

Having children earns benefit, start competing for dominance in the world by marrying a wife

Dazhou, Imperial City.

Third Prince Mansion.

A man dressed in a brocade robe stood at the window of the study, looking at the courtyard outside, saying to the person behind him: "It seems Prince Zhen Nan won't last, but it's a pity for Bai Qingqing."

Bai Qingqing reached mid-stage Human Realm before twenty, her talent almost catching up with Ji Yunmeng. If not for Zhen Nan Prince Manor having fewer cultivation resources compared to the Royal Family, and Bai Qingqing starting her cultivation late, she would probably have reached the Spirit Realm by now.

The Third Prince Ji Yan fell for Bai Qingqing the first time he saw her, but he also knew Prince Zhen Nan cultivated Bai Qingqing for a specific purpose, and Zhen Nan would never possibly marry Bai Qingqing out.

The Zhen Nan Prince Manor is now in decline. If there's no one capable of holding it up, with only Lu Chen, that useless heir, it might not take a century for it to completely disappear.

Of course, this isn't to say Zhen Nan Prince Manor lacks strong individuals. Bai Qingqing is just a mid-stage Human Realm cultivator, not a true powerhouse; what Zhen Nan truly needs is someone to manage the household.

Lu Chen is merely an ordinary person; even with life extension drugs, his lifespan wouldn't exceed a hundred and fifty years. Once Lu Chen dies, someone must be able to uphold Zhen Nan Prince Manor, and by then, Bai Qingqing is likely to have grown.

Upon hearing Ji Yan's words, the man in the blue long robe behind him said: "Lu Chen is indeed lucky, being thrown from the sky by supernatural forces without dying, only losing his memory."

Ji Yan scoffed coldly, "If it weren't for Ji Yunmeng, that meddling woman, even if Lu Chen survived the supernatural forces, he would've become food for the bizarre spirits in the wilderness."

The night is filled with bizarre spirits, and Lu Chen, a living being in the wild, would likely be eaten by passing spirits; however, Ji Yunmeng brought him back.

At this time, the man behind Ji Yan said: "Your Highness, should I personally take action?"

Though Zhen Nan Prince Manor still has some foundation, if truly determined to eliminate Lu Chen, the useless heir, it's not entirely impossible.

Considering Fang Xin's words, Ji Yan hesitated, then said: "It's not advisable to act now."

It's a crucial time in the power struggle, with forces watching the princes' every move. If something gets exposed, he would lose eligibility for the throne entirely.

Prince Zhen Nan is still Dazhou's only Alien King, and half of Dazhou's territory was conquered by the first generation Prince Zhen Nan. Although the manor's now declined, there are still people who might avenge under the Zhen Nan banner.

To eliminate Lu Chen, they can borrow others' hands, but must never act personally.

Upon hearing Ji Yan's words, Fang Xin said: "But if Bai Qingqing really marries Lu Chen, wouldn't they..."

Fang Xin hesitated, but as a man, it's obvious what he meant; if Bai Qingqing marries Lu Chen, they would surely consummate, and Bai Qingqing might even bear Lu Chen's child.

Ji Yan had long been interested in Bai Qingqing; if Lu Chen marries her, even if Ji Yan obtains Bai Qingqing later, he'd feel uneasy.

Listening to Fang Xin, Ji Yan laughed lightly: "What are women? If I seize that position, there won't be any woman I can't have."

"This time, the advantage falls to that useless heir."

Fang Xin suddenly thought of something, then smiled and said: "Your Highness, it's true we can't assassinate Lu Chen, but we can ensure he never touches Bai Qingqing."

"When the Zhen Nan Prince Manor falls, Bai Qingqing will still be a virgin."

Upon hearing Fang Xin's words, Ji Yan immediately understood Fang Xin's plan.

Ji Yan did not respond immediately, but after pondering, said: "Try to have others handle it; clean everything up as well."

For Ji Yan to fully give up Bai Qingqing is indeed difficult; as a prince, he certainly doesn't want a woman shared with others.

Should Lu Chen be unable to perform, even if Bai Qingqing marries him, it'll only be a formal union.

Given the current state of Zhen Nan Prince Manor, it might not last long, and many have already cast their sights there. Soon, Bai Qingqing might become his.

...

The next day.

Early in the morning, dignitaries in the Capital city sent various gifts to Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Though in decline, Zhen Nan Prince Manor is Dazhou's only Alien King. Not only officials of the Imperial Court sent gifts, but the princes also did the same.

Lu Chen, dressed in groom attire, stood in the manor's plaza, watching the crowd, listening to the Announcement Officer.

His system still retained the ability to recognize people, allowing him to immediately identify everyone's affiliations, though it's still somewhat limited, only providing names, loyalty, realm, and identity.

In the midst of Lu Chen's distraction, a servant's voice suddenly came from the gate, "Prince Lu Yi arrives!!!"

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen hurried to the gate to receive him.

Soon, a man dressed in brocade with a golden belt entered the manor's plaza.

Lu Chen quickly used the system for identification.

[Name: Ji Lingxiao]

[Identity: Dazhou Prince Lu Yi]

[Realm: Mid Spirit Realm]

[Age: 30]

[Favorability: 0]

Lu Chen merely glanced at the information, then greeted Ji Lingxiao, saying: "Greetings, Your Highness!"

Ji Lingxiao's face showed a warm smile, "No need for formalities. Congratulations on your marriage, Master Lu!"

Lu Chen responded: "Thank you for your congratulations, Your Highness. Please, come inside."

Saying this, Lu Chen stepped aside, gesturing for Ji Lingxiao to proceed; among all today's attendees, Ji Lingxiao's status was the highest, deserving of a place of honor.

At this moment, another servant's voice came from outside, "Prince Wu Ming arrives!"

As the servant finished, a tall man with dark skin swiftly entered the manor.

Lu Chen used the system for detection again.

[Name: Ji Guyan]

[Identity: Dazhou Prince Wu Ming]

[Realm: Mid Spirit Realm]

[Age: 28]

[Favorability: 0]

Seeing Ji Guyan's system information, Lu Chen frowned slightly, wow, none of these royals felt even a bit favorable towards him?

Some basic favor should exist.

Aside from these princes, Lu Chen used the system to recognize many attendees; most of the nobility showed some favor, but these princes felt none.

Nevertheless, Lu Chen proceeded to greet Ji Guyan immediately.

Just as he finished greeting Ji Guyan, the servant's voice echoed again, "Third Prince arrives!"

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[Name: Ji Yan]

[Identity: Third Prince of Dazhou]

[Realm: Mid-stage Human Realm]

[Age: 25]

[Favorability: -100]

Seeing Ji Yan's favorability, Lu Chen couldn't help but twitch his lips slightly.

Goodness, is this a case of deep hatred, or what? A negative favorability score, and it's minus one hundred.

Before Lu Chen could step forward to pay his respects to Ji Yan, he heard Prince Ji Lingxiao say, "Third Brother, I didn't expect you to come today. I thought you wouldn't be here, especially since I heard you seem to have an interest in Miss Bai."

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen immediately understood what was going on. No wonder Ji Yan's favorability towards him was negative; it turned out to be due to a grudge over a woman.

But then again, since Ji Yan dislikes him so much, why did he come today? Could he be here to cause trouble?

Thinking of this possibility, Lu Chen immediately became vigilant.

Seeing Ji Lingxiao directly mention his interest in Bai Qingqing, Ji Yan's face turned dark. Not many people knew about this matter, but with spies planted in each other's mansions, it was normal for princes to discover some secrets.

Ji Yan also knew some of Ji Lingxiao's secrets.

But today is Lu Chen's wedding day, and for Ji Lingxiao to bring this up now—if anything were to happen to Lu Chen, everyone would undoubtedly suspect him first, given his feelings for Bai Qingqing.

Once he gathered his thoughts, Ji Yan coldly said to Ji Lingxiao, "Elder Brother, today is the wedding day of Master Lu and Miss Bai. It's best not to make such jokes lightly."

Hearing this, Ji Lingxiao looked at Lu Chen with an awkward smile and said, "Ah, look at me, Master Lu. I'm terribly sorry. I just heard this yesterday and accidentally let it slip when I saw the Third Brother. Please forgive me."

"When I return, I will certainly punish those who spread rumors."

Lu Chen said, "It's nothing. A gentleman is attracted to a fair lady. The Third Highness must think my side concubine is particularly excellent, hence his admiration."

Just as Ji Yan was about to say something, the voice of a servant came again from the door, "Princess Yun'an has arrived!!!"

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen immediately said to the princes, "Your Highnesses, please come inside!"

Ji Yan took one last cold glance at Ji Lingxiao and, without saying another word, walked directly inside.

At this moment, Lu Chen came up to Ji Yunmeng, smiled, and greeted, "Greetings, Your Highness!"

Ji Yunmeng acknowledged with a slight nod and then said to Xiao Qi beside her, "Xiao Qi."

Xiao Qi instantly understood Ji Yunmeng's intention and presented the wooden box to Lu Chen. Ji Yunmeng then said to Lu Chen, "This is the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit. It can suppress spiritual evil and extend the lifespan of spirit martial artists."

Hearing this, Lu Chen knew this Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit was meant for his father, the Prince.

The congratulatory gifts from Princess Mansion were already sent earlier, so this was an independent gift. It seemed Ji Yunmeng intended to make an alliance with Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

As a seasoned veteran, Lu Chen instantly judged what Ji Yunmeng wanted to do next. Ji Yunmeng was merely a princess with shallow influence, and as Dazhou never had an Empress before, Ji Yunmeng had to expand her power if she wished to ascend to that position.

Though Zhen Nan Prince Manor had declined, a lean camel is still bigger than a horse. The manor still holds some influence in the south. So Ji Yunmeng aims to garner the support of the southern aristocratic families by aligning with Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Lu Chen's lips curled slightly. Initially, he thought Ji Yunmeng's talent was too high, and as a princess, it wouldn't be easy to ally with her. But now, it seemed it wasn't that difficult.

As long as Ji Yunmeng sought something from Zhen Nan Prince Manor, he could use this to continue fostering their relationship.

After taking the wooden box from Xiao Qi, Lu Chen said to Ji Yunmeng, "Thank you, Your Highness, for this precious gift. Our Zhen Nan Prince Manor will surely remember this kindness."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Ji Yunmeng felt there was more to his words, as if he understood her intentions. So he deliberately emphasized the gratitude.

But isn't Lu Chen merely a profligate son? Can he truly discern her intentions?

Lu Chen then continued, "Your Highness, please come inside!"

Ji Yunmeng didn't think much of it and walked inside. Soon, other princes and princesses arrived at Zhen Nan Prince Manor as well.

The wedding feast of Lu Chen and Bai Qingqing went on without any incidents; only the First Prince teased the Third Prince briefly at the start. Once Prince Zhen Nan appeared, neither the princes nor the dignitaries and noble families of the Capital city spoke rashly again.

However, although nothing was said on the surface, seeing the death qi emanating from Prince Zhen Nan stirred various thoughts in people's minds.

Not only did Ji Yunmeng want to draw in the southern forces, but other princes also had their eyes on the southern aristocratic families. If Zhen Nan Prince Manor fell, scattering its influence, they could divide and conquer its territories.

After the wedding feast ended, Lu Chen rushed to the bridal chamber, eager to verify whether the system had provided any rewards.

Moreover, he was particularly curious about what rewards the system would offer and whether Bai Qingqing's first-night reward had refreshed.

During their time in the Burial Furnace, he and Bai Qingqing had been intimate countless times. If he were to be with Bai Qingqing again and receive the initial rewards, it would indicate that the system might have nothing to do with him and could be someone else's scheme.

Upon entering the bridal chamber, a maid brought in the Jade Scale and poured nuptial wine for them.

Lu Chen glanced at the two maids in the room, then slightly furrowed his brows.

[Name: Blood Ten]

[Identity: Assassin from Blood Cloud Tower]

[Realm: Mid-stage Human Realm]

[Age: 37]

[Favorability: 0]

Seeing that one of the maids was an assassin, Lu Chen thought to himself, could it be that Third Prince Ji Yan sent someone to cause trouble?

Lu Chen immediately said to the two maids, "You may leave; I can handle this myself."

Saying this, Lu Chen picked up the wine cup and approached Bai Qingqing, saying as he walked, "My dear wife, it's time for us to drink the nuptial wine."

At this moment, Lu Chen noticed that the assassin named Blood Ten hadn't left and asked with a dark face, "Why haven't you left yet?"

Upon hearing this, Blood Ten felt anxious. The employer's task required seeing Lu Chen drink the wine and ensuring no harm came to Lu Chen.

But if Lu Chen asked her to leave, how could she confirm that he drank the wine and that her task was fulfilled?

Despite her unwillingness, Blood Ten dared not show it. She then said, "Yes, Master Lu."

After speaking, Blood Ten exited the room and closed the door behind her.

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After Blood Ten left the room, Lu Chen immediately put down the wine glass in his hand. Knowing Blood Ten was an assassin, he definitely couldn't drink this cup; who knew if there was poison in the wine?

Once Lu Chen set the glass down, he went directly to Bai Qingqing and gently lifted her veil with both hands.

Seeing Bai Qingqing's cold and restrained beautiful face, Lu Chen's heart started pounding uncontrollably. Although he and Bai Qingqing already had a child, during their last marriage, he didn't know Bai Qingqing was the Ancestor of the Strange.

Now that he knew Bai Qingqing was the Ancestor of the Strange, Lu Chen suddenly found his desire to conquer even stronger.

Bai Qingqing's gaze slightly lifted upwards, noticing Lu Chen's fiery eyes unabashedly staring at her. For a moment, her jade-like hands unconsciously clenched her red wedding dress.

Could it be that she really was destined to become the woman of this playboy and bear him children?

Lu Chen smiled and said, "My wife, you are as beautiful as ever."

Hearing this, Bai Qingqing was slightly taken aback. What did he mean by "as beautiful as ever"?

As Bai Qingqing glanced at the wine glass on the table out of the corner of her eye, she was just about to say the wine was yet to be drunk when she saw Lu Chen suddenly lean over.

A flash of panic crossed Bai Qingqing's face. She hadn't expected Lu Chen to be so impatient; the next moment, Lu Chen pressed against her red lips.

Bai Qingqing gave a symbolic "mmm mmm" of protest, but Lu Chen ignored it and directly pushed her onto the wedding bed.

Then, Lu Chen's large hand began exploring Bai Qingqing's red wedding dress, and Bai Qingqing's mind went completely blank.

Not long ago, Lu Chen was terrified, yet now he suddenly became so bold, which left her feeling a bit strange.

Just as Bai Qingqing became distracted, Lu Chen suddenly stopped his actions, their lips separating slowly. At this moment, Lu Chen leaned into Bai Qingqing's ear and whispered, "The maid who served the wine is an assassin from Blood Cloud Tower, with mid-stage Human Realm strength."

Upon hearing this unexpected remark from Lu Chen, Bai Qingqing's mind reeled.

An assassin from Blood Cloud Tower?

How could an assassin from Blood Cloud Tower mingle into the bridal chamber?

Moreover, how did Lu Chen know?

Even as a mid-stage Human Realm Spirit Martial Artist, she hadn't detected the assassin's presence, yet Lu Chen noticed immediately. Lu Chen was just an ordinary person.

Bai Qingqing came to her senses and asked, "How did you know?"

Lu Chen said, "Let's not worry about how I know; I don't want that assassin bursting in during our wedding night. Quickly, have someone deal with it."

Hearing this, Bai Qingqing pondered for a moment, then raised her hand. The next moment, a white butterfly flew out from her palm, passed through the window, and hovered over their bridal chamber.

Meanwhile, Blood Ten was eavesdropping at the door, eager to poke a hole in the window paper to see if Lu Chen had drunk the wine.

But just then, several imposing presences suddenly appeared at the doorway, startling Blood Ten. She immediately watched the people entering the courtyard with caution.

She comforted herself inwardly, believing her Disguise Skills were undetectable, and these Hidden Guards from Zhen Nan Prince Manor weren't necessarily there for her.

But just when she thought she could slip away unnoticed, the leading man suddenly gave an order: "Take all the maids in the courtyard away!"

Hearing this, Blood Ten's heart skipped a beat. Could it be she was really discovered?

No way, she must not fall into their hands, or they might uncover her true identity.

Thinking of this, Blood Ten unhesitatingly leapt upstairs, planning to escape Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Seeing the maid indeed had issues, the Hidden Guards of Zhen Nan Prince Manor immediately moved. Many of these Hidden Guards were Spirit Realm Spirit Martial Artists, while Blood Ten was only mid-stage Human Realm. Although her Disguise Skills were powerful, her abilities weren't.

In just a few moments, Blood Ten was captured from the rooftop by the Hidden Guards from Zhen Nan Prince Manor. She didn't hesitate, immediately activating

the Blood Evil within her, and the next moment, her body dissolved into a pool of blood.

Seeing Blood Ten die like that, the Hidden Guards from Zhen Nan Prince Manor quickly took the remaining maids from the courtyard for inspection, and arranged several female guards to personally stand guard at Lu Chen's bridal chamber door.

Once Bai Qingqing heard the commotion outside, she realized what Lu Chen said was true, making her even more curious about how Lu Chen knew.

Before she could question Lu Chen, a gentle sensation once again enveloped her lips. After two symbolic "mmm mmm" protests, she completely abandoned her struggle.

Soon, she felt her wedding dress gradually being removed. She couldn't help but feel puzzled; how did Lu Chen seem so skilled?

Although Lu Chen was a playboy, he basically hadn't had intimate relationships with any women.

The Hidden Guards of Zhen Nan Prince Manor always watched Lu Chen, and she was aware of his every move; Lu Chen couldn't possibly have secretly been with some woman.

Could it be the Hidden Guards helped Lu Chen hide things, allowing him to secretly indulge?

Thinking of this possibility, an inexplicable emotion welled up inside Bai Qingqing. As she became lost in her thoughts, Lu Chen suddenly got down to business.

"Mmm!"

...

In the blink of an eye, two hours passed.

Bai Qingqing lay limp on the wedding bed, her expression complex, looking slightly down at Lu Chen on her shoulder.

She couldn't understand it; Lu Chen was not only extremely skillful but seemed very familiar with her body, as if he'd done this countless times before.

Clearly, she only married this playboy today; what was going on?

Was it an illusion?

Just thinking about Lu Chen's actions towards her earlier made Bai Qingqing's face flush. Previously, she had no liking for this playboy, considering him useless. Yet she hadn't expected him to be so adept at this.

Bai Qingqing increasingly suspected the Hidden Guards were helping Lu Chen conceal things; he couldn't possibly be doing this for the first time, being so skilled, understanding a woman's body so well. He might have already dabbled with many women secretly.

Thinking of this, an emotion stirred inside Bai Qingqing.

At this moment, Lu Chen wasn't paying attention to Bai Qingqing's expression as he lay on her body. Perhaps it was a loss of strength, or because of this new body, he felt like he was falling apart.

Lu Chen suddenly realized he was no longer the one in the Burial Furnace; given his ordinary human body now, it was impressive to last two hours.

Just when Lu Chen was feeling despondent, a prompt sound came to his ears.

"Congratulations to the host on marrying, rewarded with 'Spirit Evil Body Refining Skill'."

Upon hearing the system prompt, Lu Chen instantly became energized. Did he really get rewarded?

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After the initial surprise, Lu Chen furrowed his brow, suspecting that this system might not really have originated from his Divine Soul.

He and Bai Qingqing even had a child together and had been husband and wife for quite some time, yet marrying her again allowed him to receive a system reward.

However, to think Bai Qingqing still seemed like it was her first time—could it be that Bai Qingqing also reincarnated?

Something seemed off; the Ancestor of the Strange is immortal, so how could reincarnation be possible?

That discussion could wait; now was not the time. Since he received a system technique, it was imperative to quickly test the usefulness of this system cultivation technique.

Lu Chen hurriedly opened the "Spirit Evil Body Refining Skill."

["Spirit Evil Body Refining Skill": Host's exclusive cultivation technique, Spirit Realm Technique, allows the absorption of spiritual evil into the body, refining the Physical Body, with a dual cultivation effect multiplied a thousandfold.]

The cultivation technique levels in this world are akin to personal realms, but higher levels don't always equate to better techniques.

The higher the level of the cultivation technique, the harder it is to practice. The alignment of cultivation technique levels with personal realms aims to prevent practitioners from going insane by recklessly chasing after High Tier techniques.

Inducing spiritual evil into the body is risky in itself, and if one practices cultivation techniques haphazardly, the likelihood of going insane is quite high.

Generally speaking, Mortal Realm Spiritual Martial Artists can only practice Mortal Realm Techniques, Human Realm Spiritual Martial Artists can only practice Human Realm Techniques, and Spirit Realm Spirit Warriors can only practice Spirit Realm Techniques.

Of course, there are exceptional talents capable of cultivating High Tier techniques across realms, and some spiritual martial artists can break through to the next realm through High Tier cultivation methods during the late period of their current realm.

For Lu Chen, a regular person, to practice a Spirit Realm Technique is like asking a kindergarten child to do calculus.

Fortunately, though, the "Spirit Evil Body Refining Skill" is Lu Chen's exclusive technique. Lu Chen didn't believe he couldn't learn it, and since it even mentioned dual cultivation, it must mean that mastering this technique is similar to his past experiences in the Burial Furnace.

With this in mind, Lu Chen immediately clicked to learn, and in the next moment, the contents of the "Spirit Evil Body Refining Skill" entered his mind. Suddenly, Lu Chen felt some gas-like substance entering his body through his pores. These gases were quite volatile, destroying his vitality as soon as they entered his body.

Lu Chen gritted his teeth; engaging in dual cultivation at a time like this—was that a joke? His whole body was in agonizing pain; how could he even think of dual cultivation?

This exclusive cultivation technique was turning out to be a trap. Lu Chen pondered on who devised this reward, and vowed that upon gaining more

strength, he would capture the mastermind behind this technique and interrogate them on their thoughts when creating it.

While Lu Chen was enduring the pain, Bai Qingqing sensed something was wrong with him. She could tell that the spiritual evil in the room was entering Lu Chen's body.

Ordinary spiritual evil generally wouldn't actively enter a person's body unless one actively absorbed it, but Lu Chen was just an ordinary person. How could he absorb spiritual evil?

Worried, Bai Qingqing quickly pushed Lu Chen, who was leaning on her body, trying to turn him over to check on his condition.

However, as soon as her jade hands touched Lu Chen's shoulders, he suddenly sat up, clasped her hands in his, and pinned them beside her silky hair.

Lu Chen looked down at her, gritting his teeth against the pain and said, "Don't move!"

Seeing the grim expression on Lu Chen's face, Bai Qingqing was stunned again and immediately asked, "What's the matter? I shall have the subordinates..."

Before Bai Qingqing finished speaking, Lu Chen interrupted her, saying, "What... subordinates? You've already married me, you're my Side Concubine now."

Bai Qingqing was startled once more, and spoke, "I..."

Bai Qingqing was again cut off by Lu Chen, who said, "Don't speak, let me quietly focus first."

Seeing that Lu Chen insisted, Bai Qingqing had no choice but to stay silent, all the while observing Lu Chen's body closely, trying to figure out how an ordinary individual could suddenly absorb spiritual evil.

For ordinary people, spiritual evil is lethal and not beneficial at all.

Ten seconds passed quickly, and after adjusting his breathing, Lu Chen found that his body was much improved.

Just then, Lu Chen seemed to understand something: the thousandfold increase in cultivation speed during dual cultivation might mean distracting oneself during the process to alleviate the pain caused by embodying spiritual evil.

Thinking along these lines, Lu Chen, without hesitation, bent down again and sealed Bai Qingqing's lips with his own.

Bai Qingqing was somewhat bewildered by Lu Chen's actions. How could he think of doing such a thing when he was just in excruciating pain?

Soon, Lu Chen realized that distraction indeed seemed feasible through dual cultivation. Even while he was engaged with Bai Qingqing, the "Spirit Evil Body Refining Skill" continued its operation, and the spiritual evil from the Zhen Nan Prince Manor kept flowing into Lu Chen's body ceaselessly.

Furthermore, Lu Chen noticed that after his body was refined by the spiritual evil, his stamina remarkably improved; he was barely alive moments before, yet now he was brimming with vigor.

It appeared that this particular activity could dispel the pain caused by embodying spiritual evil.

By now, Bai Qingqing also noticed Lu Chen's anomaly. Visibly, Lu Chen's body became sturdier, evidently spurred by spiritual evil refining. However, she couldn't comprehend how Lu Chen, having passed the age for embodying spiritual evil, could still do so.

Moreover, Lu Chen could multi-task while refining his body with spiritual evil, absorbing it at a tremendous speed. Even she dared not absorb spiritual evil so recklessly.

Refining spiritual evil in the body is a lengthy process, and absorbing too quickly might backfire, leading to a decline in cultivation state or, worse, instant death.

Bai Qingqing initially wanted to persuade Lu Chen to stop, but with Lu Chen continuously pinning her down and sealing her mouth, she found it impossible to dissuade him.

She considered forcibly pushing Lu Chen away since she was at the mid-stage Human Realm, while Lu Chen had just started embodying spiritual evil as a regular person.

But doing so might disrupt Lu Chen's Body Refining pace, causing him to go insane, so she resigned herself to watching.

After an unspecified duration, a surge of energy burst from Lu Chen's body, emitting a deep blue glow.

Witnessing this, Bai Qingqing was utterly baffled.

Was this a breakthrough?

How could this be!

Lu Chen had just started embodying spiritual evil, yet not even two hours later, he had advanced from being an ordinary person to a Mortal Realm Spiritual Martial Artist?

Typically, it takes years for one to breakthrough from the first embodiment of spiritual evil to the Mortal Realm. Of course, this mainly occurs when they are children, to see if they can withstand the corrosive nature of spiritual evil.

Regardless, absorbing a large amount of spiritual evil for the first time usually causes significant damage to a person's body. It was remarkable that Lu Chen wasn't overwhelmed by the spiritual evil, and even more astonishing that he achieved a breakthrough.

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As the blue-black radiance burst out from Lu Chen's body, he instantly felt his body brimming with power. The sensation was extremely comfortable; he now felt he could "work" all night long.

Lu Chen then continued circulating the "Spirit Evil Body Refining Skill," letting the Spirit Evil Qi flow through every part of his body, constantly tempering his Physical Body.

As Lu Chen sped up the circulation of the "Spirit Evil Body Refining Skill," he also discovered that a tearing pain once again surged from every part of his body. In order to divert his attention and forget the pain on his body, Lu Chen could only speed up his "work."

Right now, one could say Lu Chen was in pain yet in pleasure.

Although Lu Chen shifted his attention and used pleasure to offset the pain brought by drawing Spirit Evil to refine his body, Bai Qingqing ended up suffering for it.

Although she was a Mid-stage Human Realm Spirit Martial Artist, she was still a woman, and moreover a woman experiencing this kind of thing for the first time.

However, Bai Qingqing soon realized that what Lu Chen was doing didn't seem entirely bad for her. A lot of Spirit Evil that had already been refined by Lu Chen entered her body; when she then refined this Spirit Evil, it became extremely easy, and absorbing this Spirit Evil came with no pain at all.

At the same time, her cultivation state was also slowly improving. A phrase involuntarily popped into Bai Qingqing's mind—could this be the so-called "Dual Cultivation" from the rumors?

That said, she remembered Dual Cultivation generally required a so-called Dual Cultivation Technique. Lu Chen was just an ordinary man who had never practiced martial arts; where would he have gotten any Dual Cultivation Technique from?

Of course, the very fact that Lu Chen could draw Spirit Evil into his body was already very strange. Bai Qingqing planned to properly investigate this matter first thing tomorrow morning to see what was really going on.

Ever since Lu Chen lost his memory, he'd become this strange. It wasn't surprising that amnesia could cause a personality shift, but it shouldn't cause a change in the body as well. Ordinary people simply could not resist the erosion of Spirit Evil; there was no way around that unless they took certain drugs. But even drugs couldn't make someone absorb Spirit Evil so crazily; at most, they could ensure that Spirit Evil wouldn't cause too much damage to the body for a short time.

Lu Chen's condition clearly had a huge problem.

Bai Qingqing even started to suspect whether the Lu Chen in front of her was truly Lu Chen.

At this moment, Bai Qingqing swept a glance with the corner of her eye at Lu Chen's side abdomen and found a mole there. From that mole, it seemed the man on top of her really was Lu Chen.

After confirming Lu Chen's identity, Bai Qingqing began to let her imagination run wild again. However, at this moment Lu Chen suddenly became even more ferocious, leaving her no way to think.

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The long night finally passed. In the early morning, a ray of sunlight shone in through the crack of the window, falling onto the beauty's disheveled black hair.

Lu Chen opened his eyes slightly and saw Bai Qingqing's cold, jade-like face turned toward him. Her clear eyes were fixed on his face, and there seemed to be a trace of curiosity in her gaze.

At this moment Bai Qingqing really wanted to ask why Lu Chen could draw Spirit Evil into his body and remain fine. More importantly, not only was he fine, he had actually succeeded in breaking through to become an Early Mortal Realm Spirit Martial Artist.

However, even though she was extremely curious about these matters, Bai Qingqing did not ask. In her view, Lu Chen definitely wouldn't tell her these things, or rather, the person who had helped Lu Chen become a Spirit Martial

Artist and given him a Cultivation Technique would never allow their matters to be spoken of.

Lu Chen said with a smile on his face, "Why doesn't my dear wife sleep a bit more? Waking up this early?"

Seeing that shameless grin on Lu Chen's face, Bai Qingqing felt a turmoil of emotions. She really couldn't bring herself to connect the current Lu Chen with the old Lu Chen who would hide the moment he saw her.

Back then Lu Chen had been terrified of her to death, yet now he was actually this fierce with her. Just thinking of last night's madness made a faint blush bloom on Bai Qingqing's jade-like cheeks.

Bai Qingqing immediately said, "We should go see the Great Prince."

Lu Chen said, "You still haven't gotten into character. Right now you should be calling him Father Prince."

As he said this, Lu Chen wrapped his arm around Bai Qingqing and rolled over, once again looking down at her pair of clear, icy eyes from above. "My dear wife, I didn't let you down last night, did I?"

Facing this question, Bai Qingqing didn't know how to answer. Her gaze drifted to the side, not daring to look directly at Lu Chen.

Last night she could clearly feel that Lu Chen seemed to be more familiar with her body than she was with her own, as if they had already been husband and wife for a very long time.

Seeing that Bai Qingqing didn't speak, Lu Chen lowered his head again and directly captured Bai Qingqing's red lips. This time Bai Qingqing didn't even put up a token resistance. After being tormented by Lu Chen for so long last night, she had completely gotten used to it.

However, just as Bai Qingqing thought Lu Chen intended to do bad things in broad daylight, Lu Chen instead got up directly.

They still had more important things to do today. In any case, he had already obtained the system's preliminary reward. As for getting Bai Qingqing pregnant, that could be taken slowly; there was no rush.

As far as he knew, it wasn't easy for Spirit Martial Artists in this world to get pregnant. This was easy enough to understand: the higher the genetic level of life, the harder it was to conceive life, especially those beings with extremely long lifespans, who found it even more difficult to bear offspring.

It was the same for Spirit Martial Artists. The lifespans of Spirit Martial Artists were relatively long, so it wasn't easy for them to produce descendants. If Spirit Martial Artists could easily have children, this world would have been too crowded to hold so many people long ago.

This rule was universal in any world.

After getting up, Lu Chen said to the Maid at the door, "You can come in now!"

Hearing this, two female Hidden Guards entered the room. The Maids in Lu Chen's courtyard had all been taken away for investigation last night and wouldn't be back for a while, so they could only have female Hidden Guards temporarily serve Lu Chen and Bai Qingqing in washing up.

Lu Chen spread his arms at this time, letting the Hidden Guard dress him, while he asked, "How's the investigation going?"

One of the Maids spoke while helping Lu Chen dress, "Reporting to the Princely Heir, we've already found the Maid's body buried in the courtyard. Our preliminary guess is that the Assassin killed the Maid in your courtyard, then used Disguise Skills to impersonate her."

Lu Chen continued to ask, "Did anyone else have any issues?"

Lu Chen didn't believe that Blood Ten could have slipped into the Zhen Nan Prince Manor so easily. Although the Zhen Nan Prince Manor had fallen on hard times, its Hidden Guard forces were still very strong; there was no way they would let a Mid-stage Human Realm Assassin sneak in.

What's more, that Assassin had actually killed his Maid inside the Zhen Nan Prince Manor and buried the Maid's body. Doing all this took a lot of time, especially the matter of burying someone.

In fact, if that Assassin had simply dumped the Maid's body into a well, it would have saved even more time. But Lu Chen guessed the other party probably thought the Zhen Nan Prince Manor would be drawing water from the well and the body would be easily discovered, so they chose to bury it instead.

Lu Chen felt there had to be someone on the inside working with someone on the outside to give Blood Ten this Assassin enough time to replace the Maid of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Having children earns benefit, start competing for dominance in the world by marrying a wife

After hearing Lu Chen's words, the female Hidden Guard who was dressing Lu Chen replied, "Young Master, no other issues have been found for now."

Lu Chen thought for a moment and then said, "In two hours, besides the patrolling soldiers, have everyone from the Zhen Nan Prince Manor proceed to the Training Ground..."

Speaking up to this point, Lu Chen paused for a moment, then glanced slightly at the Hidden Guard beside him with his eye's corner, continuing, "Including the Hidden Guards of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor."

This...

Upon hearing this, the two Hidden Guards dressing Lu Chen were obviously taken aback.

Even though the Hidden Guards of Zhen Nan Prince Manor will ultimately be inherited by Lu Chen, when Lu Chen becomes Prince Zhen Nan, these Hidden Guards will be under Lu Chen's command, as Lu Chen is the only child of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

However, in the past, the Hidden Guards were rarely directly mobilized by Lu Chen, even the ones responsible for Lu Chen's safety were mobilized by Bai Qingqing.

Now that Lu Chen directly commands the Hidden Guards, the two female Hidden Guards were momentarily left without a response.

Not only were the two female Hidden Guards caught off guard, Bai Qingqing was similarly surprised.

For some reason, Bai Qingqing felt that Lu Chen's demeanor had changed drastically, now possessing the aura of someone in power, something Lu Chen wasn't like before.

Bai Qingqing couldn't help but think, although amnesia can alter a person's character, it shouldn't change it so dramatically; the aura Lu Chen displayed earlier couldn't have been cultivated overnight.

Just amnesia allows one to possess the aura of authority?

It seems unlikely.

Could it be...

Lu Chen is possessed by some eerie spirit?

If this is the case, it might explain everything logically.

No way, she must report this to Prince Zhen Nan, while Prince Zhen Nan is still alive, they need to figure out a way to remove the bizarre spirit from Lu Chen.

However, before doing that, she plans to first see why Lu Chen wants to gather everyone in the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, even including the Hidden Guards.

If Lu Chen is indeed possessed by an eerie spirit, there must be a special reason for his actions. Could someone be seeking to attack the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, where he gathers everyone so that someone could take the opportunity to invade and assassinate Prince Zhen Nan?

If this is the case, she must stop Lu Chen.

Thinking of this, Bai Qingqing directly reminded Lu Chen by saying, "Young... Darling, this matter might need father dear's consent."

Upon hearing Bai Qingqing's reminder, Lu Chen realized that he is still only the Princely Heir. Although the Zhen Nan Prince Manor will eventually be his, as long as his dear father is still alive for just one more day, it's ultimately his dear father's decision; indeed he should mention it to him.

Lu Chen said, "I'll just head to where my father is, and bring up this matter along the way."

Speaking up to this point, Lu Chen said to the female Hidden Guard, "Find a few more people to help Consort Bai dress."

A female Hidden Guard said, "Yes, Young Master."

After speaking, the female Hidden Guard exited the room, and soon returned with several examined Mansion Maids to help Bai Qingqing with her washing and dressing.

After both of them were ready, they went together to Prince Zhen Nan's room.

Perhaps due to witnessing his son get married, Prince Zhen Nan's condition improved significantly today. When Lu Chen and Bai Qingqing arrived at Prince Zhen Nan's room, Prince Zhen Nan was fully seated and seemed much more spirited, the Death Qi around him seemed to have faded a little.

Seeing Lu Chen and Bai Qingqing arrive together, Prince Zhen Nan immediately smiled. Last night, the Hidden Guard had thoroughly reported everything to him, including how Lu Chen spent the entire night tormenting Bai Qingqing.

Prince Zhen Nan never imagined that his son would suddenly come to wisdom. In the past, Lu Chen was most afraid of Bai Qingqing, even avoided her while walking, but unexpectedly having amnesia suddenly made him so brave.

If Lu Chen continues like this, it probably won't be long before he has a grandchild. The thought of having a grandchild soon made Prince Zhen Nan's desire to live grow stronger.

After Lu Chen and Bai Qingqing entered the room, they simultaneously greeted, "Greetings, father dear!!!"

Prince Zhen Nan said with a smile, "You may rise."

At this moment, Lu Chen said to the female Hidden Guard behind him, "Immediately have the Mansion Steward bring the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit."

The female Hidden Guard said, "Yes, Young Master."

After speaking, the female Hidden Guard turned and left.

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Prince Zhen Nan instantly understood what Lu Chen intended to do. He already knew yesterday that Ji Yunmeng sent a Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit to the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, and was aware of Ji Yunmeng's intent to ally with the Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

However, he did not have someone fetch the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit, for it was a wedding gift from Ji Yunmeng to Lu Chen, and Prince Zhen Nan believed he wouldn't live much longer anyway. Even using the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit might not yield much effect.

It would be better to use the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit on Lu Chen; since Lu Chen is just a normal person, consuming the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit could suppress the Spirit Evil Qi within his body and greatly extend his lifespan.

Lu Chen needs the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit more than he does as someone nearing death.

At this moment, Prince Zhen Nan spoke, "Chen'er, your father's time is near, the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit should be kept for you to use, you are just ordinary..."

Prince Zhen Nan was just about to say that Lu Chen is an ordinary person and therefore needed the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit more, but then he saw the heavy Spirit Evil Qi emanating from Lu Chen.

Witnessing this, Prince Zhen Nan was momentarily stunned. What is going on, wasn't his son an ordinary person? How did he become a Spirit Martial Artist?

He was present during the test when Lu Chen was a child for absorbing Spirit Evil Qi, Lu Chen's body simply could not withstand large amounts of Spirit Evil Qi intake.

How could he possibly have suddenly become a Spirit Martial Artist?

Momentarily, Prince Zhen Nan's expression grew more serious, his gaze turned to Bai Qingqing beside Lu Chen, suspecting Bai Qingqing might know what was going on.

Although he was very curious, Prince Zhen Nan did not immediately ask Lu Chen what was happening, as he shared the same thought as Bai Qingqing, in his opinion, no matter what happened to Lu Chen, Lu Chen was unlikely to directly reveal the reason, and they would need to investigate themselves.

At this moment, Lu Chen looked at Prince Zhen Nan and said, "Father dear, please don't say that, Princess Yun'an sending the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit is clearly intended for you to use; who knows, perhaps the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit's effects are excellent enough to extend your life for decades."

Returning from his prior shock, Prince Zhen Nan said with a bitter smile, "Chen'er, your father knows his own body well, even if the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit has some effect, at most it might only extend life for a few months."

Lu Chen said, "Even extending life for a few months is enough. Don't you want to see your grandchild born?"

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Prince Zhen Nan's heart was stirred, indeed he greatly desired to see his grandchild born.

Just at this moment, the Mansion Steward had already delivered the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit to the room.

Having children earns benefit, start competing for dominance in the world by marrying a wife

After Lu Chen took the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit from the steward's hands, he went straight to Prince Zhen Nan's bedside, opened the wooden box, and took the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit out.

The instant the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit left the wooden box, it radiated a seven-colored glow. The seven-colored glow shone onto Prince Zhen Nan's body, and much of the Death Qi on him dissipated.

Then Lu Chen brought the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit to Prince Zhen Nan's lips and said, "Father, hurry and eat it, give it a try."

Hearing this, the Mansion Steward at the side quickly said, "Princely Heir, the Great Prince's body is unwell, I fear he cannot directly consume the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit."

Hearing the steward's words, Lu Chen finally reacted. Prince Zhen Nan was someone whose end was near. Setting aside whether he could even bite into the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit, even if he could, his body would likely be unable to withstand the direct medicinal power. One of the functions of the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit was to suppress spiritual evil. If the effect was too direct, it might cause a violent clash between the fruit and the spiritual evil, which would instead be harmful to the body.

What's more, Prince Zhen Nan's body was already at the stage of wind-tapered candlelight, unable to endure any great torment, so the medicinal effects of the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit had to be diluted first.

At this time, Prince Zhen Nan said to the steward, "Go down and decoct the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit into medicine."

The Mansion Steward immediately said, "Yes, Great Prince!"

Lu Chen then placed the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit back into the wooden box and handed it to the Mansion Steward.

At this moment Lu Chen spoke, "Father, I want to gather everyone in the Prince's Mansion, including the Hidden Guard of the Prince's Mansion."

Hearing this, Prince Zhen Nan was stunned for a moment. He was somewhat curious as to why Lu Chen wanted to gather everyone in the Prince's Mansion.

Prince Zhen Nan directly asked, "Is there something the matter?"

Lu Chen said, "I suspect there are Blood Cloud Tower or other forces' agents inside the Zhen Nan Prince Manor."

Hearing this, Prince Zhen Nan continued to ask, "Why do you say that?"

Lu Chen said, "Although the Blood Cloud Tower assassin's Disguise Skills are superb, for her to replace a maidservant of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor still required a certain amount of time. For the other party to bury the maidservant's corpse in the rear courtyard, to not be discovered during the time it took to bury

the body, without someone from the Zhen Nan Prince Manor cooperating from within, it would be very difficult."

When Prince Zhen Nan heard about last night's assassin incident, he had actually already realized that there was very likely an internal accomplice in the Zhen Nan Prince Manor. After all, the Zhen Nan Prince Manor was heavily guarded, and there were quite a number of Hidden Guards.

In addition, with what happened to Lu Chen last time, it was obvious without even thinking that someone must have betrayed the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, or that other forces had planted pieces inside the Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

It was just that even though he had guessed that someone betrayed the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, the Zhen Nan Prince Manor was so large, with at least several thousand people. How could it be so easy to find the one who had betrayed the Zhen Nan Prince Manor?

Prince Zhen Nan now said, "Chen'er, I also suspect that there are other forces' agents in the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, but there are several thousand people in the Zhen Nan Prince Manor. It will be very hard to pick out the traitors. Even if you gather those people together and knock them around a bit, you can only make them behave for a while."

"Now that your father's body is getting worse by the day, those forces who have planted pieces in the Zhen Nan Prince Manor will not let this opportunity slip."

Hearing this, Lu Chen directly said, "Father, I have a way to find the traitors."

Prince Zhen Nan looked at Lu Chen in disbelief. Seeing how firm Lu Chen's tone was, he did not seem to be lying. But how exactly was he going to distinguish who had betrayed the Zhen Nan Prince Manor?

Prince Zhen Nan continued to ask, "How will you distinguish them?"

Lu Chen said, "My method is temporarily inconvenient to make public. When the time comes, we only need to gather those people together, and we will very quickly be able to distinguish those who have betrayed the Zhen Nan Prince Manor."

Prince Zhen Nan thought for a moment. Lu Chen now seemed to be different from before; perhaps he really could let Lu Chen give it a try.

Moreover, he also wanted to see how Lu Chen would distinguish which ones were traitors.

Thinking of this, Prince Zhen Nan said, "Chen'er, after your father dies, you will be Prince Zhen Nan. You are the little master of the Prince's Mansion. Whatever you wish to do, just go do it, no need to deliberately inform your father. In the future you may also freely deploy the Hidden Guard."

Lu Chen immediately said, "Thank you, Father."

Prince Zhen Nan continued, "Then go now. Your father also wants to see just who has betrayed the Zhen Nan Prince Manor."

Saying this, Prince Zhen Nan slightly turned his head and spoke toward a corner of the room:

"Zhao Yu, from this day forth, the Prince's Mansion's Hidden Guard are to obey the Princely Heir's commands."

As Prince Zhen Nan's voice fell, a figure slowly appeared in the corner of the room. The man wore a black outfit, with a black scarf, his face veiled.

Lu Chen immediately used the system to scan him.

[Name: Zhao Yu]

[Identity: Zhen Nan Prince Manor Dark Guard Commander]

[Realm: Early Stage of Earth Realm]

[Age: 800 years]

[Favorability: 50]

Seeing Zhao Yu's Realm, Lu Chen froze for a moment. The Zhen Nan Prince Manor actually had an Earth Realm Strong Person?

From what he had learned these past few days, there seemed to be almost no Earth Realm Strong Person in the entire Dazhou. Most Earth Realm Strong Persons were connected with the Royal Family.

No wonder that even though the Zhen Nan Prince Manor had already declined to such a state, the Royal Family still did not dare to directly move against the Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

But then again, if Prince Zhen Nan truly died, some people would likely begin to probe. More accurately, some forces were already probing now.

Those forces definitely wanted to know whether there was an Earth Realm expert in the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, or rather, they wanted to know whether the Zhen

Nan Prince Manor's Earth Realm expert was still that loyal to the Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

After all, Prince Zhen Nan's only son was just a dissolute wastrel. Prince Zhen Nan could keep the Prince's Mansion's Earth Realm expert in check, but Lu Chen, this wastrel, could not. If the Prince's Mansion's Earth Realm expert held little Loyalty toward Lu Chen, then once Prince Zhen Nan died, Prince Zhen Nan's former power base would disperse.

While Lu Chen was lost in thought, Zhao Yu's voice came.

"Yes, Great Prince!"

After responding to Prince Zhen Nan, Zhao Yu then bowed to Lu Chen and said, "Dark Guard Commander Zhao Yu, pays respects to the Princely Heir!"

Lu Chen immediately said, "Commander Zhao, please rise!"

Prince Zhen Nan said, "Enough, Zhao Yu, now take the Princely Heir to go clear out those parasites in the Prince's Mansion."

Hearing this, Zhao Yu did not hesitate in the slightest. "Yes."

"Princely Heir, this way, please!"

Lu Chen then said, "Father, I'll take my leave first."

Prince Zhen Nan's face showed a gentle, kindly smile as he said, "Go. Oh, and Bai will stay behind, I have some words to say to her."

Lu Chen said, "Alright, Father."

Lu Chen knew that Prince Zhen Nan had already noticed the changes in his body. Prince Zhen Nan would naturally want to ask Bai Qingqing about some things, or perhaps entrust her with something. Lu Chen did not mind this; in any case, the matter of him drawing spiritual evil into his body would be made public sooner or later.

As soon as Lu Chen finished speaking, he turned and left the Prince's Mansion together with Zhao Yu.

Just as Lu Chen left, the smile on Prince Zhen Nan's face instantly vanished. He looked at Bai Qingqing and said, "What's going on with Chen'er's body?"

"If this prince remembers correctly, he still had no Cultivation State yesterday, did he?"

Having children earns benefit, start competing for dominance in the world by marrying a wife

Upon hearing the question from Prince Zhen Nan, Bai Qingqing immediately reported, "Last night, while the Princely Heir and I were engaging in intercourse, he suddenly drew spirit evil into his body, and then he broke through to the Early Mortal Realm within an extremely short time."

Upon hearing Bai Qingqing's answer, Prince Zhen Nan was slightly taken aback.

Drawing spirit evil into the body during intercourse? And breaking through to the Mortal Realm?

Such a thing was unheard of.

How was this accomplished?

He had lived a lifetime without ever hearing of such a thing.

Did marriage have such a great effect? To directly turn an ordinary person into a Spirit Martial Artist of the Mortal Realm?

Or were there other factors at play?

Thinking of this, Prince Zhen Nan continued, "Go on."

He sensed there might be some things about Lu Chen that he wasn't aware of; Lu Chen had indeed changed significantly since his memory loss, to the point where, as his father, he was having trouble recognizing him.

Bai Qingqing continued, "While the Princely Heir and I were engaging in intercourse, I could distinctly sense an improvement in my cultivation state. I suspect the Princely Heir has acquired some dual cultivation technique."

"Additionally, it was the Princely Heir who first discovered the assassin in the bridal chamber last night."

Hearing this from Bai Qingqing, Prince Zhen Nan was almost certain there was someone else behind Lu Chen, or that Lu Chen had apprenticed to an honored master somewhere.

There were certainly no dual cultivation techniques in Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Bai Qingqing reminded at this moment, "My lord, I suspect the Princely Heir might be possessed by some sinister evil."

Upon hearing this, Prince Zhen Nan dismissively said, "It is impossible for him to be possessed by sinister evil."

Seeing Prince Zhen Nan speak with such certainty, Bai Qingqing was a bit puzzled; considering the drastic change in Lu Chen's temperament since his memory loss, everything pointed to him being possessed by sinister evil.

Lu Chen, before and after his memory loss, was like two different people. Even if one lost their memory, such a dramatic change is unlikely unless possessed by sinister evil.

But why was Prince Zhen Nan so certain it wasn't sinister evil possession?

Of course, Bai Qingqing would not doubt Prince Zhen Nan's words; even though he was in his twilight years, he was still an Earth Realm Strong Person, capable of discerning if Lu Chen was possessed by evil.

At this moment, Prince Zhen Nan added, "I had once left a trace of Dragon Qi on his body; with that Dragon Qi protecting him, no sinister evil could occupy his body."

Upon hearing this, Bai Qingqing immediately understood the situation.

Under normal circumstances, there are two people in the Great Zhou Dynasty who wouldn't be possessed by sinister evil: one is the Emperor of Great Zhou, and the other is Prince Zhen Nan.

However, once they bestow their Dragon Qi on others, those individuals similarly gain the ability to resist evil possession.

Since it's not sinister evil possession, how could Lu Chen's personality change so dramatically? Could it truly be attributed to the awakening caused by his memory loss?

This explanation might not even convince Prince Zhen Nan himself.

Prince Zhen Nan pondered at this moment, saying to Bai Qingqing, "Find a way to discover who taught him the dual cultivation technique."

Prince Zhen Nan suspected that all of Lu Chen's changes were related to the person who taught him the dual cultivation technique. Although it appeared that the person helped Lu Chen become a Spirit Martial Artist for his own good, no one could guarantee whether they had ulterior motives.

Nowadays, Zhen Nan Prince Manor had reached its twilight; everyone was eager to carve up the political legacy of the prince manor, so Prince Zhen Nan didn't believe anyone would genuinely help the prince manor at this time.

Moreover, the decline of the prince manor was welcomed by the entire royal family, as Prince Zhen Nan was the only alien king in Dazhou. Furthermore, Prince Zhen Nan possessed Dragon Qi.

The royal family was extremely cautious about granting king titles; even though Emperor Zhou's children had reached adulthood, no prince had been granted the title, except Ji Yunmeng who became Princess Yun'an. What the royal family feared most was rebellion by the seignior.

The former Prince Zhen Nan had territories, but the royal family later reclaimed them, fearing he'd establish separate domains. Now, Prince Zhen Nan was confined mostly to the vicinity of the capital.

Even if he wanted to visit remote areas, he'd need to apply for permission.

Nonetheless, Prince Zhen Nan still wielded considerable influence in the south, and this is why the royal family wishes for Prince Zhen Nan Manor to completely disappear.

In Prince Zhen Nan's view, Lu Chen's master approached him deliberately, teaching him the dual cultivation technique to lower his guard, so that one day he might control Lu Chen.

Therefore, regardless, they must uncover who was orchestrating things behind the scenes.

Nonetheless, Prince Zhen Nan was most curious about one thing: what kind of dual cultivation technique could turn someone who hadn't passed the spirit evil test into a Spirit Martial Artist.

For someone like Lu Chen, if large amounts of spirit evil entered their body, they'd inevitably suffer from spirit evil corrosion and wouldn't have long to live.

Ordinary people often have a hard time surviving in this world, as spirit evil Qi is pervasive in the air. Breathing inevitably leads to inhaling spirit evil, albeit a very scarce amount, but it adversely affects their longevity.

Of course, there are medications to remove spirit evil from ordinary bodies, but these are only effective against newly entered spirit evil. They cannot cleanse the spirit evil within Spirit Martial Artists, especially those already severely corroded like Prince Zhen Nan.

Now, Prince Zhen Nan was contemplating the possibility that if Lu Chen's dual cultivation technique could enable ordinary people to become Spirit Martial Artists, then soon enough the streets of Dazhou would be filled with Spirit Martial Artists.

Most crucially, if the dual cultivation technique had no side effects, whoever possessed it would gain considerable power to overthrow.

If Emperor Zhou learned that the prince manor harbored such a technique and hadn't surrendered it, it would surely spell trouble for Prince Zhen Nan Manor.

Prince Zhen Nan was very concerned about any potential side effects of this technique; Lu Chen was his only heir, and having just married without offspring, if anything happened during his cultivation now, Prince Zhen Nan's lineage would be ended.

Thinking of this, Prince Zhen Nan regretted not sending more beautiful maids to Lu Chen; while other royal nobles feared their descendants succumbing to worldly pleasures, Prince Zhen Nan wasn't concerned at all. He hoped Lu Chen would indulge in pleasures, spending days consumed by passion, ensuring the continuation of his lineage.

At this moment, Prince Zhen Nan glanced at Bai Qingqing, then sighed and said, "You and Chen'er have just married, and perhaps I shouldn't say this, but I feel compelled to mention that Lu Chen is the only heir to Prince Zhen Nan Manor, so I hope he will take more concubines to ensure the continuation of our lineage."

Bai Qingqing immediately replied, "I understand."

Chapter 2209 - 1899: It Looks Like You Also Realize Why This Princely Heir Called You Here

Lu Chen and Zhao Yu quickly arrived at the Training Ground of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor. Shortly after Lu Chen and Zhao Yu left the room of Prince Zhen Nan, his orders quickly spread throughout the entire manor.

So by the time Lu Chen and Zhao Yu reached the Training Ground, Lu Chen's orders had already been executed. Basically, most people in the Prince's Mansion were present, except for those on patrol and the hidden guards outside.

Seeing Lu Chen and Zhao Yu appear on the Training Ground, the servants of the Prince's Mansion looked at each other curiously, wondering why Lu Chen had summoned them.

At this moment, Lu Chen glanced over the crowd, feeling gratified that most of the servants had a relatively high Favorability towards him.

However, speaking of which, having high Favorability does not mean these people won't betray; if their families are held by others, they might still betray the Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

But the first thing Lu Chen needed to look for wasn't Favorability; he had to see if there were people from other forces among them.

If there were people from other forces, the system would be able to show it directly.

Lu Chen glanced over more than a hundred people quickly with his eyes scanning fast.

Before long, Lu Chen's gaze fell upon one person.

[Name: Liao Xing]

[Identity: A spy planted by the Third Prince in the Prince's Mansion]

[Realm: Early Stage of Human Realm]

[Age: 53]

[Favorability: 0]

Seeing Lu Chen staring at Liao Xing, Zhao Yu was curious. Liao Xing had been in the Zhen Nan Prince Manor since his teens, and he was considered an old servant of the mansion.

Liao Xing was able to break through to become an Early Stage of Human Realm Spirit Martial Artist thanks to the training from the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, and he had always been loyal to the manor. Zhao Yu did not think he posed any problem.

But the way Lu Chen was looking, it seemed as if Liao Xing was a traitor. If Liao Xing was not a traitor, Lu Chen had no reason to keep staring at him.

Zhao Yu couldn't help but doubt if this wayward Princely Heir could really find the spies lurking in the Zhen Nan Prince Manor?

While Zhao Yu was zoning out, Lu Chen raised his hand and pointed at Liao Xing, saying, "Come out for a moment."

Hearing this, Liao Xing didn't mind. He never expected Lu Chen to discover his identity or that Lu Chen had gathered them to weed out spies. After all, Lu Chen was just a playboy, and he thought Lu Chen called him for some task.

Liao Xing immediately stepped out of the crowd, bowed to Lu Chen, and said, "What are your instructions, Princely Heir?"

Lu Chen casually replied, "Just stand aside for now."

Liao Xing respectfully said, "Yes, Princely Heir."

Then Liao Xing stood aside, observing.

At this time, Lu Chen continued to scan the crowd with his gaze, and soon he locked onto another person.

[Name: Jia Yi]

[Identity: A spy planted by Prince Lu Yi in the Zhen Nan Prince Manor]

[Realm: Early Stage of Human Realm]

[Age: 67]

[Favorability: 0]

Seeing another one, Lu Chen's face showed a hint of a smile. All these spies had zero Favorability towards him, indicating that later, even those without other identities but with zero Favorability were probably problematic.

Thinking of this, Lu Chen then pointed at Jia Yi and said, "You come out too."

Like Liao Xing, Jia Yi also stepped out without much thought.

After seeing Lu Chen call Jia Yi out, Zhao Yu looked at Jia Yi again. As the Dark Guard Commander of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, Zhao Yu was very familiar with the Spirit Martial Artists in the manor and aware of their backgrounds.

Jia Yi and Liao Xing, like others, seemed unlikely to betray the manor. Zhao Yu increasingly felt that Lu Chen was randomly calling people out.

However, Zhao Yu did not intervene. There were two possibilities: either Lu Chen was falsely accusing others, using this chance to get rid of some people, or Lu Chen had a plan, deliberately picking people who weren't spies.

Zhao Yu decided to keep watching to see what Lu Chen would do next.

Even if Lu Chen was simply trying to remove people he disliked, as the Dark Guard Commander, Zhao Yu wouldn't say anything.

Let alone several Human Realm Spiritual Martial Artists; even if Lu Chen wanted to kill Spirit Realm Spiritual Warriors in the manor, Zhao Yu wouldn't comment. After all, Lu Chen was the only child of Prince Zhen Nan, the future Prince Zhen Nan.

In just a moment, Lu Chen had picked out a dozen people from thousands, mostly spies from various forces, with no assassins from Blood Cloud Tower. This somewhat disappointed Lu Chen, as he wanted to find a spy from Blood Cloud Tower and gather information from them.

At this moment, those selected by Lu Chen on the Training Ground looked at one another.

Initially, they wondered if Lu Chen was gathering his own team, choosing them for that purpose. After all, Prince Zhen Nan was nearing his end, and Lu Chen might soon become the new prince, so it seemed normal for him to build his own base.

But soon they realized something was wrong. Among the people Lu Chen picked were many insignificant ones. No matter how much of a playboy Lu Chen was, he wouldn't choose those people for his team, especially after identifying multiple spies from the same faction, making those selected feel uneasy.

At this time, a spy from one faction couldn't hold it any longer and used Qinggong to sprint towards the edge of the Training Ground.

Seeing this, spies from other factions understood what was happening and began to flee in all directions.

This...

Zhao Yu initially thought Lu Chen was just messing around, but after those people started fleeing, Zhao Yu realized Lu Chen had indeed found the traitors. Otherwise, they wouldn't be fleeing under such circumstances.

The Zhen Nan Prince Manor had private soldiers, and if these people didn't sense exposure, they wouldn't flee at this moment. Their chances of escaping under the siege of the manor's soldiers were very slim.

Lu Chen then directly ordered the soldiers of the Prince Manor, "Arrest all of them!"

Upon hearing this, the soldiers at the Training Ground immediately took action. In just a few moments, spies from various forces were incapacitated and thrown onto the Training Ground.

With a smile, Lu Chen looked at Liao Xing and the others, saying, "I haven't even finished speaking, and you're trying to leave. It seems you know why I gathered you."

As soon as Lu Chen finished speaking, blood trickled from the mouths of a few of them, and they collapsed to the ground, dead. Clearly, they had hidden poison in their mouths and took it once they realized escape was hopeless.

Lu Chen didn't care about this. His goal was to expose these people, not to use them to provoke their forces.

More than half of these spies were connected to the Royal Family, and currently, the Zhen Nan Prince Manor couldn't afford to trouble the Royal Family.

Having children earns benefit, start competing for dominance in the world by marrying a wife

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Liao Xing not only didn't feel afraid but directly asked, "I'm curious, how did you find out, Princely Heir?"

Liao Xing believed he hid very deeply, making it impossible to be discovered. He rarely took the initiative to send messages, but even so, Lu Chen found him out.

It wasn't just him; those identified by Lu Chen all seemed very loyal to the Zhen Nan Prince Manor. Even Liao Xing himself couldn't believe that those people, like him, were spies planted by other forces in the Prince Manor.

Lu Chen was just a playboy. How could he possibly see through their true identities?

Even the hidden guards of the Prince Manor couldn't find them. Yet, their identities were uncovered by Lu Chen, who only knew how to indulge in pleasures and had even lost his memory some time ago. Liao Xing felt somewhat unwilling.

Liao Xing was well aware of what consequences awaited after his identity was exposed, so he accepted his fate now, wanting to know before he died.

Hearing Liao Xing's question, Zhao Yu also turned his head towards Lu Chen. Not only Liao Xing, but everyone present was also very curious why Lu Chen was able to discern that these people's identities were problematic.

Especially the hidden guards, who had been secretly monitoring the entire Zhen Nan Prince Manor. Yet, the manor had been infiltrated like a sieve, and they couldn't find out a thing.

Lu Chen said calmly, "Intuition."

Hearing these two words, everyone was stunned.

Intuition?

What a joke, could a person's intuition be so accurate as to precisely find spies from thousands of people from other forces?

Lu Chen didn't waste words with Liao Xing and these spies. He turned his head towards Zhao Yu and said, "Commander Zhao, the interrogation work is up to you."

After coming to his senses, Zhao Yu immediately said, "Yes, Princely Heir."

At this moment, Zhao Yu had a bit more respect for Lu Chen. He thought to himself, with such an extraordinary person as Prince Zhen Nan, how could his child be a good-for-nothing? Moreover, Lu Chen already had Spirit Evil Qi in his body, indicating that he successfully introduced Spirit Evil Qi into his body last night.

Being able to successfully introduce Spirit Evil Qi into his body after reaching adulthood meant that when Lu Chen was tested to withstand Spirit Evil Qi years ago, someone must have used a trick to make it seem like he couldn't endure it, ultimately forcing him to abandon becoming a Spiritual Martial Artist.

As for how Lu Chen successfully introduced the Spirit Evil, this was not Zhao Yu's concern.

As long as Lu Chen was not a wastrel, the Zhen Nan Prince Manor still had hope. The lifespan of a Spiritual Martial Artist far exceeded that of ordinary people. Even if Lu Chen only ever reached the Mortal Realm, he would have enough lifespan to see his next generation rise. And during this process, as long as the people of the Prince Manor remained united, and the masters stayed, the Zhen Nan Prince Manor could continue indefinitely.

Zhao Yu did not think too much. He then had the hidden guards take all those people away.

Just at this moment, Lu Chen's gaze suddenly fell on one person.

When Lu Chen looked at that person, Zhao Yu felt a jolt in his heart, thinking could that person actually be a traitor?

Lu Chen's eyes were on Wu Feng at this moment; Wu Feng was one of the deputy generals of the Zhen Nan Army. Though Prince Zhen Nan's fief was revoked, part of the army remained, with some stationed outside the Capital City and others at the Prince Manor.

Of course, the Zhen Nan Army wasn't large in number; otherwise, Emperor Zhou might sleep even less peacefully.

Wu Feng mainly managed the part of the Zhen Nan Army responsible for protecting the Prince Manor.

Wu Feng, having been through life and death with Prince Zhen Nan, held a position in the manor very close to Zhao Yu.

At this moment, Wu Feng, seeing Lu Chen staring at him, completely let go of his last bit of luck.

Wu Feng didn't argue, directly asking, "Princely Heir, I really want to know, what methods did you use?"

Upon hearing Wu Feng's words, the people around him turned pale, looking at Wu Feng in disbelief, especially Zhao Yu. He never imagined that someone like Wu Feng, with such an important position in the Prince Manor, would also betray it.

Before Lu Chen could respond, Zhao Yu coldly said, "Wu Feng, I never thought you would betray the Zhen Nan Prince Manor. Do you owe nothing to the Prince? If not for His Highness saving you from the refugee queue back then, you would've turned into a wild beast's dung long ago!"

Upon hearing Zhao Yu's words, Wu Feng calmly replied, "The Prince is old."

Continuing, Wu Feng glanced at Lu Chen and said, "Though I don't know how he became a Mortal Realm Spiritual Martial Artist, judging by his past, I don't think he can lead the Prince Manor further."

"The Prince Manor is like a sinking ship; if I don't jump ship now, when it sinks completely, my family will be implicated."

Upon hearing Wu Feng's words, Zhao Yu no longer wasted words with him. Since Wu Feng had spoken to this point, there was nothing more to say.

People who betrayed the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, no matter what, could not be allowed to live, even if it was Wu Feng, the deputy general of the Zhen Nan Army.

The next moment, a terrifying energy surged from Zhao Yu, turning the entire Training Ground into a vibrant black, as if entering a strange space.

As Zhao Yu prepared to make his move, Wu Feng remained standing without any intent to retaliate. He continued, "Commander Zhao, who's been by the Prince's side all along, should remember what he said some days ago?"

Hearing Wu Feng's words, Zhao Yu was momentarily stunned.

He instantly understood what Wu Feng implied. Prince Zhen Nan, sensing imminent disaster for the Prince Manor, had told his old subordinates that if they sought another path one day, he wouldn't stop them.

Of course, the Prince's words might have been true or a test to see if they had treacherous intentions, but regardless, he had said it.

Zhao Yu was not sure of the Prince's intent behind these words, and the Prince had also said similar words to him.

A dying man speaks kindly; perhaps the Prince genuinely intended to release these old subordinates from the Prince Manor.

At this, Lu Chen curiously asked, "Commander Zhao, what words did my father say?"

Zhao Yu hesitated for a moment but ultimately responded, "The Prince stated that if anyone wanted to leave the Prince Manor, he wouldn't stop them."

Lu Chen thought for a moment, then glanced at everyone present and directly said, "As you have seen, I can identify who among you has betrayed the Prince Manor. Since my father once allowed you to leave, I will make the call here."

"Anyone wishing to leave the Prince Manor, do so now. Whatever thoughts you may have had, the Prince Manor will not hold you accountable."

"But if you choose to stay, then you must share the Prince Manor's fate until its last day. Otherwise, I shall ensure that each traitor is dealt with before the manor vanishes!"