

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

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, the several thousand people on the Training Ground were all stunned; they had not expected Lu Chen to actually say such things in front of almost everyone in the Prince's Mansion.

In fact, many people in the Prince's Mansion held no hope for its future; quite a few were already thinking of seeking another way out, not only those servants, but also those soldiers of the Zhen Nan Army.

It was just that most people did not dare to do so. After all, Prince Zhen Nan was still the only Alien King in Dazhou; a starved camel is still bigger than a horse. Even if the Prince's Mansion had fallen, killing people like them would be no harder than crushing an ant.

However, even though Lu Chen had said this, no one dared to jump out at this moment and declare they wanted to leave the Prince's Mansion; no one could be sure whether Lu Chen was trying to trick them.

If by any chance Lu Chen's words were a ploy, and they really believed him and stepped forward, then in the next instant their heads would probably be rolling on the ground.

Seeing that no one stood up, Lu Chen understood what these people were worried about, so he turned his head and said to Zhao Yu, "Inform my father of this matter."

He was, after all, still only the Princely Heir. Before Prince Zhen Nan himself spoke, these people would not believe what he said.

Zhao Yu said, "Princely Heir, please wait a moment. I will report this to the Lord at once."

As his words fell, Zhao Yu's body turned into a patch of shadow on the ground right where he stood, and in just a short while that shadow appeared in Prince Zhen Nan's room.

At this moment, Prince Zhen Nan was taking the decoction boiled with the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit; seeing Zhao Yu return, he asked directly, "What has happened?"

Zhao Yu first reported, "My Lord, it seems the Princely Heir truly can distinguish who has betrayed the Prince's Mansion."

Hearing this, Prince Zhen Nan asked curiously, "How did he do it?"

Zhao Yu replied, "He... directly picked out who the traitors were. After the Princely Heir had those traitors step out and gather together, they realized they were exposed and all thought of running away."

Prince Zhen Nan was taken aback for a moment—he directly distinguished who the traitors were?

What kind of method was that?

He had been Prince Zhen Nan for so many years and still could not directly tell whether someone was loyal to him; he could only use certain words to probe.

If Lu Chen truly possessed such a means, then he was probably born with the fate to be an Emperor.

Prince Zhen Nan thought to himself that the Honored Master behind this son of his was no ordinary person.

After pondering for a moment, Prince Zhen Nan continued to ask, "What else?"

Zhao Yu hesitated for a moment, but in the end still said, "Wu Feng... has also betrayed the Prince's Mansion..."

Hearing this, there was no change in Prince Zhen Nan's expression, as if he had long foreseen it.

Prince Zhen Nan then said calmly, "Let him go."

Hearing this, Zhao Yu was somewhat surprised. To be honest, letting people leave at a time like this was not a good thing.

Although everyone knew that the Prince's Mansion, this broken ship, was about to sink, before it completely went under, those people of the Prince's Mansion would not dare to move. After all, even an old tiger is still a tiger; it was all too easy for Prince Zhen Nan to have them killed.

But if Prince Zhen Nan did not hold those traitors accountable at this time, and instead allowed them to leave, then more and more people would harbor a fluke mentality and eventually betray the Prince's Mansion. In that case, this broken ship of the Prince's Mansion would sink even faster.

Zhao Yu did not understand why Prince Zhen Nan would make the same decision as Lu Chen; he did not believe that Prince Zhen Nan had already grown senile.

Coming back to himself, Zhao Yu said to Prince Zhen Nan, "My Lord, the Princely Heir has made the same decision as you."

Hearing Zhao Yu's words, Prince Zhen Nan felt a bit surprised; he had not expected Lu Chen to make the same decision as himself.

Once he recovered, Prince Zhen Nan said, "Explain in detail."

Zhao Yu immediately repeated the words Lu Chen had said earlier on the Training Ground. After listening, Prince Zhen Nan fell into a long silence.

He was wondering whether this was what Lu Chen himself thought, or whether the person behind Lu Chen had instructed him to do this.

If it was Lu Chen's own idea, then could it be said that their Prince's Mansion did have a successor?

Everyone knew the Prince's Mansion was a broken ship. Many people only refrained from betrayal because they feared the Prince's Mansion would settle accounts with traitors before its demise; but these people who merely did not dare for the moment would, sooner or later, betray the Prince's Mansion under the coercion and temptation of other powers.

Rather than letting them become nails buried in the Prince's Mansion for the future, it would be better to simply let them leave early; that way, most of those who stayed would be people loyal to the Prince's Mansion.

After Prince Zhen Nan had been silent for a long time, he opened his mouth and said, "The Prince's Mansion will ultimately be handed into Chen'er's hands. Whatever he wants to do, let him do it. From this day forth, all affairs of the Prince's Mansion will be decided by him."

Although after taking the decoction made from the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit, he had temporarily suppressed the Spirit Evil Qi in his body, his allotted lifespan had already reached its end; he still could not live much longer. Rather than waiting until he died to hand the Prince's Mansion over to Lu Chen, it was better to let Lu Chen take over the entire Prince's Mansion now.

Moreover, he very much wanted to know how Lu Chen would manage the Prince's Mansion; he wanted to see whether the Prince's Mansion still had any hope.

In truth, not only those servants of the Prince's Mansion were pessimistic about this broken ship, Prince Zhen Nan himself likewise did not think highly of its future.

After all, he, Prince Zhen Nan, was the only Alien King in Dazhou. Even without a fief, even with the Prince's Mansion already fallen into decline, there were still people who supported it—and most importantly, Prince Zhen Nan carried Dragon Qi.

Back then, the Grand Ancestor of Zhou had once said that he and Prince Zhen Nan would rule the world together; thus Prince Zhen Nan was equivalent to half an Emperor. Perhaps the Grand Ancestor of Zhou and the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan had a particularly strong relationship, so the Grand Ancestor did not worry that the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan would betray him, but the later Emperor Zhou might not be so unworried.

Ever since the Grand Ancestor of Zhou passed away, the Great Zhou Royal Family had been trying to suppress the Prince's Mansion, weakening its power, even to the point of reclaiming its fief.

It was obvious that until the Prince's Mansion disappeared completely, the Royal Family would not be at ease. Even if Prince Zhen Nan had no intention of rebelling, there would always be some schemers doing things in his name.

As soon as Prince Zhen Nan finished speaking, he directly said to the Mansion Steward, "Go and hand the King Seal over to Chen'er."

Hearing his words, the steward immediately said, "Yes, My Lord!"

Prince Zhen Nan then waved his hand and said, "You may all go."

Zhao Yu and the Mansion Steward said in unison, "Your subordinate takes his leave!"

...

At this time on the Training Ground, those servants of the Mansion were all anxiously waiting. They very much wanted to know whether Prince Zhen Nan would really let them leave; if they truly could leave the Prince's Mansion, they naturally wanted to hurry and go.

Just then, people saw from afar Zhao Yu and the chief Mansion Steward, Wei Heng, slowly walking toward the Training Ground, and in Wei Heng's hand there was also a finely crafted wooden box.

A short while later, the two arrived at the Training Ground. Wei Heng directly shouted in a loud voice, "Transmit the King's Order."

Hearing this, everyone on the Training Ground, except for Lu Chen, all dropped to their knees in unison.

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Seeing everyone kneel down, Wei Heng finally spoke: "From now on, all affairs of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor will be decided by the Princely Heir, and the Seal of Prince Zhen Nan will be handed over to him today!"

Saying this, Wei Heng opened the wooden box in his hand, which contained the Seal of Prince Zhen Nan beautifully carved from white jade.

Hearing that Prince Zhen Nan was going to hand the seal over to Lu Chen, people were momentarily stunned. Handing over the seal meant that Prince Zhen Nan had decided to completely relinquish power to Lu Chen.

In other words, from this moment onwards, Lu Chen was already equivalent to Prince Zhen Nan.

Wei Heng then knelt halfway in front of Lu Chen, raised the wooden box above his head, and said to Lu Chen, "Princely Heir, please accept the seal."

Without any hesitation, Lu Chen immediately took the wooden box from Wei Heng's hand, then held the seal in his hand, raised it above his head and said, "Since my father has handed the seal to me, I will now give my first command: whoever wishes to leave the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, step forward immediately. In the name of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, I vow that those who leave now will not be held accountable and will be allowed to leave safely."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, the people at the training ground looked at one another.

After what felt like an eternity, a servant cautiously stepped out from the crowd and said, "Princely Heir, I...I wish to leave. I don't know if I can, but I'm willing to give up all my silver in exchange for my sell-out contract."

The servants of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor all have sell-out contracts, which is a crucial reason why they can't leave at will.

At this moment, the servant was bowing his head, drenched in sweat, his coarse clothes soaked. He feared Lu Chen might go back on his word and have him executed on the spot.

However, if he stayed in the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, once Prince Zhen Nan passed away, he might not survive for long. It was better to take a chance; perhaps Prince Zhen Nan and this Princely Heir were genuinely merciful and would let them go.

Lu Chen glanced at the servant, noticing he had a favorability rating of sixty, yet he still wanted to leave Zhen Nan Prince Manor, indicating that most people in the manor were contemplating escape.

Lu Chen then asked, "You don't need to be nervous. Since I said you'd leave safely, you will. But I'm a bit curious as to why you want to leave the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, as your loyalty doesn't seem low."

Hearing Lu Chen mention his loyalty was not low, the servant immediately knelt, kowtowing to Lu Chen, and said, "Princely Heir, I have a family. My parents are over eighty, and I have four children below. I really can't afford to die!"

Many people in the Zhen Nan Prince Manor are indeed quite loyal; after all, even though it's declining, it's the only Alien King in the Great Zhou. Serving in the Zhen Nan Prince Manor is easier than elsewhere, and the benefits can be far better.

But with Prince Zhen Nan nearing his end, it's apparent to all that the Dazhou Royal Family has always been watching Zhen Nan Prince Manor with envy. Over the years, they've been suppressing and weakening the manor's power.

The Royal Family was already so ruthless while Prince Zhen Nan was alive. One could imagine what would happen if he died.

Even if most are loyal, they know how to choose when it comes to life and death.

Like this servant said, they have families; their deaths might mean nothing, but should anything happen to the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, their families might suffer.

Even if their families aren't implicated, without their support, life would still be challenging, especially for the male servants.

But in the face of life and death, there is no absolute loyalty.

Lu Chen then said, "I see. You may now prepare to leave."

Hearing this, the kneeling servant was momentarily dumbfounded, raising his head incredulously at Lu Chen, having resigned himself to death; he never thought the Zhen Nan Prince Manor would truly let them betray.

At this point, Lu Chen added, "But since you mentioned exchanging silver for your sell-out contract, I find it a reasonable suggestion. Anyone wishing to leave the Zhen Nan Prince Manor can exchange their silver for their contract."

"Once you have your sell-out contract back, you'll be free from today and it won't be seen as betrayal."

Hearing this, the people present were taken aback. They hesitated to betray the Zhen Nan Prince Manor partly because traitors were despised in this era.

Even if they survived, if word got out they betrayed the manor, they'd face scorn and a tough life ahead.

But redeemed contracts by purchasing them with silver had long been commonplace.

Lu Chen glanced at the thousands at the training ground and continued, "You can start preparing the silver now. Two hours from now, I'll have Housekeeper Wei bring your contracts here. Whoever wishes to leave need only pay double the sell-out price."

"If you're truly out of silver, you can sign a debt note."

Initially, people worried Lu Chen was deceiving them, as voluntarily letting them leave seemed peculiar. They didn't think Prince Zhen Nan and Lu Chen, the Heir of Prince Zhen Nan, were that merciful.

But exchanging silver for their contracts put them at ease; contract redemption was ordinary enough.

Lu Chen continued, "That's it. Regather in two hours."

After Lu Chen's words, people at the training ground dispersed, and Lu Chen's gaze landed on Wu Feng.

Wu Feng was not a manor servant; he didn't have a sell-out contract. Whether he could leave was up to Prince Zhen Nan.

Lu Chen asked Zhao Yu, "What did my father say?"

Understanding Lu Chen wanted to know about Wu Feng, Zhao Yu promptly replied, "In response to the Princely Heir, the Prince said to let him go."

Hearing Zhao Yu's words, Wu Feng felt slightly relieved. He had gambled on the nearing end of Prince Zhen Nan, expecting leniency towards someone with influence.

Anyone capable of wooing the deputy commander of the Zhen Nan Army must hold some status. If they offended him now, Lu Chen would face a tougher future after Prince Zhen Nan's demise.

Indeed, Prince Zhen Nan had concerns; nearing his end, he could have acted ruthlessly, but once he's gone, Lu Chen might soon follow him.

Lu Chen said to Wu Feng, "One day, you will realize that aligning with the Empress Dowager is a foolish move."

Upon hearing Lu Chen, Wu Feng's heart skipped a beat.

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Wu Feng had never expected that Lu Chen would actually be able to guess who he had taken refuge with. He had indeed defected to the Empress Dowager, but he had only maintained single-line contact with the Empress Dowager's people, and the cultivation state of the person who contacted him was rather high. It should have been very difficult for anyone to detect his movements, let alone know that person's identity.

He was now extremely curious how Lu Chen knew. Could it be that the Zhen Nan Prince Manor still had an even more formidable intelligence organization?

No, that wasn't right. The Zhen Nan Prince Manor seemed to have only the Hidden Guards responsible for gathering intelligence. Yet the Hidden Guards of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor were only so-so; the entire manor had already been infiltrated like a sieve, and they had never seen those Hidden Guards ferret out these traitors. Instead, Lu Chen had seen at a glance which people in the Zhen Nan Prince Manor were traitors.

Bracing himself, Wu Feng asked at this moment, "May I ask, Princely Heir, how did you know all this?"

In the past he had always looked down on Lu Chen, believing Lu Chen to be nothing more than a dissolute wastrel, but now it seemed Lu Chen was not as wanton as he had imagined.

If Lu Chen was not a wastrel, then for the Royal Family this was probably not good news. And now that Wu Feng had already taken refuge with the Royal Family and the Empress Dowager, he very much wanted to know what exactly was going on with Lu Chen.

How was it that after losing his memory, he seemed to have become a completely different person, and had even become a Spirit Martial Artist?

Of course, what he most wanted to know at the moment was still how Lu Chen had discovered that he had taken refuge with the Empress Dowager.

Hearing Wu Feng's words, Lu Chen gave a faint smile, then said, "You don't need to know that. However, we'll soon be crossing paths again."

"Alright, enough of that. Vice Commander Wu, although you don't have any deed of sale with the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, you were, after all, nurtured by the Zhen Nan Prince Manor. Shouldn't you also hand over some of your wealth?"

At these words, Wu Feng immediately said, "I'm willing to donate all my gold and silver to the Zhen Nan Prince Manor."

Wu Feng certainly understood that the fact the Zhen Nan Prince Manor was willing to spare them traitors already counted as exceptional mercy. Losing some gold and silver was nothing at all to a Spirit Martial Artist of the Profound Realm like him.

Hearing Wu Feng's words, Lu Chen said, "Then I'll trouble Vice Commander Wu to go and make preparations."

Wu Feng immediately gave Lu Chen a bow, then turned and left. Seeing that Lu Chen truly let Wu Feng go, the servants of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor became even more convinced that the manor really intended to release them. One after another, more and more people began to bring out their silver, preparing to redeem their deeds of sale.

At this moment Zhao Yu asked from the side, "Princely Heir, could you perhaps reveal how you knew he had taken refuge with the Empress Dowager?"

Not only Wu Feng was curious; Zhao Yu and Wei Heng, the Royal Mansion's Chief Steward, were likewise extremely curious about Lu Chen's methods. They had now begun to suspect that the person behind Lu Chen possessed an exceedingly terrifying intelligence organization, one that had perhaps already infiltrated the Zhen Nan Prince Manor. Thus this organization would be extremely clear on which traitors existed within the manor; after handing those traitor lists to Lu Chen, today's series of events had come to pass.

Of course, this was only Zhao Yu and Wei Heng's conjecture.

Seeing Zhao Yu and Wei Heng beside him regarding him with probing gazes, Lu Chen directly said, "Because I know a Person Recognition Skill."

At these words, Zhao Yu and Wei Heng were taken aback. Person Recognition Skill? What kind of magic was that?

Speaking of magic, in this world the ones who knew the most magic were the Taoist Sect, followed by Confucianism and the Buddhist Sect.

Spirit Martial Artists also knew some magic, but it was all combat-type magic.

Hearing Lu Chen mention a Person Recognition Skill, Zhao Yu immediately thought of Confucianism's Qi Observation Skill, and could not help but feel suspicious. Could it be that someone from Confucianism was secretly meddling behind Lu Chen?

Why would Confucianism bother to help the Zhen Nan Prince Manor with anything?

The ones Confucianism looked down on the most were exactly martial brutes like Prince Zhen Nan, who only knew how to resort to force.

Lu Chen did not say much more to Zhao Yu and the others. This so-called Person Recognition Skill was something he had completely made up; if he said too much, it would be easy to give himself away.

Anyway, as long as he could let people know that he could see through others' identity, that was enough. Once the servants of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor knew he had this ability, they would not dare lightly commit acts of betrayal in the future.

Before long, the Training Ground once again filled with more than a thousand people. These people lined up in a long queue, silver saved up over the years in their hands, ready to redeem their own deeds of sale.

After a while, soldiers of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor carried chest after chest into the Training Ground; inside the chests were the deeds of sale of those servants gathered on the Training Ground.

Lu Chen spoke: "Since you've already prepared your silver, then let's begin. Before tomorrow's sunset, you all have a chance to redeem your deeds of sale. If before tomorrow's sunset you have not left the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, this Princely Heir will take it that you have made up your minds to share life and death with the Zhen Nan Prince Manor. If you betray the Zhen Nan Prince Manor again after that, this Princely Heir will never spare you lightly!"

As Lu Chen's words fell, those servants of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor who wanted to leave began to redeem their deeds of sale. The servants who had redeemed their deeds walked straight out of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, without encountering any obstruction during the process.

At the moment those servants stepped out of the main gate of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, they still could not quite believe that all of this was actually real—that Prince Zhen Nan and the Heir of Prince Zhen Nan were truly willing to let them leave the manor.

As more and more servants left the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, the spies who had been keeping watch outside the manor immediately transmitted this news back to their respective factions.

For a time, all the factions in the Capital city were intensely curious as to why the Zhen Nan Prince Manor had suddenly begun dismissing its servants. Could it be that Prince Zhen Nan really was nearing his end?

By dusk.

The afterglow of the setting sun spilled into Prince Zhen Nan's bedchamber, its dim radiance falling upon this elder whose face was like withered bark, rendering the atmosphere in the room all the more oppressive.

At this time Zhao Yu had finished giving Prince Zhen Nan a complete report of the day's events. When Prince Zhen Nan heard Zhao Yu mention that Lu Chen knew a "Person Recognition Skill," a faint, almost imperceptible glimmer flashed through his turbid eyes.

Prince Zhen Nan murmured under his breath, "Person Recognition Skill... could it be some sort of legacy she left behind?"

Speaking to this point, Prince Zhen Nan raised his head to gaze at the sky, as though recalling something, muttering to himself, "I hope it really is you."

Realizing that Prince Zhen Nan was lost in memories of the Princess Consort, Zhao Yu retreated into the shadows of a corner and did not speak further. Whenever Prince Zhen Nan recalled the Princess Consort, he would remain dazed for a long time; the older he grew, the longer he spent immersed in those memories.

At this moment, Prince Zhen Nan was thinking that back then he had already suspected that his Princess Consort did not belong to this world. The magic she knew was countless, even more than what the Taoist Sect knew.

It was just a pity that although she was formidable, every time she used magic she would suffer backlash. Most importantly, no one else could learn her magic at all. He had tried to learn her magic back then, but his Spirit Evil Qi simply could not circulate.

Later, she left this world precisely because she suffered backlash from magic. With her passing, the magic she had left behind completely vanished without a trace.

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Prince Zhen Nan was increasingly inclined to believe that Lu Chen's recent changes stemmed from the inheritance left by Lu Chen's mother. Although he couldn't master those magical techniques himself, Lu Chen was her own flesh and blood, and might be able to use them.

Moreover, the disappearance of those techniques was initially quite mysterious; perhaps they had entered Lu Chen's mind.

Now that Lu Chen had lost his memory, those magical techniques sealed in his mind had also been unsealed.

If that's the case, wouldn't it mean that Zhen Nan Prince Manor was about to flourish?

After all, he had witnessed the power of those magical techniques.

However, considering those magical techniques, while powerful, are not accepted by this world; if Lu Chen uses them rashly, he might follow in his mother's footsteps.

Thinking of this, Prince Zhen Nan immediately said to Zhao Yu in the dark, "Have Chen'er come here."

Initially, Prince Zhen Nan didn't plan to dwell on the changes in Lu Chen. He was thinking of having hidden guards investigate discreetly to see who was helping Lu Chen.

But now that he suspected Lu Chen's changes might be related to his Princess Consort, he must directly remind Lu Chen.

Soon, a hidden guard brought Lu Chen to Prince Zhen Nan's room. Upon entering the room, Lu Chen noticed that Prince Zhen Nan's death qi had significantly reduced.

Lu Chen asked, "Father, are you feeling better?"

His diminished death qi evidently indicated that he had consumed the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit. However, Lu Chen wondered to what extent this fruit could suppress the spirit evil qi.

With a smile, Prince Zhen Nan replied, "Much better. Now I can sit up by myself."

Lu Chen proactively asked, "I wonder, Father, what is it you require of me?"

In the next moment, Prince Zhen Nan's expression turned extremely serious, "Chen'er, initially I didn't plan to remind you, but for your safety and the continuation of Zhen Nan Prince Manor, I must caution you. Some magical techniques should not be used casually. You are still young; you might not grasp that certain magical techniques can drain a lot of vitality when used."

"Your mother passed away because she used certain magical techniques, and I don't want to see you follow her path."

Upon hearing these words, Lu Chen immediately understood what Prince Zhen Nan was thinking. From the looks of it, Prince Zhen Nan believed his recent changes might be related to his mother.

Lu Chen then said, "Thank you for the reminder, Father. I will try to avoid using magical techniques whenever possible."

Prince Zhen Nan continued, "I won't question your path to becoming a spirit martial artist, but since you have become one, from now on, let Zhao Yu guide you in martial arts."

Zhao Yu was the commander of the hidden guards, and Prince Zhen Nan trusted him. More importantly, Zhao Yu was a strong person of the Earth Realm. With him guiding Lu Chen, perhaps Lu Chen could travel further on this path.

Of course, the most crucial part of having a guide is avoiding the wrong path; the backlash from spirit evil can be unbearable for anyone. Prince Zhen Nan had already suffered from such backlash, experiencing unbearable pain, and he didn't want his only lineage to endure this agony too.

Having a guide can significantly decrease the chance of mental deviation, thus reducing the probability of backlash from spirit evil.

Lu Chen responded, "Yes, Father."

"However... Father, my cultivation style might differ from that of typical spirit martial artists; maybe Commander Zhao's cultivation method might not suit me."

Upon hearing this, Prince Zhen Nan instantly recalled that Lu Chen seemed to possess a dual cultivation technique.

Thus, even without using the training methods of spirit martial artists, Lu Chen could become stronger, and his path to power might even spare him some hardships.

Typically, when spirit martial artists channel spirit evil into their bodies, they endure intense pain. Remarkably, Lu Chen, an ordinary person, could engage in carnal activities with Bai Qingqing while channeling spirit evil, suggesting he felt no pain during this process, evidently due to the cultivation technique.

If this dual cultivation technique indeed alleviates the pain of channeling spirit evil, it would undoubtedly be an exceptional technique for Lu Chen—a top-tier technique in all of Dazhou and even the entire Spirit Evil World.

Then Prince Zhen Nan said, "Zhao Yu will guide you on some cultivation issues, but he won't excessively interfere; you can cultivate entirely as you see fit."

"Additionally, I must remind you that once common people reach adulthood, it becomes incredibly difficult to become spirit martial artists, so you should know the importance of the dual cultivation technique you have."

Upon hearing Prince Zhen Nan's words, Lu Chen realized Bai Qingqing might have reported last night's events to Prince Zhen Nan, leading him to believe Lu Chen was practicing a dual cultivation technique.

Without arguing, Lu Chen directly said, "Yes, Father, I will definitely keep this technique secret from others."

Prince Zhen Nan sighed and said, "Even if you want to keep it secret from others, soon the news of you being a spirit martial artist will surely reach other factions, prompting them to investigate how you became one."

Since Zhen Nan Prince Manor had released so many people today, those with cultivation states could sense the spirit evil aura emanating from Lu Chen and were aware he had become a spirit martial artist. When these people leave, they are bound to reveal the news of Lu Chen's transformation into a spirit martial artist.

Remember, enabling an ordinary person, especially an adult, to become a spirit martial artist without undergoing spirit evil testing was almost impossible in the past.

Prince Zhen Nan continued, "So for the time being, you should stay in Zhen Nan Prince Manor as much as possible, preferably while your realm isn't very high yet, marry several concubines to continue the bloodline of Zhen Nan Prince Manor."

This...

Lu Chen hesitated for a moment. He indeed wished to remain in Zhen Nan Prince Manor and marry several women, then use the System of Lots of Sons and Lots of Blessings to grow stronger. Yet, unfortunately, the system didn't accept just anyone.

Truth be told, Lu Chen didn't wish to trouble regular women, for if ordinary women bore his offspring, it would bind them with causality. Eventually, Lu Chen might leave this world, making the fate of those children uncertain.

As for those Ancestors of the Strange, finding them would likely be no easy task.

Wait...

Lu Chen's mind froze—how could he forget his identity? He was the Heir of Prince Zhen Nan, and now that Prince Zhen Nan had entrusted him with the King Seal, Zhen Nan Prince Manor belonged to him. Thus, he might as well write down the names of those Ancestors of the Strange and have the hidden guards investigate whether these ancestors exist in this world.

With this in mind, Lu Chen said to Prince Zhen Nan, "Father, ordinary people seemingly can't conduct dual cultivation with me. My physique has undergone some changes and now needs someone with a similarly unique physique."

Upon hearing this, Prince Zhen Nan was momentarily stunned—unique physique? What unique physique?

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Prince Zhen Nan came back to his senses and asked, "What kind of special physique?"

Lu Chen said, "I can't really say, but it's different from ordinary people."

Prince Zhen Nan continued, "If this special physique cannot be displayed and ordinary people can't see it, then it might be difficult for others to help you find such a woman."

If Lu Chen indeed needs such a woman for Dual Cultivation, then the Prince's Mansion would certainly mobilize a lot of manpower and resources to help Lu Chen find her. But the key issue is they don't know what makes this special physique different from ordinary people and can only rely on Lu Chen's intuition.

If that's the case, then only Lu Chen can search for these special physiques, and others can't help much. To find those women with special physiques among the vast sea of people based on Lu Chen's intuition alone, that's easier said than done.

Lu Chen said at this moment, "Father, I know some women might have that special physique. I will directly send people to search for them when the time comes."

Prince Zhen Nan's deep eyes glanced at Lu Chen. He didn't ask how Lu Chen knew those women had the physique he needed. The more means Lu Chen has, the better it is for the Prince's Mansion.

Prince Zhen Nan said, "If that's the case, then let's do it this way. If you need anything during your martial arts practice, talk to Wei Heng."

Lu Chen replied, "Understood."

"Father, if there isn't anything else, I'll take my leave."

Prince Zhen Nan said, "Hmm, alright."

Then Lu Chen saluted Prince Zhen Nan on the bed once more and immediately left the room.

After Lu Chen left, Prince Zhen Nan sighed deeply, realizing he could hardly help Lu Chen now.

Once he dies, regardless of the arrangements he made before, they probably won't have any effect. Now he can only hope Lu Chen will prevail and grow to support the entire Prince's Mansion.

Who knows if the Royal Family will allow the Prince's Mansion to continue existing?

Perhaps the only thing he can do for Lu Chen now is to live a little longer to awe those forces that seek to harm the Prince's Mansion.

...

Third Prince Mansion.

Upon hearing his subordinate's report, Ji Yan instantly flew into a rage, unable to control the Spirit Evil Qi emanating from him, which stirred everything in the hall into chaos.

After a while, Ji Yan gradually calmed down. After all, it's just a woman to him; the position of Crown Prince is what's most important. When he becomes Emperor one day, what kind of woman wouldn't he have?

Yet, internally, he's very displeased that such an excellent woman like Bai Qingqing ended up with a waste like Lu Chen.

Ji Yan scoffed, "Waste, all a bunch of waste. Is Blood Cloud Tower this competent? Didn't they say as long as the money is enough, they could even kill an Earth Realm strong person? How come they can't even make a waste lose their ability?"

Listening to Ji Yan's words, the reporting guard and Fang Xin remained silent, realizing it's best to wait until Ji Yan finishes venting his anger.

After a long time, Ji Yan's anger subsided considerably, and he looked to the guards in front of him and said, "You mentioned the Prince's Mansion dismissed numerous servants today, including those we planted there?"

The guard instantly replied, "Yes, Your Highness, according to the information from those dismissed spies, it's said that Lu Chen precisely identified the spies planted by other forces in the Prince's Mansion today."

Hearing this, Ji Yan was somewhat incredulous. Were these spies discovered by Lu Chen?

How did Lu Chen do it?

Or did someone give Lu Chen a list?

Ji Yan said, "This should be the Hidden Guard from the Prince's Mansion who gave Lu Chen the list. It looks like the Hidden Guard of the Prince's Mansion isn't completely inept."

The guard reporting the information immediately said, "According to the spies, it seems this matter has nothing to do with the Hidden Guard; it truly was Lu Chen alone who found them out. It's reported Lu Chen learned a magic called the Person Recognition Skill from somewhere, capable of discerning if someone has betrayed the Prince's Mansion!"

This...

"Magic?" Ji Yan furrowed his brows.

"He's an ordinary person; where did he learn this magic?"

Lu Chen is neither a Spirit Martial Artist nor a Confucian Cultivator, nor related to the Taoist Sect, completely an ordinary person. How could he possibly know any magic?

The guard said, "It's heard that now Lu Chen is no longer an ordinary person. This morning, he apparently became a Spirit Martial Artist and even broke through to the Mortal Realm."

"Impossible!" The words spilled out from Ji Yan's mouth; he had never heard of such a thing.

If the Prince's Mansion truly grasped the method to transform adult ordinary people into Spirit Martial Artists, it wouldn't have declined to its current state.

The guard continued, "This was seen firsthand by those spies; Lu Chen indeed carries Spirit Evil Qi."

Fang Xin interjected at this time, "It's quite strange, since Lu Chen has found all these spies, why let them all go?"

The guard added, "Not only them, the Prince's Mansion also released some servants who wanted to leave, and even the Deputy Commander of the Zhen Nan Army, Wu Feng, left the Prince's Mansion."

Ji Yan's face alternated between light and dark, unknown thoughts occupying his mind.

After a while, Ji Yan looked at Fang Xin and asked, "Fang Xin, what do you think?"

Fang Xin pondered and said, "Perhaps it is what Prince Zhen Nan wants? He doesn't wish to offend the forces behind the spies, to prevent all forces from targeting the Prince's Mansion after his death."

Ji Yan said plainly, "Prince Zhen Nan, after all, is an Earth Realm strong person. I don't believe he would beg for mercy from those who planted spies in his mansion."

In terms of behavior, releasing the spies is equivalent to begging those forces not to bother the Prince's Mansion, saying, "We've let your people go, don't bother us anymore."

If other princes faced such a situation, there would be heads rolling.

Ji Yan looked at the guard and asked, "Is there anything else missing?"

The guard immediately said, "There is one more thing. Today, the steward of the Prince's Mansion publicly handed the Seal of Prince Zhen Nan to Lu Chen and

issued Prince Zhen Nan's Order. From now on, the entire Prince's Mansion is handed over to Lu Chen's care, and everyone, including the Zhen Nan Army, must obey Lu Chen's commands."

Ji Yan said, "It seems he's arranging his affairs. Could Princess Zhen Nan indeed worry that after his death, those forces will retaliate, hence why he lets those spies leave?"

Fang Xin reminded, "Your Highness, what we should focus on isn't the release of the spies by the Prince's Mansion; don't you want to know how Lu Chen, an ordinary person, became a Spirit Martial Artist?"

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

Hearing Fang Xin's reminder, Ji Yan finally realized that his focus was indeed misplaced.

Compared to other matters, this is what truly deserves attention.

If Zhen Nan Prince Manor really has a method to turn ordinary people into spiritual martial artists, then if they acquire this method, they can produce more

spiritual martial artists in batches, making the struggle for the throne more assured.

However...

Ji Yan quickly noticed another problem.

"Zhen Nan Prince Manor surely knows how precious a method to turn ordinary people into spiritual martial artists is, yet they dared to let those spies leave Zhen Nan Prince Manor. This means either such a method doesn't exist at all, or Prince Zhen Nan has some scheme and deliberately set this bait."

Once the rumor that Zhen Nan Prince Manor can turn ordinary people into spiritual martial artists spreads, the entire Dazhou could be thrown into chaos. By then, all forces will certainly want to obtain this method from Zhen Nan Prince Manor, and Zhen Nan Prince Manor will inevitably become the center of the vortex, possibly leading to its complete disappearance.

How could Prince Zhen Nan make such a basic mistake? There must be something wrong here.

At this moment, Fang Xin said, "Maybe Lu Chen was never an ordinary person from the start."

Hearing this, Ji Yan immediately understood, yes, Lu Chen is after all a descendant of Prince Zhen Nan, and Lu Chen's mother is not an ordinary person either. How could a child born from such powerful individuals be just an ordinary person.

So back then, when Zhen Nan Prince Manor was testing whether Lu Chen could withstand the Spirit Evil Qi entering his body, they used some small tricks to make Lu Chen's test fail, making the outside world think that Lu Chen was just an ordinary person, and that Zhen Nan Prince Manor would disappear in this generation with Lu Chen.

Prince Zhen Nan did this certainly to protect Lu Chen, otherwise with only such a descendant, coupled with him already being an Earth Realm strong person, having new descendants would be difficult. Those forces wanting Zhen Nan Prince Manor to completely disappear would not let this opportunity pass, and would do everything possible to eliminate Lu Chen.

But if Lu Chen were just an ordinary person, a waste, he would pose no threat, as an ordinary person at most lives just over a hundred years, and by then they would not need to do anything else, as Zhen Nan Prince Manor's influence would wane, and the manor would quickly decline.

Ji Yan then coldly laughed and said, "So what if he isn't ordinary, at his age, he's only at the early Mortal Realm, still a waste."

"However, come to think of it, we can use this opportunity to create some trouble for Zhen Nan Prince Manor."

Ji Yan then instructed the guard in front of him, "Immediately spread the rumor in the Capital city that Zhen Nan Prince Manor possesses a method to turn ordinary people into spiritual martial artists."

Ji Yan thought to himself, it serves Zhen Nan Prince Manor right to hide Lu Chen's identity as a spiritual martial artist. Once the outside world knows Lu Chen is a spiritual martial artist, people will definitely suspect Zhen Nan Prince Manor possesses a method to turn ordinary people into spiritual martial artists, and Zhen Nan Prince Manor will be targeted by all major forces in Dazhou.

Perhaps the disappearance of Zhen Nan Prince Manor will be expedited.

...

Imperial Palace.

Pei Shuhua lay lazily on the couch, listening to the guard's report from the hall below. Her initially calm expression gradually turned to surprise, and when she heard that Lu Chen became a spiritual martial artist, she couldn't sit still and sat up straight.

"What did you say, Lu Chen is a spiritual martial artist?"

Sensing the Spirit Evil Qi emanating from Pei Shuhua, the guard shivered and quickly said, "Yes, Empress Dowager, Zhen Nan Prince Manor dismissed a large group of servants. Many people know about this matter, and by now the news that Lu Chen is a spiritual martial artist has likely spread throughout the Capital city."

Pei Shuhua quickly calmed her inner shock and thought for a moment, soon reaching the same conclusion as Ji Yan—that Lu Chen was inherently a spiritual martial artist, but Prince Zhen Nan had always made him pretend to be an ordinary person to protect him.

However, recalling, Prince Zhen Nan's actions don't seem very meaningful, because those forces or people who want Zhen Nan Prince Manor to completely disappear wouldn't let it off just because Lu Chen is a regular person—they might at most wait a few more years.

The most important part is that Lu Chen is only at the early Mortal Realm at present. As the son of Prince Zhen Nan, an Earth Realm strong person, at this age and only at such a realm, it shows Lu Chen doesn't have much martial talent.

With such limited martial talent, Pei Shuhua couldn't understand what Prince Zhen Nan would bother hiding.

Could it be that...

Lu Chen indeed just became a spiritual martial artist?

Upon thinking this, Pei Shuhua immediately denied this assumption. If he just became a spiritual martial artist, it would mean Zhen Nan Prince Manor has a method to turn ordinary people into spiritual martial artists. Such a huge secret, how could Prince Zhen Nan let it slip out?

Pei Shuhua always felt there was something odd about Zhen Nan Prince Manor's actions this time, yet she couldn't pinpoint what was wrong.

Despite this, she already wanted to eliminate Zhen Nan Prince Manor because it possesses something she desperately needs—Dragon Qi.

Only by obtaining Dragon Qi could she truly control the Great Zhou Dynasty.

She couldn't acquire the Dragon Qi from Emperor Zhou, and it was almost impossible to dispose of Emperor Zhou. Although Emperor Zhou's power was not as great as hers, he had Dragon Qi protecting him, making it nearly impossible for them to kill him.

Moreover, Emperor Zhou and the Great Zhou Dynasty's fate were bound together, and without acquiring Dragon Qi, they couldn't act against Emperor Zhou.

Pei Shuhua's lips curled up slightly, then she told the guard in the hall, "Immediately spread the news that Zhen Nan Prince Manor has a method to turn ordinary people into spiritual martial artists."

The guard instantly replied, "Yes, Empress Dowager."

At the same time.

Yun'an Princess Mansion.

Ji Yunmeng sat in the courtyard, listening in disbelief to Xiao Qi's report.

When she went to Zhen Nan Prince Manor for Lu Chen's wedding banquet yesterday, Lu Chen was just an ordinary person; after just a day, Lu Chen became a spiritual martial artist and even advanced to the Mortal Realm?

How is that possible?

How could an ordinary person become a Mortal Realm spiritual martial artist overnight?

Like many forces, Ji Yunmeng also had two guesses: either Lu Chen was originally a spiritual martial artist, or Zhen Nan Prince Manor has a method to turn ordinary people into spiritual martial artists.

However, compared to the second guess, Ji Yunmeng was more inclined to believe Lu Chen was never an ordinary person; it was just that Zhen Nan Prince Manor meddled with the tests, causing Lu Chen to fail the Spirit Evil Qi introduction test.

After Xiao Qi finished her report, seeing Ji Yunmeng lost in thought, she asked, "Princess, this news might have spread throughout the Capital city. Next, Master Lu's situation might become more dangerous."

Though most people believe Lu Chen is inherently a spiritual warrior, there will surely be people or factions holding onto the hope that Zhen Nan Prince Manor might actually possess a method to turn ordinary people into spiritual martial artists. Henceforth, Zhen Nan Prince Manor won't have peaceful days.

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

Upon hearing Xiao Qi's words, Ji Yunmeng fell into thought, her slender jade fingers continuously stroking the teacup.

The more Zhen Nan Prince Manor faced difficulties, the better it was for her, as it presented an opportunity to endow favors. Only by helping Zhen Nan Prince Manor in times of trouble could she easily control Zhen Nan Prince Manor and utilize its influence to accomplish her own objectives.

After a while of contemplation, Ji Yunmeng said to Xiao Qi, "Tomorrow, go to Zhen Nan Prince Manor and tell Lu Chen, if there is anything that requires my assistance, he can directly send someone to inform me."

Xiao Qi replied, "Yes, Princess."

At this moment, Xiao Qi suddenly thought of something and reminded, "Princess, based on the intelligence we've gathered so far, Master Lu doesn't seem to be a wastrel. He was able to identify all the spies in Zhen Nan Prince Manor, perhaps due to some special skills."

"It is said that he learned a Person Recognition Skill, allowing him to distinguish between the loyal and the traitors."

Upon hearing Xiao Qi's words, Ji Yunmeng dismissively said, "This is just a trick by Zhen Nan Prince Manor to confuse outsiders. They wish to use this method to deter those who covet Zhen Nan Prince Manor's influence from inserting spies."

Ji Yunmeng didn't believe Lu Chen possessed any Person Recognition Skill. She had only heard of the Qi Observation Skill from Tianji Pavilion, and nothing about any Person Recognition Skill. If such magic truly existed, it would be in the hands of the Royal Family, namely Emperor Zhou, and could not possibly appear in Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Ji Yunmeng continued, "Even if Zhen Nan Prince Manor declines, it still retains some foundation. Perhaps the hidden guards had long discovered the spies and simply used Lu Chen to point them out."

In Ji Yunmeng's view, even if a Person Recognition Skill existed, it would likely resemble the Qi Observation Skill, typically used by Taoist Sect individuals with substantial power.

Yet, Lu Chen is merely a Mortal Realm Spiritual Martial Artist, making it improbable for him to employ such magic. Hence, it is probably a deception conjured by Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Doing so would not only deter certain forces from staging minor plots against Zhen Nan Prince Manor but also paint Lu Chen as possessing skills beyond what people previously thought, not just a wastrel. With this, those who were disappointed in Zhen Nan Prince Manor might once again anticipate its resurgence.

The greatest crisis for Zhen Nan Prince Manor isn't the death of Prince Zhen Nan, but rather the loss of confidence by its strong individuals after the prince's demise, accelerating its downfall with their departure.

If these Earth Realm Strong Persons remain loyal to Zhen Nan Prince Manor after the prince's death, the manor could continue for hundreds of years without issue.

Therefore, making these strong individuals see hope, the hope of Zhen Nan Prince Manor rising again, is now most crucial.

After losing his memory, not only did Lu Chen become a Mortal Realm Spiritual Martial Artist overnight during his wedding night, but he also mastered a skill to identify traitors. This is a clear sign of Zhen Nan Prince Manor's coming prosperity, and under such circumstances, those planning to leave may decide to stay, safeguarding the manor a while longer.

Thinking of this, Ji Yunmeng's face displayed an indistinct smile. If she could secure the support of these strong individuals in Zhen Nan Prince Manor, it would greatly enhance her odds of success.

...

Despite strange and evil influences occasionally appearing in the Capital city, its nights remain lively.

Cheerful, with pink lanterns adorning brothels filled with graceful ladies, their chirping voices resounding through the flower streets, while beneath this street lies an enormous underground palace.

Beneath the Drunken Moon Pavilion in the brothel is the headquarters of Blood Cloud Tower.

At this moment, within the underground palace, green flames flicker in oil lamps on the walls, rendering the palace's atmosphere eerie and creepy.

In a grand hall, a chair made of white bones stands, upon which sits a bare-shouldered strong man.

Within the hall, Elders of Blood Cloud Tower are listening to a spy in the center report news.

After a while, once the spy finished, one of the Elders loudly declared, "Why use poison? I say we should directly eliminate Lu Chen. As soon as he dies, Zhen Nan Prince Manor will perish entirely. Once Prince Zhen Nan passes, the manor will disappear completely, thus avenging our vendetta!"

The speaker's name was Wenren Ce, an early-stage Xuan Realm individual, regarded as one of the core Elders of Blood Cloud Tower.

Zhen Nan Prince Manor had an enduring bitter feud with Blood Cloud Tower. Once the Blood Cloud Tower headquarters was located in Zhen Nan Prince's fiefdom, which was slaughtered during the fiefdom's revocation by the prince's forces, decimating the majority of Blood Cloud Tower's elite.

Assassins of Blood Cloud Tower yearned for revenge ceaselessly, especially the Elders, though aware that despite Zhen Nan Prince Manor's decline, even after the prince's death, Blood Cloud Tower couldn't rival Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Zhen Nan Prince Manor housed more than one Earth Realm strong person, whereas Blood Cloud Tower had only one, rendering an assault on the manor suicidal.

Nonetheless, they considered that if they couldn't directly annihilate Zhen Nan Prince Manor, they should eliminate Lu Chen. Once Prince Zhen Nan disappears entirely, the manor's experts will eventually depart, and then they could ravage Zhen Nan Prince Manor, thus fulfilling their revenge.

Upon hearing Wenren Ce's words, a nearby man holding a spear, clad in a white robe, responded, "This mission is assigned by a certain Prince from the Royal Family, and not something we should interfere with carelessly."

Upon hearing this, Wenren Ce coldly snorted, "Careless interference? How careless? Our Blood Cloud Tower's vendetta remains unresolved; should we just keep waiting indefinitely?"

As he spoke, Wenren Ce turned his gaze toward the Tower Master sitting on the White Bone Chair.

"Tower Master, what do you say; shouldn't we eliminate Lu Chen?"

Upon hearing Wenren Ce's words, Zhou Jin asked, "Do you think killing Lu Chen is that simple?"

Wenren Ce, hearing Zhou Jin's question, replied, "He's merely a waste. If Blood Ten had chosen assassination over poisoning, perhaps we could have succeeded by now."

Zhou Jin glanced at Wenren Ce and then remarked, "I know your brother died by Prince Zhen Nan's hand, and you desire revenge, but for now, Lu Chen won't be dying."

Upon hearing Zhou Jin's words, Wenren Ce's mind halted, and he perplexedly asked, "Why?"

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

In Wenren Ce's view, Lu Chen is just a frivolous playboy. Even though there are rumors today that he has become a Spirit Martial Artist at the Early Mortal Realm, he's still a waste.

Perhaps their Blood Cloud Tower can't destroy the entire Zhen Nan Prince Manor, but killing a waste like Lu Chen shouldn't be a problem, right?

Moreover, this time, the assassins of Blood Cloud Tower had already gotten close to Lu Chen's face, yet the assassin ended up only executing a task to poison Lu Chen, and the poison was merely one that rendered Lu Chen impotent.

Wenren Ce couldn't understand, would it have been so difficult for the assassin to just strike Lu Chen dead with one blow?

At this moment, Zhou Jin spoke: "Because Lu Chen has a trace of Dragon Qi on him, and in the Capital District, with this trace of Dragon Qi protecting him, it's hard for anyone to kill him unless they are from the royal family."

Upon hearing Zhou Jin's words, everyone in the hall was taken aback. Dragon Qi?

How could Lu Chen, the heir of Prince Zhen Nan, possess Dragon Qi? Isn't Dragon Qi supposed to be on Emperor Zhou?

Not everyone knew about Prince Zhen Nan having Dragon Qi, and even fewer knew about Lu Chen possessing it. Zhou Jin only found out recently.

Zhou Jin continued, "Lu Chen was thrown from the sky by evil spirits and didn't die, nor was he torn apart by them, all because of that trace of Dragon Qi protecting him."

Hearing this, Wenren Ce clenched his fists, saying with some reluctance, "If he stays in the Capital District, then we can't do anything to him?"

Zhou Jin replied calmly, "Revenge should not be rushed. I'm more curious about how Lu Chen became a Spirit Martial Artist and how he broke through to the Mortal Realm overnight."

The Spirit Martial Artists of the assassin organization consume a lot of resources, and even though Blood Cloud Tower abducts children from all over for training each year, the growth cycle is too long starting from childhood.

If ordinary people can directly become Spirit Martial Artists and Blood Cloud Tower learns this method, then they could surely grow rapidly in a short time.

Wenren Ce commented, "For what reason else could it be? Perhaps Prince Zhen Nan's estate hid from the start that Lu Chen was a Spirit Martial Artist, making people think he was just an ordinary person."

Zhou Jin tapped his fingers on the bone armrest, seemingly pondering something.

After a while, Zhou Jin spoke again, "There is no reason for Prince Zhen Nan to do such a thing. Whether Lu Chen is ordinary or a Spirit Martial Artist, the Great Zhou Royal Family would cause the demise of Zhen Nan Prince Manor. It's just a matter of time."

Wenren Ce replied, "If there really exists a method in Prince Zhen Nan Manor to turn ordinary people into Spirit Martial Artists, then why did they release spies and servants who saw Lu Chen emitting Spirit Evil Qi? Are they not afraid of attracting covetous eyes from all parties?"

Zhou Jin said, "This is also what confuses me."

Zhou Jin felt like Prince Zhen Nan Manor was plotting something.

Wenren Ce asked, "Tower Master, should we send someone to infiltrate Prince Zhen Nan Manor to find out the method of turning ordinary people into Spirit Martial Artists?"

"It's said that Lu Chen uses a magic known as the Person Recognition Skill; our people might get discovered by Lu Chen in less than a day if they infiltrate."

Zhou Jin didn't respond to Wenren Ce's words and fell into a long silence. At this point, the entire hall quieted down. The elders of Blood Cloud Tower all looked up at Zhou Jin, trying to see what their Tower Master planned to do next.

After a long time, Zhou Jin finally spoke, "Try to bribe the servants of Prince Zhen Nan Manor to investigate the situation inside, but ensure they don't notice that you're extracting information from them."

Zhou Jin wasn't sure if the Person Recognition Skill was real. However, he thought of a way to bypass it. They could try to extract information from the servants of Prince Zhen Nan Manor, or hypnotize them so they wouldn't realize they had betrayed Prince Zhen Nan Manor. This way, even if Lu Chen did know the Person Recognition Skill, it might not be effective.

...

Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

The bridal chamber decorations were not yet removed, and Bai Qingqing sat on the wedding bed wearing a light cyan glass long dress.

Thinking of what happened last night and what Prince Zhen Nan said today, Bai Qingqing felt quite helpless. How did she suddenly become Lu Chen's woman?

She still felt somewhat dazed as if it was all unreal.

After learning about Lu Chen's actions today, her perception of Lu Chen changed greatly. However, she wasn't sure if Lu Chen would revert to his old self once he regained his memory.

Bai Qingqing thought to herself that Lu Chen was quite nice as he was now.

As Bai Qingqing was lost in thought, the room door creaked open, and Lu Chen stepped into the room.

Seeing Lu Chen return, Bai Qingqing tensed up instantly. After the chaos of last night, would tonight be the same?

Seeing the alluring lady sitting on the bed waiting for him, Lu Chen smiled and said, "Wife, I didn't expect you to be waiting in bed for me so soon. It seems you're even more impatient than I am."

Hearing these words, Bai Qingqing felt her cheeks flush slightly. She wanted to escape, but remembering the task given by Prince Zhen Nan to quickly bear a child for Lu Chen, she forced herself to calm down.

At this time, Lu Chen slowly approached the bed, naturally pulling Bai Qingqing into his embrace. His wandering hands began to make Bai Qingqing feel increasingly familiar with how Lu Chen knew her body. She even started suspecting whether this guy had done something to her while she was asleep in the past.

In just a few moments, Bai Qingqing was aroused, and soon, they lay on the bed, drawing the curtains, and Lu Chen engaged Bai Qingqing in last night's affair once again.

In the following days, Lu Chen dual-cultivated with Bai Qingqing each night. However, as he suspected, despite this, Bai Qingqing did not become pregnant with his child. He continuously felt the Spirit Evil Qi devouring his vitality, realizing Bai Qingqing's body was indeed unsuitable for childbearing.

During these days, Lu Chen practiced the "Spirit Evil Body Refining Skill" while pondering the nature of Spirit Evil Qi.

Spirit Evil Qi consumes vitality, similar to Mysterious Power, but it also seems to contain a certain Life Force, making it a contradictory force.

Due to this contradiction, the Spirit Martial Artists in this world could cultivate by absorbing Spirit Evil Qi, or else their vitality would have been drained completely.

A month passed in the blink of an eye.

In the pavilion, Lu Chen sat on a stone bench, eyes closed, feeling the Spirit Evil Qi in the air.

Tonight, he didn't dual cultivate with Bai Qingqing. He wanted to see how painful it would be to absorb Spirit Evil Qi on his own without dual cultivation to relieve the pain.

In the next moment, Lu Chen started channeling his power, causing the surrounding Spirit Evil Qi to rush toward him wildly.

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

As the Spirit Evil Qi surged into Lu Chen's body, a tearing pain immediately spread throughout his body. Even though Lu Chen possessed a tremendously strong Divine Soul, he almost couldn't withstand it.

Lu Chen quickly adjusted the rhythm of his Qi Absorption, reducing the intake of Spirit Evil Qi. Although the pain was still intense, he could barely endure it.

At that moment, he suddenly felt some changes in his body. As a person with Earth's memories, Lu Chen knew about the existence of cells, and he felt as if the cells in his body were constantly dividing and dying, with the newly formed cells becoming stronger.

After the Spirit Evil Qi passed through his body, the growth and death of those cells accelerated, and the newly created cells became even more powerful, making his body stronger.

Soon, a burst of energy rushed out from Lu Chen's body, flipping over the stone table in the pavilion.

Lu Chen immediately opened his eyes, a slight smile appearing on his face. In just a month, he had broken through to the Peak of Mortal Realm. At this cultivation speed, it might not take long for him to break through to the Human Realm.

At this moment, in the shadow of a rockery in the courtyard, Zhao Yu felt an overwhelming sense of shock after sensing Lu Chen's breakthrough.

Lu Chen had gone from an ordinary person to the Peak of Mortal Realm in just one month. The speed of this realm advancement was astonishingly fast.

The most important part was that Lu Chen had not absorbed any Spirit Evil Qi from strange and ominous beings, relying solely on the Spirit Evil Qi in the air.

There are many types of Spirit Evil Qi. In this world, there's also Spirit Evil Qi floating in the air, but these are very thin and impure. The Spirit Evil Qi in the bodies of strange ominous beings is very concentrated and pure, so Spirit Martial Artists need to rely on such beings for rapid realm advancement.

Initially, Zhao Yu had planned to provide Lu Chen with some corpses of strange ominous beings, but considering that Lu Chen had just become a Spirit Martial Artist, absorbing Spirit Evil Qi from these beings so quickly would cause great harm to his body, so he didn't provide any to Lu Chen.

But now it seems that even without absorbing Spirit Evil Qi from strange beings, Lu Chen's realm advancement speed is much faster than the average Spirit Martial Artist.

From Mortal Realm to Peak of Mortal Realm in just one month. Zhao Yu had never heard of such a thing in all his years.

After the shock, Zhao Yu finally felt relieved. He had always been worried that after the death of Prince Zhen Nan, the Zhen Nan Prince Manor would fall into

decline. Now it seems that the Zhen Nan Prince Manor might continue for several more centuries.

Even if Lu Chen doesn't fully mature, as long as the people of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor remain united, and Lu Chen holds on until his child grows up, the Zhen Nan Prince Manor will still have a chance to rise again.

After breaking through to the Peak of Mortal Realm, Lu Chen's perception of his surroundings became much sharper. At this moment, Lu Chen realized that although his Divine Soul was powerful, its power couldn't be fully unleashed due to the limitations of his current body.

However, as his strength increased, the advantages of his powerful Divine Soul started to show. His senses were sharper than those of an average Spirit Martial Artist at the Peak of Mortal Realm. Lu Chen clearly felt a presence of Spirit Evil Qi beside the rockery in the courtyard.

Lu Chen tentatively spoke to the rockery, "Commander Zhao, what brings you here at this late hour?"

In Lu Chen's view, with various forces eyeing the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, his father would definitely send a strong protector. As the heir of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, his father likely sent someone of Earth Realm strength to protect him, and Zhao Yu was the most probable choice, especially since Zhao Yu also served as his teacher.

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Zhao Yu was taken aback. He had already hidden his presence, yet Lu Chen still detected him.

Subsequently, Zhao Yu stopped hiding and stepped out from the shadows, "Princely Heir, congratulations on breaking through to the Peak of Mortal Realm."

"The Prince is concerned that someone might harm you, so he specifically sent me to protect you."

Lu Chen replied, "I see."

Lu Chen then asked, "I feel the Spirit Evil Qi in the air is quite thin. From now on, if I want to continue advancing in realm, do I need the Spirit Evil Qi from strange and ominous beings?"

Upon hearing Lu Chen's question, Zhao Yu hesitated for a moment before finally speaking, "Technically, once a Spirit Martial Artist reaches the Mortal Realm, they can begin to absorb Spirit Evil Qi from strange beings. However, since you have just become a Spirit Martial Artist, I'm concerned your body won't withstand the corrosion of Spirit Evil Qi. That kind of Qi is more concentrated and pure, and the potential harm to the body is greater."

Zhao Yu didn't want Lu Chen to rush into contacting strange beings. Now that Lu Chen had shown his potential, the powerful figures of Zhen Nan Prince Manor

wouldn't leave, so there was no need for Lu Chen to be in such a hurry to grow stronger.

If he rushed to become stronger, harming his body would be counterproductive.

Unfazed by Zhao Yu's words, Lu Chen said, "It's fine, I can handle it. At first, you can catch a few weak ones for me."

Seeing Lu Chen's determination, Zhao Yu said, "If you truly wish to absorb the Spirit Evil Qi from the body of strange beings, I can catch a Lantern Deceit for you now. Lantern Deceit is very weak, and its Spirit Evil Qi isn't that pure, so it won't be as painful to absorb."

Most noble families keep some relatively weak strange beings as resources for Spirit Martial Artists to enhance their power.

The underground of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor also has some strange beings in captivity.

Among the beings kept by the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, the weakest is the Lantern Deceit. This strange being is very common in Dazhou. It can often be found wherever there are desolate graves, and its strength is so weak that even if an ordinary person encounters one, the most they will suffer is a minor injury, without any threat to their life.

After considering for a moment, Lu Chen, who had never absorbed Spirit Evil Qi from a strange being before, agreed it was better to proceed step by step, and then said, "Alright, I'll trouble you then, Commander Zhao."

As soon as Lu Chen finished speaking, Zhao Yu's figure once again disappeared into the shadows. In just a moment, he returned from the shadows holding a struggling Lantern Deceit in his hand.

The Lantern Deceit had a human face and emitted a faint red glow.

After approaching Lu Chen, Zhao Yu directly crushed the Lantern Deceit to death.

At the moment the Lantern Deceit died, Lu Chen felt an influx of Spirit Evil Qi in the air, and these were much more aggressive than the ordinary Spirit Evil Qi. As they entered his body, they frantically devoured his vitality.

However, the ability of this Spirit Evil Qi to devour vitality was limited, and it reached a point where it could no longer continue.

Lu Chen then sat cross-legged and began to operate the "Spirit Evil Body Refining Skill," continuously absorbing the Spirit Evil Qi from the corpse of the Lantern Deceit.

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

When the Spirit Evil Qi emitted from the Lantern Deceit's corpse entered Lu Chen's body, Lu Chen immediately felt an excruciating pain all over his body.

Fortunately, he was able to endure it, but he felt as though he was enduring excruciating hardship.

Originally, dual cultivation with Bai Qingqing could alleviate pain, or even eliminate it, so why did he insist on cultivating alone?

But then again, thinking about how when he and Bai Qingqing were cultivating, there were still piles of eerie and sinister corpses in the room, Lu Chen felt a sense of oddness.

Wasn't this scene a bit too horrifying?

After cultivating for a while, Lu Chen finally absorbed all the Spirit Evil Qi from the Lantern Deceit's corpse. Fortunately, the Spirit Evil Qi inside the Lantern

Deceit was relatively sparse, otherwise, Lu Chen might not have been able to persevere.

After Lu Chen opened his eyes, he exhaled deeply. The cultivation method in this world was too torturous. Whether in the Spirit Realm or the Burial Furnace, cultivation had never been this tormenting before.

Lu Chen always felt that the Spirit Evil Qi originated from a mutation of a mysterious power, otherwise, how could it devour one's vitality?

Seeing Lu Chen open his eyes, Zhao Yu asked, "Princely Heir, how do you feel now?"

Lu Chen thought for a moment, then said, "Go hang twenty lanterns in my room. I'll be absorbing the Spirit Evil Qi shortly."

This...

Zhao Yu was taken aback. He had just seen the painful and twisted expression on Lu Chen's face, and thought Lu Chen wouldn't continue absorbing the sinister and evil Spirit Evil Qi, but unexpectedly, he planned to press on.

After regaining his composure, Zhao Yu advised, "Princely Heir, there's no need to be so hasty in elevating your realm. You've just had a breakthrough. The priority should be stabilizing your realm. Breaking through from the Peak of Mortal Realm to the Human Realm won't be feasible in a short time."

Lu Chen replied, "Rest assured, Commander Zhao. I know what I'm doing. I'm just stabilizing my realm. I feel that my body is not sturdy enough and still needs the Spirit Evil Qi's quenching."

Seeing Lu Chen speak with such resolve, Zhao Yu could say no more, and then said, "I'll have the Hidden Guard deliver the Lantern Deceit's corpse to your room shortly."

Without saying more, Lu Chen stood up from the ground and went to his room.

When Lu Chen returned to his room, he found Bai Qingqing sitting on the bed cultivating. The moonlight, streaming through the window, fell on Bai Qingqing's exquisite jade-like face, making her look even more ethereal and beautiful. She seemed to emit a layer of sacred radiance.

Hearing the door, Bai Qingqing, who was in cultivation, opened her eyes, and upon seeing Lu Chen return, she sighed softly within her heart.

She thought Lu Chen wouldn't return tonight, but here he was.

Over the past month, it was his nightly routine. Though she had become accustomed to it, she always felt like she was becoming a plaything for Lu Chen.

It's been more than a month, and she still hadn't conceived Lu Chen's child, which demonstrated how difficult it was for Spirit Martial Artists to propagate offspring, Bai Qingqing thought to herself, wondering when this would come to an end.

At this moment, Bai Qingqing suddenly realized that Lu Chen seemed to have reached the Peak of Mortal Realm.

Perceiving the aura of the Mortal Realm Peak on Lu Chen, Bai Qingqing was momentarily stunned. With each breakthrough Lu Chen achieved over the past month, she was astounded, considering that Lu Chen had only just become a Spirit Martial Artist.

After regaining her composure, Bai Qingqing asked, "Princely Heir, have you made a breakthrough?"

Lu Chen smiled and said, "What do you mean by 'Princely Heir'? You should call me darling."

With that said, Lu Chen sat by the bed, wrapping Bai Qingqing's delicate body into his arms very naturally.

Bai Qingqing did not resist, and just looked up at Lu Chen slightly, her eyes filled with confusion: was this Lu Chen really Lu Chen?

But Prince Zhen Nan had already stated that Lu Chen couldn't possibly be possessed by sinister forces, so he was indeed Lu Chen.

However, an amnesia could lead to such drastic changes in a person, which was truly unbelievable.

Seeing Bai Qingqing's perplexed expression, Lu Chen asked, "What's the matter? My breakthrough doesn't make you happy?"

Bai Qingqing said nothing, merely observing Lu Chen. She wasn't unhappy; after all, as part of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, with its heir being capable of restoring vitality, how could she not be pleased?

It's just that this person was Lu Chen, the weak and timid Lu Chen she once looked down upon, which rendered her feelings somewhat complicated.

Just as Lu Chen was about to speak, the voice of a Hidden Guard came from the door, "Princely Heir, the Lantern Deceit you requested has arrived. Shall we bring it in now?"

Lu Chen said, "Bring it in."

As his words fell, two female Hidden Guards carried a sack into the room, from which a dense Spirit Evil Qi emanated.

Seeing this, Bai Qingqing was slightly taken aback. Why would Lu Chen bring sinister corpses into the room?

After delivering the body of the Lantern Deceit, the two female Hidden Guards turned and left the room.

Once they were gone, Bai Qingqing asked in bewilderment, "Darling, what are you doing?"

Lu Chen chuckled and said, "You'll understand in a moment."

Lu Chen thought to himself, luckily the Lantern Deceit's corpse was in a sack, otherwise dealing with those sinister corpses in this setting would be somewhat inelegant.

Before Bai Qingqing could react, Lu Chen leaned over and sealed Bai Qingqing's fragrant lips with his own.

Bai Qingqing was left a bit flustered; Lu Chen had a large sack of sinister corpses delivered, and in such a situation, he still intended to engage in such actions with her. This didn't seem quite appropriate.

But Lu Chen didn't care what Bai Qingqing thought. He continued his actions, and while doing so, began to absorb the Spirit Evil Qi from the Lantern Deceit's bodies. As waves of Spirit Evil Qi entered Lu Chen's body, he felt every cell in his body becoming active, vitality accelerating, and his realm reaching a bottleneck.

For a moment, Lu Chen felt there seemed to be a thin membrane in a part of his Dantian, where the Spirit Evil Qi was accumulating, unable to pass through this membrane.

Once more, Lu Chen focused his energy, gathering all the Spirit Evil Qi into his Dantian, wildly assaulting the membrane, trying to fully penetrate it, allowing the Spirit Evil Qi to circulate freely within his body.

As Lu Chen continued to absorb the Spirit Evil Qi from the Lantern Deceit, in an instant, all the accumulating Spirit Evil Qi converged, violently breaking through the membrane.

The membrane shattered instantly, and Lu Chen immediately felt the Spirit Evil Qi inside him finding a new channel. In the next moment, his physique visibly strengthened.

Noticing Lu Chen's bodily transformation, and sensing the aura of the Early Stage of Human Realm emitting from him, Bai Qingqing lay on the bed dumbfounded, momentarily forgetting the situation she was in with Lu Chen.

Breakthrough...

Lu Chen had just broken through to the Peak of Mortal Realm tonight, and during this brief encounter, he had advanced to a Human Realm Spiritual Martial Artist???