

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

Chapter 2251 - 1941: This Humble Official Lacks the Ability, and Fears He Cannot Shoulder This Great Responsibility

He Dongqi stared at the memorial on the desk for a long time. After a while, he had a sudden flash of inspiration and thought of a brilliant way to extricate himself.

He finally understood why an Earth Realm Wolf Demon was able to injure Fan Yaodong.

If Fan Yaodong could use his injury to extricate himself, why couldn't he do the same?

Now, as long as he could find this Wolf Demon and, like Fan Yaodong, be severely injured by it, he should be able to smoothly relinquish this position.

Thinking about this, He Dongqi sighed. He had held this position for only a few days and he was still somewhat reluctant to give it up, but there was no choice. For his own life and for his family, this position had to be relinquished.

As long as he remained alive, as an Earth Realm Strong Person, he could hold a certain status in any faction, though he wouldn't hold as much power.

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Late night, the Imperial Palace.

The cold moonlight shone onto the window, illuminating the dignified and delicate face of Pei Shuhua standing by the window, looking out at the night.

At this moment, a middle-aged man entered the Imperial Study Room.

Upon entering, the man immediately bowed to Pei Shuhua by the window and said, "My humble self pays respects to the Empress Dowager!"

Upon hearing the man's voice, Pei Shuhua slowly turned and glanced at Xiong Qingcang with her beautiful eyes before indifferently saying, "Raise."

Xiong Qingcang was somewhat puzzled at this moment; why would the Empress Dowager seek him out at such an hour?

If the Empress Dowager needed anything from the Deceit Suppression Bureau, it should be He Dongqi she looks for, being the Commander; he was merely a Director of a subordinate department and in theory had no qualifications to directly converse with the Empress Dowager.

At this moment, Pei Shuhua asked, "Director Xiong, have you broken through to the Earth Realm earlier than your Commander?"

Upon hearing this, Xiong Qingcang hesitated, then quickly replied, "In response to Her Majesty, my humble self did break through earlier than Lord He."

By now, Xiong Qingcang gradually understood why the Empress Dowager sought him out; mentioning He Dongqi at this time clearly indicated that the Empress Dowager wished to replace the Commander and promote him.

Thinking of the Commander's position, Xiong Qingcang's heart began to pound. The Evil Suppression Bureau is the most powerful department within the Deceit Suppression Bureau, and those who have tasted power always crave more.

He Dongqi felt this way, and so did Xiong Qingcang.

However, the Deceit Suppression Bureau's Commander is not an easy position to hold; Earth Realm Strong Persons can live thousands of years, possess myriad ways to protect themselves, and are hard to be killed by evil entities. If not for Fan Yaodong voluntarily stepping down this time, it would have been impossible for this position to go to He Dongqi for hundreds of years.

Pei Shuhua continued to ask, "I wonder if Director Xiong is interested in the position of Commander of the Deceit Suppression Bureau?"

Seeing Pei Shuhua indeed wanted him to assume the problematic role of the Deceit Suppression Bureau's Commander, Xiong Qingcang felt even more excited. It's a position rich in power and benefits, and should he take the role, various factions would surely try to court him.

However, Xiong Qingcang quickly calmed down. While the Empress Dowager indeed had the authority to replace the Commander, removing a Commander without significant fault isn't beneficial. The colleagues within the Deceit Suppression Bureau wouldn't recognize him.

This Commander, pushed up by Fan Yaodong, didn't gain much recognition; he believed He Dongqi lacked ability. If the Empress Dowager forcibly made him the Commander, his colleagues would surely not recognize him, believing him to be merely the Empress Dowager's puppet.

If the colleagues in the Bureau didn't recognize him as Commander, conducting any work in the future would be nearly impossible. The position, although powerful, is also greatly constrained internally.

Of course, should he gain the colleagues' recognition, executing his tasks would be easy; however, without such recognition, he would be a one-man band, and few would heed his orders.

If no one followed his orders, eventually leading to a worsening evil entity situation in Dazhou, it wouldn't be long before he would be removed from the position.

Xiong Qingcang then said, "Your Majesty, my humble self indeed has thoughts about such a position; within the Deceit Suppression Bureau, there's no Earth Realm Spirit Warrior who wouldn't want to be Commander. However, the Bureau is a place that values ability; not just anyone qualifies to be Commander. Without ability, even as Commander, one cannot lead, nor effectively manage the entire Bureau. Lord He has just assumed the role; his abilities have yet to manifest. Forcing a change now seems unfavorable."

Upon hearing Xiong Qingcang's concerns, Pei Shuhua indifferently replied, "He Dongqi may soon voluntarily submit his resignation."

Xiong Qingcang was instantly stunned.

He Dongqi voluntarily resigning?

How could that be possible?

Could it be the Empress Dowager threatened him?

He Dongqi dreamt of achieving that position, and now that he finally became the Commander, it seems impossible to relinquish it so easily.

Xiong Qingcang thought about earlier when Pei Shuhua summoned He Dongqi to the palace and couldn't help but suspect whether the Empress Dowager said something that forced He Dongqi to resign.

Hold on...

Xiong Qingcang's brain quickly realized that the Empress Dowager didn't force a resignation right after He Dongqi took office; she must have wanted He Dongqi to handle something, but He Dongqi refused, thus leading to his resignation.

Whatever task He Dongqi refused to accept must be exceedingly significant.

A possibility instantly flashed in Xiong Qingcang's mind.

Earth Realm Strong Persons have lived for centuries, and many are quite shrewd. Xiong Qingcang immediately guessed that the Empress Dowager wished to act against Lu Chen, thus seeking the Bureau to shoulder the blame, which He Dongqi didn't want.

Considering this possibility, Xiong Qingcang quickly said, "Your Majesty, my humble self lacks the capability, and such an enormous responsibility may exceed my competencies."

Upon seeing Xiong Qingcang's sudden unwillingness, Pei Shuhua's complexion turned cold as she sternly asked, "Director Xiong, are you certain about passing up this rare opportunity?"

Upon hearing Pei Shuhua's words, Xiong Qingcang's back broke out in cold sweat; what rare opportunity? Such a grave responsibility, and should he bear it, not much time would pass before family ruin and personal demise followed.

Before the dissolution of Zhen Nan Prince Manor, dealing with them by the Deceit Suppression Bureau would be problematic. Although refusing the Empress Dowager now means another opportunity in the future might be difficult, he's already the Director of the Evil Suppression Bureau, holding substantial power within the Bureau as second only to the Commander.

There's no need to risk his life for that position.

Xiong Qingcang continued, "Your Majesty, if Lord He were to resign, I propose reinstating Lord Fan to the Deceit Suppression Bureau. Currently, the Wolf Demon matter remains unresolved; the massacre events near the Capital city are significant. Should the Commander change frequently at this time, effectively fulfilling the Bureau's duties of suppressing evil entities nationwide would be challenging."

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Currently, the matter of the wolf demon and the evil spirits near the capital city slaughtering villages has not yet been resolved, coupled with the increasingly strange evil spirits in Dazhou. If the Deceit Suppression Bureau falls into chaos at this time, I'm afraid it won't be long before the Qi Fortune of Dazhou drastically declines. Therefore, Xiong Qingcang wants Fan Yaodong to return to the Deceit Suppression Bureau.

The Deceit Suppression Bureau's development to its current scale owes much to Fan Yaodong. If he can return to the bureau, even if he doesn't take action himself, he can quickly stabilize the situation.

As for the Empress Dowager wanting to blame the Deceit Suppression Bureau, that's out of the question. Nowadays, anyone with a bit of intelligence can figure out why Fan Yaodong suddenly put down the position of Commander of the Deceit Suppression Bureau and left. It's obvious he doesn't want to take the blame.

Xiong Qingcang voluntarily suggested in front of Pei Shuhua to let Fan Yaodong return, indirectly expressing his unwillingness to take the blame and reminding Pei Shuhua that since the evil spirits are becoming increasingly rampant, the Deceit Suppression Bureau cannot fall into disorder.

After hearing Xiong Qingcang's words, Pei Shuhua coldly said, "Since Director Xiong has no intentions for this position, please leave. Whether or not to let Fan Yaodong return is not something you should worry about."

Xiong Qingcang then saluted and said, "I take my leave!"

As he finished speaking, Xiong Qingcang turned and left the Imperial Study Room. Upon seeing Xiong Qingcang's departing figure, the Black Evil around Pei Shuhua suddenly burst forth, rampaging throughout the Imperial Study Room.

She discerned that everyone in the Deceit Suppression Bureau was a bunch of cowards afraid of death, and probably none of them were willing to take the blame.

If the Deceit Suppression Bureau is unwilling to cooperate, that would be troublesome.

She couldn't personally order Lu Chen to be assigned tasks, could she?

Initially placing Lu Chen in the Deceit Suppression Bureau had already exposed her intention to move against the Zhen Nan Prince Manor. If she personally ordered assignments for Lu Chen, the Zhen Nan Prince Manor would certainly blame her immediately.

But speaking of which, since she had already sent Lu Chen to the Deceit Suppression Bureau, the Zhen Nan Prince Manor was already on opposing sides with her, and now the Zhen Nan Prince Manor had allied with Emperor Zhou.

At this point, using more aggressive means seemed to be acceptable, anyway, the strong ones of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor understood she was the mastermind behind the scenes.

Since the Deceit Suppression Bureau refuses to cooperate, then there must be ways to force them.

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Several days later, news spread from the Deceit Suppression Bureau that the new Commander, He Dongqi, was severely injured by the wolf demon and bedridden, and voluntarily submitted his resignation.

Initially, Fan Yaodong's resignation drew some people's attention, but it wasn't widely discussed. But now, such an important department as the Deceit Suppression Bureau had two Commanders severely injured by the wolf demon in succession, this couldn't help but provoke ordinary people into feeling anxious and scared.

What terrifying power does that wolf demon, who entered the capital city, possess to severely injure two Commanders of the Deceit Suppression Bureau at once? If even the Commanders couldn't match the wolf demon, what could ordinary people do but face slaughter by that wolf demon?

This time, that wolf demon brought great panic to the capital city's residents, causing many small families to consider leaving the capital city.

Even some officials in the capital city began to worry. Most officials could guess why Fan Yaodong and He Dongqi were severely injured by the wolf demon, suspecting if they were avoiding taking the blame by escaping this way.

But they could only suspect, what if those two were indeed severely injured by the wolf demon? After all, it's an Earth Realm wolf demon, and not every official's household has Earth Realm strong ones for protection.

Perhaps one night, the wolf demon might come to their homes and massacre their entire families.

For a while, officials at the court were writing petitions one after another, requesting the mobilization of the army to assist the Deceit Suppression Bureau in slaying the wolf demon.

Under normal circumstances, the army isn't allowed to enter the city because there's no telling when the army might rush into the Imperial Palace for a coup d'état.

However, the wolf demon's incident caused too much commotion, making everyone uneasy and, most importantly, two Commanders of the Deceit Suppression Bureau have already been severely injured. Many people in the capital city have lost confidence in the Deceit Suppression Bureau's ability to handle the wolf demon.

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Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Lu Chen sat in a pavilion in the outer courtyard, listening to a conversation between some Deceit Suppressing Guards from the Deceit Suppression Bureau, and couldn't help but want to laugh.

He hadn't expected the position of Commander of the Deceit Suppression Bureau to become something nobody wanted.

This was when Lu Chen spoke up and asked, "I heard that Director Xiong of the Deceit Suppression Bureau is also an Earth Realm. Why not let him assume the position of Commander?"

One Deceit Suppressing Guard was sorting through some files while saying, "Director Xiong says he lacks the capability, and instead asked Commander Fan to return to the Deceit Suppression Bureau to take control of the situation."

Lu Chen said, "Since nobody wants to be this Commander now, why not give this Commander's position to someone from the Royal Family?"

Hearing Lu Chen's words, the eyes of the Deceit Suppressing Guards sorting through files suddenly lit up. Yes, they could temporarily assign the position of Commander to someone from the Royal Family.

This way, any royal attempts to take down Lu Chen and shift the blame could be thwarted.

The Deceit Suppressing Guards assisting Lu Chen with sorting the files were quite familiar with the affairs of the Deceit Suppression Bureau and aware of the

current court situation. Hence, they saw a great feasibility in Lu Chen's suggestion.

Moreover, there indeed was a royal family member suitable to assume the role of Commander. Although her current power wasn't that impressive, what the Deceit Suppression Bureau needed most now was not powerhouses but someone who could stabilize the situation.

This was when one Deceit Suppressing Guard reminded Lu Chen, "Master Lu, aren't you afraid that after becoming the Commander, this royal family member will assign you to dangerous tasks?"

Lu Chen nonchalantly replied, "Why would the Zhen Nan Prince Manor be worried about such schemes."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, the Deceit Suppressing Guards instinctively glanced at Zhao Yu and the two others not far away, thinking to themselves, indeed, with three Earth Realm powerhouses as protection, killing him wouldn't be easy.

At this point, one Deceit Suppressing Guard, holding a pile of files, said, "Master Lu, these files need to be sent to the Deceit Suppression Bureau. I'll return to the bureau first."

Lu Chen said, "Okay."

The Deceit Suppressing Guard then left the outer courtyard with the files in hand.

After the Deceit Suppressing Guard left, Lu Chen looked at a file in hand and asked, "Has there been a lot of these evil spirit village massacres happening recently?"

The files Lu Chen was sorting through were collected from various places, and while browsing, he discovered many records of evil spirits slaughtering villages. The most important thing was, at no place did the Deceit Suppression Bureau identify what kind of evil spirits they were, only that the culprits would excavate hearts.

One Deceit Suppressing Guard said, "These past few days, the officials in the Deceit Suppression Bureau have been troubled by this, with the wolf demon issue unresolved, and recently, another evil spirits village massacre case occurred near the capital city."

Hearing this, Lu Chen pondered for a moment, then continued flipping through the files, without dwelling too much on it.

He's perusing these files to understand the strange evil spirits of this world. He was curious if there were other similarities between the eerie of this world and the Deceit Realm.

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Deceit Suppression Bureau.

The atmosphere in the Deceit Suppression Bureau today was exceptionally heavy. The high-ranking officials gathered in the meeting hall, each displaying a serious expression, not saying a word.

The Empress Dowager had already set her sights on the Deceit Suppression Bureau, determined to make them take the blame for Lu Chen's death. No matter how they refused, the Empress Dowager would likely find a reason to have Lu Chen dispatched abroad by the Bureau eventually.

At this time, whoever becomes the Commander of the Deceit Suppression Bureau, once something happens to Lu Chen, they would be the first to be targeted for revenge by the Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

At this moment, all the high-ranking officials in the Bureau looked towards the Commander's seat at the top, the eagerness in their eyes from the past now absent.

After a long pause, Zou Yi, the Director of the Night Patrol Office, spoke up, "I think Director Xiong's proposal is a good one. At this time, we should let Lord Fan return to the Bureau to take charge of the overall situation."

"What the Bureau needs now is not a strong person, but someone who can stabilize the morale of the people in the Bureau."

As long as they were smart, everyone in the Deceit Suppression Bureau understood that they had been drawn into the court struggle, and the Empress Dowager wanted the entire Bureau to take the blame for the Royal Family.

This caused many of the Deceit Suppressing Guards to consider leaving the Bureau. If something really happened to Lu Chen in the Bureau, it would surely be destroyed by the strong individuals from the Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

The strong individuals in the Prince's Mansion had no way to deal with the Royal Family, given that the Royal Family had several Earth Realm Strong Persons as well, but they could easily flatten the entire Bureau.

After hearing Zou Yi's words, Lu Yu spoke up, "But Lord Fan is currently bedridden, and he probably doesn't want to return to serve as the Commander."

They all understood that Fan Yaodong was pretending to be sick to avoid taking the blame. Having finally resigned from that position, how could he agree to return to the Bureau?

After Lu Yu finished speaking, everyone fell into deep thought once again. If this continued, the morale in the Bureau would become even more unstable.

At this moment, a Commander from the Deceit Suppressing Guards entered the meeting hall, this Commander was the undercover agent arranged by the Bureau to protect Lu Chen.

Although Lu Chen was now at the Prince's Mansion, he was still nominally a person from the Bureau. For his safety, the Bureau had to make a gesture, hence they sent a Commander to pretend to be a Deceit Suppressing Guard beside Lu Chen.

Upon entering the meeting hall, Zeng Shuo saluted the high-ranking officials of the Bureau, "Greetings to all the lords."

After speaking, he stepped aside.

Seeing Zeng Shuo had returned, Lu Yu immediately asked, "Zeng Shuo, if there's nothing important, stay with Master Lu all the time; there's no need to return. If there's an important task from the Bureau, we will send someone to inform you."

Hearing Lu Yu's words, Zeng Shuo replied, "Yes, sir."

After addressing Zeng Shuo's matters, Lu Yu continued, "We'll go to Lord Fan's residence later to see and ask about his intentions, to see if he's willing to come back and oversee."

After all, the Deceit Suppression Bureau was developed and expanded under Fan Yaodong's leadership, and he probably wouldn't want to see it decline.

Hearing Lu Yu's words, Zeng Shuo understood they were discussing who would become the Commander of the Bureau. He wanted to suggest letting a Royal Family member take the position, but as a Commander, it was not his place to speak in such situations.

Zeng Shuo planned to mention this to Lu Yu privately after the meeting concluded.

At this moment, Xiong Qingcang proactively spoke, "If Lord Fan does not wish to return to the Bureau to take charge, who should we select as this Commander?"

"Anyway, I am not capable enough."

Xiong Qingcang was deeply afraid that he would be chosen as the Commander in the end, as he didn't want to take the blame.

Seeing that Xiong Qingcang had brought it up, the high-ranking officials present glanced at each other, and their gazes turned towards Director Wu Feng of the Investigation Bureau. Wu Feng quickly said, "Don't look at me. I only track strange and evil things and lack the strength or ability to manage the Bureau effectively."

Saying that, Wu Feng looked at Lu Yu and then said, "Director Lu is in charge of the Secret Storage Bureau. He not only understands strange and evil things but also has extensive experience in dealing with them. Having Director Lu assume the position of Commander would be a good choice."

Lu Yu looked speechlessly at Wu Feng, quickly saying, "I haven't directly dealt with strange and evil things much, nor do I have much experience in eradicating them. Director Wu, please don't make such claims."

"But Director Wu frequently goes out to track strange and evil things. If anyone is familiar with them, it's certainly Director Wu."

Seeing everyone shirk the responsibility, Dong Zhenghong, Director of the Criminal Law Department, spoke up, "Alright, everyone stop pushing the responsibility around. We all know the current situation of the Bureau; no one would willingly take the position of Commander."

At this time, Xiong Qingcang said, "Someone has to step up and take charge of the situation, right?"

Saying this, Xiong Qingcang looked at the other people in the meeting hall and then said, "Don't just stand there, come up with ideas if you have any suggestions."

None of the directors present would voluntarily step up to be the Commander. If Fan Yaodong were unwilling to return, they wouldn't know what to do.

Honestly, even without a Commander, the Bureau could still function, albeit with scattered morale, which would cause the strange and evil things in Dazhou to become increasingly rampant.

Of course, for these high-ranking officials, their biggest worry was that the Empress Dowager might suddenly appoint someone as Commander, so someone had to step up first. Otherwise, any of them could suddenly be taken out to bear the blame.

At this point, Zeng Shuo stood up and said, "My lords, I have a suggestion; I'm not sure if it would be feasible."

Upon hearing Zeng Shuo's words, Lu Yu asked directly, "What suggestion? Let's hear it."

Zeng Shuo said, "How about letting a member of the Royal Family serve as the Commander of the Bureau?"

Hearing this, everyone present was momentarily stunned.

Having a Royal Family member serve as the Bureau's Commander? Wouldn't that mean the Bureau would be managed by the Royal Family in the future?

In that case, there would be no talk of the Bureau's independence, as it would likely be constrained by the Royal Family in everything.

The Deceit Suppression Bureau held significant power, so no matter who was in the Bureau, they would not want to cede their power.

However, at this moment, Lu Yu suddenly thought of something and said, "Yes, why didn't we think of this method? If a Royal Family member becomes the Commander, the Royal Family won't be able to extricate themselves if something happens in the Bureau."

Although giving the position of Commander to someone from the Royal Family could potentially result in the Bureau losing some autonomy, after so many years of development, the Bureau's internal structure was already solid. Despite some overt and covert struggles and a desire for more power, there was a consensus not to allow the court's various forces and the Royal Family to interfere with the Bureau.

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

As Lu Yu finished speaking, Xiong Qingcang said: "If a member of the Royal Family were to become the Commander of the Deceit Suppression Bureau, it might compromise the bureau's independence."

The Deceit Suppression Bureau holds excessive power, and losing its independence could easily turn it into a tool for the court's political struggles. At that point, the bureau might be unable to fulfill its duties properly.

Lu Yu said: "At this stage, why worry about such things? Ever since Princess Yun'an began interacting with the bureau, the Royal Family has been poised to intervene in its affairs."

When Ji Yunmeng first mentioned wanting to train at the bureau, it raised the alert of some members, as this was the first time a Royal Family member had come to the bureau. However, considering Ji Yunmeng was just a princess, most people didn't pay much attention.

But in hindsight, perhaps Ji Yunmeng's presence at the bureau was a deliberate move by the Royal Family, more accurately Emperor Zhou's idea. Emperor Zhou,

trapped in the Imperial Palace and isolated, naturally seeks stronger allies to overturn the situation.

Lu Yu sighed and continued: "The political battles in the court are becoming increasingly fierce. A place like the Deceit Suppression Bureau, full of powerful figures, will inevitably draw attention. It's unlikely the bureau can remain uninvolved."

The Empress Dowager has already started pressuring the bureau. If they continue neglecting their duties, and no one wants to take command, the Empress Dowager might appoint someone from outside or force someone to take the fall.

Wu Feng then said: "Director Lu is right. Ever since Princess Yun'an started engaging with the bureau, maintaining its independence has become challenging."

Everyone knows Ji Yunmeng is Emperor Zhou's most beloved daughter, and she's the only princess currently granted a title by him. If the Empress Dowager's faction believes she wasn't sent by Emperor Zhou, it's unlikely they would believe it.

Now that even Emperor Zhou has reached into the bureau, the Empress Dowager will surely make her moves, seeking to insert her people into the bureau as well.

Or perhaps she aims to prevent Emperor Zhou's control over the bureau.

Thus, the bureau's higher-ups suspect the Empress Dowager might intentionally try to make them take the blame, just to shake things up.

At this moment, Zou Yi asked: "If a member of the Royal Family were to become Commander, who would be the best candidate?"

Upon hearing this, everyone fell into deep thought. Apart from Ji Yunmeng, other Royal Family members seemingly have no understanding of the bureau's operations. Randomly appointing someone unfamiliar with its workings as Commander might lead to chaos.

At this, Lu Yu said: "Perhaps Princess Yun'an should be appointed as Commander, as she has a good understanding of the bureau."

Upon hearing this, all directors furrowed their brows. Xiong Qingcang spoke up: "Director Lu, do you know what this implies?"

"If Princess Yun'an becomes the Commander, it means we are siding with Your Majesty, and we will face more severe pressures."

The Empress Dowager already sent Lu Chen, a hot potato, to the bureau as a way to shake them up. If Princess Yun'an also becomes Commander, the Empress Dowager's faction may target the bureau even more aggressively.

Given the current situation, standing either with the Empress Dowager or with Emperor Zhou does not promise a good outcome. Therefore, it seems best to choose a Royal Family member not connected to any factions to assume the Commander role.

Upon hearing Xiong Qingcang's words, Lu Yu retorted: "Does Director Xiong believe that simply switching to a Royal Family member without ties to either side will prevent the Empress Dowager from suppressing the bureau?"

Lu Yu continued: "She'll do it regardless. Since the Empress Dowager already wants the bureau to take the fall, she won't easily give up, and someone must take the blame, especially regarding Zhen Nan Prince Manor."

The First Generation Prince Zhen Nan was a great hero of Dazhou, so unless the Zhen Nan Prince Manor openly rebelled, the Great Zhou Royal Family wouldn't openly act against them. If acting in secret, a scapegoat is needed nonetheless.

The bureau is an ideal place for this. If Lu Chen is killed by spiritual evil, then the fall of Zhen Nan Prince Manor would have nothing to do with the Great Zhou Royal Family.

Lu Yu then said: "Princess Yun'an sides with Zhen Nan Prince Manor, so if she becomes the unfortunate Commander, at least Zhen Nan Prince Manor will feel the bureau is supporting them. In this way, even if Master Lu really encounters an

incident at the bureau, it could mitigate the anger of Zhen Nan Prince Manor's powerful figures."

Listening to Lu Yu's reasoning, the group felt that indeed appointing Ji Yunmeng as Commander seemed appropriate.

The most crucial aspect is that Ji Yunmeng is already well-acquainted with the bureau; appointing her would minimize potential mismanagement.

After a moment's thought, Zou Yi spoke up: "Well, in that case, let us invite Princess Yun'an to the bureau to take on the role of Commander."

Xiong Qingcang then said: "Even if we agree, I'm afraid the Empress Dowager won't approve."

Ji Yunmeng, being Emperor Zhou's daughter, would hardly be allowed by Pei Shuhua to control the bureau. The Empress Dowager will definitely try to stop it.

However, Lu Yu then said: "Not necessarily. The Empress Dowager might actually be pleased to see Princess Yun'an become the Commander of the bureau."

Xiong Qingcang asked: "Why is that?"

Lu Yu directly replied: "If Master Lu encounters any issues at the bureau, it would be Princess Yun'an's responsibility. And Princess Yun'an is Emperor Zhou's favorite daughter. You understand why?"

Upon hearing Lu Yu's words, the group suddenly realized that if Lu Chen were to encounter trouble, it would essentially shift the blame to Emperor Zhou. Thus, the Empress Dowager's faction could seize this opportunity to further suppress the Imperial Faction.

After some discussion, the group proceeded together to the Fan Mansion to probe Fan Yaodong's attitude and see if he was willing to return to the bureau to take charge.

The result was as they expected, Fan Yaodong had no intention of returning to the bureau.

They then proceeded to Yun'an Princess Mansion.

Princess Mansion.

Ji Yunmeng sat in a garden full of green plants and flowers, with a pearl, emitting purple spiritual evil, floating before her. The purple Deceit Pearl's spiritual evil was continuously entering Ji Yunmeng's body.

Just then, a maid entered the garden, "Princess, several directors from the Deceit Suppression Bureau wish to see you."

Upon hearing this, Ji Yunmeng raised her hand, and the Deceit Pearl instantly flew into her palm. Without saying anything, Ji Yunmeng walked toward the front hall.

Upon reaching the front hall, Lu Yu and the others saw Ji Yunmeng and quickly bowed together, saying: "We pay respects to Her Highness the Princess!"

Ji Yunmeng said: "There's no need for such formalities, gentlemen."

"May I ask why you have come seeking me at this hour?"

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After Ji Yunmeng finished speaking, Lu Yu immediately responded, "Princess, do you know about the current situation of the Deceit Suppression Bureau?"

Upon hearing Lu Yu's question, Ji Yunmeng calmly glanced at everyone. She was indeed aware of the Bureau's situation, but since these people were all high-ranking officials from the Bureau, and they had come together to see her, they were certainly here with a request.

Ji Yunmeng then said, "I do know a little."

"I've heard that recently the Bureau has been unstable, and the Deceit Suppressing Guards who go out to suppress bizarre evil spirits have also been frequently unsuccessful."

Lu Yu sighed and said, "This is because there is currently no one in the Commander's position in the Bureau, and without someone to control the situation, it leads to instability."

Upon mentioning the Commander's position of the Bureau, Ji Yunmeng immediately understood the purpose of their visit. If one person came, it might be about a small matter, but with several chiefs present, and the mention of the Commander's position, it was clear that they wanted her, the princess, to take on the role of Commander.

Ji Yunmeng directly asked, "Do you want me to take on the role of Commander for the Deceit Suppression Bureau?"

Seeing Ji Yunmeng ask the question directly, Lu Yu did not conceal it and immediately said, "You are familiar with the Bureau and are a member of the Royal Family, making you the most suitable choice to serve as Commander. If you take charge of the Bureau, I'm sure it will stabilize quickly."

Realizing that they did want her to become the Commander of the Bureau, Ji Yunmeng fell into deep thought, considering the pros and cons.

If she became the Commander, she would have control over another source of power. She had been in contact with the Bureau partly to gain experience and partly to take control of this independent force, to prepare for her future plans.

Unexpectedly, such a good opportunity had presented itself, and controlling the Bureau at this time had a significant advantage.

The Empress Dowager had always wanted Lu Chen to have an accident in the Bureau. If she controlled it, she could thwart the Empress Dowager's scheme, ensuring Lu Chen's safety even if he came to the Bureau.

With the Bureau's power, she would be able to better control the Zhen Nan Prince Manor's power. Her father had already decreed her marriage, and if nothing went wrong, she would soon marry Lu Chen. With the Bureau's power, her voice would be stronger when she joined the Prince Manor.

However, when she thought about marrying Lu Chen, Ji Yunmeng's brows couldn't help but knit slightly.

She was shocked when she heard about the arranged marriage, never expecting the Prince Zhen Nan to drag his crippled body to the palace to request a Holy Decree, and more so, that her father agreed.

Even if she didn't want to marry the rumored dandy Lu Chen for her plans, she could bear it. After all, she was a princess, not an ordinary person. Even if she married into the Prince Manor, she could still have her own Princess Mansion and did not have to stay there permanently. Regarding marital obligations, as long as she was unwilling, Lu Chen couldn't force her.

Of course, Ji Yunmeng knew that if she didn't contribute anything, she might be able to stabilize Lu Chen but not the old folks at the Prince Manor.

Those Earth Realm strong persons, each having lived hundreds or even thousands of years, were seasoned people. If she, a princess, married into the Prince Manor but never shared a room with Lu Chen, nor had a child with him, she couldn't hope to control the Manor's power.

To rightfully control the Manor, she had to have a child with Lu Chen. For her ambition and the Manor's power, sacrificing a bit of her physical self would be worth it.

Seeing Ji Yunmeng remain silent, Lu Yu also refrained from speaking, and everyone looked at Ji Yunmeng, waiting for her answer.

After a while, Ji Yunmeng came back to her senses, glanced at everyone, and asked, "Even if I wanted to be the Commander, I'm afraid I wouldn't be able to."

Even if she agreed, without the Empress Dowager's green light, she couldn't take on the role. Moreover, the Empress Dowager could easily veto the Bureau's proposal to appoint Ji Yunmeng. No matter her talent, she was currently only in the Spirit Realm.

For such an important institution as the Deceit Suppression Bureau of Dazhou, it would require an Earth Realm strong person to manage it, not a Spirit Realm martial artist, to avoid risks. If anything went wrong, who would take responsibility? Would a Spirit Realm individual be able to bear the responsibility?

Just such a reason was sufficient to prevent Ji Yunmeng from becoming the Commander.

Hearing Ji Yunmeng's words, the crowd instantly understood her concerns, so Lu Yu spoke up, "Please don't worry, Princess. Perhaps the one in the palace would be happy to see you become Commander, as it would absolve her of responsibility if anything happened to Master Lu."

Ji Yunmeng fell into contemplation again; what Lu Yu said was not unreasonable. Since the Empress Dowager had decided to use the Bureau against Lu Chen, she would not abandon the plan just because Ji Yunmeng became the Commander. On the contrary, the Dowager might seize this chance to eliminate both threats.

Should something really happen to Lu Chen at the Bureau, the Empress Dowager would surely use it to confront the Bureau, whose Commander at that time would be Ji Yunmeng.

Moreover, the critical point was that in people's eyes, she, Princess Yun'an, was the most beloved daughter of Emperor Zhou and part of his camp. The strong persons at the Prince Manor would likely hold the Emperor responsible.

After thinking it over, Ji Yunmeng agreed and said, "Alright, I can serve as the Commander of the Deceit Suppression Bureau."

At this moment, Ji Yunmeng believed that being the Commander offered more benefits than drawbacks, as the Bureau's power was vastly important to her. Although if something genuinely happened to Lu Chen at the Bureau, turning Prince Manor's anger her way was possible, she trusted the Empress Dowager wouldn't easily succeed in harming Lu Chen.

Lu Chen was the only son of Prince Zhen Nan, and after the previous incident, how could Prince Zhen Nan be unprepared? There would be several Earth Realm strong persons from the Prince Manor by Lu Chen's side. With so many strong protectors,

bizarre evil spirits from Dazhou couldn't possibly harm Lu Chen unless the Empress Dowager dispatched a comparable number of Earth Realm strong persons.

But if the Empress Dowager actually did so, the Prince Manor would immediately identify who was responsible. The number of Earth Realm strong persons in Dazhou was limited, and their methods were distinctive, traceable with some investigation.

No matter how foolish the Dowager was, she wouldn't be stupid enough to directly send her own to move against Lu Chen. Thus, Lu Chen was safe in the short term.

Once she became the Commander of the Bureau, she'd watch for the Dowager's next move, preparing in advance. She didn't believe anything would happen to Lu Chen under the protection of so many experts at the Prince Manor.

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

After Ji Yunmeng agreed to take on the role of Commander of the Deceit Suppression Bureau, several directors of the bureau immediately returned to write recommendation memorials.

By evening, the recommendation memorials from the directors of the Deceit Suppression Bureau were already on the desk in the Imperial Study Room.

A wisp of blue smoke swirled in the Imperial Study Room, as Pei Shuhua sat in front of the desk, her beautiful eyes glancing at the memorials from several directors of the Deceit Suppression Bureau.

Seeing that the directors of the Deceit Suppression Bureau simultaneously nominated Princess Ji Yunmeng to be the Commander, Pei Shuhua couldn't help but let out a cold laugh.

Everyone was smart; how could she not see what these people were thinking? They simply believed that Ji Yunmeng was on the side of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, so once she became the Commander, she would certainly not let anything happen to Lu Chen in the Deceit Suppression Bureau.

After glancing over these memorials, a thoughtful expression appeared on the beautiful woman's face. She lifted her jade-like hand and rubbed her brow.

If Ji Yunmeng were indeed to go to the Deceit Suppression Bureau, it would be tantamount to allowing Emperor Zhou to get involved with the bureau. Should Emperor Zhou gain control over the Deceit Suppression Bureau, he would have the support of both the bureau and the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, making it easier for him to reclaim his position in the court.

However, on the other hand, there were benefits to letting her go.

If anything were indeed to happen to Lu Chen at the Deceit Suppression Bureau, they could then shift all the blame onto Ji Yunmeng, and it was possible that the Zhen Nan Prince Manor would direct their anger toward Ji Yunmeng. With Ji Yunmeng backed by Emperor Zhou, the powerful figures of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor might end up resenting Emperor Zhou.

After contemplating for a while, Pei Shuhua finally decided to agree to the bureau's recommendation. She was curious to see whether Ji Yunmeng could protect Lu Chen after going to the Deceit Suppression Bureau.

...

A few days later, the news that Ji Yunmeng had become the new Commander of the Deceit Suppression Bureau spread throughout the capital city.

People debated the matter intensely. In the eyes of most ordinary people, Ji Yunmeng, as a member of the Imperial Family and the Emperor Zhou's most beloved daughter, being appointed Commander of the Deceit Suppression Bureau demonstrated the Royal Family's regard for the bureau, indicating that the Zhou Royal Family was also taking notice of the rampant spiritual evils.

However, some ordinary people believed that Ji Yunmeng was just a princess, albeit a gifted one, but ultimately too weak in power, not being an Earth Realm

strong person, to be tasked with managing the most critical Deceit Suppression Bureau in Dazhou was likely inappropriate.

Of course, the views of ordinary people were of no concern.

After becoming Commander of the Deceit Suppression Bureau, Ji Yunmeng immediately went to take charge. She was aware of the situation in the bureau and did not hastily interfere in its affairs.

Furthermore, she understood that if she rashly interfered, it would certainly lead to dissatisfaction among the bureau's senior officials and directors, making it even more difficult for her to gain control over the bureau.

Ji Yunmeng's primary role now was to stabilize morale, assuring the Deceit Suppressing Guards that the Zhou Royal Family had not abandoned the bureau, allowing them to confidently quell the anomalies and spiritual evils from the outside.

As time passed by, Zhen Nan Prince Manor was always preparing for the wedding between Lu Chen and Ji Yunmeng. After all, marrying a princess was a grand affair, requiring extensive preparation time.

In the blink of an eye, a month had passed.

Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Training Ground.

Lu Chen, wielding the Evil-slaying Sword given by Ji Yunmeng, slashed towards the long-haired spirit in front of him. As the sword light approached, the long-haired spirit let out a howl, and her long hair grew fiercely, attacking Lu Chen.

The sword aura from Lu Chen's swing severed the long hair, but the long-haired spirit's hair regrew swiftly, and the severed parts reappeared in moments.

Lu Chen continued to swing his sword incessantly, and as his speed increased, the hair regrowth speed of the long-haired spirit could no longer keep up with the speed at which Lu Chen was cutting. This time, Lu Chen leapt forward, heading straight for the long-haired spirit's body.

The long-haired spirit emitted more shrill howls, yet Lu Chen was unaffected. The primary attack of the long-haired spirit was spiritual, while Spirit Martial Artists feared spiritual attacks the most. Thus, the Hidden Guard of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor had captured the long-haired spirit for Lu Chen's training, only to find that Lu Chen was entirely unaffected.

Upon reaching the long-haired spirit, Lu Chen gathered his entire body's spiritual evil and slashed out once more. The sword aura surged out, cleaving the long-haired spirit into two.

Seeing the long-haired spirit collapse slowly, Lu Chen felt a sudden sense of dullness. He then glanced at the three men, including Zhao Yu, beside the training ground and asked directly, "Commander Zhao, are the spiritual evils you have found for me too weak? I haven't even activated the spiritual evil in the sword, and I've already slain them."

Contained within the Evil-slaying Sword was Ji Yunmeng's spiritual evil. Once activated, the sword's power would increase significantly. However, Lu Chen found that when dealing with the spiritual evils Zhao Yu brought, there was no need to activate the spiritual evil within the sword. Transforming his own spiritual evil into sword aura was sufficient to handle those evils.

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Zhao Yu said, "Princely Heir, it's not that these spiritual evils are too weak, but rather that your strength is too formidable. You have now far surpassed an average Spirit Martial Artist at the peak of the Human Realm."

"This long-haired spirit's realm is at the early-stage Spirit Realm and specialized in spiritual attacks, which could pose a significant threat even to Spirit Martial Artists at the peak of the Spirit Realm. Although it is heavily injured, it is not so easily dealt with."

Zhao Yu and the others did not anticipate that Lu Chen's strength at the peak of the Human Realm would be so extraordinary. Although the Evil-slaying Sword indeed offered some enhancement, the increase was too significant.

When Lu Chen used spiritual evil, he experienced no discomfort, especially during swings. Almost every slash contained spiritual evil.

It's known that when Spirit Martial Artists mobilize the spiritual evil within, their bodies tend to endure another bout of corruption by spiritual evil, leading to discomfort or pain.

This caused Zhao Yu and the others to marvel at the dreadfulness of Lu Chen's unique constitution.

At this point, Lu Chen sheathed the Evil-slaying Sword and then asked, "In that case, the next time you capture spiritual evils, should you not severely injure them?"

This...

Lu Xun, standing by the side, spoke up, "Princely Heir, I'm afraid that's challenging. If the Hidden Guards don't severely injure the spiritual evils in the Spirit Realm, it's tough to subdue them."

Usually, the Hidden Guards sent to capture spiritual evils are at the peak of the Spirit Realm. Ensuring they bring back spiritual evils without severely injuring them is nearly impossible.

Even if the Hidden Guards were not at the peak of the Spirit Realm, dispatching people from the Profound Realm would still have difficulty quelling Spirit Realm spiritual evils unless an Earth Realm expert intervened.

However, asking an Earth Realm expert to go out to capture spiritual evils would be a misuse of talent.

Lu Chen said, "In that case, if I want a genuine battle with spiritual evils, I have to venture outside personally?"

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Lu Xun and the other three were startled, and Zhao Yu quickly said, "Princely Heir, absolutely not."

Their greatest fear now was Lu Chen getting carried away and venturing outside. Although the three Earth Realm experts were there to guard him closely, ensuring Lu Chen wouldn't encounter dangers.

Still, precautions cannot prevent all accidents.

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

Zhao Yu advised, "Heir, the number of supernatural creatures within Dazhou is increasing, making the outskirts of the capital city more dangerous. Although we three are here to protect you, there's no certainty that we won't encounter a situation we can't handle."

At that moment, Lu Xun also spoke, "Heir, Commander Zhao's concerns are justified. I've heard that the Deceit Suppression Bureau has yet to capture that wolf demon, and it seems there's another Earth Realm spiritual evil near the capital."

The current state of Dazhou gives the impression of an impending storm, and most importantly, there are always those who wish for the end of Zhen Nan Prince Manor. If you were to go out at this time and someone chose to take action against Lu Chen, the Heir of Prince Zhen Nan, even three Earth Realm experts might not be able to protect him.

Although typically no one would dare attempt such a thing, there's no telling if the Empress Dowager's faction might grow impatient. Additionally, the forces that secretly aim to destroy Zhen Nan Prince Manor might unite. Now is the most vulnerable time for Zhen Nan Prince Manor; killing Lu Chen would be akin to destroying the entire manor. Some forces might indeed be willing to take that risk.

At this point, Zhao Yu said, "If the heir wants to fight against supernatural creatures in full force in the Spirit Realm, I can personally go outside the capital and capture some Spirit Realm spiritual evils for the heir."

While it might be overkill to have an Earth Realm strong person go out to capture spiritual evils, it is safer than letting Lu Chen venture outside.

Better to be overcautious than to expose Lu Chen to danger.

Seeing Zhao Yu's suggestion, Lu Chen didn't mention going outside anymore. He realized that with his current strength, he was not suited for an excursion. However, he had been stuck at the Peak of Human Realm for some time, unable to break through to the Spirit Realm, which made him anxious.

He wanted to quickly increase his strength and search for the Burial Furnace. The furnace contained his descendants, and now that this world had mysterious ancestors emerging, if the Burial Furnace fell into the hands of another mysterious ancestor, it would be trouble.

Although Ji Yunmeng and the other mysterious ancestors seemed to be suffering from amnesia, there's no telling if any of them still had their memories intact. As long as one ancestor remembers, the descendants within the Burial Furnace are at risk.

To the mysterious ancestors, those children were their disgrace, and they would not allow such a disgrace to persist.

At this time, some Deceit Suppressing Guards carrying several boxes passed by the Training Ground with records sent from the Deceit Suppression Bureau. Seeing the

large wooden boxes, Zhao Yu said, "Recently, the number of spiritual evils in Dazhou has indeed been overwhelming. It's uncertain how much Dazhou's Qi Fortune has declined to spawn so many supernatural creatures."

Recently, the Deceit Suppression Bureau had sent numerous records needing organization from various places, with each shipment consisting of several large boxes, showing how many spiritual evil-related cases had occurred recently.

At that moment, Lu Chen suddenly thought of something and asked, "By the way, these days, I've only seen cases related to spiritual evils. Why are there no cases related to the mysterious?"

In Dazhou, mysterious and spiritual evils were often discussed together. However, since Lu Chen regained his memory, he had only heard of spiritual evils' existence, almost never hearing about any mysterious occurrences.

Initially, he thought mysterious and spiritual evils were the same species, but he gradually realized that mysterious are mysterious, and spiritual evils are spiritual evils. However, since both are monsters, they are often mentioned together.

Typically, spiritual evils have the word "mysterious" in their name, like the long-haired mysterious Lu Chen just slew. However, the long-haired mysterious is not a true mysterious, but just an ordinary Spirit Realm spiritual evil.

Upon hearing Lu Chen's question, Lu Xun replied, "Heir, mysterious possess intelligence comparable to or even surpassing humans. They usually don't easily cause trouble and often lurk among the populace."

Lu Chen said, "So, the mysterious either don't act, but if they do, it's likely something major?"

Zhao Yu said, "The heir isn't wrong. The last time the mysterious caused trouble, most of Dazhou's rivers were overtaken. If not for the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan, Dazhou might not exist today."

"And because of that mysterious incident, the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan and the Grand Ancestor Emperor were severely injured, suffering a significant backlash from spiritual evil, drastically reducing their lifespan."

Hearing Zhao Yu's words, Lu Chen thought in his heart, the mysterious in question must be the mysterious life from the Deceit Realm.

If that's the case, then he needs to strengthen himself even more quickly.

After coming back to his senses, Lu Chen continued to ask, "Is there currently any place in Dazhou holding a living mysterious? I'd like to see what they look like."

Lu Xun said, "The mysterious are incredibly dangerous. Just by absorbing the spiritual evil from those near death, they can greatly increase their strength, with some capable of revival. Therefore, they are always killed on the spot, giving them no chance to grow. Those that cannot be killed are sealed away..."

Lu Xun lowered his head into deep thought, then continued after a moment, "Currently, only the Deceit Suppression Bureau might have sealed mysterious that you could see."

After hearing Lu Xun's words, Lu Chen immediately had the thought of visiting the Deceit Suppression Bureau. He then directly said to those Deceit Suppressing Guards carrying records, "Come over here for a moment; I have some questions."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's voice, the guards quickly set down their wooden boxes and hurried over to Lu Chen's side. Zeng Shuo took the initiative to ask, "What does the heir wish to inquire about?"

Lu Chen asked, "I've heard the Deceit Suppression Bureau is holding a real mysterious?"

Zeng Shuo replied, "Yes, heir."

Lu Chen directly asked, "Is it possible for me to go to the Deceit Suppression Bureau and see what the mysterious looks like?"

Upon hearing this, Zeng Shuo quickly said, "Heir, the mysterious are extremely dangerous; it's best not to see them."

If Lu Chen were to encounter any trouble at the Deceit Suppression Bureau, it would be a significant problem for the Bureau. It's because of this concern about Lu Chen's safety that the Bureau has kept him handling records at Zhen Nan Prince Manor and would never allow him to see a real mysterious.

Seeing Zeng Shuo's anxiousness, Lu Chen instantly realized that his life was of great importance to the Deceit Suppression Bureau, and it was normal they wouldn't allow him to be exposed to such danger.

Lu Chen said, "Then could someone draw what the mysterious looks like?"

Zeng Shuo immediately said, "If the heir is interested in the mysterious, someone could use a Projecting Stone to record their image."

Projecting Stone?

Lu Chen paused for a moment, surprised that such a thing existed in this world.

Why didn't he know about this?

Once he came back to his senses, Lu Chen said, "Alright, once you've put away the records, send someone back to ask your Commander if it's possible to record the mysterious' appearance on the Projecting Stone for me to see."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, the Deceit Suppressing Guards thought, given that the commander of the Deceit Suppression Bureau is your fiancée, if you want to see the mysterious, how could she not let you?

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

Deceit Suppression Bureau.

On the top of a tall tower, Ji Yunmeng stood in the pavilion, gazing over the entire Deceit Suppression Bureau.

At this moment, a maid approached Ji Yunmeng, "Princess, Households Commander Zeng requests an audience."

Upon hearing this, Ji Yunmeng felt a bit puzzled, Households Commander Zeng?

Wasn't Zeng Shuo the one assigned by the Deceit Suppression Bureau to protect Lu Chen at the Zhen Nan Prince Manor?

What does he want with me?

Regaining her composure, a cold voice emerged from Ji Yunmeng's lips, "Enter."

Soon, Zeng Shuo entered the pavilion and came to the terrace of the pavilion, "Greetings, Princess!"

Ji Yunmeng said indifferently, "Address by position within the Deceit Suppression Bureau."

Hearing this, Zeng Shuo instantly understood and quickly said, "Pardon me, my lord. I will certainly remember."

Although Ji Yunmeng was already the Commander of the Deceit Suppression Bureau, most members didn't realize it yet, and many Deceit Suppressing Guards still referred to Ji Yunmeng as Princess when they saw her.

Ji Yunmeng then asked, "What brings you here?"

Zeng Shuo quickly replied, "Master Lu said he wants to see what the supernatural entities sealed by the Deceit Suppression Bureau look like..."

Before Zeng Shuo could finish, Ji Yunmeng sternly refused, "No."

Supernatural entities are a hundred times more dangerous than evil spirits. Most importantly, some supernatural entities cannot be killed. The Deceit Suppression Bureau chose to seal certain entities because various methods couldn't completely resolve these entities, so they reluctantly opted for sealing.

If Lu Chen were to face these entities, and they suddenly went berserk, breaking through the seal and attacking Lu Chen, what would happen?

Although the likelihood is very small, it's not entirely impossible either.

For Lu Chen's safety, even the smallest potential danger must be eliminated, and since the entities are sealed in the Demon Suppression Tower of the Deceit Suppression Bureau, if anything were to happen to Lu Chen there, the Zhen Nan Prince Manor might vent its anger on the Deceit Suppression Bureau, and she would become a sinner.

Seeing Ji Yunmeng's firm refusal, Zeng Shuo realized she misunderstood and quickly said, "My lord, Master Lu means to use the Shadowcatch Stone to record the entities, then show him the recordings. He won't come to the Deceit Suppression Bureau himself."

Upon hearing Zeng Shuo's explanation, Ji Yunmeng thought for a moment. If it's just using the Shadowcatch Stone to capture the appearance of the entities, then it's not entirely impossible.

However, the entities are sealed in the underground of the Demon Suppression Tower, which few people enter, especially the lowest level that has remained untouched for countless years.

Ji Yunmeng was somewhat concerned that rashly entering the underground might awaken those entities, though they were already sealed. Still, most entities slipped into slumber when undisturbed.

For the Deceit Suppression Bureau, this was a good thing. While the entities slumbered, there was no worry they would escape.

If the entities continually tried to break the seal, the Deceit Suppression Bureau would have to expend more effort focusing on sealing them.

After pondering for a while, Ji Yunmeng said, "Go inform the division heads to prepare. I will accompany you to take a look."

Among the supernatural entities, some could enchant the mind, so typically, only Earth Realm Strong Persons inspected the seal, venturing into the underground of the Demon Suppression Tower.

Ji Yunmeng thought that since they were recording, she might as well inspect the seals of the entities, even though the Deceit Suppression Bureau's seals had never encountered problems. In such critical times, it was wise to be cautious.

With more and more evil spirits appearing outside, Dazhou's qi fortune was undoubtedly influenced by something, reminding Ji Yunmeng of the history when the Great Zhou Dynasty faced the strange army. The dynasty was newly established, with thriving fortune, until suddenly it waned, causing various evil spirits to arise everywhere, followed by hidden entities among the people, leading to half of Dazhou falling into the hands of the entities.

Ji Yunmeng worried the increasing cases involving evil spirits were also related to supernatural entities, so caution was advisable.

Seeing Ji Yunmeng agree, Zeng Shuo immediately responded, "Yes, my lord."

"I take my leave!"

With those words, Zeng Shuo exited the room.

In no time, several division heads of the Deceit Suppression Bureau gathered before the Demon Suppression Tower.

At this moment, Ji Yunmeng approached slowly, and the division heads quickly saluted, "Greetings, Princess!"

This time Ji Yunmeng didn't correct their address; she had grown accustomed and felt too lazy to correct them.

At this moment, Lu Yu spoke up, "Princess, the underground is extremely dangerous, with some entities capable of ensnaring the mind. We're afraid they might harm you."

The Demon Suppression Tower comprises both above and underground levels. The above-ground part mostly houses evil spirits, while the underground confines supernatural entities, with seals growing stronger the deeper one goes.

Ji Yunmeng calmly said, "No worries, I have a Spiritual Weapon that can resist spiritual attacks."

Seeing Ji Yunmeng's reassurance, Lu Yu ceased advising.

Then, everyone entered the Demon Suppression Tower and proceeded down the stone steps toward the underground.

The underground of the Demon Suppression Tower was dim, lit only by some greenish lights, creating an eerie atmosphere.

They soon arrived at the first cell holding supernatural entities, constructed from special crystal that restricts the entities' powers.

This crystal was just one layer of protection; the cell also had a sealing array, and the entity bore talisman paper.

In the first cell, the entity tied to a stone pillar opened its hollow eyes. Seeing people enter, its mouth couldn't help but crack slightly, revealing a sinister smile.

Ji Yunmeng instructed Zeng Shuo by her side, "You may record using the Shadowcatch Stone."

Zeng Shuo promptly took out the Shadowcatch Stone and recorded the appearance of the entity.

Afterward, Ji Yunmeng continued walking toward the end of the first level, while Zeng Shuo followed, recording each entity in every cell with the Shadowcatch Stone.

Soon they reached the second level, and upon entering it, everyone felt a wave of panic and an unexplained dread enveloping their hearts.

Everyone quickly steadied their minds, and the division heads instinctively looked toward Ji Yunmeng, fearing something might befall her.

However, Ji Yunmeng remained composed, looking completely unfazed.

Seeing Ji Yunmeng unscathed, everyone finally relaxed.

Just then, Lu Yu noticed another issue and said directly, "Something's not right..."

Xiong Qingcang asked, "What's wrong? What's not right?"

Lu Yu scanned the second level cells with a grave expression, "Have you ever seen all the entities awaken simultaneously?"

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

Upon hearing Lu Yu's words, everyone finally reacted.

While they were on the first layer, although they saw those strange beings all waking up, they didn't pay much attention because the lower realm stranges were inherently more active.

However, the stranges confined on the second layer were already of a relatively high realm, and the higher the realm, the higher the intelligence. They knew they were sealed, and struggling further would be in vain, so most of them would choose to sleep to preserve their strength.

Even if someone came down to check the seals, most of the stranges would not wake up. However, this time they just reached the second layer and discovered that these stranges were all awake.

For a moment, several directors of the Deceit Suppression Bureau had a bad premonition.

These stranges all waking up at the same time—could it be that they thought they could break through the seal?

Zou Yi said at this point, "Let's not scare ourselves; perhaps it's just a coincidence. Let's go down to the next layer and take a look."

Hearing Zou Yi's words, Lu Yu said, "Director Zou is right; maybe it's just a coincidence."

Without overthinking it, everyone then proceeded to the third layer. As soon as they went down to the third layer, they found that the stranges on the third layer had also awakened.

Upon witnessing this, the directors finally realized the seriousness of the issue. If all the stranges on the second layer waking up was merely coincidental, then the awakening on the third layer could absolutely not be explained by coincidence.

Xiong Qingcang immediately said to Ji Yunmeng, "Your Highness, the situation seems off. Perhaps you should leave the Demon Suppression Tower for now while we go down to investigate."

After all, Ji Yunmeng was a princess and could not afford any mishap in the Demon Suppression Tower, especially since she was merely at the Spirit Realm. If any stranges escaped, she would not be able to deal with them.

Ji Yunmeng, however, remained unfazed and said, "No need to worry, let's continue to the next layer and see."

For some reason, Ji Yunmeng always felt that these stranges were looking at her in an unusual way, almost as if they revered her, and she seemed to sense that the spiritual evil within her body was becoming unusually active, as if resonating with the spiritual evil of these stranges.

Seeing that Ji Yunmeng insisted on going to the next layer, Xiong Qingcang didn't say more, but at this point, they were all on high alert, ready to act at any moment.

When they arrived on the fourth layer, they found those sealed stranges had also awakened, making the directors of the Deceit Suppression Bureau more and more uneasy. They all felt that these stranges waking at the same time might be brewing some kind of conspiracy.

Although they were in a sealed state, seemingly unable to communicate with other stranges, nobody could be sure whether these stranges had any special means of communication. Rumors said that the power inside stranges could resonate with each other, maybe those stranges were able to awaken simultaneously because their internal forces resonated.

Then everyone continued to proceed downward. Below the fourth layer, the sealed stranges were Earth Realm Stranges, with only one strange per layer, and there were five Earth Realm Stranges sealed beneath the Demon Suppression Tower in total.

When they reached the fifth layer, they suddenly found the seal on the fifth layer had been destroyed, and upon seeing the destroyed sealing array, everyone's face turned pale, blood drained from their faces.

Xiong Qingcang, coming back to his senses, said, "Not good! An Earth Realm Strange has escaped!"

As his words fell, Xiong Qingcang didn't hesitate and darted toward the next layer, his body turning into a blur.

The other directors also quickly followed, leaving Lu Yu to stay beside Ji Yunmeng to protect her.

Ji Yunmeng's expression also became very serious upon seeing the broken array on the fifth layer. This was an Earth Realm Strange; Earth Realm Stranges were immortal and virtually impossible to kill. To seal these five Earth Realm Stranges, the entire Dazhou paid an unknown price back then, and now that an Earth Realm Strange had broken the seal and escaped.

In the coming days, fear of havoc and calamities would once again plague Dazhou.

Ji Yunmeng then headed towards the next layer to see if other Earth Realm Stranges had escaped, and upon reaching the sixth layer, she also found the seal there had been broken.

She quickly moved deeper down the layers, soon reaching the last layer beneath the Demon Suppression Tower.

The last layer underground the Demon Suppression Tower was also in disarray, with no trace of the sealed strange.

The directors of the Deceit Suppression Bureau stood there dazed, looking at the desolate layer.

The atmosphere underground was heavy and oppressive, and after an unknown time passed, Ji Yunmeng broke the silence, "Now is not the time to be in a daze. If those Earth Realm Stranges recover their powers, with Dazhou's current strength, it will be very hard to suppress them again."

Hearing Ji Yunmeng's words, everyone awoke from their stupor. Lu Yu said, "The princess is right; we must quickly find the hiding places of these Earth Realm Stranges. We cannot let them regain their strength."

Zou Yi said, "But those Earth Realm Stranges have been missing for who knows how long, and they left without a trace. Finding them is likely not easy."

Xiong Qingcang said, "Even if it's difficult, we have to try. These are Earth Realm Stranges, more terrible than that Earth Realm Wolf Demon. If they regain their strength, the entire Capital city would be in danger."

Wu Feng then looked at Ji Yunmeng and asked, "Your Highness, should we report this matter?"

Before Ji Yunmeng could respond, Lu Yu quickly said, "We can't report it, absolutely not. If news of the Earth Realm Stranges breaking free gets out, there will be chaos in Dazhou. Once there's chaos and the Qi Fortune decreases, without the suppression of Dazhou's Qi Fortune, those strange evils will become even stronger, and dealing with them will be even harder."

Wu Feng said, "But with just the power of our Deceit Suppression Bureau, even if those Earth Realm Stranges are not at their peak strength, it's difficult for us to seal them."

Those Earth Realm Stranges were immortal, and the difficulty of sealing them was imaginable.

Two of the Earth Realm Strong Persons from the Deceit Suppression Bureau had already left, one was Fan Yaodong, and the other was He Dongqi.

With their current strength, it would indeed be difficult to suppress those stranges.

Ji Yunmeng then said, "I will personally visit the Fan Mansion and He Residence."

The crisis facing the Deceit Suppression Bureau, or rather, Dazhou, must be confronted with all efforts.

Lu Yu suddenly thought of something and said, "Should we seek help from the Zhen Nan Prince Manor?"

Ji Yunmeng was betrothed to Lu Chen and would soon be married into the Zhen Nan Prince Manor. If the situation with the Earth Realm Stranges was not handled well, Ji Yunmeng would surely bear the blame. If the Zhen Nan Prince Manor was informed, they might choose to help the Deceit Suppression Bureau to prevent Ji Yunmeng from being punished.

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

Upon hearing Lu Yu's words, Ji Yunmeng thought for a moment and then said, "I will personally visit the Zhen Nan Prince Manor tomorrow."

Saying this, Ji Yunmeng glanced at the damaged sealing, then coldly remarked, "Judging by the dust on the ground, this sealing has been broken for quite some time, yet none of you noticed a thing."

Immediately upon hearing Ji Yunmeng's words, Lu Yu and the others broke into a cold sweat. The underground sealing is extremely solid, even difficult for them to destroy. For the strange to break these seals, there must have been a significant commotion.

However, now that these Earth Realm Strange have escaped, none of them detected any disturbance, which is simply unreasonable.

Lu Yu said at this moment, "Princess, I'm afraid that there might be an internal traitor in the Deceit Suppression Bureau, or perhaps a strange has infiltrated, helping these Earth Realm Strange to escape from the Demon Suppression Tower."

Ji Yunmeng said, "Regardless of the reason, the Deceit Suppression Bureau must find them before they bring disaster upon Dazhou."

Speaking to this, Ji Yunmeng's eyes fell on Wu Feng, the director of the Investigation Bureau. Seeing Ji Yunmeng looking at him, Wu Feng quickly said, "From today onwards, we will deploy all personnel from the Investigation Bureau to find the traces of those Earth Realm Strange by any means possible."

Ji Yunmeng's gaze once again swept across the other people, then said, "I am now heading to the Fan Mansion."

Having said this, Ji Yunmeng turned and left the Demon Suppression Tower.

Just after Ji Yunmeng left, the directors of the Deceit Suppression Bureau immediately gathered all the Deceit Suppressing Guards from the Capital city to search for the traces of those Earth Realm Strange.

All parties were very curious when they saw the sudden massive action of the Deceit Suppression Bureau, wondering what kind of evil spirits they had discovered to warrant such a grand gesture.

Meanwhile.

Fan Mansion.

Fan Yaodong was still lying in bed, but his face was glowing, looking nothing like someone seriously injured.

At this moment, a servant entered the room, "Sir, Princess Yun'an has arrived."

Upon hearing this, Fan Yaodong was slightly stunned.

Why would Ji Yunmeng come to him?

He knew Ji Yunmeng had become the commander of the Deceit Suppression Bureau, but he had only heard of it. As for what Ji Yunmeng was doing at the Deceit Suppression Bureau, he didn't know and had no interest in finding out.

For him now, as long as he can endure the struggle between Emperor Zhou and the Empress Dowager, and wait until they settle their scores, or once the Zhen Nan Prince Manor disappears, he can return to the Deceit Suppression Bureau and have his place.

Fan Yaodong developed a bad feeling, thinking perhaps Yunmeng was coming to bring him back to the Deceit Suppression Bureau due to too many evil spirits in Dazhou?

That won't do. He had barely managed to escape, and he certainly didn't want to return now.

Thinking of this, Fan Yaodong hurriedly adjusted his spiritual evil and then shrank under the covers, pretending to be nearing his end. After completing all this, he spoke to the servant, "Please let the princess in."

"Yes." The servant turned and left the room.

A moment later, Ji Yunmeng and her maid entered the room. Seeing Ji Yunmeng enter, Fan Yaodong immediately pretended to be weak and said, "Greetings, Princess. I hope you forgive my transgression, as I'm still recovering from severe injuries and can't get out of bed to pay my respects."

Upon hearing this, Ji Yunmeng said indifferently, "No matter, Lord Fan prefers to lie down, then it's fine to speak while lying."

"However, I hope that after hearing what I have to say, Lord Fan can still lie comfortably."

This...

Fan Yaodong's heart sank, perhaps Ji Yunmeng intended to bring him back as the commander of the Deceit Suppression Bureau?

Fan Yaodong cautiously asked, "I wonder what the princess wants to say?"

Ji Yunmeng directly replied, "The Earth Realm Strange under the Demon Suppression Tower have escaped, and judging by the traces of the seal being broken, they should have escaped while Lord Fan was still the commander."

Upon hearing Ji Yunmeng's words, Fan Yaodong's mind was jolted, and he immediately sat up from the bed, asking with disbelief, "Is the princess speaking the truth?"

Seeing Fan Yaodong no longer pretending to be sick, Ji Yunmeng said, "Lord Fan is so surprised? Hearing about this made you recover quickly from illness. I thought you already knew those Earth Realm Strange had broken the seal, and to avoid responsibility, you pretended to be critically injured by the Wolf Demon and took the opportunity to resign as commander."

Fan Yaodong quickly said, "Princess, if I knew about this matter, I would have reported it immediately; it's impossible to hide it until now."

Fan Yaodong understands well; these are five Earth Realm Strange, immortal and indestructible.

Fan Yaodong now understood why Ji Yunmeng came to find him, as the five Earth Realm Strange had escaped, the pressure facing the Deceit Suppression Bureau was imaginable.

Fan Yaodong suddenly thought of something and immediately asked, "Has this matter been reported to the palace?"

Ji Yunmeng said, "Not yet."

Fan Yaodong fell into silence, feeling conflicted. If this matter is not reported, and the five strange creatures cause great disaster in Dazhou, then he and the entire Deceit Suppression Bureau would become criminals?

If he reports it, however, he definitely bears responsibility; these are five Earth Realm Strange, and Deceit Suppression Bureau, as the institution to suppress strange and evil spirits, allowed five Earth Realm Strange to secretly break through the seal, if this news spreads, the Deceit Suppression Bureau will certainly be cursed by all.

Fan Yaodong thought for a moment, then asked, "What does the princess intend to do?"

Ji Yunmeng said calmly, "For now, don't make it public, send people to search for their traces with full force, if found, seek assistance from Zhen Nan Prince Manor to see if they can be suppressed."

Seek assistance from Zhen Nan Prince Manor?

Fan Yaodong instantly realized that Ji Yunmeng would soon marry into Zhen Nan Prince Manor, being the future mistress of Zhen Nan Prince Manor, if she speaks, perhaps Zhen Nan Prince Manor will help.

But there's still one major problem: how to find those strange creatures, who can completely transform into a human form, looking indistinguishable from humans.

The higher the realm of the strange, the more skillful they are in disguise, trying to find them from the vast sea of people is not an easy task.

While Fan Yaodong was lost in thought, Ji Yunmeng spoke, "I'm very curious about how they could break through the seal unnoticed. Does Lord Fan have any insights?"

Upon hearing Ji Yunmeng's question, Fan Yaodong thought for a while, "Princess, this may require me to personally inspect, as we can only suspect someone actively destroyed the seal to assist those strange in escaping."

If the strange had actively broken the seal, the entire Deceit Suppression Bureau would have sensed the disturbance, but these past years, there hasn't been any disturbance within the bureau.

Ji Yunmeng continued, "So, is Lord Fan's injury healed now?"

Fan Yaodong smiled wryly, originally wanting to shirk responsibility, but unexpectedly, the Deceit Suppression Bureau encountered such a major event, strange escape incident he couldn't pass on, moreover, he resigned too conveniently, which might lead people to suspect he already knew strange creatures escaped, even potentially suspecting him of colluding with them.

Fan Yaodong then said to Ji Yunmeng, "I've recovered, and I will return to the Deceit Suppression Bureau tomorrow, at Princess's command."