

Divine 651

Chapter 651: Zhao Yiqiu

Prince Mui had no choice, but to cease his steps.

He was just a Prince, and he had to obey the order from the King both in his own country and here in the Feather Mulberry Land. He had to obey the King's order especially since he was from a weaker country.

The King said indifferently, "We still have some undone business, Lady Chaoyan will not take long. Prince Mui, please hang on a while until I am done with the talk."

Prince Mui had no choice, but to return to his seat.

The King said nothing to him a while ago, what did he mean by "undone business?"

What did the King have to say to him? Prince Mui just could not understand.

Gu Chaoyan did not care. She had no intention to get involved with the King and Prince Mui's business. She was here to check up on the King by order, and that was her only business.

Normally, the King was doing well, but when the Eunuch asked her to be in the court, he told her that he was not feeling well.

Gu Chaoyan felt his pulse, and realized that nothing was wrong.

She squinted at the King and said, "You need acupuncture."

The King was surprised.

Acupuncture? He was not feeling unwell. He had been drinking the medicine Gu Chaoyan prescribed and it worked well, but something was wrong with him now? The King panicked.

Gu Chaoyan nodded. She took out the bag and showed the rows of silver needles.

The Eunuch asked. "Lady Chaoyan, do you need my help?"

"Sleeves." Gu Chaoyan said indifferently as she was cleaning the needles.

The Eunuch rolled up the King's sleeves.

Gu Chaoyan came with the needles and found the spot that caused the biggest pain on the arm and put the needles on. The King's face was twisted. It was very painful, but with Prince Mui there, he could not possibly lose his imposing air, so he clenched his teeth, tolerating the pain.

Gu Chaoyan looked at the King with a sneaky look.

He was the King, so he kept asking her to come into the court. It was a very cold day and it wasn't easy for her to be here, but he kept asking her to check him up.

Seeing the King's twisted look, Gu Chaoyan felt slightly satisfied. Then she put away the needles and said, "It is done, there is nothing else, just take the medicine accordingly."

Then she looked at the King, waiting for his further orders.

The King smiled and pointed at one seat. "Please take a seat, Lady Chaoyan.

Chaoyan did as she was told.

However, Prince Mui felt restless. He was flushing, and did not dare to look at Gu Chaoyan.

Lady Chaoyan was unaware of this, yet the young man just could not conceal his bashfulness and excitement.

The King was happy at the sight. He smiled as he glanced at them two.

"Lady Chaoyan, come and drink some tea, you like tea don't you, as I heard?" the King said.

Gu Chaoyan nodded and drank the tea in silence.

The King seemed to be in a good mood as he kept talking.

Gu Chaoyan did not say a thing, and Mui was too shy to say anything. So the King became the most talkative one.

In the end, the King could not help but ask.. "What is Zhao Yiqiu doing these days?"

Chapter 652: The Duke Rank of the Duke North

Gu Chaoyan looked up at the King.

The King himself might not have noticed that he sounded furious when he mentioned Zhao Yiqiu. It was a kind of fury that could not be concealed.

The King was indeed angry. He himself had not expected that he had just brought a wolf home!

The Queen did not come to him, nor did she miss him. And even when he went to visit the Weiyang Palace and asked her about her health, the Queen did not even want to speak with him. The Queen was not like this! The King believed that the reason why the Queen was like this was because Zhao Yiqiu had told her something, but right now, he could not just give Zhao Yiqiu any trouble.

He was just in the middle of anger, so he could not help but ask Chaoyan about him.

"Mr. Zhao has stayed in my court these days. He is in my mansion, but I don't care. I get paid," Gu Chaoyan said coldly.

The King sneered and dropped the topic of Zhao Yiqiu. The more he talked, the more he would expose himself.

That was something the King was pretty aware of, so he avoided showing anything more.

When talk of Zhao Yiqiu was done, none of the three people in the Qianqing Palace spoke any more.

The King somehow lost his interest. He waved his hands. "You can go home now, I still have petitions to read. Come to me when you have time."

Gu Chaoyan subconsciously looked at Prince Mui.

Didn't he have some undone business with Prince Muyi?

However, that was not something Gu Chaoyan was supposed to know. So she got up, greeted him and left.

Gu Chaoyan was leading the way and Prince Muyi was following behind her.

The two were avoiding each other.

Prince Muyi was the Prince of the Feather Mulberry Land, and Gu Chaoyan was the future Princess Consort of Lord Huai. The two of them should not have close contact in the court, thus avoiding each other.

The two were walking outwards.

Young Duke arrived at the Qianqing Palace.

The teacups were not even cleaned up and the King was still seated where he had been. The moment he saw Young Duke, he waved his hands lazily and asked the Eunuch to prepare some new tea.

The Eunuch had just removed the tea, when the King explained. "Lady Chaoyan was here. She just left."

Young Duke's face changed. He subconsciously reached out for the Anecdote of Saint Divine. He had the book in his arms every day, hoping that he could return the book to her when they ran into each other. That would drive his lingering feelings away.

However, every time, they just missed each other, every time! Why was this happening to him today again!

So they did not have the chance of meeting each other again?

Young Duke felt very sad inwardly.

The King did not notice that at all. He asked Zheng Chenyi to meet him because he had some business to speak with him about. The King just did not care about his emotions.

The King looked up and said sorrowfully, "It is the end of the year again, and many ministers in court are urging me to get someone to take the Duke's position.. Well, the position has been vacant for too long... And you are Duke North's only son and normally, you should have the rank, but you were so seriously injured a while ago and you don't seem to be able to fight on the battlefield any more, so..."

Chapter 653: The Rank

"I am afraid that probably one of your clan brothers will have to inherit the rank." The King said seriously.

The rank had always been vacant. He had thought about giving the rank to Zheng Chenyi for the New Year celebration, so that the whole mansion could be delighted. However, an unexpected accident happened.

The King was feeling helpless. Selfishly speaking, he would like to give the rank to Zheng Chenyi. However, time was different. The Phoenix Girl was found and when the Destiny Monk was found too, it would mean that everything might be possible. The Saint Divine Land was a powerful land, but some major things would take place again in the future. So every position in the general mansion should be well arranged.

Zheng Chenyi was not physically strong enough to lead the army, so it would not be practical for him to receive the rank. If he did not have such a huge plan, then he would have given that rank to him.

The King felt somehow uncertain. So he said, "However, this is not yet certain, you should see if you are physically strong enough to lead the army. If you are, I can still give you one more chance to compete with the other brothers from the Zheng Family. If you win the battle, then the rank will still be yours. If you lose, then you have to drop it. If you are not strong enough to lead the army, then you don't have to do those meaningless things. I will pick someone from the Zheng Family."

Zheng Chenyi held his fist tightly. Duke North was his father, his birth father! That was the rank of his birth father, why should it be given to someone else who only wanted the title?

What his mother had been expecting was that he would be granted the rank, so that she could have a peaceful rest, but now Zheng Chenyi was not being granted the rank at all!

Zheng Chenyi was feeling very uncomfortable inwardly. According to the law of the country, the rank would be his when he became an adult! He was still alive, so why should the other clan brothers get the title? Why was the King setting him and his mother up?

Zheng Chenyi clenched his teeth tightly.

"What is your plan?" The King asked.

"I will do the competition! Lady Chaoyan did tell me that I am not suitable to practise martial arts, but that doesn't necessarily mean that I am disabled. If there is a chance, I will do the competition!" Zheng Chenyi said. He was not going to pass the rank to anyone else. That was his father's rank and he was going to guard it tightly!

The King smiled with satisfaction. He liked Zheng Chenyi. He was a capable person, but unfortunately, he ran into an accident.

If he was up for the competition... then he would like to see this young man winning the title despite difficulty.

"That is what a young man should be like! You can start to make some preparations, when the date is set, I will inform you," the King said.

Zheng Chenyi nodded. He would like to thank the King, but he was speechless all of a sudden. Was he going to thank the King who was going to pass the rank his father fought so hard for to someone else? His father would not feel assured!

Zheng Chenyi left in distress.

The Eunuch was about to stop this rude man when the King stopped him. "It is fine. The less capable he is of accepting the truth, the more he will care about the rank. That would be very good for me. Just let him go."

The Eunuch ceased his steps and continued with his own work.

At Duke North's Mansion.

Zheng Chenyi had just walked into the Mansion when Mrs. Duke North hurried to him.. "Chenyi, how is it, have you been granted the rank?"

Chapter 654: Your Doings

Mrs. Duke North's eyes were sparkling. She was looking at Zheng Chenyi with expectation.

Duke North passed away ages ago and Zheng Chenyi was too young when that happened, but the King had promised Zheng Chenyi the rank. Zheng Chenyi was going to be 20 years old this year, and Mrs. Duke North had been waiting for too long for the order to be passed down. So she asked the Old Master of the Min Family to ask about the situation.

What the Min Family said was that the King did not have the intention of passing on the rank to Young Duke right now, but would like to wait until the New Year's time when the rank was given and celebrations were conducted. Therefore, Mrs. Duke North had been counting the days.

She was looking forward to seeing the rank granted to him as soon as possible. She had been waiting more than a decade, so she hoped that the day could arrive soon!

The King rarely asked anyone from Duke North's family to the court, but today was different. Chenyi was asked to go to the court to see him. That must be about the rank!

Zheng Chenyi looked at mother's eyes that were full of expectations.

He did not dare to tell her directly what happened, fearing that she would not be able to accept that.

His father was already gone. His mother had been raising him alone in the Mansion. He understood clearly how difficult the growing time was for them when he almost ate a poisoned porridge at the age of six. The Zheng Family could not keep him, because as long as he was alive, the rank would never be granted to anyone else in the family. Only when he was dead could anyone else have the opportunity.

What his mother had been doing was to defend him against the Zheng Family, but now... the King was making him compete with the other family brothers to win the rank!

What was that! That was insulting his parents!

Zheng Chenyi sighed heavily and forced a smile as he faced his mother. "Mom, don't get anxious. The King asked me about my health and if I am able to participate in the Spring Hunt! As for the rank, he would not tell me anything in private, he will announce it in the court!"

“Don’t worry, I will get the rank no matter what, it is just a matter of time. The New Year is around the corner, so just wait a little longer,” Zheng Chenyi said happily and told the housekeeper. “You can ask some ladies to keep mom company, so that she will not get bored.”

The housekeeper responded politely.

Mrs. Duke North calmed herself down after hearing Zheng Chenyi’s explanation. Mrs. Duke North said unhappily as ladies were mentioned. “Those ladies keep coming to me and you like none of them. I have no point in talking with them at all.”

Zhen Chenyi showed a bitter smile.

He had someone he would like to marry, but that person was already engaged and there was nothing he could do. However, he was not going to make his mother worried any more. Zheng Chenyi forced a smile and said, “You can help me find one you like. Hopefully I can get married next summer. I am already old enough to get married.”

“Really?” Mrs. Duke North was quite happy.

Zheng Chenyi nodded and returned to his own courtyard with a complicated expression.

Mrs. Duke North was now really delighted – her son had approved of the thing he had never approved of.

Before she was able to tell the housekeeper what to do, Madame Zheng arrived. So she frowned and asked.. “What are you doing here?”

Chapter 655: The Future Mansion

In the past, Madame Zheng would have not been that happy hearing what Mrs. Duke North said, but today, things were different.

With a smile on her face, she kept observing the mansion as she said critically, “Duke North’s Mansion is poor, but you need to keep it clean, right? It looks so shabby and bleak, I don’t want my Yunfan to suffer when he lives here.”

She kept making criticism about what was around the mansion as if she were already the owner.

Mrs. Duke North would have driven her out in the past, but hearing what Madame Zheng said, she almost fell.

She looked at her with disbelief. So Zheng Yunfan was going to inherit the rank? That was impossible!

However, soon Mrs. Duke North started to feel convinced. Madame Zheng had been drooling for this position for a long while, but she never dared to bring it up on the surface. However, she did today.

Then Mrs. Duke North was reminded of how Chenyi unwillingly told her about the postponed announcement. Was he lying to her?

Mrs. Duke North felt that she almost passed out.

She held her hands against her chest and the aunt next to her supported her.

Madame Zheng got startled too. She was just here trying to brag about something, but Mrs. Duke North, who was always so intimidating, just could not even stand any threats.

She got so frightened that she decided to leave. She did not want to cause any trouble before Yunfan formally got granted the rank, otherwise the Zheng Family would blame her for any trouble that was caused.

She showed a timid smile. "You should not behave like this. Even when Yunfan gets the rank, he is still part of the family, and we will still take care of you."

Having said these words, she left.

Mrs. Duke North looked so miserable.

"I must talk with Lady Chaoyan. I am going to make it up to her. It was my fault to have humiliated her!" Mrs. Duke North suddenly jerked up. Aunt followed and exchanged a look with the housekeeper, telling him to get Young Duke.

At Gu Chaoyan's mansion.

Gu Chaoyan was sunbathing in the yard, drinking tea in the sunlight.

It was almost the end of the year, and they had a lot to do. Xiu Jie was available today, so he came to ask her. "Elder Miss, we should make some preparations for the New Year."

Gu Chaoyan nodded.

That was true. She did not care much about festivals, but there were more than a dozen people in the mansion and those employees should have a good New Year. So she should pay attention to the preparations after all.

"Xiu Jie, you and Qing can be in charge of the preparations for the New Year. We have plenty of money, so don't be too frugal about buying stuff. Just buy what is necessary, prepare huge and precious presents for everyone, including the cleaners and chefs, for the New Year, and every employee should get 10 more yuan each month so that they will work for us devotedly. Tell them that as long as they work hard and well, they will be granted with presents," Gu Chaoyan said.

Xiu Jie nodded and smiled. "I will do that well."

Lady Chaoyan treated the servants well, so Xiu Jie found it a great honor to have such a Miss to serve.

Xiu Jie was about to get down to business, when Qing suddenly rushed in. "Elder Miss, Mrs.. Duke North is here asking to see you."

Chapter 656: For Chaoyan

Mrs. Duke North?

Gu Chaoyan frowned involuntarily.

Mrs. Duke North was the last person she wanted to meet. She was too heavenly-minded and it was too tiring to talk with someone like that.

Although she did not care about what happened before, that did not necessarily mean that she would like to hang out with Mrs. Duke North.

She sighed, but still decided to let her in. She nodded. "Let her in."

Qing went to fetch the woman.

Xiu Jie, who was about to go out on business, ceased walking too. He stood guard behind Gu Chaoyan.

There were many affairs to deal with at the mansion these days, but he had to take care of Elder Miss in case someone like Madame Huangpu appeared. He needed to make sure that nothing bad happened to Elder Miss.

Xiu Jie had to stand by her side whenever a guest came.

Mrs. Duke North soon arrived. She was helped by her Aunt without any imposing air. Her hair was somewhat unkempt, her face was pale and she was staggering.

The moment she saw Gu Chaoyan, she kneeled down directly before saying anything more. She said with tears in her eyes, "Lady Chaoyan, please forgive me, it was my fault, but don't blame me any more, okay? As long as you can forgive me, I can even sacrifice my own life."

Gu Chaoyan dodged all of a sudden, avoiding Mrs. Duke North's kowtowing.

She just could not accept such a huge kowtowing and greetings from Mrs. Duke North, even when she was married to Zhou Huaijin.

Sword One was frightened too. She helped her up as she said, "Mrs. Duke North, just get up, are you here to embarrass Elder Miss?"

The aunt next to her helped her up as well. Only in this way did Mrs. Duke North stop trying to kneel.

Aunt looked at Sword One apologetically...

It was wrong of Ms. Duke North to do so, but she could do nothing about it. She was in a strange mood and Young Duke was not yet here. If she stopped her, she would do something even worse.

Mrs. Duke North kept mumbling her words of begging for forgiveness.

Gu Chaoyan frowned, feeling unhappily. She did not regret saving Young Duke, but Mrs. Duke North was stuck and she was like a ticking bomb who kept blaming her for whatever trouble they ran into.

A long while later, Gu Chaoyan brought herself back.

Soon she thought of how Zhou Huaijin told her about the difficult time Mrs. Duke North had been going through. So her heart softened as she asked, "What happened? What are you doing here? I have already received the payment, so I have dropped what happened before. Mrs. Duke North, why are you blaming me for everything all the time?" Gu Chaoyan was still feeling quite angry, so she interrogated her.

She was not threatening her, but she could not be sure what Mrs. Duke North would think. She had such a heavy mind.

"The rank! The rank is gone! Chenyi is the Duke's only son and he should get the rank! Zheng Yunfan is part of the family, but he is not my husband's son, so why can he get it? Lady Chaoyan, please, if you are offended, punish me instead, don't make Chenyi suffer! We have been waiting for the rank for more than a decade!" Mrs. Duke North said with misery.

"Mother!" Zheng Chenyi heard her words when he walked in..

Chapter 657: Overnight

Mrs. Duke North was startled. Then she realized that it was Chenyi who was here.

Subconsciously, Mrs. Duke North gave Zheng Chenyi a push. "Chenyi, just go home, didn't you say that you are tired? Go back to the mansion now. I need to speak with Lady Chaoyan first, then I will meet you at home."

Mrs. Duke North finished the words in such a hurry and then turned to the housekeeper who came rushing in, suggesting that the housekeeper should bring him away.

Chenyi was her life. He was the person she had to guard for the rest of her life for the sake of her passing husband.

Her Chenyi was dignified and handsome, and he should never bend down to anybody.

She could do the begging work, all Chenyi needed to do was to be prepared to accept the rank.

Zheng Chenyi was not at all willing to leave. He said with misery on his face. "Mother, please don't embarrass and wrong Lady Chaoyan, she has nothing to do with this matter!"

He had not intended to tell his mother the truth, but he had not expected that his mother would find out so fast, and she even came to Lady Chaoyan for this.

Zheng Chenyi showed a bitter smile. "It is the King. He doesn't want to give me the rank, saying that he doesn't want to give it to someone useless!"

When the words were finished, Mrs. Duke North was startled. She could not bring herself back after a long while. She just was not ready, nor did she want to believe that the King would have done such a thing. Duke North had made such a huge contribution to the country so his son should not have been treated in this way!

Zheng Chenyi was worried that his mother was unable to accept it so he added. "But Zheng Yunfan is not going to get the rank either."

Mrs. Duke North was attracted by this sentence. She looked at Zheng Chenyi.

Zheng Chenyi spilled the truth in case his mother thought too deeply about the whole thing. "I was injured a while ago, and the King is worried that I won't be able to fight on the battlefield even if I get the rank, so he intends to pick some other offspring of the Zheng Family to lead the army, but the King

did not make a decision right away. He promised that if I could win the fight against the other clan brothers, then I could get the rank, but if I lose, then....”

Zheng Chenyi ceased. He promised. “Mom, I will definitely win the fight.”

“How... could that be possible?” Mrs. Duke North looked stricken. She just could not believe it. For more than a decade, she had been staying alert for the Zheng Family in case her son was set up. She succeeded in defending her son from the Zheng Family, but what the King said had erased all of her efforts.

She should have known about this! The King should have told her about it too!

If the truth had been told, her Chenyi would not have to stay alert for any conspiracy, but why was she told the truth after decades of effort?

Mrs. Duke North just could not understand. She covered her head, looking extremely miserable.

Gu Chaoyan let out a sigh of relief.

No wonder Mrs. Duke North could not stand it. The truth was so cruel. Mrs. Duke North had put all of her hope in this matter, but everything was ruined in a single moment.

Gu Chaoyan shook her head and passed a tranquilizer to Zheng Chenyi. “Give this to your mother, so that she can be relieved from the pain for the time being.”

Zheng Chenyi fed his mother the pill without any suspicion.

Mrs. Duke North soon felt like dozing off. She asked the aunt and the maids to help her back to the mansion.

Zheng Chenyi remained at Gu Chaoyan’s mansion.

“Lady Chaoyan, what is that pill?” Zheng Chenyi asked.. “Can I have some more of that?”

Chapter 658: Any Methods

Gu Chaoyan shook her head directly without hesitation.

It was not that she was being stingy, nor was it because the pill required a lot of material, but...

“That is a tranquilizer which helps people to doze off. I gave it to your mother only because she was suffering so badly and she had too much in her mind. She takes it so she can be stopped from being mentally disturbed. However...” Gu Chaoyan said straightforwardly, “The pills should not be taken too often, because the side effects are too strong, so I can’t give them to you. And after a nap, she will still think about those matters when she wakes up.”

Gu Chaoyan was helpless too. She more or less understood Mrs. Duke North today.

Mrs. Duke North had always been alert for more than a decade, and she was just a weak woman who had to stay alert for all sorts of conspiracies and tricks so that Zheng Chenyi could grow up so healthily. She was under huge pressure. Zheng Chenyi was the only hope in her heart.

When Zheng Chenyi got injured and almost lost his life, Mrs. Duke North was totally stricken as well.

So she was not nagging. She was thinking that she was the only person that had been offended after Zheng Chenyi almost died. That was why she had magnified the whole thing in her head.

In this way, she failed to treat Gu Chaoyan objectively.

Gu Chaoyan let out a sigh of relief. She felt sad for Mrs. Duke North.

If Zheng Chenyi acquired the rank after all, then everything would be fine. If he failed, Mrs. Duke North would totally collapse.

Zheng Chenyi was obviously aware of this point. He asked miserably, "Lady Chaoyan, do you have any method to stop mother from thinking about these things?"

Gu Chaoyan was expressionless. She was thinking about what she could do to help solve this matter.

If that woman was injured and had no strength to breathe, she was confident that she could save her, but Mrs. Duke North was different... It was definitely a difficult case, because what she needed to do was to sooth her mind.

"Not for the moment, please let me think about it." Gu Chaoyan answered calmly.

However, Zheng Chenyi still let out a sigh of relief.

He trusted Lady Chaoyan.

When he almost passed away, Lady Chaoyan saved him. So when Lady Chaoyan promised to think of a solution, she was definitely going to come up with one.

When the matter was almost settled, Zheng Chenyi started to feel uneasy again.

He still had the book the Anecdote of Saint Divine in his arms, and his mind was messy. He wondered whether he should return the book to Lady Chaoyan... but he still had one last story to read and if he returned the book now, he would not be able to read the last story.

Well... He could return the book when he finished the last story.

He had a lot of time and Lady Chaoyan was going to treat his mother, so it would take half a month before the book was supposed to be returned. If he had more time, he could read the whole book right from the beginning. Zheng Chenyi found that his plan sounded really great.

Gu Chaoyan exchanged a few words with him, but he missed them all.

Gu Chaoyan added. "Young Duke?"

"Oh yeah, what? Lady Chaoyan, what did you say?" Zheng Chenyi flushed as he asked..

Chapter 659: Not that Easy

Gu Chaoyan noticed that Zheng Chenyi was behaving strangely, but she did not give it any more thought. Instead, she said seriously, "I was asking you if you are going to do the competition?"

Zheng Chenyi nodded seriously. "I have to. That is my father's rank and it should not be given to someone like Zheng Yunfan. The King is looking for someone who can lead the army on the battlefield. If I can get the rank, my father will definitely be delighted. The clan brothers of the Zheng Family are different. What they need is just a rank, they don't have concern for the whole country."

Gu Chaoyan nodded. That was true.

The Zheng Family were always out for some tricks and all they wanted was the title.

Zheng Chenyi could be physically strong for the competition. It was just that he had to make some effort.

"Lady Chaoyan, can I be physically strong for that?" Zheng Chenyi asked.

"Yes, but you need to put in some effort." Gu Chaoyan answered calmly. "You were seriously injured and are not actually as strong as normal people. If you spare no effort, then you will have to suffer a great deal after the competition."

"I am fine with it!" Zheng Chenyi answered with resolution.

Gu Chaoyan felt his pulse. He was generally healthy, but she still gave him a bottle of pills. "Take one pill every day and when you know about the time and place for the competition, tell me, so I will be there in case of an emergency."

Zheng Chenyi was surprised and felt rather motivated. He hoped that the competition day could arrive as soon as possible.

Lady Chaoyan was going to watch him compete with the others!

Zheng Chenyi clenched his fist, then he nodded. "Okay!"

"Then I will go back to the mansion for practice!" Zheng Chenyi walked away with a smile, looking like an inspired young man.

Gu Chaoyan looked at his retreating figure in confusion. She was not sure what made him so happy.

She shook her head when she could not understand, then she returned to her own seat.

The tea had turned cold, so Sword One made a new cup for her.

Gu Chaoyan fell into contemplation as she drank the tea.

When Zhou Huaijin walked in, he looked confused too. "What was Young Duke doing here? He seemed to be in a good mood. He bumped into me as he walked out, but he ran away without looking at me! I had some words to ask him about, but he could not be stopped. What had made him so happy?"

Gu Chaoyan shook her head. She also had no idea what made Young Duke so cheerful suddenly, but... She still narrated what happened today. "Nothing really, but something happened to the mansion today."

"The King did not want to give the rank directly to Young Duke, but asked him to have a competition with the clan brothers and the winner will get the rank. Mrs. Duke North made a fuss here, so he came

to explain it to me. Then he asked me to check if he was physically strong for the competition,” Gu Chaoyan said.

Zhou Huaijin had a terrible look on his face.

“That is so unreasonable!” Zhou Huaijin said angrily, “Duke North made such great contributions to the country and he even died in the war. And now he doesn’t give the rank to Young Duke... how can this be fair for Duke North?!”

Gu Chaoyan felt really angry about this too at the beginning, but after she thought about this, she found the whole thing getting complicated.

She placed her hands over Zhou Huaijin’s and whispered discreetly, “Well, in my opinion.....”

Chapter 660: Anything?

“The King must have had some other plan so he made such a decision.” Gu Chaoyan said seriously. She had intended to tell Zhou Huaijin about this, but he came to her instead.

Zhou Huaijin also realized that it was more than about the rank. He glanced about discreetly, seeing that both Fu Bao and Sword One were guarding them from close by whilst the other servants were already out for their own business. No one was able to hear what they were talking about.

He let out a sigh of relief. “What is your opinion, Chaoyan?”

“It is a peaceful time now, and Duke North is a very important rank, but that person doesn’t have to lead the army. And as far as I know from Mrs. Duke North’s words, the King has always wanted to give rank to Zheng Chenyi, and he deserves to have the rank too, except that he will only get it after the New Year... However, he changed his mind recently to give the rank to someone who can lead the army.”

“It is not because of his personal feelings towards Zheng Chenyi, otherwise he would have tried to save him a while back. I am afraid that what he wants is to have someone who can be useful in the war, so he doesn’t want someone who has been injured,” Gu Chaoyan said seriously.

Zhou Huaijin’s face changed and his expression sank.

The Generals for the military were plenty already in this peaceful time.

When the King mentioned about leading the army, he must be planning for something bigger.

If that was the case... then it would be a huge disaster for the country.

He had always been sure that his father was not that ambitious, but now, Zhou Huaijin believed that he was, and that was because of the Phoenix Girl!

He seemed to believe that everything depended upon destiny.

The reason why he did not do anything now was only because Destiny Monk had not been found, but if he was found, then the whole world would be in a disaster.

The Saint Divine Land was the leading country among the four countries, and it was not easy to break the present situation, but now when the Phoenix Girl was found, the King sounded as if he was certain about that.

If not for Chaoyan's reminder, he would not have connected the whole thing together. If the King had such a plan, then the day when the disaster broke out would arrive sooner or later. Zhou Huaijin felt that he was not yet ready for that.

He got up anxiously. "Chaoyan, I have other work to do, you can go back to the room soon, the wind is coming."

Gu Chaoyan nodded. She asked Sword One to put on her coat for her and decided to go back to the room, in case Zhou Huaijin got worried.

Seeing that she was back in the room, Zhou Huaijin let out a sigh of relief, then he hurried off.

Gu Chaoyan had just walked into the room when she realized that she had not been done with something, so she went out again.

"Elder Miss..." Sword One said helplessly. Elder Miss was getting quite unruly these days.

"I am just visiting Mr. Zhao, nothing serious." Gu Chaoyan explained.

Sword One answered with a small okay. She felt assured.

Then they headed towards Zhao Yiqiu's room.

Zhao Yiqiu had not gone out these two days. He was reading a book in the room. Unlike the other doctors, he had no herbs inside the room, so there was no smell of any herbs. No one would have realized that he was a doctor in this case.

"What is the matter?" Zhao Yiqiu asked calmly.