

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

Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

In the morning, sunlight poured onto the earth, and the glazed tiles on the roofs reflected a golden light.

At this moment, several carriages were parked at the gate of Zhen Nan Prince Manor, and Ji Yunmeng stepped down from one of them.

Seeing Ji Yunmeng, the servants of Zhen Nan Prince Manor quickly announced it.

At the same time, Lu Chen was in his room absorbing the spiritual evil from the Deceit Pearl.

Upon hearing the servants' report, Lu Chen opened his eyes, intrigued—what was Ji Yunmeng doing visiting Zhen Nan Prince Manor personally?

Lu Chen got up, and after a simple wash with the maid's assistance, he went directly to the guest hall.

In the hall, Lu Chen glanced at Ji Yunmeng, who was dressed in a long red dress. Her figure was graceful, her demeanor aloof, and seeing her sparked an impulsive feeling within him.

Lu Chen asked directly, "I wonder what brings the Princess to Zhen Nan Prince Manor today?"

Seeing that only Lu Chen had come, Ji Yunmeng said directly, "I wish to meet Prince Zhen Nan."

Even though Prince Zhen Nan had handed over the manor to Lu Chen, this matter was of great importance, and Lu Chen might not be able to make the decision. Besides, this time the Earth Realm strong person from the manor needed to be mobilized, and before Prince Zhen Nan passed away, such matters definitely required his approval.

Hearing Ji Yunmeng's words, Lu Chen was slightly taken aback, showing a puzzled expression—seeking Prince Zhen Nan?

He had thought Ji Yunmeng came to see him.

Lu Chen did not inquire about Ji Yunmeng's purpose with Prince Zhen Nan. He directly instructed the maid beside him, "Inform my father."

"Yes, Master Lu." The maid immediately left.

After the maid left, Lu Chen asked, "Recently, incidents of supernatural disturbances have been increasing. Has the Deceit Suppression Bureau found out the reason?"

Every day, the Deceit Suppression Bureau sent several large boxes of documents on supernatural disturbances to Zhen Nan Prince Manor. Although Lu Chen hadn't done much work, those Deceit Suppressing Guards were sorting through the files. But Lu Chen still reviewed quite a few documents, trying to understand this world.

Upon hearing Lu Chen's question, Ji Yunmeng said coldly, "Master Lu, you will know soon enough."

The increase in disturbances is simply because Dazhou's qi fortune has weakened, unable to suppress those evils anymore. As for why a dynasty's qi fortune declines, there are many reasons. But in Ji Yunmeng's view, the most crucial reason for Dazhou's qi fortune falling is because those Earth Realm strange beings have broken the seal and escaped.

Seeing Ji Yunmeng not speaking directly, Lu Chen did not pursue the topic further. He then changed the subject, "The Deceit Suppression Bureau has many affairs, I wonder if the Princess is accustomed to them?"

Ji Yunmeng replied flatly, "Accustomed."

Ji Yunmeng seemed indifferent, showing little interest in conversing with Lu Chen. Despite knowing that Lu Chen could cultivate and had become a Spirit Martial Artist, she still thought of him as a mere wastrel.

Furthermore, as she entered the meeting hall, she felt Lu Chen's ardent gaze. She instantly recognized Lu Chen's intentions toward her, leaving her with little regard for him, and thereby no interest in conversing.

Lu Chen noticed Ji Yunmeng's unwillingness to speak to him, smiling, and continued, "Princess, have you come to ask Zhen Nan Prince Manor to stand with you and help you achieve your ambition?"

Upon hearing this, Ji Yunmeng's heart trembled, with her spiritual evil quivering slightly, leaking some aura. Ji Yunmeng struggled to control her emotions, her cold eyes fixed on Lu Chen.

She could hardly believe what she heard. Seeing Lu Chen smiling at her, Ji Yunmeng doubted whether her inner thoughts had been discerned by him.

Lu Chen was just a wastrel; how could he possibly know? Moreover, she seldom exposed her ambition. Even her maid did not know her aspiration to ascend to that position.

Ji Yunmeng hesitated for a moment before realizing that Lu Chen was probably bluffing. He only mentioned ambition without specifying what ambition she had.

As a Princess, taking up the role of Commander of the Deceit Suppression Bureau surely involved some ambition—everyone in the Capital city knew this. However, they assumed her ambition at most involved gaining greater power, not knowing her exact intentions.

Perhaps in Lu Chen's view, her ambition was also to gain greater power.

Thinking this, Ji Yunmeng's demeanor returned to normal, and her gaze toward Lu Chen became icy once more.

She calmly said, "Master Lu, no need to rush. When meeting Prince Zhen Nan, I will naturally reveal the purpose of my visit to the manor."

At this moment, an elder's voice came from the door, "I didn't know the Princess would visit. I apologize for not being able to greet you—please forgive me."

Once the voice faded, Prince Zhen Nan briskly walked into the hall. Seeing his rosy complexion and steady steps, Ji Yunmeng was momentarily stunned.

The last time she saw Prince Zhen Nan, he was on the verge of death; now he could walk effortlessly.

What's going on?

Could it be that the Heavenly Soul New Year Fruit she sent was effective?

Unlikely—the fruit at most suppresses spiritual evil to a certain extent, reducing the backlash, but cannot prevent it.

This definitely wasn't the fruit's effect.

So, how did Prince Zhen Nan recover?

A man facing death, managing to regain health to this extent.

Recently, she heard that Prince Zhen Nan actively entered the palace seeking the marriage from her father. She thought Prince Zhen Nan burned his blood essence to walk, implying he wouldn't live long. But now it seems, he has not merely burned his blood essence but has genuinely resisted the backlash of spiritual evil, at least temporarily.

Noticing Ji Yunmeng's silence, Prince Zhen Nan realized she was surprised by his current state, and thus asked with a smile, "Princess, for what reason did you wish to see me? Is it related to your marriage with Chen'er?"

"If so, rest assured, Zhen Nan Prince Manor will ensure the ceremony is grand."

Ji Yunmeng regained her composure. Prince Zhen Nan's temporary recovery wasn't good news for her. It meant mastering Zhen Nan Prince Manor wouldn't be as easy.

Initially, she planned that once married into Zhen Nan Prince Manor, upon Prince Zhen Nan's death, she would become the mistress, and Lu Chen being a wastrel would leave the entire manor under her command.

Now it seems gaining control isn't as easy, and she still couldn't figure out how Prince Zhen Nan resisted that level of spiritual evil's backlash.

Ji Yunmeng didn't rush to inquire about Prince Zhen Nan's physical condition but directly answered his question, "This time, I seek Zhen Nan Prince Manor's assistance."

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Hearing Ji Yunmeng's words, the smile on Prince Zhen Nan's face withdrew a little. He walked toward the main seat in the Meeting Hall and said as he walked, "For the Princess to personally make a trip, it seems this matter is no small one."

As his voice fell, Prince Zhen Nan had already reached the main seat. Then he made a "please" gesture toward Ji Yunmeng. "Princess, please sit."

Ji Yunmeng then sat down on the wooden chair in front of her.

Prince Zhen Nan continued, "Princess, please speak. What kind of help do you need, and how should we assist? So long as it is something our Zhen Nan Prince Manor can provide, we will spare no effort."

Ji Yunmeng did not answer immediately. Her gaze swept over the servants in the hall. Prince Zhen Nan instantly understood her meaning and said to those servants, "You may all withdraw."

After hearing Prince Zhen Nan's order, those servants left the hall one after another. Very soon, only Lu Chen, Prince Zhen Nan, Ji Yunmeng, and her two maids were left in the hall.

Yet at this moment, Ji Yunmeng's gaze fell on Lu Chen, as if she were saying that Lu Chen should leave as well.

Seeing Ji Yunmeng's gaze fixed on Lu Chen, Prince Zhen Nan said directly, "Princess, Chen'er is the future master of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, and I have already handed over the affairs of the Prince's Mansion to him. There should be nothing he is not allowed to hear, right?"

Since Prince Zhen Nan had spoken so, Ji Yunmeng did not ask Lu Chen to leave, though in her heart she actually did not wish for him to remain here.

In her view, if a wastrel like Lu Chen learned of the Deceit Suppression Bureau's matters, who knew when he might carelessly leak them to his gang of dissolute friends; she did not trust Lu Chen.

But since Prince Zhen Nan had opened his mouth, she could not very well drive Lu Chen out, for the moment she was the one asking a favor of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Ji Yunmeng then said bluntly, "The five Earth Realm Strange sealed by the Deceit Suppression Bureau have broken their Sealing."

Hearing this, Prince Zhen Nan was stunned on the spot. His expression instantly became incomparably grave, and his gaze sharpened by several degrees.

After recovering, Prince Zhen Nan asked, "When did this happen?"

Ji Yunmeng said, "We don't know. We only discovered it yesterday. Yesterday, Master Lu wanted to see what the strange looked like, so he had people bring a Shadowcatch Stone to the Demon Suppression Tower to record their appearance. I also planned to use this opportunity to inspect the strange's Sealing, only to discover that those five Earth Realm Strange had all vanished. And judging from the traces of the Sealing being destroyed, they should have broken the Sealing long ago; it's just that no one ever noticed."

Prince Zhen Nan fell into thought. Those five Earth Realm Strange were no ordinary strange spiritual evils; they were entities capable of bringing about the downfall of Dazhou. If those five Earth Realm Strange were not quickly found, the entire Dazhou might have to experience another human-strange war.

After a while, Prince Zhen Nan asked, "Princess came to find me; presumably this matter has not been reported, and you plan to recapture those five Earth Realm Strange before the Imperial Court discovers this, correct?"

Ji Yunmeng said, "Yes. If this matter leaks, the Deceit Suppression Bureau will inevitably be hit. Whether it is the Imperial Court or the common people, they may no longer trust the Bureau, and the Bureau's authority will also be weakened."

These were five Earth Realm Strange. It was bad enough that the Deceit Suppression Bureau failed to keep watch over them; they actually did not even know when those Earth Realm Strange escaped. If this spread, the people would certainly no longer trust the Bureau. Of course, that was only one aspect. The biggest trouble was that some would seize on this as a pretext, taking the opportunity to weaken the Bureau's authority, or to stuff their own people into it. In the future, the Deceit Suppression Bureau would likely find it hard to exist as an independent body.

There would also be those who used this chance to shift all the blame onto Ji Yunmeng, this newly appointed Commander, saying that such an incident occurred as soon as she took office—if not for her, those Earth Realm Strange would never have escaped.

Prince Zhen Nan naturally understood what Ji Yunmeng was worried about. His fingers kept tapping on the armrest of his chair, his head slightly lowered, as if pondering what should be done next.

If they reported it, the Deceit Suppression Bureau's authority would be weakened, but that seemed to have nothing to do with the Zhen Nan Prince Manor; the Bureau did not belong to the Prince's Mansion.

However, if someone placed the blame on Ji Yunmeng, that did have some connection with the Zhen Nan Prince Manor. Yet so what? At most, Ji Yunmeng would be removed from her post as Commander, but she would still marry into the Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

What was more, if Ji Yunmeng were no longer Commander of the Deceit Suppression Bureau, she could instead devote all her energy to the Zhen Nan Prince Manor. From the Manor's perspective, this would actually be a good thing.

The most important point was that those strange were Earth Realm Strange; if they were not quickly found and sealed, they would bring immense disaster to Dazhou.

Although Prince Zhen Nan did not like the current Royal Family—for if the Great Zhou Royal Family had not constantly weakened and suppressed the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, the Manor would not have fallen to its present state.

One must know that his ancestors once held a vast fief, yet now all they had was this somewhat luxurious-looking Prince's Mansion in the Capital city. The fief was gone, the number of experts in the Zhen Nan Prince Manor had sharply decreased, and even the Zhen Nan Army's numbers had been repeatedly cut.

And now the Empress Dowager still wanted to send Lu Chen, the only bloodline of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, to the Deceit Suppression Bureau, using the power of spiritual evil to eliminate him.

If Prince Zhen Nan were not already advanced in years, and had he not suffered backlash from spiritual evil, he would have long considered raising troops in rebellion.

Seeing that Prince Zhen Nan remained silent, Ji Yunmeng grew somewhat anxious in her heart. From his demeanor, he seemed not inclined to involve himself in this matter.

Which made sense—the Zhen Nan Prince Manor had no relation to the Deceit Suppression Bureau. Why should they help the Bureau? Just because she was Lu Chen's future fiancée? That reason would not do. Prince Zhen Nan might well be hoping she would be dismissed, so she could then devote herself wholly to the Prince's Mansion.

Ji Yunmeng took the initiative to ask, "May I know what Prince Zhen Nan thinks?"

Prince Zhen Nan came back to himself. He did not answer Ji Yunmeng, but instead turned his gaze to Lu Chen and asked, "Chen'er, what do you think?"

Seeing Prince Zhen Nan ask him, Lu Chen thought for a moment, then asked Ji Yunmeng, "Princess, do you think that, with the power of the Deceit Suppression

Bureau combined with that of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, you can really find those five Earth Realm Strange hiding among the populace?"

"Furthermore, even if we do find those five Earth Realm Strange, who can guarantee that we have the strength to suppress and Seal them?"

Hearing Lu Chen's questions, Ji Yunmeng fell silent. Indeed, whether in finding those five Earth Realm Strange or in sealing them, there were enormous difficulties.

Could it be that the only path was to report this?

At this time, Prince Zhen Nan asked, "Then Chen'er, what do you think the Deceit Suppression Bureau should do in this matter?"

Lu Chen said, "I think this is an opportunity—an opportunity for the Zhen Nan Prince Manor to rise again."

Hearing this, Prince Zhen Nan and Ji Yunmeng both looked at Lu Chen with puzzled expressions.

Lu Chen continued, "This matter should be reported, but not yet. If those five Earth Realm Strange were to just disappear without a trace, that definitely

wouldn't do. We must stir up a great commotion, let everyone know that those five Earth Realm Strange have escaped."

"In addition, our Zhen Nan Prince Manor can take this chance to proactively propose assisting the Deceit Suppression Bureau in subduing and Sealing those five Earth Realm Strange—but under certain conditions."

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Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Prince Zhen Nan fell into a long silence. As someone with over a thousand years of wisdom, Prince Zhen Nan had already guessed why Lu Chen said this was an opportunity for the Zhen Nan Prince Manor to rise again.

These are five Earth Realm Aberrations, not five Earth Realm evils. To deal with these five Earth Realm Aberrations, it's unclear what price must be paid, and the Royal Family is definitely not willing to be at the forefront.

If someone is willing to take the lead at this time, to charge at the forefront, it would be a good thing for the Royal Family and the Empress Dowager, especially when it comes to a power like the Zhen Nan Prince Manor. If Zhen Nan Prince Manor attacks these aberrations, even if they don't ultimately destroy the five Earth Realm Aberrations, they can significantly weaken their power, making it easier for the Royal Family to seal them.

Most importantly, the Royal Family can also take this opportunity to continue weakening the power of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor. This is killing two birds with one stone. From this perspective, this is obviously not a good thing for Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

However, if you want a horse to work, you can't not feed it. Zhen Nan Prince Manor can take this opportunity to make some demands on the Royal Family. If the Royal Family is unwilling to agree, then Zhen Nan Prince Manor has no need to really exert itself.

Lu Chen continued, "Furthermore, once the news of the Earth Realm Aberrations being released spreads, those who want to eliminate Zhen Nan Prince Manor are probably not in such a hurry anymore."

Although many forces want to destroy Zhen Nan Prince Manor, especially the current Empress Dowager, once Zhen Nan Prince Manor disappears now, the Royal Family will have to face those five Earth Realm Aberrations directly.

The Empress Dowager and her party should understand the gravity of the situation. Even if Zhen Nan Prince Manor must be destroyed, it should be after suppressing and sealing these Earth Realm Aberrations. Even ten Zhen Nan Prince Manors combined cannot match the threat of the Earth Realm Aberrations.

This gives the Zhen Nan Prince Manor time to rise again. With Lu Chen's current growth rate, it might not take long for him to break through to the Earth Realm.

Once he does, it will be impossible for the Royal Family to move against Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Ji Yunmeng was slightly surprised. Lu Chen did not seem to be entirely a frivolous young master; he had some intelligence to see that the incident of the Earth Realm Aberrations breaking through the seal was an opportunity for the Zhen Nan Prince Manor to rise.

Once this news spreads, the capital city will surely be in a state of panic, and no one will have the mind to target Zhen Nan Prince Manor. They will even hope that Zhen Nan Prince Manor can stand up to resist those five Earth Realm Aberrations.

At this moment, Prince Zhen Nan looked at Ji Yunmeng and asked, "Princess, what do you think of Chen'er's words?"

Upon being asked this question by Prince Zhen Nan, Ji Yunmeng realized that Prince Zhen Nan's thoughts aligned with Lu Chen's. She pondered for a moment, weighing the pros and cons in her mind.

For her, once the news of the five Earth Realm Aberrations breaking the seal spreads, it could indeed have a significant impact, as she has just become the Commander of Deceit Suppression Bureau, and such a major incident occurred. People will definitely be dissatisfied with her, which could affect her future plans.

Climbing to that position is already challenging for her, so she needs public support more than anyone. If she loses it, her ambitions can never be realized.

However, if she does not rely on other forces' strength and does not allow the Imperial Court to assist, it would be very difficult to find those five Earth Realm Aberrations with just the Zhen Nan Prince Manor and Deceit Suppression Bureau. If delayed, allowing those aberrations to grow, she would be a sinner of Dazhou, and if Dazhou ceases to exist, how could she achieve her ambitions?

The question now is not whether to report it, but how to report it, and how to turn this disadvantage into advantageous conditions for herself.

Just as Ji Yunmeng was spacing out, Lu Chen kindly reminded, "Princess, if under your leadership, the Deceit Suppression Bureau suppresses those five Earth Realm Aberrations, it would surely be a good thing for you, right?"

Upon Lu Chen's reminder, Ji Yunmeng quickly realized that indeed, if the bureau suppresses those aberrations under her leadership, it could potentially help her gain some public support.

But, in the eyes of some, this might just seem like making amends for her mistakes. Some will argue that those five Earth Realm Aberrations escaped during her tenure as the Commander of the Deceit Suppression Bureau, and suppressing them again is merely her duty.

So, to turn the Earth Realm Aberrations' breaking the seal into a beneficial thing for her, the timing of their escape is crucial. It must occur when the Deceit Suppression Bureau is completely unprepared so that the bureau can shift the blame.

Coming back to her senses, Ji Yunmeng said to Lu Chen, "Perhaps, in some people's eyes, this is just a way for me to make amends."

Lu Chen said, "So, the aberrations breaking the seal cannot be your responsibility, nor can it be seen as Deceit Suppression Bureau's fault."

Ji Yunmeng asked, "Master Lu, do you have a good plan?"

Ji Yunmeng did not believe Lu Chen could come up with a good plan; that he had talked to this extent was enough to make her see him differently. Still, she didn't think someone inexperienced like Lu Chen would have a perfect strategy.

Upon hearing her question, Lu Chen calmly said, "These five Earth Realm Aberrations were in a sealed state, so if they broke the seal from the inside, the Deceit Suppression Bureau would inevitably bear responsibility. After all, the bureau should reinforce the seal before they escape."

"But if other Earth Realm Aberrations intruded upon the Capital city to rescue these five, tying up the bureau's strong individuals, leading to their escape, what then?"

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Ji Yunmeng instantly understood his meaning, which was to find someone to impersonate the Earth Realm Aberrations and create a commotion in the bureau.

At that moment, Lu Chen turned to Prince Zhen Nan and asked, "Father, Zhen Nan Prince Manor shouldn't be short of five Earth Realm Strong Persons, right?"

Prince Zhen Nan also understood Lu Chen's meaning. With a smile, he replied, "Naturally, although the Zhen Nan Prince Manor has declined, we still have five Earth Realm experts."

"Moreover, the princess is your future fiancée, so it's natural for our Zhen Nan Prince Manor to help out."

Hearing Prince Zhen Nan's words, Ji Yunmeng felt a sense of relief. Since Prince Zhen Nan was willing to help, she wouldn't have to find Earth Realm Strong Persons to play the part. Although there are not too few in the Capital city, finding five Earth Realm Strong Persons to impersonate aberrations at once wouldn't be easy.

Ji Yunmeng, upon recollecting herself, asked Prince Zhen Nan, "Does the Prince have any conditions?"

There's no such thing as a free lunch, and she didn't think Prince Zhen Nan would help without asking for some benefits. Assisting the Deceit Suppression Bureau and helping her avoid blame, Prince Zhen Nan was sure to have some conditions.

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Hearing Ji Yunmeng's question, Prince Zhen Nan looked at Lu Chen, then revealed a kind smile and said, "We are family, so there's no need to speak like outsiders. Soon you will be my daughter-in-law, and naturally, Zhen Nan Prince Manor cannot see its daughter-in-law being blamed."

Upon hearing Prince Zhen Nan say this, Ji Yunmeng actually felt pressure. If Prince Zhen Nan proposed any conditions, as long as she could satisfy what Zhen Nan Prince Manor asked, she wouldn't owe them a favor in the future. But now Prince Zhen Nan didn't ask for any conditions, which means she would always owe Zhen Nan Prince Manor a favor, and in this world, the hardest debt to repay is a debt of gratitude.

Ji Yunmeng calmed her emotions a bit and thought that Prince Zhen Nan had some point. Soon she would marry into Zhen Nan Prince Manor. By then, she would be part of the manor, and even if she owed them a debt of gratitude, she wouldn't need to repay it.

If she really had to repay the debt of gratitude, she could simply bear more children for Lu Chen. After all, by that time, the entire Zhen Nan Prince Manor would be hers.

Ji Yunmeng then expressed her gratitude, saying, "Thank you, Prince Zhen Nan, thank you, Master Lu."

Prince Zhen Nan said, "Since the method to clear any blame has been decided, let's get ready. There are many Earth Realm strong persons in the Capital city, and we have to proceed cautiously so as not to alert the Royal Family."

At this moment, Lu Chen asked, "Princess, besides you, who else in the Deceit Suppression Bureau knows that the five Earth Realm Stranges have already broken the seal?"

Ji Yunmeng replied, "Besides me, there are several division heads of the Deceit Suppression Bureau, two former commanders, and also a Deceit Suppressing Guard named Zeng Shuo, who is the person you sent to record what the Stranges look like."

Lu Chen said, "No wonder he didn't return last night; it turns out he was detained at the Deceit Suppression Bureau."

This matter is too significant. To prevent the news from leaking out, they would surely block the information immediately.

Lu Chen thought for a moment and then said, "The higher-ups of the Deceit Suppression Bureau are tied to you, and they cannot bear the responsibility for the Earth Realm Stranges breaching the seal. So they likely won't speak, and the key issue now is how to deceive the others in the Deceit Suppression Bureau."

"Once others hear that the Deceit Suppression Bureau's five Earth Realm Stranges have broken the seal, they will definitely send people to probe the situation. That person in the palace will probably send the Royal Family's tributors to investigate. If even the Deceit Suppressing Guards can't be fooled, then there's no hope of deceiving the Royal Family's tributors."

Prince Zhen Nan asked, "Chen'er, what do you think should be done?"

At this, Lu Chen looked up at Prince Zhen Nan, with a slight smile, and said, "I'm afraid I'll have to trouble Father to personally take action."

Hearing this, both Prince Zhen Nan and Ji Yunmeng were taken aback, especially Ji Yunmeng. She hadn't expected Lu Chen to ask Prince Zhen Nan to personally act. Knowing that Prince Zhen Nan was already a dying man, if he were to act, wouldn't it accelerate the backlash from the spiritual evil he harbored, causing him to die more quickly?

Lu Chen continued, "Father, the Black Evil in you is quite similar to the spiritual evil in the Stranges. If you act, it's more likely that others will believe you to be the Earth Realm Strange."

Upon hearing this, Prince Zhen Nan realized that indeed, as long as he could suppress the death qi within him and release the Black Evil, without anyone seeing his face, people would surely suspect him to be the Earth Realm Strange.

As for suppressing the death qi, it's not too difficult. One only needs to wear certain treasures that can conceal death qi to cover it up.

At this moment, Ji Yunmeng reminded from the side, "There's no need to trouble Prince Zhen Nan for this, just borrow five Earth Realm entities from Zhen Nan Prince Manor for the Deceit Suppression Bureau."

Ji Yunmeng didn't dare to let Prince Zhen Nan participate in this matter. If something happened to him, the entire Zhen Nan Prince Manor might bear a grudge against her, especially those strong persons in the manor. If they blamed Prince Zhen Nan's death on her, how could she ever control Zhen Nan Prince Manor in the future?

Just after Ji Yunmeng spoke, Prince Zhen Nan said, "Chen'er is right. If I act, it will be easier to deceive others."

This...

Seeing that Prince Zhen Nan truly intended to act, Ji Yunmeng became worried instead.

Prince Zhen Nan, knowing what Ji Yunmeng was concerned about, continued, "Princess, don't worry. This old body of mine can still hold on for a while; I won't die so soon."

Hearing Prince Zhen Nan's tone, Ji Yunmeng felt somewhat confused internally: Could Prince Zhen Nan really have found a way to temporarily suppress the spiritual evil backlash?

Though she was very curious, Ji Yunmeng also knew this was a secret of Zhen Nan Prince Manor, so she did not ask further.

Prince Zhen Nan continued, "Then the Princess should return to the Deceit Suppression Bureau to work on the layout. Once everything is ready, I will personally lead people to the bureau."

Seeing that Prince Zhen Nan had made up his mind, Ji Yunmeng couldn't argue anymore. After all, it was Prince Zhen Nan who was helping the Deceit Suppression Bureau, and it wouldn't be appropriate for her to make demands. Since Prince Zhen Nan insisted on acting, let him act.

Ji Yunmeng then stood up, thanked Prince Zhen Nan once more, and directly turned to leave Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Watching Ji Yunmeng's departing figure, Prince Zhen Nan looked at Lu Chen with comfort and said, "Chen'er, you're now capable of handling matters on your own, and I can leave with peace of mind."

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen immediately said, "Father, what are you saying? With me helping you to extract the Black Evil in your body, living for several more thousand years is not a problem."

Prince Zhen Nan restrained his smile and sighed deeply, "The backlash of the spiritual evil is irreversible. Although you've helped me extract a large amount of Black Evil, reducing the spiritual evil's backlash, my body still constantly generates Black Evil, and this Black Evil continues to devour my vitality."

"If I can't break through to a higher realm, with your help, I might extend my life by a mere ten more years at most."

Prince Zhen Nan was self-aware. Even at his peak, he couldn't break through to a higher realm, and now with his body exhausted, it was impossible to reach a higher realm.

He no longer harbored such fantasies. In his eyes, Lu Chen was already a perfect successor. As long as Lu Chen lived, under Lu Chen's leadership, Zhen Nan Prince Manor would surely rise again, and thus he had no complaints.

At this moment, Prince Zhen Nan thought of something and reminded, "Princess Yun'an is not someone who settles easily. When she marries into Zhen Nan Prince Manor, you must be careful."

As an old fox living for over a thousand years, Prince Zhen Nan could clearly sense Ji Yunmeng's greater ambitions. Initially, he believed Ji Yunmeng approached Zhen Nan Prince Manor under Emperor Zhou's instruction, but thinking about it now, besides Emperor Zhou's instruction, Ji Yunmeng likely had her own plans.

Hearing Prince Zhen Nan's reminder, Lu Chen asked, "Oh? Did Father discover something?"

Prince Zhen Nan said, "It's just my feeling. Such an important incident as the Earth Realm Stranges breaking the seal, she actually wants to hide it and not report it. She intends to rely on the Deceit Suppression Bureau and Zhen Nan Prince Manor to resolve the matter. I feel she is overly concerned about her reputation."

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As a member of the Royal Family, it's understandable to care about one's reputation, but the breakout of five Earth Realm Stranges is no small matter. If not handled properly, the entire Dazhou could be destroyed. Yet Ji Yunmeng thinks of concealing it.

Prince Zhen Nan doesn't believe Ji Yunmeng is foolish. She surely knows the importance of the matter. This indicates that Ji Yunmeng places her reputation in a very important position.

What does she care about her reputation for as a Princess? Even if the matter leaks and she needs to take the blame, she would at most lose her Commander of the Deceit Suppression Bureau position and revert to being a Princess.

This is why Prince Zhen Nan feels that Ji Yunmeng has grander ambitions. Her ambitions require her to cherish her reputation, otherwise achieving her goals would be very difficult.

Prince Zhen Nan vaguely sensed what Ji Yunmeng aspired to, but he didn't dare to make assumptions. After all, there was no precedent for a woman ascending the throne in Dazhou, not even the current Empress Dowager, who controls the court but nominally manages affairs for the Emperor.

Upon hearing Prince Zhen Nan's words, Lu Chen thought to himself that his father seemed to have noticed what Ji Yunmeng was up to. Lu Chen didn't continue the topic but instead said, "I understand. I will be on guard against her from now on."

Prince Zhen Nan said, "I hope it's my misunderstanding."

At that moment, Lu Chen suddenly remembered something and then smiled as he spoke to Prince Zhen Nan, "Father, let me share some good news with you."

Prince Zhen Nan asked, "What good news?"

Lu Chen said, "Qingqing has recently started experiencing morning sickness."

Prince Zhen Nan was stunned. Lu Chen had previously told him that Bai Qingqing might already be pregnant, but Prince Zhen Nan did not believe it. He didn't think two Spirit Martial Artists could conceive in such a short time, though he dearly hoped Bai Qingqing would soon be pregnant to add an heir to the Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Prince Zhen Nan, coming back to his senses, immediately inquired, "Is this true?"

Lu Chen said, "It's true. I told you before that she might already be pregnant, but you didn't believe me."

Prince Zhen Nan hurriedly said, "Quickly call for a doctor to confirm!"

Lu Chen said, "There's no need for now. If the news leaks, it wouldn't be a good thing."

Currently, who knows how many eyes are on Zhen Nan Prince Manor? Initially, those people only targeted him as the Princely Heir. If they knew Bai Qingqing carried his child and that Zhen Nan Prince Manor was about to have new blood, they would spare no effort to harm Bai Qingqing's unborn child.

Prince Zhen Nan, understanding that Lu Chen wanted to protect Bai Qingqing, didn't say anything further. He believed that Lu Chen, as he is now, should be able to ascertain Bai Qingqing's pregnancy by feeling her pulse. Even if Lu Chen couldn't confirm it, he could find a chance to have Bai Qingqing visit him for a personal examination to determine pregnancy.

Meanwhile...

Inside Lu Chen's courtyard...

Bai Qingqing, wearing a plain long dress, sat upright on a stone stool in a pavilion, with a plate of oranges on the stone table before her.

For some unknown reason, she's had a craving for sour foods lately. Initially, she didn't realize she was pregnant. Lu Chen had mentioned that she might be

carrying his child and had not touched her during this time, but she didn't believe it.

She merely thought Lu Chen had grown tired of her, which is why he left her alone.

However, feeling fatigued and occasionally nauseous over the past few days made Bai Qingqing sense something was amiss.

At that moment, a wave of nausea suddenly rose within her, compelling her to turn her head and retch.

The maid, witnessing this, hurriedly said, "Madam, what's wrong? I'll call the doctor right away."

Bai Qingqing tried to control her body, attempting to suppress the nausea. No matter her efforts, her body instinctively continued to gag.

Moreover, Bai Qingqing sensed a place within her absorbing her spiritual evil. Her spiritual energy circulated more quickly, flowing toward her abdomen.

This is...

By this point, Bai Qingqing realized what was happening.

Just then, Lu Chen's figure appeared in the courtyard, and he spoke to the maid, "No need to call a doctor."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, the maid immediately stopped, saying, "Yes, Princely Heir."

Lu Chen hurried to Bai Qingqing's side, sat on the nearby bench, and smiled as he asked, "See, I wasn't lying to you."

Hearing this, Bai Qingqing felt conflicted and unsure of what to say. She hadn't expected to become a mother so soon.

Seeing Bai Qingqing remain silent, Lu Chen wrapped an arm around her waist, pulling her onto his lap, and still, she didn't react.

After a while, Bai Qingqing asked, "What business does the Princess have with you?"

She was aware of Princess Yun'an's visit to the Prince Manor, and although she wasn't particularly concerned, Lu Chen's embrace prompted her to find a topic.

Lu Chen didn't answer this question, but instead asked, "Are you jealous?"

Bai Qingqing said expressionlessly, "No."

She wouldn't be jealous of Lu Chen, a notorious flirt. Moreover, she couldn't confirm whether Lu Chen had been possessed by evil forces; she certainly held no affection for him.

Lu Chen then said, "She's not here for me but for Father."

"As for the specifics, it's inconvenient to tell you now, but you'll soon find out."

Seeing Lu Chen's reluctance, Bai Qingqing didn't pursue the matter further, and silence returned. At this moment, she noticed Lu Chen's wandering hand reaching inside her clothes.

Bai Qingqing remained expressionless, focused on determining whether this despicable man was possessed by evil forces. If he was, she could forgive his misconduct; otherwise...

Bai Qingqing paused, realizing that even if this shameless rogue weren't possessed, there was nothing she could do to him. As his woman, it was natural to indulge his desires.

...

Two days later, a sudden surge of evil entities appeared outside the Capital city, prompting the Deceit Suppression Bureau to deploy most of its Deceit Suppressing Guards.

As night fell...

A towering Black Evil emerged from the Deceit Suppression Bureau, followed by intense combat that captured the attention of all powerful entities in the Capital city. Soon, they arrived near the Bureau to investigate.

However, by the time those powerhouses arrived, the battle had ceased.

Cheng Ran, Commander of the Imperial Guard, arrived at the Deceit Suppression Bureau to find it in disarray. Many buildings had been destroyed, and the five directors lay injured on the ground, even Princess Ji Yunmeng was covered in blood.

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

Seeing the scene at the Deceit Suppression Bureau, Cheng Ran suddenly felt cold sweat pouring down. What exactly happened at the Deceit Suppression Bureau?

With so many Earth Realm Strong Persons at the Deceit Suppression Bureau, all severely injured, who attacked the Deceit Suppression Bureau?

Cheng Ran quickly approached Ji Yunmeng and asked with concern, "Your Highness, are you alright? What just happened? How did the Deceit Suppression Bureau end up like this?"

Ji Yunmeng spat out a mouthful of blood, and the maid beside her immediately supported Ji Yunmeng. Ji Yunmeng weakly said, "Re... report immediately, there's an Earth Realm Strange attacking the Deceit Suppression Bureau, aiding those five Earth Realm Stranges to break through the sealing..."

As soon as she finished speaking, Ji Yunmeng fainted, and upon hearing her words, Cheng Ran was momentarily too stunned to react, his mind blank.

An Earth Realm Strange attacked the Deceit Suppression Bureau? And they even released the Earth Realm Stranges that were sealed by the Deceit Suppression Bureau???

The sky is falling!!!

Coming back to his senses, Cheng Ran wasted no words and immediately turned around, heading straight for the Imperial Palace.

At this moment.

Observatory.

The evening breeze caressed the jade cheeks and hair of the beautiful woman, Pei Shuhua, who stood under the moonlight, gazing toward the direction of the Deceit Suppression Bureau.

The commotion at the Deceit Suppression Bureau was so great that almost everyone in the Capital City felt the battle there, and Pei Shuhua was no exception. After realizing something had happened to the Deceit Suppression Bureau, she ascended the Observatory, gazing toward its direction.

At this moment, flames soared at the Deceit Suppression Bureau. Although she couldn't clearly see the current situation there, from the sight of the flames, it was apparent that the Deceit Suppression Bureau faced some crisis.

Pei Shuhua spoke to the air, "Go to the Deceit Suppression Bureau immediately and see what exactly has happened."

As soon as Pei Shuhua finished speaking, a figure appeared behind her, who, after receiving orders, turned into a fleeting shadow and went straight to the Deceit Suppression Bureau.

Just then, the voice of the maid rang out behind Pei Shuhua, "Madam, Commander Cheng requests an audience!"

Hearing this, Pei Shuhua knew Cheng Ran was probably here to report on the situation at the Deceit Suppression Bureau, so she said coolly, "Let him come up."

Moments later, Cheng Ran arrived at the Observatory. Upon reaching Pei Shuhua, Cheng Ran couldn't bother with formalities and immediately said, "Madam, something terrible has happened. The Deceit Suppression Bureau is in trouble!"

Seeing Cheng Ran's pale face, Pei Shuhua had a vague feeling of foreboding and promptly asked, "What happened?"

Cheng Ran replied, "An Earth Realm Strange attacked the Deceit Suppression Bureau, helping the sealed Earth Realm Stranges break their seal. Now, all the experts at the Deceit Suppression Bureau are severely injured, and even Princess Yun'an is critically wounded."

Upon hearing this, Pei Shuhua's eyebrows instantly furrowed, her expression turned very serious.

Did the Earth Realm Stranges break the seal?

If that's the case, then Dazhou might face a crisis of destruction next.

Pei Shuhua hurriedly said to the maid beside her, "Immediately inform all ministers to gather in the Hall of Political Affairs for an important discussion!"

...

An hour later, almost all the court ministers gathered in the Hall of Political Affairs. Most of the ministers still did not know what had happened, but they were aware that something significant must have occurred; otherwise, the Empress Dowager would not have summoned everyone late at night.

Seeing that almost everyone had arrived, the Empress Dowager directly told Cheng Ran, "Tell them what just happened."

Cheng Ran quickly stated, "Earlier, an Earth Realm Strange attacked the Deceit Suppression Bureau, helping the five sealed Earth Realm Stranges break the seal. Now, all the experts at the Deceit Suppression Bureau have suffered severe injuries, and even Princess Yun'an is in a coma."

Upon hearing Cheng Ran's words, all the ministers in the court gasped, and the princes were even more ashen-faced.

Those Earth Realm Stranges actually broke free!

More importantly, there was an attack by an Earth Realm Strange on the Deceit Suppression Bureau, meaning there are more than five Earth Realm Stranges in Dazhou now. The Deceit Suppression Bureau has many experts, and to severely wound them all indicates the number of attacking Earth Realm Stranges was significant tonight.

Instantaneously, the entire hall was in chaos.

"How did Earth Realm Stranges suddenly emerge in the Capital City?"

"This is the end! Those five Earth Realm Stranges have been released; they will surely retaliate against Dazhou!"

"How useless is the Deceit Suppression Bureau, unable to even guard the Demon Suppression Tower!"

"What do we do now? We don't even know the immense cost we paid back then to seal those five Earth Realm Stranges!"

...

Pei Shuhua coldly swept her gaze over the noisy hall, and a spiritual evil inadvertently emanated from her body. The next moment, the ministers felt a terrifying pressure, and they quickly silenced, saying no more.

Pei Shuhua then asked, "Do any of you have any plans?"

Upon hearing Pei Shuhua's question, the ministers exchanged glances with one another.

At this point, a minister stepped forward and said, "Madam, the urgent matter is to quickly ascertain the whereabouts of those Earth Realm Stranges."

If an Earth Realm Strange is hiding within the Capital City, then all of them could lose their lives at any moment.

Pei Shuhua turned her gaze to Cheng Ran and said, "Commander Cheng, I entrust this matter to you. Until the Deceit Suppression Bureau recovers, find out where those Stranges went."

Cheng Ran immediately replied, "I accept the order."

Pei Shuhua then continued, "Now that the Deceit Suppression Bureau is severely damaged, it may not be able to continue its duties. What are your thoughts?"

Upon hearing Pei Shuhua's words, the ministers' minds became active, realizing this was the best opportunity to extend their influence into the Deceit Suppression Bureau.

However, Pei Shuhua reminded them, "The power of Earth Realm Stranges is extraordinary, and they are immortal. Attempting to reseal them is extremely difficult; this is a calamity for Dazhou. Henceforth, whether it's the Royal Family or Aristocratic Families, all must cooperate fully."

Hearing Pei Shuhua's reminder, those ministers considering inserting their influence into the Deceit Suppression Bureau composed themselves immediately. Anyone going to the Deceit Suppression Bureau now might face those five Earth Realm Stranges, and placing people in the bureau now is basically sending them to their deaths.

At this moment, a minister stepped forward and said, "Madam, given the rampant supernatural threat in Dazhou, we cannot do without the Deceit Suppression Bureau. Therefore, we must rebuild the bureau quickly and help the Earth Realm Strong Persons there recover rapidly. I suggest dispatching all Imperial Physicians to the bureau."

Pei Shuhua glanced at the man and said, "I have already sent all Imperial Physicians to the Deceit Suppression Bureau."

"But it will take time for the Deceit Suppression Bureau to recover its strength. During this period, someone must replace the bureau in defense against those Earth Realm Stranges."

Hearing Pei Shuhua's words, the ministers exchanged looks. They were capable of arguing in court, but combating Earth Realm Stranges was a different matter.

They could sense that Pei Shuhua wanted their backing aristocratic families or forces to send strong individuals to combat the Earth Realm Stranges.

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

After Pei Shuhua finished speaking, the entire hall plunged into a deathly silence, with not a single minister stepping forward to speak.

No one was willing to stand up against the Earth Realm Strange, an existence that was immortal.

Each Earth Realm Strong Person was a pillar for the powers and Aristocratic Family backing them.

Moreover, they were most worried that if they sealed the Earth Realm Strange and the Earth Realm Strong Person behind them died, while the strong ones from other forces were still alive, their own forces or families would be divided.

Seeing that no one was willing to step forward, Pei Shuhua's jade-like face suddenly darkened, and her cold gaze swept over those ministers in the hall.

Feeling Pei Shuhua's gaze, the ministers hurriedly lowered their heads.

At this moment, a minister stepped forward and said, "Your Highness, during the past, the sealing of those five Earth Realm Strange heavily relied on the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan and the Grand Ancestor Emperor. Perhaps the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan left some methods to deal with these Earth Realm Strange. I believe that if this matter is entrusted to Zhen Nan Prince Manor, they could quickly suppress those five Earth Realm Strange again."

Upon hearing these words, the ministers in the hall were momentarily stunned, as everyone knew the current state of Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Moreover, Zhen Nan Prince Manor had long been aware of the royal family's intentions to eliminate them, and probably no one more than them wanted to see Dazhou's downfall. Why would they help Dazhou suppress and seal those Earth Realm Strange?

It's likely that the people at Zhen Nan Prince Manor are gloating over the Earth Realm Strange breaking the sealing incident.

Upon hearing the minister's words, Pei Shuhua did not respond immediately. Her slender jade fingers continuously tapped on the armrest of the Dragon Throne as if contemplating the feasibility of this proposal.

Currently, asking Zhen Nan Prince Manor to confront the Earth Realm Strange seems unlikely to gain their agreement.

Even issuing a Holy Decree would be of no use, especially after she had recently considered eliminating the sole offspring of Prince Zhen Nan to end his lineage.

Now, seeking help from Zhen Nan Prince Manor would be insane unless the strong ones there have lost their minds, as they would never easily agree.

However, it's not entirely impossible.

After all, Zhen Nan Prince Manor is still in Dazhou; if Dazhou truly falls to the Strange, they wouldn't be able to escape either.

In this world, there are no eternal friends nor eternal enemies, only eternal interests. As long as the royal family offers sufficient benefits, Zhen Nan Prince Manor might agree to stand up against the Strange.

However, to seek help from Zhen Nan Prince Manor, it can't be under the name of the Empress Dowager. As of now, Zhen Nan Prince Manor has sided with Emperor Zhou, so they surely know that it's the Empress Dowager who wants them gone.

After a moment of contemplation, Pei Shuhua said, "That's all for today. I will discuss this matter with Your Majesty later."

Pei Shuhua also understood that these people had no intention of actively standing up against the Strange. To make them step forward, more forceful measures would be needed, but for now, they weren't required.

If Zhen Nan Prince Manor willingly steps out to deal with the Strange, then those Earth Realm Strong Persons behind these ministers wouldn't be needed. If Zhen Nan Prince Manor doesn't agree, she has ways to force those Aristocratic Families' Earth Realm Strong Persons to step forward.

If it were an invasion by another dynasty's army, these families might surrender, but in a war with the Strange, even if they wanted to surrender, the Strange wouldn't agree. To the Strange, humans are merely blood food.

Meanwhile.

Long Life Hall.

Emperor Zhou sat cross-legged on a meditation mat, listening to the report from the eunuch in the hall, his face showing disbelief.

"The five Earth Realm Strange suppressed by the Deceit Suppression Bureau broke the sealing?" Emperor Zhou asked in disbelief.

The eunuch kneeling in the hall hurriedly replied, "Indeed, Your Majesty, the Empress Dowager has already summoned the ministers to discuss this matter. It's said that all the strong ones from the Deceit Suppression Bureau have been severely injured, and now the Capital city's Deceit Suppression Bureau is virtually crippled, with the Imperial Guard taking over all its affairs."

Emperor Zhou fell silent, his facial expression constantly changing, at times frowning, at times relaxing.

This made him see an opportunity, a chance to free himself from the control of the Empress Dowager. However, with the current situation, he wasn't in the mood for a power struggle with the Empress Dowager. If the eunuch's report was true, it indicated that the number of Earth Realm Strange in Dazhou might have already reached ten.

The First Generation Prince Zhen Nan and the Grand Ancestor Emperor sacrificed half of Dazhou's territory to suppress those five Earth Realm Strange, and even both of them suffered serious injuries. They would have had the chance to reach higher realms with their talents.

Handling five Earth Realm Strange was already incredibly difficult, and now with ten appearing, Dazhou is even more incapable of holding out. Dazhou is at a critical life-and-death juncture.

Even though Emperor Zhou wanted to seize power and regain control of the court, if Dazhou fell, there would be no emperor to be.

As Emperor Zhou pondered his next steps, a maid entered the hall, "Your Majesty, Her Highness is here."

Upon hearing this, Emperor Zhou did not rise, only saying expressionlessly, "Enter."

The next moment, Pei Shuhua entered the Long Life Hall with graceful steps.

Pei Shuhua glanced around the dimly lit Long Life Hall, then let her gaze fall on Emperor Zhou seated on the meditation mat, and said with a smile, "Your Majesty is indeed engrossed in cultivation; you don't even stop cultivating when I come."

Emperor Zhou asked indifferently, "Mother, what urgent matters bring you to Long Life Hall today?"

At this moment, the eunuch kneeling on the ground immediately got up, slowly exited the hall, then the hall's door closed, leaving only Pei Shuhua, her maid, and Emperor Zhou inside.

Pei Shuhua did not continue with idle chatter and directly said, "Your Majesty must have heard about the incident with the Deceit Suppression Bureau?"

Seeing Pei Shuhua bring up the matter proactively, Emperor Zhou calmly said, "Naturally, I've heard. I'm confident in mother's ability to quickly suppress those Earth Realm Strange and restore peace to Dazhou."

Pei Shuhua wasn't angered by Emperor Zhou's sarcastic words. She walked to the window, looked up at the red moon in the sky, and with her back to Emperor Zhou, said, "Your Majesty, Dazhou is ultimately yours; I am merely here to assist you."

Emperor Zhou sneered, "Assist me?"

Not continuing with that topic, he directly asked, "Now that Mother holds all the power, you still need my counsel on how to deal with the Earth Realm Strange?"

"Could it be that Mother thinks Dazhou can't withstand this ordeal, wishing to leave Dazhou and thus planning to return power to me?"

Pei Shuhua said calmly, "I am Dazhou's Empress Dowager; how could I abandon the people of Dazhou and flee alone?"

"As for why I came to you, it's because you are now closer to Zhen Nan Prince Manor, so I want you to visit them."

Hearing this, Emperor Zhou immediately understood Pei Shuhua's intention. She wanted Zhen Nan Prince Manor to take the initiative to stand against the Strange.

The Empress Dowager had offended Zhen Nan Prince Manor before, so they definitely wouldn't listen to her, hence wanting him to be the intermediary.

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

Pei Shuhua's words fell, and Emperor Zhou mocked, saying, "Mother, you now hold great power, can't you even control Prince Zhen Nan?"

"If you want Zhen Nan Prince Manor to do something, just issue a Holy Decree, won't it suffice?"

Seeing Emperor Zhou still being sarcastic, Pei Shuhua said coldly, "If Your Majesty is unwilling, I will not say more. Once I leave Dazhou, I can go anywhere, but if Your Majesty leaves Dazhou, I wonder if you'll have the face to see your ancestors after you die."

Saying this, Pei Shuhua prepared to turn and leave the Long Life Hall. Hearing Pei Shuhua's indifferent tone, Emperor Zhou's expression remained unchanged, and he then said, "Mother, have you forgotten what you did to Zhen Nan Prince Manor?"

"Perhaps the one who most wants Dazhou to perish now is Zhen Nan Prince Manor."

Pei Shuhua reached the door, hearing Emperor Zhou's words, she stopped again, turned back to look at Emperor Zhou sitting on the cushion and said, "There are no eternal enemies, as long as the benefits are enough, Zhen Nan Prince Manor will naturally agree."

Emperor Zhou said, "Mother, aren't you afraid that Zhen Nan Prince Manor might take advantage of this opportunity to rise again?"

Pei Shuhua replied indifferently, "That depends on whether they have the ability."

Pei Shuhua, of course, knows Zhen Nan Prince Manor might make a big demand, seize this opportunity to gain benefits, and then attempt to rise again, but she doesn't care. In her view, dealing with those strange entities requires a huge price; not to mention rising, by then the entire Zhen Nan Prince Manor might be wiped out by those Stranges.

Emperor Zhou said at this time, "I will personally visit Zhen Nan Prince Manor tomorrow."

Hearing Emperor Zhou's words, Pei Shuhua turned her head, said no more, and directly left the Long Life Hall. Since Emperor Zhou agreed, things become easier, now just to see if Zhen Nan Prince Manor will agree.

In fact, when Pei Shuhua mentioned sending Emperor Zhou to Zhen Nan Prince Manor, he had already agreed in his mind because Pei Shuhua letting him leave the Imperial Palace is equivalent to giving him the freedom to come and go from the palace.

Moreover, he is now a nominal ally of Zhen Nan Prince Manor, and since the Empress Dowager needs help from Zhen Nan Prince Manor, it's unlikely she will imprison him, their nominal ally, at this time.

Of course, Emperor Zhou also understands the Empress Dowager will certainly arrange people secretly to monitor him and plant spies by his side.

But all this doesn't matter; as long as he can leave the palace and contact people outside, contact the Imperial Faction, he might seize this opportunity to reclaim power.

After the Empress Dowager left the Long Life Hall, the wooden door of Long Life Hall closed again. A slight breeze blew, causing the candle flames inside to flicker, making the light in the Long Life Hall dimmer.

At this moment, a figure appeared beside one of the pillars in the Hall, sensing Mu Yunxi's appearance, Emperor Zhou asked, "What do you think about the Deceit Suppression Bureau?"

Mu Yunxi is the Saintess of Tianxuan Palace; she should be very knowledgeable about the Strange, and Tianxuan Palace wants Dazhou's Qi Fortune, so they couldn't just watch Dazhou be destroyed by Strange hands without intervening.

Upon hearing Emperor Zhou's question, Mu Yunxi chuckled lightly and said, "If there were really Earth Realm Strange breaking into the Deceit Suppression Bureau, the noise wouldn't be so small."

Emperor Zhou asked, "What do you mean?"

Mu Yunxi continued, "If it is truly as the eunuch said, there should be at least ten Earth Realm Strange in Dazhou now. When Grand Ancestor Emperor founded Dazhou, five Earth Realm Strange almost destroyed the entire Dazhou, and now with ten Earth Realm Strange appearing in the Capital City, yet they haven't attacked the Royal Family and only caused such a small commotion, does Your Majesty find that possible?"

Hearing Mu Yunxi say this, Emperor Zhou reacted indeed, if those five Earth Realm Strange really broke the sealing, with ten Earth Realm Strange in Dazhou now, they wouldn't need to flee tonight, they would have started a massacre in the Capital City directly. Not to say they would wipe out all people in the Capital City, but at least half of the city's populace would suffer.

At this moment, Emperor Zhou thought of something, then said, "Could it be that the suppression of Dazhou's Qi Fortune is forcing those Earth Realm Strange to wait and plan long-term?"

When Grand Ancestor Emperor founded Dazhou, its Qi Fortune wasn't very rich, and importantly, there were not as many Earth Realm Strong Persons as there are now.

Although Dazhou's Qi Fortune has declined today, it's still stronger than at its inception. Dazhou has continuously developed; through several generations of emperors' efforts, Qi Fortune has reached an unprecedented peak, especially after the royal family suppressed Zhen Nan Prince Manor, Dazhou's Qi Fortune became even richer.

The richer Dazhou's Qi Fortune is, the more it suppresses Evil Strange, so in Emperor Zhou's view, these Strange haven't started a massacre only because this is the Capital City, the gathering place of Dazhou's Qi Fortune, where they are greatly oppressed by Qi Fortune. Hence after helping those five Earth Realm Strange escape, they immediately fled the Capital City.

Upon hearing Emperor Zhou's conjecture, Mu Yunxi said, "Your Majesty's conjecture is not unreasonable, but have you forgotten Strange need a lot of blood

to recover? If those five Earth Realm Strange escaped, how could they refrain from causing slaughter?"

This...

Emperor Zhou's brows furrowed tightly.

What Mu Yunxi said is indeed a huge suspicious point.

Mu Yunxi continued, "Moreover, with so many Earth Realm Strange showing up, yet no Earth Realm Strong Person from the Deceit Suppression Bureau died, doesn't Your Majesty find it strange? Since when did Earth Realm Strange become so benevolent?"

The intelligence of Earth Realm Strange is comparable to humans, even surpassing human beings. Whether out of spite or to weaken human strength, when those Earth Realm Strange stormed the Deceit Suppression Bureau, surely they would have killed some of its Earth Realm Strong Persons, but in the end, those strong persons were merely injured, and none died.

Emperor Zhou asked, "Then in your view, what is going on? Could it be those five Earth Realm Strange are still in the Demon Suppression Tower?"

Mu Yunxi said calmly, "In fact, when I came to the Capital City, I already noticed those five Earth Realm Strange were missing."

Emperor Zhou's face instantly stiffened, Mu Yunxi had already known those five Earth Realm Strange were gone, then why hadn't she told him?

At this moment, Emperor Zhou coldly asked, "Since you knew, why didn't you tell me?"

Mu Yunxi said, "What good would it do to tell you? You are just a prisoner."

Hearing this, Emperor Zhou's face became even more unsightly, his fingers couldn't help but clenching, the knuckles turning white.

Mu Yunxi ignored Emperor Zhou's expression, continuing, "It's evident that today's events are just the Deceit Suppression Bureau putting on a show. They've probably already discovered those five Earth Realm Strange are missing, and to shirk responsibility, they deliberately created such a big noise, making people believe those five Earth Realm Strange just broke the sealing now. You"

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

Hearing Mu Yunxi's words, Emperor Zhou fell into deep thought. He wanted to furiously curse the Deceit Suppression Bureau as useless trash for not even knowing that the Earth Realm Strange had broken through the Sealing, but in the end he still held it back.

In any case, those five Earth Realm Strange had disappeared; the most urgent task now was to find them and suppress and seal them again.

Perhaps their strength had not yet recovered. If they waited until those things fully recovered, then Dazhou would likely be in grave danger.

After a moment of silence, Emperor Zhou said, "No wonder I feel that Dazhou's Qi Fortune has been growing weaker and weaker, and evil spirits everywhere have been increasing. It seems it is because those five Earth Realm Strange escaped."

Hearing this, Mu Yunxi couldn't help but let out a light laugh, then said, "Your Majesty truly knows how to comfort yourself."

"The main reason Dazhou's Qi Fortune has declined is still because Your Majesty is trapped. When the dragon is caged, the dynasty's Qi Fortune will be greatly affected. If Your Majesty can escape your predicament and reclaim power, Dazhou's Qi Fortune will naturally recover as well."

Emperor Zhou then asked, "Can your Tianxuan Palace find where those five Earth Realm Strange are now?"

Mu Yunxi replied, "We cannot. Strange can assume human form and hide among the populace. Coupled with the fact they already possess human-level intelligence, it becomes even harder to distinguish them."

Emperor Zhou asked, "I've heard the Deceit Suppression Bureau possesses Magic Treasures that can distinguish Strange. Can these Magic Treasures identify Earth Realm Strange?"

Mu Yunxi answered, "Those tracking Magic Treasures of the Deceit Suppression Bureau can only distinguish evil spirits and low-Realm Strange. High-Realm Strange are extremely skilled at concealing their aura. If they do not make a move, it is very difficult to see that they are Strange."

Emperor Zhou's face darkened as he said, "So in other words, if those Earth Realm Strange do not wish to expose themselves, we will never be able to seal them again? It might even be that one day they infiltrate the Imperial Palace, and I would still be unaware?"

Mu Yunxi said, "Before we find a way to see through their true bodies, that is indeed the case."

Hearing Mu Yunxi's words, Emperor Zhou's expression grew even more grave. If even Tianxuan Palace could not locate those five Earth Realm Strange, then what use was it even if the Zhen Nan Prince Manor was willing to come forward to fight the Strange?

As long as those five Earth Realm Strange did not appear, they would never be able to suppress and seal them, and with their power, they could wantonly wreak havoc throughout Dazhou.

If those five Earth Realm Strange were allowed to damage Dazhou's Qi Fortune, causing it to decline to the very limit, then once the suppression of Qi Fortune disappeared and those five Earth Realm Strange suddenly led an army of Strange to attack Dazhou, its destruction would only be a matter of time.

Emperor Zhou thought for a bit and felt something was off. If Strange were so adept at hiding, how had the Grand Ancestor Emperor and the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan managed to suppress and seal them?

The Grand Ancestor Emperor and the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan were able to find those few Earth Realm Strange; why couldn't they?

Thinking of this, Emperor Zhou asked, "The Grand Ancestor Emperor and the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan were able to suppress and seal them, yet now Dazhou's Qi Fortune is far more flourishing than when it was founded, and the number of experts is greater than before, but we instead are helpless against them?"

Mu Yunxi said, "The reason the Grand Ancestor Emperor could seal those five Earth Realm Strange was mainly because the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan knew certain Abnormal Skills that allowed him to identify Strange hidden among the populace."

"Without the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan, let alone sealing them, the Grand Ancestor Emperor would never have been able to find them at all."

Hearing Mu Yunxi's words, Emperor Zhou once again fell silent.

He was the Emperor and knew some of the Royal Family's secret history. The reason the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan's status was so high was mainly because he had made immense contributions to Dazhou, and the suppression of those five Earth Realm Strange was also his achievement. It was just that his merits were so great as to overshadow the throne, so the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan shared part of the merit with the Grand Ancestor Emperor, making people believe that crisis of Strange had been resolved by the Grand Ancestor Emperor and Prince Zhen Nan together.

But in reality, the Grand Ancestor Emperor had hardly contributed at all.

After a moment of silence, Emperor Zhou turned his gaze to Mu Yunxi, then asked, "If even those five Earth Realm Strange cannot be dealt with, then the plans of your Tianxuan Palace will likely fall through."

Tianxuan Palace wanted Dazhou's Qi Fortune, and now that Dazhou stood on the brink of life and death, if Tianxuan Palace did not take the initiative to come forward and seal those five Earth Realm Strange, then once Dazhou perished, all of Tianxuan Palace's schemes would be for nothing.

Mu Yunxi now said calmly, "Your Majesty need not be overly worried. Although Tianxuan Palace has no method to identify Earth Realm Strange, there will always be someone who can distinguish Strange."

Emperor Zhou asked, "You just said the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan mastered some Abnormal Skills and thus could distinguish Earth Realm Strange. I don't know what kind of Abnormal Skill you were referring to? Does Tianxuan Palace possess such Magic?"

Mu Yunxi replied, "The Abnormal Skills I spoke of are Magic that do not belong to this world..."

At this point, Mu Yunxi suddenly thought of something, then continued, "According to what I know, the Princess Consort of this generation's Prince Zhen Nan also seemed to be someone who wielded Abnormal Skills."

"It is just a pity that Abnormal Skills go against the Heavenly Dao. If used frequently, one is sure to incur heavenly punishment. That Princess Consort of Prince Zhen Nan likely died not long after giving birth to Lu Chen precisely because she used Abnormal Skills too often."

Hearing Mu Yunxi's words, Emperor Zhou immediately perked up. "In that case, there might still be others in the Zhen Nan Prince Manor who wield Abnormal Skills. If we have the Zhen Nan Prince Manor confront those Earth Realm Strange, they might have a way to ferret them out?"

Mu Yunxi said, "Not just anyone can master Abnormal Skills. Moreover, using Abnormal Skills comes at a tremendous price. If there are still people in the Zhen Nan Prince Manor who wield Abnormal Skills and Your Majesty wishes to ask their aid, then the Royal Family will likely have to pay a heavy price."

Emperor Zhou understood what Mu Yunxi meant—nothing more than that the Zhen Nan Prince Manor might open its lion's mouth and提出 all sorts of terms.

But in order to suppress and seal those five enormous hidden threats, preserve the Ji family's rivers and mountains, and maintain Dazhou's rule, no price would be too great.

...

Although the Imperial Court intended to keep it quiet, the news that the Earth Realm Strange had broken through the Sealing still spread throughout the entire Capital city by the next day. Coupled with the enormous commotion the Deceit Suppression Bureau had caused the previous night, the Capital city was instantly thrown into panic; many minor families began packing up, preparing to flee the Capital city.

Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

In the Meeting Hall, Prince Zhen Nan was discussing with a group of Tributors and Staff what the Zhen Nan Prince Manor should do next. Now that news of the Earth Realm Strange breaking the Sealing had spread, even if they did not take the initiative to提出 dealing with the Strange, the Royal Family would certainly think of the Zhen Nan Prince Manor and seek them out to confront the Strange.

At this moment, an Earth Realm Tributor reminded, "My Lord, although those five Earth Realm Strange most likely have not yet recovered their strength, it will still not be easy for us to find them."

Hearing this Tributor's words, everyone in the hall began to discuss.

"That's right. Strange are extremely adept at disguise. If they take on human form, they might pass right by us and we still would not know they are Strange."

"For ordinary Strange we can still use the Pursuing Evil Disc, but Earth Realm Strange can perfectly restrain their aura. If they do not take the initiative to reveal the spiritual evil on them, we have no way to find them."

"Don't be too pessimistic. If they were truly that good at hiding, then how did the Grand Ancestor Emperor and the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan manage to seal

those five Strange back then? Since the Grand Ancestor Emperor and the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan could find them, we can as well."

...

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

As they listened to the discussion among the tributors and staff, Prince Zhen Nan and Lu Chen, who were seated in the main positions, remained silent.

Once the discussion had mostly concluded, everyone then turned their gaze to Prince Zhen Nan. They truly had no methods to discern the Earth Realm Strange, but Prince Zhen Nan might.

The First Generation Prince Zhen Nan was able to distinguish such strange entities, perhaps he might have left some methods for identifying them, or Prince Zhen Nan might hold such methods in his possession.

Seeing everyone's gaze upon him, Prince Zhen Nan instantly guessed what they were thinking and proactively said, "I too do not know how to discern the Earth Realm Strange hidden amongst the crowd."

Hearing this, everyone in the hall was momentarily stunned.

At this moment, Zhao Yu asked, "Your Highness, did the Ancestor King not leave any methods to identify the strange?"

Prince Zhen Nan replied, "He did not. It is rumored that the Ancestor King used some abnormal skill, which allowed him to easily identify the strange. However, because of this, after that great battle, the Ancestor King's realm could no longer be enhanced, and he suffered severe backlash."

"Perhaps because the abnormal skill caused great harm, the Ancestor did not pass it down."

Speaking of abnormal skills, Prince Zhen Nan suddenly thought of his Princess Consort, and his gaze unintentionally turned to Lu Chen who was seated beside him.

Hearing Prince Zhen Nan's response, the crowd in the hall fell into silence. If they couldn't even discern the strange entities, even if they stood up against them from Zhen Nan Prince Manor, they wouldn't have a way against those five Earth Realm Stranges.

After some time, Lu Xun spoke up, "The Zhou Dynasty Royal Family has been using various methods against Zhen Nan Prince Manor for years, aiming to destroy it. Now, the life and death of the Zhou Dynasty mean nothing to us. If the strange army truly destroys the Zhou Dynasty, we can leave it and seek refuge in other dynasties."

The actions of the Zhou Dynasty Royal Family towards Zhen Nan Prince Manor over the years had long been noticed by its tributors and staff, and they were already dissatisfied with the Royal Family.

If not for Prince Zhen Nan's old age and the increasingly severe backlash from the spiritual evil, they might have already rallied behind Prince Zhen Nan for rebellion.

Following Lu Xun's remarks, other tributors echoed in agreement.

"The Royal Family has been troubling Zhen Nan Prince Manor in all sorts of ways, recently even attempting to harm the Princely Heir, wanting to sever the bloodline of Zhen Nan Prince Manor. Since they've acted so absolutely, why should we aid the Royal Family?"

"I too think we shouldn't assist the Royal Family; let them figure out how to deal with those Earth Realm Strangers themselves."

...

Hearing the various arguments, Lu Chen spoke, "This is not about aiding the Royal Family."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's voice, everyone present quieted down, turning their gaze toward him.

Seeing everyone quiet, Lu Chen continued, "We indeed can leave the Zhou Dynasty, but who can guarantee that those stranges won't attack other dynasties after destroying the Zhou Dynasty? Are we to keep running endlessly?"

The crowd felt slightly surprised; they hadn't expected their Princely Heir to care for the plight of the world.

Lu Chen continued, "Of course, it is also important that we are not merely assisting the Royal Family; this is an opportunity to let Zhen Nan Prince Manor rise again."

"If the Royal Family wants us to confront the stranges, they will need to offer us some benefits. It's difficult for a clever housewife to cook a meal without rice. If they offer nothing, then Zhen Nan Prince Manor can't oppose those stranges."

The crowd instantly understood Lu Chen's implication – was this holding Kou Zizhong to ransom?

Fu Li said at this moment, "But Princely Heir, if we can't identify those stranges, how will we confront them?"

"Besides, they were sealed in relation to the Ancestor, and once these stranges break free, they will surely seek revenge on Zhen Nan Prince Manor."

Lu Chen replied, "Master Fu, you know those stranges were sealed in connection to the Ancestor. Do you believe that if we do nothing, they will spare us?"

After Lu Chen explained, the crowd realized the five Earth Realm Stranges were sealed by the First Generation Prince Zhen Nan, thus they would seek revenge on Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

Lu Chen continued, "As for identifying those stranges, you need not worry. I am able to discern them."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, the crowd in the hall was momentarily stunned.

Lu Chen could discern them?

How does he discover them?

Even Prince Zhen Nan couldn't recognize the Earth Realm Strangers disguised as humans; how could he?

Zhao Yu was the first to recover and asked, "Is what the Princely Heir says true?"

Lu Chen said calmly, "I recall telling you before that I possess a Person Recognition Skill, thus no strange or sinister entity can escape my eyes."

This...

Lu Chen indeed mentioned he possessed the Person Recognition Skill, and the contribution of discerning spies and traitors within Zhen Nan Prince Manor was largely his.

When Lu Chen spoke of possessing a Person Recognition Skill, most were skeptical, believing Lu Chen's ability to uncover traitors stemmed from Prince Zhen Nan secretly investigating and giving him names to announce, creating an aura around him.

At this moment, Prince Zhen Nan, who had remained silent, spoke, "Everyone should understand what Chen'er's words entail."

Saying this, a cold gleam passed through the aging eyes of Prince Zhen Nan, and a wave of Black Evil couldn't help but surge from within, casting an overwhelming pressure throughout the hall.

Everyone understood Prince Zhen Nan's point; the greatest challenge in dealing with Earth Realm Stranges was the inability to identify them, but Lu Chen could. If this information reached the stranges' ears, they would go to great lengths to eliminate Lu Chen, hence his ability must remain confidential, hidden from any strange entity.

However, there was still some doubt in everyone's hearts; could their Princely Heir truly identify the stranges?

At this moment, a voice from outside the hall, belonging to a Hidden Guard, called out, "Your Highness, Your Majesty is here!"

Upon hearing this, Prince Zhen Nan immediately rose from his seat and said to everyone, "That will be all for today."

As he finished speaking, tributors and staff in the hall quickly dispersed, leaving only Prince Zhen Nan and Lu Chen.

Soon, the voice of a eunuch rang from the hall entrance, "His Majesty arrives!"

Following that, Emperor Zhou, dressed in a yellow Dragon Robe, appeared at the entrance of the Meeting Hall. Prince Zhen Nan and Lu Chen simultaneously bowed to Emperor Zhou, saying, "Greeting Your Majesty!"

The Emperor Zhou stepped forward, holding Prince Zhen Nan's shoulders, and said, "Prince Zhen Nan, please rise. You are injured and need not bow."

Prince Zhen Nan said, "Thank Your Majesty!"

After rising, Prince Zhen Nan made a gesture of invitation and continued, "Please take the main seat, Your Majesty."

Emperor Zhou proceeded to the main seat and sat down, then Prince Zhen Nan instructed the mansion servants to prepare tea.

Immediately following, Prince Zhen Nan actively asked, "What brings Your Majesty to Zhen Nan Prince Manor today?"