of them deliberately said that because they didn’t want anything to do with the 18 Stockaded Villages. The second is that although they picked herbs together, they’re not on the same side. She doesn’t want us to owe only her companion a favor.”

Chapter 273: Are You Trying to Make Me Angry?!

“Big Brother is right. That should be the case.”

Qi Gu nodded. He felt the second scenario was possible.

“Zhuxin, what else did that lady tell you?” Shen Yan asked as he looked at his daughter.

Shen Zhuxin was shocked. She had never seen her father speak to her with such a serious expression and tone.

It was like a superior asking his subordinate a question. It put a lot of pressure on her.

“That lady told us not to owe favors easily. She didn’t say anything else—”

Before Shen Zhuxin could finish, Qi Ye reminded her, “No, Zhuxin, that lady said something else.”

She had said something else before that. Qi Ye had a feeling that sentence was the most important.

“What?” Shen Zhuxin looked at Qi Ye in a daze.

She almost forgot what that lady had said because she had been hurrying to pick herbs over the past few days—it was not her fault!

“Ah Ye, tell me, what else did that lady say?” Qi Gu was nervous. He grabbed his son’s collar and lifted him.

Qi Ye stayed quiet.

Does he not care about my feelings? How can he embarrass me like this?

Despite feeling terrible, he still had to answer. Those present were elders he respected most.

“Father, don’t panic. I’ll tell you, I’ll tell you. She told Zhuxin to tell Uncle Shen that her surname is An.”

“What?!”

Shen Yan was shocked and could not help but point a finger at his daughter.

“Zhuxin, how can you forget something so important? Are you trying to make me angry?!”

“I—” Shen Zhuxin opened her mouth, unsure how to answer her father’s question.

She did not do it on purpose. She thought the young lady wanted attention by telling her father who she was despite saying she did not want the 18 Stockaded Villages to owe her a favor.

Hence, she must have instinctively chosen to forget what the lady had said.

“Ah Ye, how does that lady look like?” Qi Gu asked his son.

They knew their Master had taken in a young lady five years ago as his adopted daughter. It was very likely that he had given everything he had to her.

According to him, that lady took on his surname—An!

“Yes, yes, Ah Ye, how does she look like? Did she leave an address?” Ai Qi rushed to Qi Ye and asked.

Then he remembered his son, who had joined the others on their journey. He turned around and grabbed his son by his collar.

“Tell me, Ah Lu!”

Ah Lu was speechless. His father showed no consideration for his feelings!

He swallowed nervously and glanced down at his collar.

“Father, I... Can you put me down first?”

“Cut the crap. Tell me quickly.”

Ai Qi did not have time to play dumb with them. He tightened his grip on his son’s collar.

Ge Wei looked at his two friends grabbed by their fathers. He looked at his father in fear and quickly spoke.

“Well... Miss An is very beautiful and tall. She’s even prettier than Zhuxin... No, she’s even prettier than Sister Zhumeng. Also... she didn’t leave an address.”

Chapter 274: Young Master?

He did not want to be grabbed by his father like Ai Lu and Qi Ye. He needed to maintain his reputation! He could not afford to lose face!

Shen Zhuxin glared at Ge Wei when she heard what he said.

She could accept being told she was not as good-looking as her younger sister, but she could not tolerate hearing that her younger sister was not as beautiful as other people! She was her biological younger sister!

However, Ai Lu and the others obviously had no choice. No one wanted to be lifted by their collars and questioned by their biological fathers, right?

“Father and Uncles, although we don’t know where they live, the man beside Miss An has a murderous aura. He looks like someone with many years of experience on the battlefield.”

Sui Di stepped forward. He did not like to talk much, but he was more discerning than the others.

“I think he must be from the military camp, and he might be a deputy general. I’m not sure, so I can only say it may be possible. He also seems to be subservient to Miss An.”

This could be seen from the fact that Deputy General Sun did not object to An Jiuyue giving them the two bamboo baskets.

“Is that so?” Shen Yan looked at Ai Qi.

Ai Qi and the others had calmed down by then and let go of their sons’ collars.

How many military camps were there at the border? There was only one under the command of Qian Jiyun, Prince Zhanyun of the Second Rank.

So, the Young Master came from Qian Jiyun’s to pick herbs?

“Big Brother, how did Young Master get involved with Prince Zhanyun?” Ai Qi looked at Shen Yan and asked curiously.

They had nothing to do with the military camp. However, the Young Master had gotten involved with Qian Jiyun’s camp. She had even allowed a man who might be the Deputy General to accompany her.

“What? Young Master?”

Ai Lu heard his father’s shocking words just as he loosened his grip on his collar.

Young Master? That young lady is actually our Young Master? The daughter of the Master whom my father always admired and almost deified?!

The other young men were also shocked by Ai Qi’s words.

The young lady they did not care about was actually their Young Master? She was the Young Master they had only heard about from their fathers, who had made them pledge their lives to?

“Father, is this true? Is Miss An really the Young Master of the 18 Stockaded Villages?” Shen Zhuxin looked at Shen Yan and asked excitedly.

Now that their Young Master appeared, they should be able to follow her in the future, right?

“We don’t know yet. But we’ll have to make a trip to the military camp since we know where Young Master is now,” Shen Yan said to Ai Qi in a deep voice. He did not answer his daughter’s question.

“Big Brother, I’ll go with you,” said Luo Zhongyin immediately.

I’m so excited! The Young Master is here! The 18 Stockaded Villages will finally see the light of day!

“I’ll go too!” Qi Gu immediately exclaimed. He also wanted to meet the Young Master right away.

However, Shen Yan did not agree to his request. He did not know if she would be willing to meet so many of them.

“Qi Gu, you still have many things to do in your 11th Village. You don’t have to go this time.”

“Well...” Qi Gu looked indignant, but he quickly hid it.

Chapter 275: This Is Fate

It’s fine—I’ll have the opportunity to meet her in the future. I can wait. Besides, I do have many things waiting for me to do.

I can forget about relying on Qi Ye, that young lad. He’s not reliable at all. I’m really disappointed that he only just told us what Young Master told him.

“Father, why are you looking at me like that?”

Qi Ye started to become angry when he noticed his father’s disdainful gaze.

Can he not despise me so much? I don’t have to think to know what he’s thinking. He’s blaming me for not telling him about Young Master earlier!

But how’s that my fault? Young Master wanted us to tell Uncle Shen, not my father!

“Can’t you see the disdain in my eyes?” Qi Gu raised his hand and slapped his son’s head firmly.

Qi Ye stayed quiet.

I’m smart, but my father is about to make me stupid! How can he hit his own son like that? I’m starting to think I’m not his biological son!

“Father, can you show mercy?”

He said helplessly and retreated from his father’s danger zone. The people around them laughed when they heard his words.

After the laughter died down, Shen Yan said to everyone, “Er Ning, Ai Qi, and I will go to the military camp this time.”

Er Ning was the chief of the second stockaded village, and Ai Qi was the chief of the third stockaded village. This lineup should be enough. Young Master should be able to sense that they value her, right?

Moreover, it was not a large group. If Young Master did not like to be disturbed by too many people, a group of three should be acceptable, right?

“There’s no time to lose. I’ll send a message to Second Brother,” Ai Qi said.

This matter was settled. Qi Gu kept an eye on the village while the others left to look for herbs nearby.

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Meanwhile, Qian Jiyun also sent many people to pick herbs.

He remembered that Deputy General Sun had met the people from the 18 Stockaded Villages because they were also gathering herbs. Hence, he specially instructed his subordinates not to confront or argue with other people gathering herbs if they encountered them.

On the other side, An Jiuyue arrived outside a villa.

She first went to the bamboo forest and caught many bamboo rats to develop an antidote for the two poisons. Then, she went to the villa.

Her father had left the villa for her. Of course, with a large one like this, there had to be someone taking care of it. Even if she wanted to enter, she had to inform the people inside first.

Soon, the butler rushed over. Although An Jiuyue was a stranger to him, he knew she was the young master immediately because of the seal left behind by his master.

“Young Master, please come in.”

The butler’s surname was Huang. Everyone in the villa called him Elder Huang. Even An Tu called him Uncle Huang whenever he came here.

He brought An Jiuyue to the Autumn Water Courtyard.

“Sigh.”

Elder Huang sighed softly after hearing of his master’s passing.

“Young Master, Master had too many old injuries. If he didn’t focus on recuperating in the mountains, I’m afraid he wouldn’t even be...” Alive in the last few years!

He did not say that out loud, but it was indisputable.

“This is fate. Master was stubborn and refused to listen to anyone’s advice. Back then, I tried to persuade him to give up. Fame and fortune are all in vain, but Master refused to listen to me.”

Elder Huang looked at An Jiuyue with tears in his eyes.

Chapter 276: What’s Going On?

“He said he would do anything for you.”

“Back then?” An Jiuyue was puzzled.

If I’m not wrong, Elder Huang must be talking about the time when Father was still fighting in the military.

How would he know me back then? Didn’t he save me coincidentally when he returned to the mountains to recuperate? Why would he say that? Does he have other descendants?

“Elder Huang, you must be mistaken. I’m only his adopted daughter.”

If he had other descendants, she would hand over everything he left behind to them.

“No, Young Master, I didn’t misunderstand.” Elder Huang shook his head and looked at An Jiuyue seriously.

“You’re the Young Master and my master’s lifelong goal. He never married nor had a maid by his side. He doesn’t have any descendants.

“He also said many years ago that his daughter hasn’t appeared—we will know when she does.

“Actually, I’ve always known that my master adopted you as his daughter. I’ve always wanted to meet you, but he rejected me. He said it wasn’t time to meet you because you weren’t the Young Master yet.”

“Although I don’t know what he meant, I’m confident you’re the Young Master.”

An Jiuyue was extremely shocked.

What's going on? My father raised the Host for five years, but he didn't bring her to meet his old subordinate. He even rejected him when he asked to see her!

Was he waiting for me...?

Impossible! That's impossible! It's too unbelievable! How would he know I'd be transmigrating here? Why did he insist on making me the Young Master?

"Is my father also a..." Transmigrator?

An Jiuyue dared not say the last word in front of Elder Huang.

There were many things she did not understand. She had nowhere to turn to make sense of them now that her father was no longer around.

Since she was here now, she decided to settle down and resolve the matters at hand first.

"Elder Huang, I'll be staying here in seclusion for a few days. Don't let anyone disturb me besides bringing me three meals daily. Also, please help me prepare 100 sets of herbs according to this list."

She handed the list and some silver certificates to Elder Huang.

When he saw the money, he shook his head repeatedly. He would be a butler in this big villa for nothing if his young master had to fork out money for a small expense.

"Young Master, you can keep your silver certificates. Everything in the Jade Kite Garden Villa is yours. I'll send someone to prepare the herbs."

With that, he took the list and left. An Jiuyue watched him and did not force him to accept the money.

My father must have been really rich for Elder Huang to not care less about this money!

"I'm so tired." She patted the back of her neck and rotated her head a few times.

Having picked herbs non-stop after traveling for days, she had been unable to rest properly. She felt as if all the bones in her body had snapped.

Everything was settled now. All she needed was a good night's sleep. Once she had enough energy, she could start developing the antidote for the poison.

"I should sleep now. I'll continue when I wake up."

With that, she walked towards her room and fell onto the bed, ready to have a good dream.

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In the military camp...

Chapter 277: What a Pity

The deputy general was stunned when he saw Shen Yan again.

He's back so soon? Did he set off for our military camp right after returning to the stockaded villages?

Is the epidemic situation in the 18 Stockaded Villages so severe? Are they forced to seek help from the General because the disease has spread to the entire village?

This time, however...

The top three chiefs of the 18 Stockaded Villages were as influential as their General. Any of their names could shake the world.

“Chief Shen, Chief Er, and Chief Ai, please wait a moment. I’ll invite the General here.”

“Wait.”

The deputy general was ready to call for the General when Shen Yan stopped him.

Was there a need for a deputy general to call for Qian Jiyun personally? Shen Yan felt that he could have instructed a soldier to do that instead.

The deputy general turned around and asked Shen Yan, “Chief Shen, do you need anything else?”

“Deputy General Liu, may I ask if there is a lady with the surname An in your camp?” Er Ning asked with a smile.

“Hm?!” Deputy General Liu felt goosebumps looking at his smile.

An imposing ruler like him should possess a majestic aura and a solemn expression. Must he smile like that and creep me out? There’s a conspiracy! I can smell a conspiracy!

“Are you here for... Miss An?” he asked carefully.

Have they come to seek the Princess Consort, not the General’s assistance? Besides, their attitude is too...

Are they trying to abduct our Princess Consort? But they don’t know about the prescription, right? They shouldn’t be here to abduct her. I’m overthinking it. Yes, I must be overthinking it.

“Yes, we’re here to look for Miss An. Where—”

“Miss An gave us medicine generously to resolve our emergency. We’re here to express our gratitude.”

Ai Qi’s question was interrupted by Shen Yan. He glanced at Ai Qi reproachfully.

It was better to keep the Young Master’s identity secret from outsiders. She did not even mention this matter to them. It was obvious she did not want others to discover her identity.

Ai Qi immediately lowered his head and said nothing.

He was too anxious to see the Young Master and forgot that this was Qian Jiyun’s territory.

“I see. I heard Deputy General Sun mention it.” Deputy General Liu nodded, feeling a little regretful.

It would be great if the Princess Consort was here. The 18 Stockaded Villages would owe the General a favor.

Unfortunately, the Princess Consort did not return. He also could not reveal her identity as the Princess Consort as it was not the time for it.

What a pity!

“Miss An is not in the military camp now. I’m afraid you can’t see her for the time being.”

“What?!” Ai Qi was disappointed. He even scolded his son in his heart.

What a useless brat! If he mentioned it earlier and we came earlier, wouldn’t we be able to meet our Young Master?

He has too little experience. He should have mentioned it quickly!

Ai Lu, who was looking for herbs outside, sneezed loudly. He touched the tip of his nose and muttered, "Who's scolding me?"

"Big Brother, we..."

What bad timing! The Young Master is not in the military camp!

Chapter 278: It May Backfire!

"We're only here to offer our thanks. Since she's not here, we can come again next time. We'll meet with Prince Zhan Yun this time." Shen Yan looked at Ai Qi and signaled for him to calm down.

Since the Young Master had already revealed her identity to them, they had to meet her. It was only a matter of time.

"The General will be here soon," Deputy General Liu replied immediately.

Soon, Qian Jiyun came after receiving the news.

He had rushed over from outside the military camp. He was on his way to check on An Jiuyue after he had given orders in the camp.

He did not expect the people from the 18 Stockaded Villages to come again. This time, it was the chief of the first three villages. He had no choice but to take this seriously. He did not understand what they were up to.

However, a shameless person walked into the tent with him to meet Shen Yan and the other two.

“Prince Lei Ting!”

Shen Yan and the others had already expressed that they were kind enough to spare him. Why would they still want to see him again?

Qian Jiyun was also very straightforward. He wore a cold expression as he entered with Prince Lei Ting, not even sparing him a glance.

His expression only softened when he saw the three chiefs.

Shen Yan took a deep breath and greeted them, “Prince Zhan Yun, Prince Lei Ting.”

Meanwhile, Er Ning and Ai Qi did not even stand. They only nodded at Qian Jiyun to greet him and acted as if they had not seen Prince Lei Ting.

Prince Lei Ting frowned. He was clearly very disgusted by how Shen Yan greeted him after Prince Zhan Yun.

Although he was truly not as capable as Qian Jiyun, he refused to admit it!

He believed he would not be inferior to Qian Jiyun if he obtained help from the 18 Stockaded Villages! He could definitely crush Qian Jiyun by then!

“You’re back so soon, Chief Shen? It seems like the 18 Stockaded Villages are not all that! Aren’t you a little too diligent in begging?” He looked at Shen Yan sarcastically and described him as a dog begging for help.

He wanted to cause a rift between Qian Jiyun and the three chiefs so he would not need to work without benefiting himself.

“Does our begging have anything to do with you?” Shen Yan asked with a smile.

“Of course. I don’t mind helping you. As long as you’re willing, I can—”

“I’m not willing!” Shen Yan interrupted.

One had to be competent to seize the 18 Stockaded Villages. How could a greedy man who was made prince because of the Emperor’s favor even dream of expanding his influence?

Er Ning sneered and said, “Prince Lei Ting, let me give you a piece of advice. If you eat too much, you can spit it out. But if you eat something you shouldn’t, you may not be able to spit it out because it may backfire!”

Prince Lei Ting was furious and pointed a finger at him. “You—”

“Prince Lei Ting, this is my camp.”

Just as he was about to flare up, he heard Qian Jiyun’s calm voice. Most of the anger within him dissipated.

He did not dare to act rashly in Qian Jiyun’s territory.

“Hmph! I’ll see how long you can last!”

He snorted, withdrew his hand, and shook it vigorously before smiling gleefully.

Chapter 279: They Would Look Like Fools!

As long as he kept an eye on Qian Jiyun and prevented the 18 Stockaded Villages from obtaining the prescription, he was sure Shen Yan would not be so patient as to not look for him!

He would definitely settle this score with them when the time came!

His expression suddenly turned calm as he smiled at Qian Jiyun.

“How would I not know that this is your military camp, Prince Zhan Yun? However, all the land under the sky belongs to the Emperor. No matter how big you are in this military camp, you are only... Prince Zhan Yun of the Second Rank!”

He also knew keeping an eye on Qian Jiyun was difficult.

Fortunately, he was prepared. It would be impossible for Qian Jiyun to give the prescription to Shen Yan and the others. He had not been Prince Lei Ting all these years for nothing!

Ai Qi smiled coldly. He had no intention of showing consideration for Prince Lei Ting’s feelings.

“You’re making it sound like the royal family belongs to you alone. Don’t think too highly of yourself, Prince Lei Ting.”

“You—”

Prince Lei Ting’s calm expression turned ashen again because of Ai Qi’s words.

Of course, he wanted the world to belong to him alone, but those were mere thoughts. The throne belonged to the capable, and he was not as powerful as his brother, so he could only watch it slip through his fingers.

It had been a thorn in his heart all these years! How could he not be angry when Ai Qi mentioned that he was inferior to the Emperor?

However, it was because that person was the Emperor that he dared not say anything in rebuttal. Even if the Emperor was not present, some words were not meant to be said aloud.

“Hmph! Talk as much as you can now. Let’s see how you can say all these things later!”

Upon hearing that, Shen Yan and the other two chiefs were furious, but they did not explode. They only stared coldly at Prince Lei Ting. They would look like fools if they scolded a person like him!

“Forget it.” Shen Yan shook his head and stood up. “Prince Zhan Yun, since Miss An is not around, we won’t stay any longer. Goodbye.”

He cupped his fists at Qian Jiyun and was about to leave with Er Ning and Ai Qi. However, it was clear that neither of them wanted to leave so soon.

“But, Big Brother...” Er Ning wanted to say something, but Shen Yan stopped him.

With Prince Lei Ting around, it was impossible to say anything to Qian Jiyun. If they expressed their concern for their Young Master, they could not guarantee that Prince Lei Ting would not target her.

For the sake of her safety, they should not ask Qian Jiyun about her whereabouts.

“Second Brother, let’s go back first.”

Ai Qi had thought of that, too, and tapped Er Ning on his shoulder.

Big Brother is right. The 18 Stockaded Villages are already a thorn in Prince Lei Ting’s side. We can’t let him know about our Young Master—at least, not now.

“Okay.” Er Ning took a deep breath and finally nodded. “Since that’s the case, we’ll meet again, Prince Zhan Yun!”

He and Ai Qi cupped their fists at Qian Jiyun and left with Shen Yan.

The two did not look at Prince Lei Ting the whole time. It made him so angry he almost flipped the table.

Unfortunately, this was not a place where he could behave atrociously. In the end, he had no choice but to endure it. He turned to look at Qian Jiyun, who had a calm expression and did not take him seriously.

Chapter 280: We Were Too Careless

“Prince Zhan Yun, you...”

“Deputy General Liu, arrange for two infected soldiers to stay outside my tent,” Qian Jiyun instructed Deputy General Liu.

He walked past Prince Lei Ting and left without looking back.

“You—”

Prince Lei Ting had nowhere to vent his anger and could only feel it caught in his throat.

Qian Jiyun! How can he make me lose face? I’m a member of the royal family! I’m Prince Lei Ting!

Arrange for the infected soldiers to come here? Didn’t he say that for me to hear? Does he think he can avoid my surveillance?

“Hmph! We’ll see!” He snorted and turned to leave.

After I subdue the 18 Stockaded Villages and deal with Qian Jiyun, the southern border will be under my control in the future!

After Prince Lei Ting left, another deputy general came forward to Qian Jiyun.

“General.”

“Did you find anything?” Qian Jiyun asked him.

“Mhm.” He nodded.

That person had hidden too well. They would not have been able to find him if Shen Yan and the other chiefs had not come again.

They could dig him out because he was in contact with Prince Lei Ting again.

“We followed your instructions and didn’t alert him. He doesn’t know we found him. What should we do next, General?”

“We’ll keep this person for now. He might be useful in the future,” Qian Jiyun instructed.

Who said there was no benefit in keeping the enemy’s spies alive? Making good use of this chess piece could have a miraculous effect!

After giving his instructions, he left the military camp to look for his wife.

I can’t figure out the deeper meaning behind why Shen Yan and the other chiefs came to look for Jiuyue suddenly. They’re clearly not here because of the two bamboo baskets of herbs.

She might have revealed her medical skills when she encountered their people. Maybe they think she can cure the epidemic disease.

But that’s just a guess. I’ll only know when I meet Jiuyue.

...

“Sigh.”

Er Ning sighed heavily after the three of them dismounted their horses.

He looked at Shen Yan. “Big Brother, we were too careless.”

He was too excited earlier and did not realize that important figures like them would not return to the military camp to meet An Jiuyue over two mere bamboo baskets of herbs.

They knew she was their Young Master, but others did not.

“Will Prince Zhan Yun suspect something?” Ai Qi asked worriedly.

“I don’t think so.” Shen Yan shook his head.

Who would have guessed An Jiuyue was the Young Master of the 18 Stockaded Villages?

Even if someone guessed correctly, no one would believe them if they said so, right?

After all, the 18 Stockaded Villages had a total of 180,000 troops—and that was a few years ago. They had been living in seclusion, and their military strength had far surpassed 180,000.

Who would believe that a young woman would lead such a massive force?

Even Prince Lei Ting would not believe it.

“We can’t rush things. The Young Master will come to us eventually.”

“Will the Young Master come?” Er Ning expressed his doubts.

Ai Qi shook his head, his expression grim. “I actually wish she wouldn’t come now.”