

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

How is this possible...

Bai Qingqing could hardly believe what was happening before her eyes.

She had been practicing martial arts since she was five years old and absorbing the Spirit Evil Qi of strange evils, until today, she was only at the mid-stage Human Realm.

But Lu Chen had become a Spirit Martial Artist for just a month and had already reached the early stage of the Human Realm.

This couldn't be described as mere talent, it was beyond extraordinary.

She began to suspect that Lu Chen's physical body might have been possessed by some strange evil.

Could there be some strange evil that could ignore Dragon Qi?

While Bai Qingqing was in a daze, Lu Chen had already regained his composure. He looked down at Bai Qingqing, then gently caressed her jade-like cheek with a hint of a smile and said, "Thank you, my lady, for helping me break through."

Bai Qingqing's jade cheeks turned slightly red, but she remained expressionless, her eyes fixed on Lu Chen's deep eyes, pondering something.

After a long time, Bai Qingqing finally asked the question in her heart, "Are you really Lu Chen?"

Hearing this question, Lu Chen chuckled lightly and then said, "If I'm not Lu Chen, then who am I?"

Bai Qingqing said indifferently, "Why do I feel like you're possessed by some strange evil?"

Bai Qingqing wasn't afraid of alerting the enemy, after all, even Prince Zhen Nan didn't think Lu Chen was possessed by an evil. Even if she saw through Lu Chen's possession, there was nothing she could do about it.

Lu Chen did not directly answer the question but instead asked, "Do you think my breakthrough speed is too fast?"

Bai Qingqing said, "There hasn't been a Spirit Martial Artist in Dazhou who can break through a major realm in just a month. Even someone with as much talent as Princess Yun'an can't do that."

Lu Chen said, "Perhaps my cultivation technique is rather special."

Upon hearing this, Bai Qingqing fell into contemplation. It was not impossible, after all, there were so many cultivation techniques in the world, and some could indeed boost one's realm significantly in a short time by sacrificing some lifespan. However, she didn't believe Lu Chen would practice such a technique.

Even though the current situation of Zhen Nan Prince Manor was dire, it hadn't reached the point where Lu Chen would need to trade his lifespan for a higher realm, so the cultivation technique Lu Chen practiced should be harmless to him.

But how could a harmless cultivation technique help a Spirit Martial Artist significantly boost their realm in such a short time?

At this moment, Bai Qingqing was very curious about what kind of cultivation technique Lu Chen was practicing. Of course, she still harbored suspicions about Lu Chen, believing it was possible he was possessed by a strange evil.

Lu Chen noticed Bai Qingqing still suspected him, so he smiled and said, "If I was really possessed by a strange evil, with so many powerful people in the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, how could they not notice?"

Bai Qingqing thought to herself that maybe the evil possessing Lu Chen was very powerful, capable of perfectly hiding its aura, but she didn't voice this thought.

Lu Chen then leaned closer and whispered in Bai Qingqing's ear, "Even if I were possessed by a strange evil, there's nothing you can do to me, after all, I am the only heir of Prince Zhen Nan."

Hearing this, Bai Qingqing was startled, could it be that she was right, and Lu Chen was indeed possessed by a strange evil, which was so arrogant.

However, Lu Chen was not wrong; she indeed had no means to deal with him. Even if she told others he was possessed, no one would believe her, not even Prince Zhen Nan, so how could others believe, let alone the powerful figures in the Zhen Nan Prince Manor who probably hadn't noticed anything.

Should she just allow this evil to continue possessing Lu Chen's body?

More importantly, this evil was constantly using Lu Chen's body to commit wrongs against her. At this thought, Bai Qingqing was filled with anger.

The next moment, her eyes turned cold, and the Spirit Evil Qi emanated from her body, looking as if she was about to engage in a fight with Lu Chen.

Lu Chen straightened up, looking down at her eyes without moving, appearing to be watching her perform.

After a while, Bai Qingqing finally exhausted her anger and chose not to act. Seeing the Spirit Evil Qi on Bai Qingqing's body dissipate gradually, Lu Chen chuckled softly and then said, "You really think I am possessed by a strange evil?"

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Bai Qingqing realized that Lu Chen had been teasing her just now.

For a moment, Bai Qingqing's jade-like cheeks felt a little hot. She coldly said, "I will keep watching you, one day you will slip up."

No matter what Lu Chen said now, she still suspected he was possessed by a strange evil. Since this evil chose to possess Lu Chen's body, it certainly had a purpose, and sooner or later Lu Chen would expose himself.

However, if Lu Chen was indeed possessed, how could she drive the possessing evil out of Lu Chen's body?

It seemed she would need the help of the Deceit Suppression Bureau. The Deceit Suppression Bureau was very adept at dealing with possessing evils. It was said that the bureau possessed a special Spiritual Fire, and as long as an evil approached it, it would feel fear and dread. Moreover, the Spiritual Fire specialized in burning evils.

If she could trick Lu Chen into going to the Deceit Suppression Bureau, perhaps they could use the Spiritual Fire to expel the evil in Lu Chen's body.

As Bai Qingqing plotted how to lure Lu Chen to the Deceit Suppression Bureau, Lu Chen continued his wrongdoings, and as she watched him proceed with his actions, Bai Qingqing's cold eyes stared straight at him, thinking that soon she would drive out the evil possessing Lu Chen.

Once the Deceit Suppression Bureau helped expel the possessing evil, she would personally dismantle this evil!

...

The next day.

Early morning.

When Lu Chen came out of the room, he felt refreshed. As he stood at the door stretching, he turned his head to look at Bai Qingqing on the bed. Bai Qingqing's jade-like hand clutched the quilt, covering her body, looking at him with a wary expression.

Seeing Bai Qingqing like this, Lu Chen couldn't help but smile. He knew Bai Qingqing was still suspecting he was possessed by an evil.

Just as Lu Chen was about to say something, Zhao Yu's voice came from the courtyard, "Pr... Princely Heir, you... you've broken through again???"

Zhao Yu's figure appeared from behind the pavilion in the courtyard, sensing Lu Chen's early stage Human Realm aura, Zhao Yu couldn't believe what he was seeing was real.

Last night, Lu Chen had just broken through. When he returned to his room, he was at the Peak of Mortal Realm. To break through from the Peak of Mortal Realm to the early stage of Human Realm, even with the greatest talent like Ji Yunmeng, would still take one or two years.

Lu Chen had only used one night to become a Human Realm Spirit Martial Artist.

At the rate Lu Chen was increasing his realm, it might not even take ten years for him to become an Earth Realm Spirit Warrior.

Last night, they had only sent some Lantern Deceit's corpses over to him, and just by absorbing the Spirit Evil Qi from these corpses, Lu Chen managed to break through to the Human Realm?

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Not even Bai Qingqing, Zhao Yu now somewhat doubts whether Lu Chen has been possessed by some unholy creature.

Even the legendary Grand Ancestor of Zhou and the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan didn't advance in their realms as quickly as Lu Chen.

Rumor has it that the Grand Ancestor of Zhou and Prince Zhen Nan had received a special inheritance, which sped up their realm progression significantly. But even for them, it took several months to progress from the Peak of Mortal Realm to the Human Realm.

However, Lu Chen only took a month to advance from an ordinary person to the Early Stage of the Human Realm.

If this news were to spread, Dazhou might descend into chaos, and the Zhou royal family would surely intensify their suppression of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, possibly even sending assassins to eliminate Lu Chen.

The Zhou royal family certainly wouldn't want to see another figure like the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan emerge from the Zhen Nan Prince Manor. With the Grand Ancestor of Zhou already deceased, if someone as formidable as the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan appeared in the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, then there would hardly be anyone in Dazhou who could keep the Zhen Nan Prince Manor in check. At that point, Dazhou might no longer bear the surname Ji but rather the surname Lu.

Seeing Zhao Yu staring at him in disbelief, Lu Chen said modestly, "I just got lucky, lucky to break through."

The corner of Zhao Yu's mouth twitched slightly, lucky to break through?

From the Late Mortal Realm to the Peak of the Human Realm in just one night, and this is called luck?

Zhao Yu was now very curious about what kind of magic the Princess Consort left for Lu Chen that allowed him to break through so significantly in such a short

time. It wouldn't be a technique that trades lifespan for realm advancement, would it?

Thinking about this, Zhao Yu cautioned, "Princely Heir, there's no need to rush your cultivation. As long as the Zhen Nan Prince Manor has those few elder immortals watching, other forces won't dare to make any direct moves against us. If your cultivation method is harmful to your body, it would be a loss."

Lu Chen heard Zhao Yu's concerns and said, "Commander Zhao, rest assured, I know my limits, and I won't cultivate any evil arts."

Although Lu Chen said this, Zhao Yu still had his doubts about him. He felt that if a cultivation method was this marvelous, there must be some price to pay. For spirit martial artists, there is no gain without sacrifice.

Spirit Martial Artists suffer extreme pain when absorbing spiritual evil, and their bodies are always at risk of being bitten back by it, especially during cultivation. The possibility of suffering a spiritual evil backlash is even greater; these are all costs that need to be paid.

Lu Chen's fast realm advancement surely comes with other costs, and the price is likely very high.

Whether the cost is lifespan or something else, Zhao Yu doesn't wish for Lu Chen to be so impulsive. In his view, Lu Chen only needs to hold on until the next

generation grows up. The bloodline of Prince Zhen Nan can't always have someone like Lu Chen.

As long as Lu Chen has more descendants, even if they don't achieve the strength of the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan, they could still become pillars like the current Prince Zhen Nan.

Zhao Yu thought inwardly that he would have to report this to the prince later. If Lu Chen continues cultivating this way, there might really be trouble.

Lu Chen then asked, "Commander Zhao, is there anything else?"

Startled, Zhao Yu gathered his thoughts and replied, "No, I was just a little worried about your health given how quickly your realm is advancing."

Lu Chen said, "Rest assured, Commander Zhao, I wish to live for thousands of years, so I won't mess around."

Zhao Yu replied, "Then I won't disturb you anymore, Princely Heir."

As he spoke, Zhao Yu's body once again vanished into the shadow of the pavilion, but he didn't linger there.

...

Zhen Nan Prince Manor, the bedroom.

A maid was feeding medicine to Prince Zhen Nan. At this time, a shadow appeared in the middle of the room, and the next moment Zhao Yu's figure emerged.

Seeing Zhao Yu appear, Prince Zhen Nan gave a look that stopped the maid from continuing to feed the medicine, and she respectfully stepped aside.

Prince Zhen Nan asked, "What has happened?"

Zhao Yu reported, "My lord, the Princely Heir has broken through again."

Over the past month, each of Lu Chen's breakthroughs had been reported by Zhao Yu to Prince Zhen Nan. Although Prince Zhen Nan was powerful, he was currently bedridden, afflicted by a backlash of spiritual evil, and unable to perceive events outside, relying only on reports from others.

Upon hearing Zhao Yu's words, Prince Zhen Nan said, "It seems the cultivation methods passed down from his mother are indeed quite extraordinary, reaching the Peak of Mortal Realm so quickly."

Zhao Yu immediately corrected, "My lord, it's not the Peak of Mortal Realm, but the Early Stage of the Human Realm."

This...

Prince Zhen Nan was momentarily at a loss for words. In disbelief, he asked, "What did you say? Not the Peak of Mortal Realm?"

"The Early Stage of Human Realm? How is that possible?"

It was the first time he had heard of anyone advancing from an ordinary person to the Early Stage of the Human Realm within a month. Bai Qingqing herself was only at the Mid-stage Human Realm.

Moreover, Lu Chen hadn't encountered any bizarre or unholy remnants during this period.

Zhao Yu added, "Last night after the Princely Heir broke through the Peak of Mortal Realm, he expressed a desire to absorb the peculiar Spirit Evil Qi, so I

brought him a Lantern Deceit. After he absorbed the Spirit Evil Qi from that creature, he requested another bag of Lantern Deceits to be delivered to his room. When he emerged this morning, I realized he had broken through once more."

After Zhao Yu's report, Prince Zhen Nan fell into silence.

While Lu Chen's rapid realm advancement seemed like a boon for the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, ensuring its future lineage, this rapid progression likely came with significant risks. It implied that Lu Chen's cultivation method might have dire costs, possibly shortening his lifespan.

Furthermore, if Lu Chen's current realm became known to outsiders, it would be a huge problem. Even in its decline, the Zhen Nan Prince Manor remained a thorn in the Zhou royal family's side. If an even more terrifying talent than the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan emerged and bore the Dragon Qi, the members of the Dazhou royal family would likely lose sleep.

After some thought, Prince Zhen Nan instructed Zhao Yu, "Seal the information, do not let news of Chen'er's breakthrough spread."

Zhao Yu responded, "Rest assured, my lord, ever since the Princely Heir cleaned out the traitors, the Hidden Guards have intensified the manor's protection. As long as he doesn't leave the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, outsiders won't discover his realm has reached the Human Realm."

Despite Zhao Yu's reassurances, Prince Zhen Nan was still somewhat anxious. There's no such thing as a completely tight seal; previously he'd believed the manor's defenses were impenetrable too, with the Hidden Guards cracking down on any infiltration. But in the end, the manor was nearly as porous as a sieve.

Subsequently, Prince Zhen Nan said, "The best approach is to hide his aura, making sure no one can discern his realm."

Spirit Martial Artists can conceal their aura, but some particularly sharp or high-realm martial artists can see through those who hide their realm.

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What Prince Zhen Nan wants now is something that can completely conceal Lu Chen's realm, as only such a treasure or cultivation technique can better protect Lu Chen.

However, finding a treasure or cultivation technique that can completely hide one's realm is not an easy task. Despite having lived for so many years, he has never heard of any treasure or technique that could completely hide a person's realm.

Many treasures can hide one's aura, but if faced with highly advanced Spirit Martial Artists, one's realm might still be easily discerned by them.

At this moment, Prince Zhen Nan said to Zhao Yu: "Have the Hidden Guard discreetly inquire if there's a treasure that could perfectly conceal Chen'er's realm, such that even Earth Realm experts can't discern it."

Upon hearing this, Zhao Yu was momentarily stunned. Like Prince Zhen Nan, he too has lived many years and never heard of a treasure capable of completely concealing realm aura.

Even if a treasure could conceal realm aura, it would be a relative concealment. If Lu Chen's realm reaches the Earth Realm, he wouldn't need a treasure to suppress his aura to make it difficult for other Earth Realm experts to discover.

Thus, the key to hiding one's realm and aura is not treasures, but having a sufficiently high realm oneself.

Lu Chen is currently only at the Early Stage of the Human Realm. At this realm, even with the best realm-concealing treasure, he might still be detected by those Earth Realm experts.

Then, Prince Zhen Nan continued: "Before that, go to the treasury and fetch an Obscure Light Pearl for him to carry closely."

Zhao Yu immediately bowed and said: "Yes, my lord."

The Obscure Light Pearl can hide aura, although its effect isn't outstanding, ordinary people can't see through it.

As long as Lu Chen carries the Obscure Light Pearl, Spirit Martial Artists who aren't highly advanced or those without special means, won't be able to discern Lu Chen's exact realm.

This can temporarily hide Lu Chen's realm for a while, since external forces don't dare to send too powerful individuals to probe the Zhen Nan Prince Manor at this time. As long as Lu Chen remains within the manor without leaving, even if spies are sent in, they won't identify Lu Chen's specific realm.

Zhao Yu, having received the order, promptly retreated to the Mansion's treasury.

Soon, Zhao Yu appeared beside Lu Chen with a delicately crafted wooden box.

Lu Chen was at the moment in the underground prison breeding strange and malevolent entities, observing them.

These entities exude a thick Spirit Evil Qi, but before they die, Spirit Martial Artists cannot directly absorb the Spirit Evil Qi from them.

Just as Lu Chen was staring blankly at these entities, he suddenly sensed someone nearby and, coming to his senses, looked at Zhao Yu and said: "Commander Zhao, do you need me for something?"

Zhao Yu handed the wooden box to Lu Chen and said: "The Prince asked that you always keep this Obscure Light Pearl with you."

"Obscure Light Pearl?" Lu Chen once was just a common person and isn't familiar with the Obscure Light Pearl, having hardly heard of it.

Zhao Yu explained directly: "The Obscure Light Pearl can hide realm, making it hard for ordinary people to detect."

"Your realm is advancing too quickly, if word gets out, the Zhen Nan Prince Manor will definitely draw more wariness from the Royal Family. By then, they might act against you."

Lu Chen said: "I see."

Lu Chen then took the wooden box from Zhao Yu's hand and opened it.

In the center of the box was a black pearl; Lu Chen took the black pearl from the box and input Spirit Evil Qi into it. Soon, he clearly felt his Spirit Evil Qi being suppressed, and in a moment, he appeared just like a common person.

Lu Chen also noticed that the Obscure Light Pearl seems to adjust the concealed realm, as long as he inputs more Spirit Evil Qi, his realm can be exposed less.

Lu Chen said: "This pearl is good."

Zhao Yu reminded from the side: "Heir, while this Obscure Light Pearl can temporarily hide your realm, it might not work against experts with high realms or those Spirit Martial Artists using special means."

"Effectively keeping outsiders unaware of your realm means the heir should remain within the Zhen Nan Prince Manor."

Lu Chen said: "I understand."

Lu Chen had no intention of moving around; as the heir of Prince Zhen Nan, although not a Prince, his living conditions have already far exceeded those of ordinary aristocratic families.

Besides, the Zhen Nan Prince Manor has its own private army and Hidden Guard, he can have whatever he wants done by these people without needing to venture out.

Lu Chen at this moment glanced at the prison holding those strange and malevolent entities, then said: "From today on, bring some evil entities to my room every night."

Upon hearing this, Zhao Yu hesitated momentarily before tentatively asking: "Heir, what realm of evil entities do you plan on wanting?"

In this world of strange and malevolent entities, and across various cultivation systems, realms align with Spirit Martial Artists.

The evil entities too range from Mortal Realm to Human Realm...

Thus it is convenient for people to gauge the power gap between evil entities and themselves.

Lu Chen thought for a moment, then asked: "For early-stage Human Realm, what type of evil corpses' Spirit Evil Qi is best for absorption?"

Lu Chen did not plan to be overly ambitious, since absorbing the Lantern Deceit's Spirit Evil Qi for the first time was indeed agonizingly painful, though dual cultivating with Bai Qingqing could suppress the pain caused by Spirit Evil Qi, yet if the Spirit Evil Qi from higher realm evil entities is even purer, suppressing such pain might not be manageable without their intimate acts.

Lu Chen wanted to see Zhao Yu's perspective.

Zhao Yu thought for a while and then asked: "Is the heir planning a gradual approach or seeking a more aggressive, rapid power improvement?"

Zhao Yu hopes for Lu Chen to take a gradual route, ideally continuing to absorb Lantern Deceit's Spirit Evil Qi for the next half-year.

But he doesn't believe Lu Chen to be one who enjoys taking things slowly. After all, Lu Chen advanced from a common person to the Human Realm within a month's time, making it unlikely to tread slowly.

Lu Chen said: "Naturally the quicker, the better."

Zhao Yu said: "If the heir hopes for a quicker realm enhancement, then absorbing the Spirit Evil Qi in Deceit Pearls is better, though the Spirit Evil in Deceit Pearls is very pure, making absorption more painful."

Lu Chen asked: "Deceit Pearl? What is that?"

Since having little contact with strange malevolent entities previously, Lu Chen wasn't particularly familiar with them, and didn't know what Deceit Pearls were, although he surmised those might be condensed materials within malevolent entities.

Zhao Yu at this time explained: "Deceit Pearls are condensed materials within the bodies of malevolent entities, typically only spirit realm malevolent entities can produce Deceit Pearls."

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen couldn't help but smile a little, finally a more dignified way to absorb Spirit Evil Qi.

He had thought that every evening while engaging with Bai Qingqing, he would need to face a pile of malevolent entity corpses.

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After listening to Zhao Yu's words, Lu Chen eagerly said, "Show me a Deceit Pearl."

Zhao Yu hesitated not a bit, retrieving from his sleeve a pearl emanating a blue-black Spirit Evil Qi.

The moment the Deceit Pearl was taken out, Lu Chen felt a faint pain all over his body. Even without absorbing it, the Spirit Evil was already harming him. If absorbed into the body, it would probably be even more painful.

Seeing Lu Chen's expression change slightly, Zhao Yu advised, "Heir, typically a Spirit Martial Artist from any realm absorbs the Spirit Evil from a corpse of the same realm. However, some prodigies have high resistance to Spirit Evil; they usually absorb Spirit Evil from corpses of other realms."

Lu Chen thought for a moment and then said, "Let me try."

With that, Lu Chen took the Deceit Pearl from Zhao Yu's hand and began to absorb the Spirit Evil within it. The moment he absorbed a bit, he felt as if his entire body was being stabbed continuously.

The pain was even more intense than when he absorbed the Spirit Evil from the Lantern Deceit's corpse yesterday. If this continued, he doubted he wouldn't faint from the pain.

Thankfully, his Divine Soul was strong; despite the pain, he managed to endure.

Seeing Lu Chen frantically absorbing the Spirit Evil from the Deceit Pearl, Zhao Yu initially wanted to remind Lu Chen to slow down. But seeing the anguish on Lu Chen's face, he dared not interrupt him, lest it caused a backlash from the Spirit Evil.

After a while, Lu Chen calmed the agitated Spirit Evil within his body and ceased absorbing the pearl's Spirit Evil. He looked at Zhao Yu and said, "Provide me with one Spirit Realm's Deceit Pearl per day from now on."

This...

Zhao Yu was stunned for a moment, then quickly said, "Heir, a typical Spirit Realm Spirit Warrior requires several months to absorb one Deceit Pearl. You are now only in the Early Stage of the Human Realm; if you absorb the Spirit Evil too quickly, you might suffer a backlash."

Others take months to absorb one Deceit Pearl, while Lu Chen plans to absorb one a day. Isn't this akin to seeking death?

Lu Chen replied, "Rest assured, Commander Zhao, I know my limits. If my body can't handle it, I'll cease absorbing the Spirit Evil immediately."

Seeing Lu Chen's confidence, Zhao Yu had nothing more to say. He planned to inform Prince Zhen Nan about this and persuade Lu Chen.

Though Zhao Yu was a key figure in Zhen Nan Prince Manor, he wasn't the master. His words naturally held little sway over Lu Chen, but Prince Zhen Nan, being Lu Chen's father, could surely get through to him.

Lu Chen no longer stayed in the dark underground prison. He turned and left the dimly lit cell, and upon returning to the courtyard, a maid rushed up to him, "Heir, there's a Holy Decree for you. The Imperial Eunuch is waiting in the Meeting Hall."

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen hesitated for a moment. A Holy Decree for him?

What is Emperor Zhou decreeing him for?

Lu Chen swiftly headed to the Meeting Hall of Zhen Nan Prince Manor. Upon seeing Lu Chen, the Imperial Eunuch immediately opened the Holy Decree and began reading it.

"By the mandate of heaven, the Emperor commands: Heir of Prince Zhen Nan, Lu Chen, with distinguished identity and commendable aptitude, outstanding talent,

is hereby appointed as Little Flag of the Deceit Suppression Bureau. May you grow rapidly, so as to not disgrace the title of Heir of Zhen Nan Prince Manor."

Upon hearing this decree, everyone in Zhen Nan Prince Manor's faces changed dramatically.

Lu Chen is currently only in the Early Stage of the Human Realm. Letting him enter the Deceit Suppression Bureau is akin to sending him to his death.

Of course, there are many Deceit Suppressing Guards in the bureau who aren't even in the Human Realm. But Lu Chen's identity is unique; he is Prince Zhen Nan's sole offspring. If anything happens to him, Zhen Nan Prince will have no heir.

The Emperor actually asks him to go to such a dangerous place, isn't this effectively ensuring Prince Zhen Nan has no descendants?

At that moment, Zhao Yu emerged from the shadows, his face grim, and released a terrifying aura, causing the hall to be filled with Spirit Evil. The Imperial Eunuch was instantly overwhelmed and pressed to the ground.

"Sir, are you certain this is His Majesty's command?"

"To my knowledge, His Majesty has been residing in the Long Life Hall practicing. Why would he suddenly decree our heir to the Deceit Suppression Bureau?"

"Is it possible someone fabricated this decree to harm our heir?"

Feeling Zhao Yu's aura, the Imperial Eunuch was so frightened he trembled all over, drenched with cold sweat.

The eunuch quickly said, "I indeed took the decree from His Majesty's hand, sir, please discern."

Judging by the eunuch's demeanor, it didn't seem like he was lying, yet Zhao Yu did not retract his aura.

If this decree was truly issued by Emperor Zhou, it implies the Emperor wishes to use this opportunity to test Prince Zhen Nan, to see if Zhen Nan Prince Manor is truly in decline.

If it were during Prince Zhen Nan's peak strength period, Emperor Zhou would never issue such a decree. After all, Lu Chen is Prince Zhen Nan's only offspring. If anything untoward occurred, Prince Zhen Nan would surely upheave the entire Capital City.

However, what Zhao Yu couldn't comprehend is, why is the royal family so impatient, wanting Lu Chen gone so soon?

Prince Zhen Nan isn't dead yet. If something happens to Lu Chen now, Zhen Nan Prince Manor could also aggressively confront the royal family.

If the royal family desires to eliminate Lu Chen, why wait until after Prince Zhen Nan's death before issuing this decree? What urgency drove Emperor Zhou?

Lu Chen glanced at the eunuch lying on the ground and then said to Zhao Yu, "Commander Zhao, that's enough."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Zhao Yu finally withdrew his aura, and Lu Chen stepped forward to collect the decree from the ground.

Zhao Yu promptly said, "Heir, you cannot accept this decree!"

Lu Chen is now in the Human Realm; if he remains in Zhen Nan Prince Manor, coupled with his Obscure Light Pearl, outsiders would struggle to detect his exact realm. But once he enters the Deceit Suppression Bureau, the strong ones there would surely discern Lu Chen's true realm.

By then, the royal family would likely be more intent on eliminating Lu Chen.

Moreover, Emperor Zhou's decree itself was ill-intentioned.

Lu Chen calmly responded, "Does Commander Zhao believe that Zhen Nan Prince Manor presently possesses the strength to refuse a decree?"

Zhao Yu was taken aback.

Now that Prince Zhen Nan is in peril and the morale within Zhen Nan Prince Manor is waning, there truly isn't the courage to defy a decree.

If Prince Zhen Nan were still at his peak, not only would he refuse the decree, but he could even storm into the imperial palace and reproach Emperor Zhou fearlessly.

So what now?

Is Lu Chen truly to be sent to such a dangerous bureau?

Having accepted the decree, Lu Chen told the Imperial Eunuch, "Return and inform His Majesty that I will not disappoint His Expectations and will grow swiftly to uphold the honor of Zhen Nan Prince Manor."

The eunuch hurriedly scrambled up from the ground, his face still showing signs of fright, and said, "Yes, yes, I will certainly convey the heir's message."

With that, the eunuch hastily turned and fled from Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Chapter 2225 - 1915: Chen'er Will Take Up His Post at the Deceit Suppression Bureau in a Few Days

After the Imperial Eunuch left the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, Lu Chen and Zhao Yu immediately went to the bedroom of Prince Zhen Nan.

At this moment, the bedroom was already filled with people, many of whom Lu Chen had never seen before. Using the system, Lu Chen scanned the room and discovered that many of them were Earth Realm Strong Persons.

This surprised Lu Chen a bit. He knew that Zhen Nan Prince Manor had some foundation, but he didn't expect there to be so many Earth Realm Strong Persons, including even those at the Peak of Earth Realm.

At this time, an Earth Realm Strong Person angrily said, "Emperor Zhou is increasingly disregarding Zhen Nan Prince Manor. This clearly shows he wants to eliminate the Zhen Nan Prince Manor."

"Your Highness, you absolutely cannot let the Princely Heir go to the Deceit Suppression Bureau. Even the Deceit Suppressing Guards patrolling in the Capital have life-threatening risks, let alone Emperor Zhou's intention to harm the Princely Heir by sending him to the bureau. How can he possibly stay in the Capital City, at which time he will surely be commanded to go outside the Capital?"

As this Earth Realm Strong Person finished speaking, Zhao Yu immediately agreed, "Yes, Your Highness, moreover the Princely Heir is now at the Early Stage of Human Realm. If his realm is discovered by others, it will be troublesome, and by then, Emperor Zhou will stop at nothing to remove the Princely Heir."

Several Earth Realm Strong Persons then spoke up, advising Prince Zhen Nan not to let Lu Chen take the position at the Deceit Suppression Bureau.

After all, Lu Chen is the only child of Prince Zhen Nan, and given how high the status of Prince Zhen Nan is in Dazhou, his child does not need to prove himself. Moreover, Lu Chen is very likely to become the next Prince Zhen Nan soon, so it's imperative that he stays safe now.

Even if Lu Chen is somewhat useless and just stays at Zhen Nan Prince Manor, as long as he isn't dead, Zhen Nan Prince Manor will still exist. The Earth Realm Strong Persons of Zhen Nan Prince Manor will not leave temporarily and will protect Zhen Nan Prince Manor. However, if Lu Chen dies and the Zhen Nan Prince Manor is extinct, the only option left is for Zhen Nan Prince Manor to dissolve, and the Earth Realm Strong Persons will have no choice but to leave Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

If no one is left at Zhen Nan Prince Manor, and these Earth Realm Strong Persons continue to gather, it's no different from rebellion. It's clear that Emperor Zhou wants to use Lu Chen as a breaking point to completely dismantle Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Listening to the discussions in the room, Prince Zhen Nan remained silent for a long time. He had anticipated this day would come, but didn't expect it would arrive so quickly. Emperor Zhou could no longer wait.

Speaking of which, currently, the entire Dazhou is under the rule of Empress Dowager Pei Shuhua, and Emperor Zhou is focused on cultivation. Why did he suddenly issue a Holy Decree to Zhen Nan Prince Manor?

Even if there was an intention to eliminate Zhen Nan Prince Manor, it should logically be the intention of Empress Dowager Pei Shuhua.

With this thought, Prince Zhen Nan raised his eyebrows. Perhaps this was the Empress Dowager's intention, only using Emperor Zhou's name to issue the Holy Decree, or perhaps the Empress Dowager sent someone to Emperor Zhou, letting him write the Holy Decree.

The current Emperor Zhou is no different from a Puppet Emperor, with no real power.

Thinking this way, it must be the Empress Dowager's doing.

A trace of murderous intent flashed in Prince Zhen Nan's eyes, "This venomous woman!"

Quickly, the murderous intent in Prince Zhen Nan's eyes faded, and he became more despondent. Even knowing who wanted to target Zhen Nan Prince Manor, there was nothing he could do now. Could it be that they were going to defy the Holy Decree and go against the Royal Court at this time?

If they really did so, the Dazhou cavalry would probably storm into Zhen Nan Prince Manor the next day.

Although Zhen Nan Prince Manor still had some strength, it wasn't enough to contend with the Great Zhou Royal Family. Most importantly, the forces wanting to make Zhen Nan Prince Manor disappear were too numerous. Once Zhen Nan Prince Manor defied the Holy Decree, those forces would surely seize the opportunity to attack, then unite to deal with Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Even if Zhen Nan Prince Manor is formidable, it couldn't possibly deal with every force in Dazhou.

After an unknowable time, Prince Zhen Nan finally spoke, "Since it is a Holy Decree from Emperor Zhou, as ministers, we have no choice but to obey. According to Emperor Zhou's command, Chen'er will take the position at the Deceit Suppression Bureau in a few days."

Hearing Prince Zhen Nan's words, the entire room fell silent. They thought nothing would make Prince Zhen Nan agree, as Lu Chen is his only bloodline. If anything happened to Lu Chen, Prince Zhen Nan would truly be left without an heir.

Prince Zhen Nan continued, "However, for Chen'er's safety, I will secretly send three Earth Realm Spirit Martial Artists to protect him."

Upon hearing this, everyone finally reacted. After all, Prince Zhen Nan couldn't possibly rest easy letting Lu Chen travel alone, especially at such times.

Sending three Earth Realm practitioners to protect Lu Chen, unless those ancient monsters in the Royal Family intervene, or the various factions of Dazhou unite, it will be difficult to kill Lu Chen.

Deploying three Earth Realm practitioners at once, if outsiders find out, it will definitely stir the entire Dazhou. Earth Realm practitioners are not so common;

only Zhen Nan Prince Manor and the Royal Family have this many Earth Realm practitioners.

Sometimes the deployment of even one Earth Realm Strong Person would catch the attention of the various factions in Dazhou. Sending three at once will undoubtedly have countless eyes watching.

But Prince Zhen Nan doesn't care at all. For Lu Chen's safety, not just three Earth Realm practitioners, even sending out all of Zhen Nan Prince Manor's Earth Realm practitioners is possible. Lu Chen was already attacked once; if it weren't for the Dragon Qi infusion last time, Lu Chen might have already died.

Although there is still Dragon Qi protecting Lu Chen, no one can guarantee that the Royal Family won't take action themselves, or that the Royal Family won't employ some methods to force Lu Chen out of the Capital City.

Outside the Capital City, the Dragon Qi doesn't provide as good protection.

At this moment, Prince Zhen Nan looked at Lu Chen and said, "Chen'er, you don't need to worry. If anyone dares to harm you, your father will find a way to avenge you before I die, and take down all of Dazhou with me."

Hearing Prince Zhen Nan's words, Lu Chen responded with a faint smile, "Father, rest assured, I will be careful."

At this time, Prince Zhen Nan glanced around at the Earth Realm practitioners in the room, then said, "Fu Li, Lu Xun, from now on, the two of you, along with Zhao Yu, will protect the safety of the Princely Heir."

Fu Li and Lu Xun both excelled in concealment techniques; they could hide around Lu Chen and constantly watch for any danger near him.

Upon hearing Prince Zhen Nan's command, Lu Xun and Fu Li stepped forward and said in unison, "We accept the order!"

Lu Chen then glanced at the two men. Both of them were at the Early Stage of Earth Realm, and although not particularly strong in the Earth Realm, their favorability towards him wasn't low, both scoring above eighty.

In fact, the two didn't have much favorability towards Lu Chen initially. They had considered leaving Zhen Nan Prince Manor after Prince Zhen Nan's death. They originally perceived Lu Chen as a hopeless wastrel, thinking the Zhen Nan Prince Manor was beyond saving.

However, after they discovered Lu Chen had reached the Early Stage of Human Realm within a month, their perspective on Lu Chen changed completely, causing their favorability towards him to increase significantly.

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

The news that Emperor Zhou issued a Holy Decree appointing the Heir of Prince Zhen Nan to a position at the Deceit Suppression Bureau quickly spread throughout the entire Capital city. For a time, all forces became active, well aware that this was a signal from the Royal Family to take action against the Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Lu Chen was the only bloodline of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor. As long as Lu Chen died, the Zhen Nan Prince Manor would collapse. There was no need to directly take action against the Zhen Nan Prince Manor; they only needed to eliminate Lu Chen.

Many forces were hostile to the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, but unfortunately, their strength was inferior, and they dared not openly oppose the Zhen Nan Prince Manor. Now that Lu Chen had been forcibly sent to the Deceit Suppression Bureau by Emperor Zhou, it was a dangerous place. Not to mention that Lu Chen had only recently become a Spirit Martial Artist; even Spirit Realm and Profound Realm Martial Artists could easily lose their lives there.

So it was quite normal if Lu Chen were killed by some sinister evil one day.

Yun'an Princess Mansion.

Ji Yunmeng listened to Xiao Qi's report with furrowed brows. She hadn't expected that her father would issue such a decree, clearly intending to eliminate the only bloodline of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Although as a member of the Royal Family, she, as Princess Junwan, should stand by Emperor Zhou's side, without the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, she would lose a major ally.

However, she also understood that the Zhen Nan Prince Manor was indeed a significant threat to the Royal Family, and it wasn't surprising that her father wished to eliminate it.

After Xiao Qi finished her report, she noticed Ji Yunmeng's unpleasant expression and cautiously asked, "Princess, what should we do next?"

Since Emperor Zhou already issued the decree, and the Zhen Nan Prince Manor has accepted it, Lu Chen was certainly going to serve at the Deceit Suppression Bureau.

Once Lu Chen went to such a perilous place, he probably wouldn't have long to live.

Ji Yunmeng pondered for a moment and then said to Xiao Qi, "Go to the Zhen Nan Prince Manor and take the Evil-slaying Sword to Lu Chen. Tell him that if he needs any help, I will do my utmost to assist."

Hearing this, Xiao Qi hesitated for a moment and then said, "Princess, you mustn't. The Evil-slaying Sword is your personal sword, how can it be given to Master Lu!"

In this realm, Magic Treasures correspond to the martial artist's realm, but such treasures are extremely difficult to forge, and few can possess a Spiritual Weapon matching their realm.

The Evil-slaying Sword owned by Ji Yunmeng was a Mystic Tier Spiritual Weapon with immense destructive power, especially effective against sinister evils, with great suppression abilities.

Of course, Lu Chen's realm was low, unable to fully wield the Evil-slaying Sword, but it could store Ji Yunmeng's spiritual evil. Even if Lu Chen couldn't fully activate it, simply drawing the sword would unleash the stored spiritual evil to slay any sinister evils attacking him, without Lu Chen having to personally act.

Ji Yunmeng reasoned that the Zhen Nan Prince Manor couldn't be destroyed yet; she still needed them. If they scattered, their Earth Realm powerhouses would surely be divided among other forces, and she would gain nothing.

Compared to the princes, as a princess, she had no competitive edge in the eyes of those Earth Realm powerhouses, so she always aimed to win over Lu Chen without attempting to draw in the powerhouses. She believed that winning over future master Lu Chen indirectly meant controlling the Earthly powerhouses of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Xiao Qi reminded, "Princess, if His Majesty finds out you gave the Evil-slaying Sword to Lu Chen, he might be very angry."

Emperor Zhou had just given her a title, and now she stood in opposition to him; if he discovered this, he'd surely rage.

Ji Yunmeng said calmly, "If I can win the entire Zhen Nan Prince Manor over, being reprimanded by my father doesn't matter."

Seeing the Princess so resolved, Xiao Qi said no more, "I'll take the Evil-slaying Sword to Master Lu right away."

With those words, Xiao Qi turned and left, soon carrying a long sword case to the Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

The Zhen Nan Prince Manor was closely watched by spies from various forces. Seeing Ji Yunmeng's maid heading there, they were curious as to why she was sent at this time, especially carrying a sword case?

Though intrigued by the sword's identity, infiltrating the now-closed manor was hard, without drawing attention, given rumors of Lu Chen's keen traitor-detecting ability.

Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Lu Chen was on the Training Ground, battling several sinister evils. Since he was joining the Deceit Suppression Bureau, he needed to have some combat ability.

Before him were several Early Mortal Realm sinister evils, not very strong, chosen by Zhao Yu for training. These sinister evils were of the resentful souls' type, not very lethal but adept at evasion, quite nimble.

This helped to train Lu Chen's reaction time during battles.

At that moment, Lu Xun, observing, remarked, "With us by his side, does Master need to try so hard?"

Fu Li responded, "Why wouldn't you want the Master to become stronger? Having a realm without combat experience is pointless."

Lu Xun conceded, "True enough,"

Just then, a servant approached the Training Ground, informing Lu Chen, who was cutting down resentful souls with his sword, "Master, Miss Xiaoqi from the Yun'an Princess Mansion requests an audience."

Understanding that Ji Yunmeng must have heard of the decree and sent Xiao Qi to express her stance—her worry that the Zhen Nan Prince Manor might consider her an enemy—Lu Chen swung his sword decisively, slicing through three resentful souls, and then told the servant, "Let her in."

A moment later, the servant brought Xiao Qi before Lu Chen. Xiao Qi bowed to him, "Greetings, Master."

Lu Chen acknowledged and asked, "What does the Princess ask of me?"

Noticing the sword case Xiao Qi held, it was clear Ji Yunmeng had sent something again.

Over the past month, Ji Yunmeng frequently sent maids to the Zhen Nan Prince Manor with various gifts.

Xiao Qi presented the sword case, saying, "Master, this is the Spiritual Weapon the Princess asked me to deliver. She wanted me to convey that when you reach the Deceit Suppression Bureau, you should tell her if you need any assistance, and she will do as much as possible."

Unpretentious, Lu Chen stepped forward to accept the sword case, drawing out the sword within. The moment he unsheathed it, a fearsome Sword Qi surged skyward; he hurriedly sheathed it back.

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

Seeing the Sword Qi soaring into the sky, the three Earth Realm experts beside Zhao Yu were stunned.

Zhao Yu exclaimed, "Evil-slaying Sword? Princess Yun'an actually gave such a precious Spirit Sword to the princely heir?"

Lu Xun said from the side, "If I remember correctly, the Evil-slaying Sword is Princess Yun'an's sword, right?"

Generally, even Spirit Martial Artists of the Earth Realm have difficulty obtaining Earth-grade Spirit Weapons. Most Earth Realm experts use Mystic Tier Spirit Weapons, which are very precious.

The Evil-slaying Sword is among the most famous Spirit Swords of the Mystic Tier, partly because it is Ji Yunmeng's sword, and partly because its power is almost close to an Earth-grade Spirit Sword.

Even many Earth Realm experts do not possess a Spirit Weapon as precious as the Evil-slaying Sword, yet Ji Yunmeng handed this Spirit Weapon to Lu Chen without blinking an eye.

At this moment, Fu Li, smiling, said, "Do you think it's possible that Princess Yun'an has intentions toward our princely heir?"

Ji Yunmeng, after all, belongs to the royal family. She must know that Emperor Zhou intends for the Zhen Nan Prince Manor to disappear completely, yet at this time, she resolutely handed such a precious Spirit Weapon to Lu Chen.

Considering that over the past month, Ji Yunmeng has repeatedly sent gifts to the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, it indeed looks like she has feelings for Lu Chen.

Hearing Fu Li's words, Lu Chen said expressionlessly, "Uncle Fu, you're overthinking it. What she values is the entire Zhen Nan Prince Manor, not me personally."

Common people may not know Ji Yunmeng's deep-seated ambitions. After all, Dazhou has never had a female emperor, though there have been many instances where the Empress Dowager has taken power, such as the current situation with Pei Shuhua.

But even when the Empress Dowager holds power, there are significant obstacles. If not for the strength of the Pei Family, Pei Shuhua wouldn't have been able to assume control.

For Princess Ji Yunmeng to ascend to that position is exceedingly difficult. Although she is of the royal Zhou lineage, she is a woman, so most people never considered that she would befriend the Zhen Nan Prince Manor merely to attract Lu Chen.

After all, as a princess, she can't become Emperor. Befriending an Alien King for no reason is hardly sensible; it's likely she's interested in Lu Chen as a person.

Of course, this is what most people think. However, Lu Chen knows Ji Yunmeng's detailed plans, so he understands very well what Ji Yunmeng desires.

What Ji Yunmeng is doing is simply to gain favorability points with him, to exchange for the Zhen Nan Prince Manor's support.

So, the more critical the Zhen Nan Prince Manor's situation becomes, the more Ji Yunmeng will proactively offer help—a kindness in adversity that the Zhen Nan Prince Manor cannot ignore.

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Lu Xun said, "You mean Princess Yun'an wants to ally with the Zhen Nan Prince Manor?"

"What business does she have allying with the Zhen Nan Prince Manor? I find it unlikely. I agree with Fu Li; perhaps it was due to being captivated by the princely heir's heroic presence when she saved him last time, which is why she keeps sending things this month."

In the eyes of Fu Li and the three Earth Realm experts, Lu Chen seemed oblivious to the situation, not understanding the intentions of others. When the Zhen Nan Prince Manor is troubled, it means standing with him to face the possible crisis together.

This clearly signifies affection, yet their princely heir believes she merely seeks the Zhen Nan Prince Manor's support.

Ji Yunmeng is, after all, the royal family's Princess Junwan. She must be aware of the royal family's stance towards the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, which has lost the qualification to be allied with. Now, many forces that were once close to the Zhen Nan Prince Manor keep their distance, fearing repercussions when the Zhou imperial family moves against the Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Who would ally with an Alien King destined to be eliminated?

From Fu Li's perspective, Ji Yunmeng harbors genuine love for Lu Chen, her intentions pure.

Lu Chen is tired of explaining; they don't understand Ji Yunmeng's ambitions and thus can't comprehend why she stands with the Zhen Nan Prince Manor in these times.

Clearly, Ji Yunmeng knows the Zhen Nan Prince Manor is advantageous to her ambitions. To ascend that position, she must secure the Zhen Nan Prince Manor and obtain its support.

Zhao Yu continued, "With the Evil-slaying Sword, the princely heir can easily slay Peak of Human Realm wicked spiritual evils without acting personally."

When the sword was drawn, it released a large quantity of spiritual evil energies, clearly indicating Ji Yunmeng has left her power within the sword. If Lu Chen encounters danger, he merely needs to draw the sword without acting himself.

Zhao Yu and the others couldn't help but think, it does seem Princess Yun'an deeply loves their princely heir, having considered such things.

Lu Chen ignored Zhao Yu's remarks and looked at Xiao Qi, "Miss Xiao Qi, please convey my thanks to the Princess, for I will accept this Evil-slaying Sword."

A gift from one's future wife shouldn't be refused. To be honest, while Mystic Tier Spirit Weapons are valuable, the Zhen Nan Prince Manor doesn't lack them. They could even produce Earth-grade Spirit Weapons if desired.

Being the sole heir of the Zhen Nan Prince, the Earth-grade sword of the Prince is naturally his.

But with his current skill, not only the Earth-grade sword, but this Mystic Tier Evil-slaying Sword couldn't be fully wielded. There's truly no need for such exquisite Spirit Weapons.

Hearing Lu Chen, Xiao Qi said, "Alright, Princely Heir, this maid will convey your message to the Princess."

"Then this maid shall take her leave now."

With that, Xiao Qi bowed deeply to Lu Chen once more, and then turned to leave the Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

After Xiao Qi left, Zhao Yu and the three Earth Realm experts continued to observe the Evil-slaying Sword in Lu Chen's hand.

With a smile, Fu Li said, "If Emperor Zhou knew that he just bestowed the title of princess and she gave her sword to someone he wants dead, what would he think?"

Lu Xun said, "By giving the princely heir her sword, Princess Yun'an may face severe punishment. His Highness should not disappoint such a devoted lady."

Lu Chen was speechless, these people genuinely thought Ji Yunmeng had sincere feelings for him.

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The news of Ji Yunmeng giving her sword to Lu Chen quickly spread throughout the Capital City. After all, it was the Evil-slaying Sword, and spies from various factions saw Xiao Qi enter the Zhen Nan Prince Manor with the sword case. Coupled with the Sword Qi from the manor, it was easy to deduce that Ji Yunmeng had given the Evil-slaying Sword to Lu Chen.

This news erupted across the Capital City, creating a sensational uproar. After all, Ji Yunmeng is the Princess Junwan, the first to be granted such a title by Emperor Zhou. Doesn't she know that Emperor Zhou plans to take action against the Zhen

Nan Prince Manor? How could she still present her sword to the princely heir at this time?