

# An Understated Dominance Chapter 2496

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## Chapter 2496

“Who is it?!”

Cardinal Dragon Marshal gripped his steel knife tightly, his eyes sharp with vigilance and ferocity—like a cornered beast ready to strike.

For days, he had been on edge, barely closing his eyes, his nerves stretched taut. He was constantly alert, fearing that danger could strike at any moment.

### **Squeak!**

The door creaked open slowly. A gray-haired old man stepped inside, holding a tray of fruit and snacks with both hands.

Before the old man could take in the room’s surroundings, a flash of cold steel was already at his throat—Cardinal Dragon Marshal’s blade.

### **Bang!**

Terrified, the old man trembled violently. The tray slipped from his grasp, and fruit and snacks scattered across the floor.

“General, don’t be alarmed. He’s one of us.”

Alec quickly stepped forward, gently pressing down on the knife with a reassuring smile. “This is Uncle Wubo, a mute who has served the Temple of the Gods for many years. He watches over this secret passage and has never made a mistake.”

“Mute?” Cardinal Dragon Marshal scrutinized the old man. Only after confirming that he posed no threat did he finally lower his knife.

Alec turned to Uncle Wubo. “Have you noticed anything unusual lately?”

Uncle Wubo shook his head and quickly gestured with his hands.

Cardinal Dragon Marshal frowned. “What does that mean?”

Alec translated, “He says this place is extremely secluded. No strangers have been near. We’re safe.”

The Pantheon had chosen this remote village for a reason. With its isolated location, few residents—mostly elderly and children, as younger people had left for the cities—it was an ideal hideout. The surrounding dense forests and towering mountains made it easy to evade pursuit if necessary.

“Safety is good, but right now, I’m starving. Have him bring me something to eat,” Cardinal Dragon Marshal ordered.

Alec nodded. “Uncle Wubo, prepare some food so we can have a proper meal.”

With a wary glance at the General, Uncle Wubo nodded and hurried off.

An hour later, a modest but hearty meal was served—mostly meat: cured fish, sausages, smoked pork, chicken, and duck.

Ordinarily, Cardinal Dragon Marshal wouldn’t even glance at such rustic fare, but hunger made him devour it eagerly, grease dripping from his lips. He hadn’t eaten properly since being declared a fugitive.

Still, he remained cautious. Before touching the food, he signaled for Wubo and Alec to test for poison. Only after confirming it was safe did he dig in, eating ravenously.

Once he had eaten his fill, he leaned forward. “We’ve escaped the royal city, but we’re still in West Lucozia. The longer we stay, the greater the risk. I need the Pantheon to get me out of the country as soon as possible.”

Alec smiled reassuringly. “General, be patient. This place is secure for now. Besides, leaving West Lucozia requires careful planning. If we move recklessly, things could go wrong.”

“So what’s your plan?” Cardinal Dragon Marshal asked.

“If you, General, are wanted, we can’t take official routes. The only option is to sneak across the border,” Alec said, sipping his tea.

“Smuggling?” Cardinal Dragon Marshal frowned. “There’s Bohai Kingdom between here and Lecanon. Doesn’t that mean we have to go through Bohai first?”

“Exactly.” Alec nodded. “The Pantheon has strong influence in Bohai. Once you get there, you won’t need to hide anymore. You can travel openly to Lecanon and live freely.”

“If that’s possible, it would be ideal. But which route do you plan to take? Is it safe?”

“I’ve narrowed it down to three discreet smuggling routes. But before deciding, I need to send scouts to ensure they’re secure,” Alec replied.

Cardinal Dragon Marshal smirked. “I like your thoroughness. Once I’m settled in the Lecanon Country, I won’t forget your help.”

Alec nodded. “For now, you should rest while we have time. When the moment is right, we’ll make our move.”

“Good. Find me a room. I need sleep. No one is to disturb me until I wake up.”

Now that he had escaped the royal city, the immediate danger had lessened. With Alec handling the details, he could finally let his guard down—at least for a little while. For the first time in days, he could rest.