

Es. Benefits 521

Chapter 521: Murong Xue'er Seeks Guidance_2

In front of Zhuge Zhongguang, the so-called "Poetry Immortal" title seemed to him no more than a joke. Afterwards, Wei Li gave up as well, and these past years he started traveling through various countries, attempting to find a way to breakthrough before Zhuge Zhongguang.

Unexpectedly, Zhuge Zhongguang managed to breakthrough before him once again, delivering a heavy blow to Wei Li.

Both he and Zhuge Zhongguang walked the path of entering the Dao through literature, so he constantly compared himself to Zhuge Zhongguang. Zhuge Zhongguang's advance to the Heavenly Human Realm was something he could not accept, no matter what.

However, he recently heard rumors suggesting that Zhuge Zhongguang hadn't really made a breakthrough and that he entered only a Pseudo-Celestial Realm, far from the true Heavenly Human Realm, which reignited Wei Li's hope to surpass Zhuge Zhongguang.

It so happened that Murong Xue'er sought out Wei Li, inviting him to her poetry gathering. After guessing Murong Xue'er's intentions, Wei Li planned to use her to probe the North Prince for the current true condition of Zhuge Zhongguang. He was eager to know whether Zhuge Zhongguang truly hadn't reached the Heavenly Human Realm.

Soon, the poetry gathering began. To win Murong Xue'er's favor, the literati from the Hundred Flowers Garden pulled out all the stops, trying hard to display their talents.

Unfortunately, Murong Xue'er wasn't paying them any attention, even though she was seated the entire time on the second floor. Her thoughts were consumed with worry over whether Lu Chen would attend.

As the poetry gathering reached its midway point, Murong Xue'er's certainty that Lu Chen would come turned into worry. The North Prince had assured the invitation messenger he would arrive, so why hadn't Lu Chen appeared yet, despite it being so late?

Could it be that something had happened in the North Country, or that there was some major action underway, preventing the North Prince from coming?

At this time, seeing Miss Murong's expression seeming somewhat displeased, the literary gentlemen in the Hundred Flowers Garden thought perhaps they had performed poorly, displeasing her.

After all, despite rumors of Murong Xue'er's frivolousness and fondness for keeping male companions, given her high noble status, the men she paid attention to were undoubtedly exceptional. Naturally, her standards would be especially high.

In order to make Miss Murong smile, the literary gentlemen from the Hundred Flowers Garden tried even harder, and after an unknown amount of time, Murong Xue'er let out a soft sigh as she watched the group of men strenuously showcasing themselves.

The poetry gathering was nearly over, and yet the North Prince still hadn't arrived. It seemed he probably wouldn't be returning today.

If one wanted to get close to the North Prince, it looked as though they would have to find another opportunity.

At that moment, Wei Li spoke up from the side, "It seems Miss Murong has misjudged today."

Just as Wei Li finished speaking, a voice suddenly came from the entrance of the Hundred Flowers Garden, "The Prince has arrived!"

At these words, everyone inside the garden froze.

The Prince?

In the North Country, the only one directly addressed as "Prince" could only be the North Prince. After all, the North Country is his fiefdom where, if any other Seignior visited, people would call them by their titles, like calling out "Qi Prince has arrived" if the Qi Prince visited.

Wasn't the North Prince always busy?

Either managing the North Country or reveling in pleasures within his North Prince Mansion.

Why did he take interest in attending this kind of poetry gathering today?

And to think, now that the poetry gathering was nearly over, what was the point of the North Prince's late arrival?

Before long, a tall and handsome man in white robes, with a ponytail, entered the Hundred Flowers Garden.

Seeing Lu Chen appear, Murong Xue'er breathed a sigh of relief. He had come after all; she had thought he wasn't going to make it today.

As soon as Lu Chen entered the Hundred Flowers Garden, a maidservant hurriedly approached him, "Prince, my lady invites you to join her on the second floor."

Hearing this, Lu Chen looked up towards the second floor and caught Murong Xue'er's gaze, as she smiled at him.

Witnessing this scene, the literati inside the Hundred Flowers Garden were instantly displeased. They had been trying all this time to make Murong Xue'er smile, yet she hadn't.

But as soon as the North Prince arrived, without even doing anything, just with one look from the North Prince, Murong Xue'er's face showed a smile.

Then, Lu Chen followed the maidservant to the second floor.

Upon arriving on the second floor, Murong Xue'er immediately performed a respectful greeting, "I've seen the North Prince."

Wei Li also followed up with, "This old one greets the North Prince."

Lu Chen nodded and said, "Let's dispense with the formalities."

Lu Chen then continued with a smile, "Miss Murong, I apologize for the tardiness. There were some matters in the Prince's Mansion, so I'm late. I hope you won't take it to heart."

Murong Xue'er replied, "I don't mind at all. For the Prince to attend the poetry gathering I organized, I'm already deeply honored. How could I possibly take offense?"

As Murong Xue'er's words ceased, a man from down below in the garden couldn't hold back any longer. He directly addressed Lu Chen on the second-floor balcony, "Prince, I've heard your scholarship is profound, and you're well-versed in poetry and literature. Could we be fortunate enough today to witness the Prince's talent?"

Hearing this, Murong Xue'er was about to speak for Lu Chen, but Lu Chen himself simply said, "Profound scholarship?"

"Who told you that I have profound scholarship?"

"As far as I know, to the common people, I've always been someone without learning, indulging only in the pursuit of beauty."

Chapter 522: Murong Xue'er Seeks Guidance_3

Lu Chen's words directly rendered the person who had been speaking just now speechless.

At this moment, another man opened his mouth and said, "Today is the poetry gathering hosted by Miss Murong. Since the Prince has also joined, how about the Prince composes a poem as well?"

People were thinking that the North Prince was a man lacking in scholarly learning. What kind of poem could he create? If the North Prince failed to come up with a poem, or wrote something nonsensical, perhaps it would reverse Murong Xue'er's impression of him.

Just as people were thinking this, Lu Chen, with a smile on his face, said, "I'm here to attend the poetry gathering today, but not to compose poetry."

Then people from other kingdoms said, "If the Prince attends the poetry gathering but isn't here to compose poems, then what is he here for?"

Hearing this question, Lu Chen turned his head to look at Murong Xue'er, his mouth curving up slightly, "The old drunkard's interest isn't in the wine, but in the beauty's embrace."

As soon as these words came out, everyone in the Hundred Flowers Garden was immediately furious. Although they too had come for Murong Xue'er, they had at least abided by the rules and did not voice their inner thoughts directly. Yet, as soon as the North Prince arrived, he spoke such words.

Crude! It was simply crude!

Even though the North Prince was crude, they dared not say things like kicking him out; after all, this was on the North Prince's feudal territory, and the North Prince was not a soft persimmon. The scholars and literati could only swallow their anger.

Lu Chen said, "Alright, I'm just here to enjoy the festivities. You all carry on with the poetry gathering."

After hearing Lu Chen's words, Murong Xue'er started, "Next, with 'snow' as the theme, compose a poem."

Once Murong Xue'er's voice fell, the talented men continued to compose poetry. Although they found the North Prince's presence somewhat intrusive, they had no choice but to carry on.

In their view, Murong Xue'er's smile at the North Prince was probably just because he was the Lord of the North Country. Being courteous to the North Prince on his own territory was understandable.

Furthermore, Murong Xue'er had invited the North Prince to the poetry gathering merely to add prestige to the event; she did not harbor any affection for the North Prince in her heart.

How could a vulgar person like the North Prince ever capture the heart of the talented Murong Xue'er? They were simply overthinking it.

Thinking this way, the scholars and litterateurs felt much better, and the poetry gathering continued.

However, the gathering ended quickly, and to the disappointment of the men of letters, Murong Xue'er did not keep any of them behind.

Meanwhile, Lu Chen was invited to a room on the third floor. Murong Xue'er had not yet arrived on the third floor at that time, and Lu Chen sat down inside the room, glancing at the decorations.

The room was filled with flowers and plants, and the walls were adorned with numerous ink paintings and calligraphy pieces, filling the entire room with a scholarly aura.

Lu Chen then took a seat at the table, and the next moment, a maid entered the room with a pot of hot water. After pouring a cup of tea for Lu Chen, she said, "Please wait, Prince. Our Miss has gone to bathe and will be up shortly."

Lu Chen replied with a faint smile and said, "Tell your Miss to take her time bathing, no rush."

The maid replied, "Yes, Prince."

After pouring the tea, the maid said, "This servant will take her leave."

Once the maid left, Lu Chen looked at the tea cup in front of him, suspecting that it surely contained something.

Without hesitation, Lu Chen picked up the tea cup and gulped it down. The next moment, he felt all his spiritual power focusing on his Dantian, and the water he had just drunk began to evaporate rapidly.

Lu Chen could now analyze the components of drugs simply, and he immediately determined that this was an aphrodisiac, which would likely render any man unable to control himself if ingested.

It appeared that Murong Xue'er was planning to apply a beauty trap directly to him, and for this, she had already prepared herself for sacrifice.

A while later, Murong Xue'er finally entered the room. At that moment, Lu Chen was looking at a painting, and he turned his head to look at Murong Xue'er as he heard the door open.

Murong Xue'er was dressed the same as before, still wearing white clothes with black trim, maintaining her aloof aura.

Seeing that Lu Chen was examining a painting, Murong Xue'er asked with a smile, "Does the Prince also appreciate ancient paintings?"

Lu Chen responded, "I wouldn't say I'm fond of them, but I am somewhat interested."

Lu Chen then said, "Miss Murong invited me to the poetry gathering, there must be a reason, right?"

Upon hearing this question, Murong Xue'er smiled faintly and then replied, "I heard the Prince is actively promoting universal education, allowing all children in the North Country to read and write. I thought the Prince was someone who fancied poetry and literature."

Lu Chen laughed and said, "It seems I have disappointed Miss Murong."

Lu Chen then said, "However, speaking of which, I do not have much interest in poetry and literature, but I am somewhat interested in calligraphy."

At these words, Lu Chen approached a piece of calligraphy hanging in the room.

Murong Xue'er then walked up beside Lu Chen and glanced at the calligraphy in front of him, then offered, "If the Prince likes this calligraphy, I will gift it to the Prince?"

Lu Chen replied, "How could I accept such a gift?"

Murong Xue'er said, "The Prince need not be polite. During my time in Yan County, I received the Prince's care; a piece of calligraphy is nothing."

Lu Chen said, "Then, thank you."

At that moment, something occurred to Murong Xue'er, and she suggested, "Since the Prince likes calligraphy, I presume the Prince's own handwriting must also be quite unique. I would like to request that the Prince write a piece for me, if that would be possible?"

Lu Chen said, "No problem."

Murong Xue'er offered, "Then I will grind the ink for the Prince myself."

Following that, Murong Xue'er went to the desk in the room and began grinding ink for Lu Chen. As she bent slightly over the task, from Lu Chen's perspective, he had a clear view of Murong Xue'er's buttocks.

Witnessing this scene, Lu Chen was slightly taken aback; Murong Xue'er truly knew how to tantalize a man.

Chapter 523: Heavenly Dao Rewards the Diligent_1

Unlike Wang Qingci, when Wang Qingci flirted with Lu Chen, she was very direct, either showing off her figure or being handsy with Lu Chen.

But Murong Xue'er was different, she appeared much more reserved, and coupled with her scholarly aura, her whole image was that of an unmarried talented woman.

Moreover, Murong Xue'er did not seduce Lu Chen outright, but rather, she enticed him through certain movements, that kind of push-and-pull feeling was indeed what fascinated men the most.

After grinding the ink for a while, Murong Xue'er straightened up and turned to look at Lu Chen, "Prince, the ink is ready. Please bestow your writing."

Lu Chen then approached the writing desk, took the brush handed to him by Murong Xue'er, and wrote the words "Heavenly Dao rewards the diligent" on the white paper in a shaky, slanted fashion.

Seeing these four characters, Murong Xue'er was taken aback, she hadn't expected Lu Chen's handwriting to be so ugly.

If she remembered correctly, when she had been signing the trade agreement with the North Country, the name Lu Chen had written on the trade papers hadn't been this ugly.

Ugly as it was, Murong Xue'er definitely wouldn't say so directly. She smiled and said, "The Prince's writing is truly unique."

Lu Chen chuckled, then turned to Murong Xue'er and said, "You're trying to say my writing is really ugly, aren't you?"

Murong Xue'er immediately replied, "The Prince is overthinking it; in my eyes, the writing of the Prince is indeed quite distinctive."

Lu Chen turned to look at the four characters he'd written on the table, then ran his hand over the paper and said, "This paper must be made by the North Prince Mansion, isn't it? It's somewhat too rough. When I write on rough paper, the characters don't turn out very well."

Murong Xue'er thought Lu Chen was worried about his face. "It's my fault; the next time I ask for writing from the Prince, I will prepare paper smoother than the Prince's Mansion's xuan paper."

Lu Chen said, "You have misunderstood my meaning. There is little paper in this world that is absolutely smooth. When I say smooth, I mean as smooth as a lady's skin. I rather enjoy writing on a woman's body, for then, the characters I write appear far more beautiful."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Murong Xue'er was momentarily stunned.

She hadn't thought she had yet to begin her charm offensive when Lu Chen had already started hinting at her.

After hesitating for a moment, Murong Xue'er eventually said, "I would love to see what the Prince's most beautiful characters look like. May I?"

With that, Murong Xue'er's gaze fixed on Lu Chen.

Hearing this, Lu Chen said with a smile, "Then you'll have to find a lady with smooth skin."

Murong Xue'er asked with a smile, "I wonder if I could be suitable?"

Lu Chen gave Murong Xue'er a once-over and then said, "I'm afraid that might not be very appropriate, what if it ruins Miss Murong's reputation?"

Murong Xue'er said with a smile, "I didn't expect the Prince to be so considerate, but you should have heard about my affairs. In the eyes of many, I am a promiscuous woman who likes to keep male pets. Even if such a thing were to spread, others wouldn't find it strange."

"But on the other hand, if this were to leak, might it not affect Your Highness's reputation?"

At this, Murong Xue'er spoke in a provocative tone, "Is the Prince afraid to write on my body because he fears for his reputation?"

"If that's the case, then I won't trouble the Prince any further."

Lu Chen chuckled to himself, this woman, she really knows how to play her cards, employing the provocative approach, eh?

Then Lu Chen said, "Alright, since Miss Murong is not afraid, then I shall willingly comply."

With that, Lu Chen picked up the brush again and then said to Murong Xue'er, "Miss Murong, please take a seat and lift your skirt to reveal your lower leg."

Upon hearing this, Murong Xue'er unhesitatingly sat down on a wooden chair in the room, took off her white embroidered shoes, then revealed her delicate feet, and slowly lifted up her white dress to expose her fair and smooth lower leg.

This single movement alone would have been enough to make most men lose control and pin Murong Xue'er down, if they did not possess the kind of immense willpower Lu Chen had.

It had to be said, Murong Xue'er's grasp of the small details was impeccable; Lu Chen could now hardly tell whether it was intentional on her part or if it was simply in her nature to behave so.

After Murong Xue'er exposed her white, smooth left lower leg, she brushed the hair beside her ear and looked at Lu Chen, saying, "Prince, it's ready, you can begin writing."

Lu Chen forced himself to calm down, then said, "Miss Murong, forgive me."

Once he finished speaking, Lu Chen was ready to write on Murong Xue'er's leg, but her leg was bent. He then got a stool and placed it in front of her.

"Miss Murong, please raise your leg."

Murong Xue'er said, "Prince, I'm not sure how to position it. Why don't you arrange my leg yourself? That way you can write more comfortably."

Lu Chen laughed to himself; if it weren't for the fact that he could see Murong Xue'er's identity and personal information through his system, he might have really believed she was accustomed to keeping a multitude of male pets.

Subsequently, Lu Chen did not hesitate. He reached out his hand, took hold of Murong Xue'er's delicate ankle, lifted her leg, and placed it on the stool so her left leg lay straight.

Murong Xue'er's feet were extremely delicate and smooth, like polished white jade.

Of course, this did not excite Lu Chen. He had seen it all before, and while Murong Xue'er's body was indeed attractive to him, he spent his days among his beauties and had great self-control.

Lu Chen then lifted his brush and began to write on Murong Xue'er's leg.

When the tip of the brush touched Murong Xue'er's leg, she suddenly felt an odd sensation and could not help but let out a soft moan.

Upon hearing this voice, Lu Chen immediately stopped his writing and asked with concern, "What's the matter?"

Murong Xue'er then said, "It's nothing, Prince, please feel free to proceed."

Hearing this, Lu Chen continued writing.

Murong Xue'er suddenly felt a tickling and numbing sensation spread from her leg, which was very peculiar.

Fortunately, Lu Chen only wrote for a short while and did not persist for too long.

After a while, Lu Chen stopped writing, and Murong Xue'er finally breathed a sigh of relief, as the previous sensation had been far too tormenting.

She looked down at her leg and saw that Lu Chen had still written the four characters for "Heavenly Dao rewards the diligent."

What surprised Murong Xue'er was that Lu Chen's earlier words were true; the characters he wrote this time were very neat and attractive. Even though her leg was rounded and not flat, this did not affect the quality of Lu Chen's handwriting.

Murong Xue'er then started to wonder if the North Prince had been setting her up all along.

Could it be that the North Prince had deliberately written the characters all crooked on the paper, then used it as an excuse to write on her body?

At that moment, Lu Chen smiled at Murong Xue'er and asked, "Miss Murong, what do you think of the characters I wrote this time?"

Murong Xue'er replied with a smile, "I didn't expect that what the Prince said would actually be true. I underestimated you."

Lu Chen sighed softly and said, "It's a pity that I was only writing on the calf. There isn't much flesh there, and it's not flat enough, which is why the characters are still somewhat crooked."

Hearing this, Murong Xue'er seemed to understand something. She continued to lift her skirts further up, saying as she did so, "Prince, there's more flesh on my thigh. How about writing the characters there? What do you think?"

Lu Chen pretended to be startled for a moment before replying, "Wouldn't that be a bit improper?"

Murong Xue'er responded, "I, a woman, don't mind. Would the Prince actually mind?"

In the midst of their conversation, Murong Xue'er lifted her skirts up to the root of her thighs, presenting her long, luminous legs right in front of Lu Chen.

Lu Chen thought to himself that this woman really meant business, then he said, "Well then, I shall continue writing."

After a pause, he asked, "But what should I write this time? Should I write 'Heavenly Dao rewards the diligent' again?"

Murong Xue'er said, "The Prince may write as he pleases."

Lu Chen asked, "What characters would Miss Murong like to see?"

Murong Xue'er responded, "Whatever the Prince wishes is fine by me; please don't concern yourself with my preference."

Since Murong Xue'er had said this, Lu Chen didn't hold back. He immediately picked up the brush and began to write.

As soon as Lu Chen's brush touched her skin, Murong Xue'er experienced that previous sensation, only this time it was even more intense. Given that the thigh is riddled with sensitive nerves, the brush's contact sent the sensation straight to her brain, making it hard for Murong Xue'er to control the restlessness in her heart.

Thankfully, Lu Chen only wrote four characters this time as well, but the act of writing these four characters made Murong Xue'er feel as if time was dragging on endlessly.

Once Lu Chen finished writing, he glanced at Murong Xue'er and noticed a hint of red on her cool face. With a slight smile, as someone who had interacted with many women, he obviously knew what was affecting Murong Xue'er.

While writing, he had deliberately infused a bit of Spiritual Power into the brush's tip, which when in contact with Murong Xue'er's leg, would stimulate her sensitive nerves even more.

Lu Chen then asked with concern, "Miss Murong, are you alright?"

Murong Xue'er said, "I'm fine."

Lu Chen said, "Really? Your face is quite red."

Murong Xue'er replied, "There's no need for the Prince to worry, I'm fine. It may be due to the room being a bit warm."

Lu Chen stated, "As long as you are alright."

"Miss Murong, take a look at the characters I wrote this time."

Hearing this, Murong Xue'er looked down slightly at the four characters on her thigh.

Looking at these four characters, she felt something odd about them.

While Lu Chen's handwriting was becoming more attractive, what did the characters for "The Great Way of Life" mean?

Murong Xue'er did not ask further; she simply praised, "The Prince's handwriting is becoming more and more attractive."

Lu Chen responded with a laugh, "Writing on the leg is still not flat enough; if I could write on an even flatter surface, I believe the characters I craft would be even better."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Murong Xue'er covered her mouth and laughed, her laughter clear and melodious like the chirping of a bird.

After laughing for a while, Murong Xue'er looked into Lu Chen's fervent eyes, her own gaze brimming with mirth, and teased, "Surely the Prince doesn't expect me to take off my clothes now, does he?"

Chapter 524: Does the Prince Hope It's True, or Does He Hope It's Just a Rumor?_1

Upon hearing Murong Xue'er's words, Lu Chen smiled faintly and then said, "I never said that."

"I merely told Miss Murong that my writing could look even better."

With these words, Lu Chen placed the brush on the inkstone, seeming ready to end the session there and then.

Seeing this, Murong Xue'er paused, unwilling for things to end so quickly. She still wanted to coax more words out of Lu Chen. If he ended it now, how could she continue questioning him?

Murong Xue'er spoke, "Prince, I still wish to see what your most beautiful writing looks like, if I may?"

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen chuckled and replied, "I'm afraid that wouldn't be quite proper. Later, Miss Murong might suggest I want you to undress."

Murong Xue'er smiled gracelessly, "I was just joking with the Prince earlier; it's only exposing part of my body, after all. If it's to see the Prince's most beautiful handwriting, it's worth it."

Lu Chen responded, "Since you've put it that way, I shall not decline."

At that, Lu Chen picked up the writing brush once more and then said, "Go ahead and undress, Miss Murong."

Murong Xue'er asked with a teasing smile, "Prince, where would you like to write this time?"

Lu Chen replied, "On the stomach, perhaps. It's quite flat."

As soon as Lu Chen had spoken, Murong Xue'er began to loosen her clothing in front of him. Witnessing this, Lu Chen instantly turned his back.

"Miss Murong, undress first, then call for me when you're ready."

Seeing Lu Chen turning away, Murong Xue'er said with a laugh, "I never expected the Prince to be such a gentleman."

"How can Miss Murong speak such words? Could it be that you've always thought of me as a lecher?" Lu Chen retorted.

"The outside world rumors that the Prince is fond of beautiful women; it seems I have misunderstood you," Murong Xue'er conceded.

Lu Chen replied, "Miss Murong hasn't entirely misunderstood. Indeed, I am fond of beauty, but I do have my principles."

As Lu Chen finished speaking, Murong Xue'er's clothes slipped from her fragrant shoulders, revealing her white undergarment. She gently opened it and then covered her chest with one hand. After doing all this, Murong Xue'er spoke, "Prince, I'm ready. You may turn around now."

Hearing this, Lu Chen turned back without hesitation to look at Murong Xue'er.

Seeing Murong Xue'er exposing her stomach and using her arms to modestly cover her upper body, Lu Chen was momentarily stunned.

Murong Xue'er's arms were so slender, they naturally couldn't cover her entire body. Glimpsing her snow-white skin made Lu Chen's heart flutter.

Noticing Lu Chen staring intently at her, Murong Xue'er said with a beaming smile, "What's the matter, Prince? Why have you suddenly fallen silent?"

Returning to his senses after hearing Murong Xue'er's comment, Lu Chen scanned her whole body and then offered a compliment, "Miss Murong's figure is truly lovely, no wonder those literati and scholars were so eager to impress you today."

Murong Xue'er remarked, "You jest, Prince. My body isn't for just anyone to see."

At this point, Lu Chen's gaze landed on Murong Xue'er's abdomen, where he noticed a strange pattern and hesitated.

He had intended to write on Murong Xue'er's stomach, but the presence of another pattern meant he could not proceed.

Then, Murong Xue'er lay down on the couch and said, "Please start writing, Prince."

After another glance at the unusual pattern, Lu Chen spoke again, "Miss Murong, there's a strange pattern on your stomach. I have nowhere to begin."

Murong Xue'er said, "Sorry, Prince, I almost forgot, my Virgin Mark is still there."

Lu Chen asked in confusion, "What is a Virgin Mark?"

Murong Xue'er countered, "Has the Prince ever heard of the Virgin Mark?"

Lu Chen replied, "I've heard of it. Is this a kind of Virgin Mark?"

Having crossed over to this world so many years ago, Lu Chen naturally knew about the Virgin Mark. In this world, it's said that a red spot appears on a woman's arm, and when she loses her virginity, the spot disappears.

Of course, the Virgin Mark is not something born with. It is said that at a girl's birth, a certain special method must be used to leave the Virgin Mark on her arm.

Although Lu Chen knew what the Virgin Mark was and its purpose, this was the first time he had seen a Virgin Mark drawn on the lower abdomen, and this Virgin Mark wasn't a red dot but a strange pattern.

At this moment, Murong Xue'er said, "Yes, this Virgin Mark was personally given to me by His Majesty. Every time I return to the Imperial Palace, His Majesty would personally check my body."

Hearing this, Lu Chen said with a smile, "So it seems, the rumors of Miss Murong keeping a male pet are entirely unfounded?"

Murong Xue'er, looking into Lu Chen's eyes, asked with a smile, "Does the Prince wish it to be true, or does he hope it is a rumor?"

Lu Chen did not answer but changed the subject, "Can the Virgin Mark be washed away?"

Murong Xue'er replied, "It cannot be washed off. It will only disappear on its own when I lose my virginity."

Lu Chen said, "I see. It seems to work on the same principle as the Virgin Mark."

Lu Chen sighed and then said, "Looks like Miss Murong won't be able to witness the Prince's most beautiful calligraphy today."

Murong Xue'er asked, "Why is that?"

Lu Chen said, "With the Virgin Mark there, I surely can't write on it."

Murong Xue'er said indifferently, "If the Prince feels these patterns obstruct his calligraphy, couldn't the Prince simply erase them?"

At these words, Murong Xue'er's gaze fixed on Lu Chen's eyes. Murong Xue'er seemed to show no intent of seduction, yet the way she hugged her hands in front of her chest, lying on the bed in that pose, coupled with her provocative words, made it nearly impossible for any man to resist.

Demoness!

A true temptress!

Without another word, Lu Chen waved his hand, and the writing brush in his hand instantly flew out, landing precisely on the inkstone on the desk without spilling a drop of ink.

Immediately after, Lu Chen lunged towards Murong Xue'er. He supported himself with his arms on either side of Murong Xue'er's head and looked into her eyes, "Miss Murong, there's no such thing as a pill for regret in this world."

The sudden closeness made Murong Xue'er's heart race. Although Lu Chen wasn't touching her body yet, the way he looked down at her from above still imposed a great pressure, causing her entire body to grow restless.

Murong Xue'er tried to keep calm and said, "As long as I can see the Prince's best calligraphy, I think it'll be worth it."

Lu Chen chuckled, then leaned in, pushing away the arm Murong Xue'er had placed in front of herself.

Although Murong Xue'er was prepared, when Lu Chen's large hand touched her wrist, her arm involuntarily tensed, attempting to shield her body.

Unfortunately for her, Lu Chen's hand was stronger. He moved her hand away and pinned it by the sides of her head.

Then, without any hesitation, Lu Chen leaned down and kissed the red lips of the woman beneath him, known as the number one talented lady of Great Yue and titled Inner Palace Prime Minister."

Chapter 525: I'm Really Sorry, I Wrote Quite a Bit_1

Murong Xue'er was experiencing close contact with a man for the first time. Previously, as the personal maid of the Great Yue Empress, she was often embraced and held by the Yue Emperor, but no matter how they cuddled in the past, she had never felt the strange sensations she did today.

She had thought it would be no different from her embraces with the Yue Emperor, believing she wouldn't feel any discomfort.

But today she discovered that she herself had become somewhat odd, her entire body blazing hot, her heart pounding faster and faster, and all her skill seemed to become chaotic. She had absolutely no strength to push away the man standing before her.

Murong Xue'er was quickly bewildered by Lu Chen's kiss, having no idea what she was doing.

In her dazed state, she thought she heard the sound of tearing, followed by the sensation of something.

The next moment, Murong Xue'er's eyebrows sharply furrowed, and she could only let out muffled "mmph mmph" sounds.

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Meanwhile.

In the Imperial Palace of the Great Xia Dynasty.

The Sum Emperor sat on the dragon throne, listening to the report from a Shadow Guard inside the room.

After a moment, he asked, "Has the Zhao King already defeated the Ren Prince's army?"

The Shadow Guard in the room replied, "Yes, the Ren Prince's army has been completely scattered, and many soldiers have chosen to surrender to the Zhao King. The Zhao King now commands at least three hundred thousand troops."

The corners of the Sum Emperor's mouth lifted slightly, and then he said, "Good, the time has come."

With that, he instructed the Shadow Guard in the room, "Immediately spread the news that the State Preceptor has entered the Pseudo-Celestial Realm and will soon break through to the true Heavenly Human Realm. Once the State Preceptor breaks into the Heavenly Human Realm, he can use a special method to extend my life, and there's even a possibility of my full recovery."

The Shadow Guard promptly responded, "Yes!"

"I shall take my leave."

As the Shadow Guard's figure gradually merged into the darkness, the Sum Emperor muttered to himself, "If Chen doesn't fall for it, then I shall personally head north. I hope Chen does not disappoint me."

"In no more than one year, I shall break through to the true Heavenly Human Realm. At that time, Great Xia will have no rivals!"

The Zhao King's actions have already begun, and it won't be long before all the seigniors muster their armies and march toward the capital city. It's almost time to draw in the net.

The Sum Emperor was very confident in his current self, as if he had already seen the future when nations would come to pay homage and envoys from great dynasties would tremble before him.

At this very moment.

In Zhao Country.

The Zhao King's bedchamber.

The Zhao King was resting when a dark figure suddenly appeared behind a pillar in the bedchamber. The Zhao King's eyes shot open.

The next moment, a letter flew towards the Zhao King, who immediately raised his hand to catch it, then carefully read through it.

The shadow then spoke, "If this plan succeeds, Your Majesty will use the Sacred Artifact of the Mysterious Moon Palace to elevate your skill to the Grandmaster Realm."

The Zhao King immediately replied, "Please tell Yi that I will spare no expense in helping him achieve his dominance!"

As the Zhao King's voice fell, the figure once again merged into the shadows.

Feeling the departure of the figure, the Zhao King shredded the letter in his hand, then tossed it into the brazier in the room.

"It seems Yi is nearly ready. If his plan succeeds this time, there will no longer be any seigniors in Great Xia."

With that, the Zhao King sighed, "It seems I too must prepare; once the war is over, I shall relinquish my military authority."

"Although we are born of the same mother, people's hearts always change..."

The Zhao King was acutely aware of the true strength of the Sum Emperor, which is why he had never thought of wresting that position away from him, especially since the two of them were brothers of the same mother.

Although brotherly affection is rare among royal siblings, often virtually nonexistent, the memory of the Sum Emperor caring for him in their youth still aroused some gratitude in the Zhao King.

The Zhao King was actually reluctant to part with his power, but he was very clear about what kind of person his elder brother, the Sum Emperor, was.

Growing up together, he was familiar with his elder brother's ideals; his elder brother would stop at nothing to achieve them.

Being a blood brother of the Sum Emperor, the Zhao King ultimately chose to stand by his side.

...

North Country.

Hundred Flowers Tower, third floor.

Murong Xue'er's voice undulated, rising and falling. Though she tried to contain it, she couldn't fully suppress her sounds.

At that moment, Murong Xue'er was sprawled across the writing desk, while Lu Chen picked up a brush. As he busied himself with his work, he wrote characters on Murong Xue'er's snowy white back.

The tip of the brush, infused with Lu Chen's spiritual power, traced over Murong Xue'er's back, eliciting an unspeakable, strange sensation within her. She felt her body becoming increasingly peculiar.

Then, Murong Xue'er asked, "Prince... Prince, what are you writing... ah... writing on my back?"

Lu Chen smiled and said, "Guess?"

Murong Xue'er replied, "It's a pity it's on the back, I... ah... can't see it..."

Lu Chen smiled and said, "That's easy to fix."

He then turned Murong Xue'er's body around, laying her on the desk.

In the next moment, Murong Xue'er and Lu Chen locked gazes. Her hair was disheveled, her bun had come undone, her usually cool cheeks were flushed red, and she was exuding charm.

Murong Xue'er looked down slightly, only to see a scene she did not wish to see. At that moment, Lu Chen dipped his brush into the ink and started to write on Murong Xue'er's abdomen, asking as he wrote, "Right, once your Virgin Mark has disappeared and the Yue Emperor checks for it upon your return, won't you be punished?"

Hearing this, Murong Xue'er laughed and said, "Prince, you've already removed my Virgin Mark, and now you remember to worry about this? Isn't it a bit late?"

Lu Chen chuckled, then replied, "Indeed."

"How about this? Since you have to be checked by the Yue Emperor for the Virgin Mark when you return, why not just stay here in North Country?"

Murong Xue'er said, "Is the Prince planning to keep me here in North Country as your concubine?"

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen pressed harder with the brush tip, inscribing three characters onto Murong Xue'er's abdomen.

Murong Xue'er felt a jolt run through her body as if she were electrified. She propped up her upper body slightly to look at the characters on her abdomen.

Muttering to herself, Murong Xue'er said, "Flesh... Prince, do these three characters have any... hmm... special meaning?"

Lu Chen put the brush back on the inkstone and, with a smile, said, "You'll soon understand what they mean."

Then Lu Chen reached under Murong Xue'er's back, lifting her body with ease. After all, as a Grandmaster, even a cannon dressed in red robes could be lifted with one hand, so the weight of a woman was nothing to him.

Murong Xue'er was taken aback and quickly wrapped her legs around Lu Chen's waist to avoid falling. Then she hung on him as he carried her to the bed.

...

Towards evening.

Lu Chen got up and glanced over at Murong Xue'er in the bed, as well as the characters written all over her. Although the ink would blur when mixed with perspiration, because Lu Chen had used spiritual power to fix the ink, the characters were quite clear.

Lu Chen straightened his clothes and said with a smile to Murong Xue'er, "Miss Murong, my apologies for having written so much. It will trouble you to wash it off."

Murong Xue'er lay collapsed on the bed, speaking weakly, "No harm done, Prince, please take your leave. I'm afraid I can't see you out."

Lu Chen smiled, then left the study satisfied.

Chapter 526: This Damned Lecher_1

Watching Lu Chen leave the room, Murong Xue'er, who had slumped onto the bed, tried to rise only to be struck by waves of pain, rendering her incapable of moving.

To prevent Murong Xue'er from discovering his healing abilities, Lu Chen had not treated her wounds. For the past few hours, Murong Xue'er had been relying solely on her Master Level body to endure.

Alas, no matter how resolute she was, she could never be a match for Lu Chen. After all, he was a Grandmaster, not to mention someone who had taken the Dragon and Tiger Pill. Murong Xue'er had just lost her virginity, how could she possibly bear it?

At this moment, Murong Xue'er broke out in a cold sweat; even she could not hold back, cursing through gritted teeth, "This damnable lecher!"

Immediately after, Murong Xue'er hastily summoned the servant girls of the embassy, and with their assistance, she slowly washed off the words Lu Chen had written on her body.

While bathing, Murong Xue'er's mind replayed the events that had transpired with Lu Chen. She couldn't help wondering how the North Prince possessed such terrifying strength.

Thinking of this, Murong Xue'er's cheeks once again flushed with heat. Then, looking at the character "正" between her legs, she suddenly grew curious.

Lu Chen had written several "正" characters between her legs, but she did not understand their meaning, nor had Lu Chen explained them to her, including the three characters on her abdomen. She always felt these characters had some special significance.

After pondering for a moment, Murong Xue'er still couldn't figure out the meaning of these characters, so she stopped thinking about them.

Regardless, she had succeeded in getting close to Lu Chen. It would be relatively easier to extract information from him in the future.

At that moment, Murong Xue'er suddenly remembered something and quickly activated her inner strength, expelling all the impurities from her body. Soon, the water in the bath became extremely murky.

Murong Xue'er hurriedly had the servant girls replace the water with a fresh bucket. After washing herself again, she still felt unclean despite already having bathed twice, so she bathed once more for a total of three times.

After the bath, Murong Xue'er returned to her bed, and sighing softly, she saw the faint red on the sheets.

She had long guessed her fate, that the Empress would one day use her as a tool, but she did not expect her first time to be with someone from another dynasty.

Murong Xue'er consoled herself, thinking that it wasn't such a loss. The North Prince, as a man, was more handsome than most and possessed even greater strength. To have lost her virginity to him could be considered a stroke of luck within misfortune.

It was just a pity that they would ultimately become enemies.

...

Meanwhile.

On his way back, Lu Chen sat in the carriage and opened up the system prompt.

"[Congratulations host, for obtaining a woman, reward: Heart Controlling Skill.]"

"[As the host and his concubines share a heartfelt connection, reward: a top-grade Realm Breaking Pill.]"

"[Host has cultivated feelings with Murong Xue'er once, Qi Refinement Mantra experience points added...]"

Surprised by the rewards before him, Lu Chen had not expected to gain cultivation techniques. But what was this Heart Controlling Skill?

With that thought, Lu Chen immediately clicked to read the introduction of the Heart Controlling Skill.

"[Heart Controlling Skill: Using the Heart Controlling Skill, one can control an enemy to a certain extent, forcing them to answer questions they wish to know. When perfected, it can even control an enemy, making them take their own life.]"

Reading about this cultivation technique, Lu Chen was stunned; this was a skill for manipulating others.

In the future, if they captured spies or the like, wouldn't it be much easier to interrogate them and get the information they wanted? This skill would prove extremely useful.

Having read the introduction of the Heart Controlling Skill, Lu Chen glanced at the Realm Breaking Pill's description.

[Realm Breaking Pill: Upon consumption, it allows an Extreme Realm Master martial artist to advance directly to the Grandmaster Realm.]

Seeing the description of the Realm Breaking Pill, Lu Chen felt extremely surprised. He hadn't expected the pill to be so powerful. He regretted leaving so quickly just now; he should have seized the opportunity to test his connection with Murong Xue'er a few more times, to see if he could achieve mind and spirit communion again.

Thinking of this, Lu Chen rubbed his temples. He had not used the Rejuvenating Skill to heal Murong Xue'er's minor injuries. Hoping to achieve mind and spirit communion several more times seemed rather unlikely.

Forget it, what's done is done. From now on, he would just have to try harder with his other wives and consorts. Perhaps, next time, he might have a chance of getting another Realm Breaking Pill.

But then again, who should he give the Realm Breaking Pill to?

Most of the people in the Prince's Mansion were only Half-step Grandmasters, not even Grandmasters. Only Bai Qingqing and Dongfang Longyue were Extreme Realm Masters. Administering the pill to them could make the North Prince Mansion possess another Grandmaster immediately.

However, after some thought, Lu Chen decided to give the Realm Breaking Pill to Chu Yuqin.

Chu Yuqin had taken care of him since his childhood, eventually married him, and even bore him children. His feelings for Chu Yuqin were the deepest.

Once Chu Yuqin broke through to the Grandmaster Realm, her lifespan would increase by several hundred years, allowing her to accompany him for a longer time.

Soon, Lu Chen returned to the Prince's Mansion.

It was now evening, and the red glow of the sunset shone on Lu Chen, casting a long shadow behind him.

Chu Yuqin was in the courtyard soothing the child when she suddenly noticed a shadow blocking the sunlight. She looked up in the direction of the setting sun.

Seeing that it was Lu Chen returning, Chu Yuqin smiled sweetly and said, "Chen'er, I've heard from Qing Li that you went to a poetry gathering?"

Lu Chen replied, "Yes, it was hosted by Murong Xue'er."

Chu Yuqin said, "Now that you are a prince, indeed you should participate more in such elegant events."

As soon as Chu Yuqin finished speaking, Chu Qingli exposed the truth, "What elegance? Murong Xue'er held the poetry gathering at the Hundred Flowers Tower. How elegant could that place be? She clearly wanted to seduce a certain bad guy."

"Someone is returning so late; he must have snuck some treats."

Hearing this, Lu Chen chuckled and then said, "Qing Li understands me better."

Lu Chen did not deny it. His attendance at Murong Xue'er's poetry gathering was not really about the poetry; he went for the sake of Murong Xue'er's favor.

At that moment, Lu Chen walked over to Chu Yuqin, slipped his hand around her waist, and after glancing at the child in her arms, he said to Chu Yuqin, "Madam Chu, hand the child over to Qing Li for a moment, I have something important to tell you."

Curious, Chu Yuqin asked, "What is it?"

Lu Chen said, "Let's talk about it in the room; it's about your Realm."

Chu Yuqin then said to Chu Qingli, "Qing Li, please take care of Wang'er for me."

Chu Qingli hurriedly took the child from Chu Yuqin's hands and gave Lu Chen a resentful look. She was no fool; how could she not know why Lu Chen asked her to take care of Chu Yuqin's child?

This bad guy, just back from the Hundred Flowers Tower, and now he's come to find her sister. Such a beast.

Chapter 527: My Good Wife, You Couldn't Be Jealous, Could You?_1

After handing over the child to Chu Qingli, Chu Yuqin followed Lu Chen into the room.

As soon as he entered the room, Lu Chen immediately embraced the delicate and voluptuous body of the beautiful woman before him.

Before Chu Yuqin had a chance to speak, Lu Chen sealed her lips with his, "Mmm mmm mmm..."

After being forced to kiss Lu Chen for a while, they slowly parted lips, and Chu Yuqin, with a blushing face, looked at Lu Chen and said, "You have the scent of another woman on you, don't tell me you've really had your way with Murong Xue'er?"

Chu Yuqin was especially sensitive to the scent of women from the Prince's Mansion; if it was from a woman there, she could identify it instantly.

The fragrance on Lu Chen's body obviously didn't belong to any woman from the Prince's Mansion, which meant there was only one possibility; Chu Qingli was right, Lu Chen had snuck around outside.

Lu Chen laughed and then said, "My dear wife, you couldn't possibly be jealous, could you?"

Chu Yuqin rolled her eyes and then said, "Murong Xue'er is a favorite of the Great Yue Empress, and though she seems to have been demoted to the North Country, I always feel like she has come with a mission from the Empress."

"Perhaps she came to the North Country specifically to get close to you."

"If you sleep with her, aren't you afraid she might glean some secrets of the North Country from you and then report them back to Great Yue?"

While embracing Chu Yuqin's waist and leading her towards the bed, Lu Chen said, "Don't worry, any woman who has been intimate with me will never betray me in the end."

Chu Yuqin said, "Chen'er... darling, it's not that I'm nosy, but although your techniques of charming women are indeed impressive, some women won't fall for your ways."

"You should know, it's rumored that Murong Xue'er herself is a licentious woman; even if you satisfy her in some aspects, she might not necessarily fall in love with you."

Chu Yuqin obviously misunderstood Lu Chen's meaning; she thought that Lu Chen was referring to his ability being so formidable that any woman who had slept with him would fall in love with him.

In fact, Lu Chen's intention was not to conquer Murong Xue'er with his body, but to have her take Dragon and Phoenix Tea, thus making her completely loyal to him.

Lu Chen wasn't foolish enough to believe that just by sleeping with Murong Xue'er once, she would completely submit to him; Murong Xue'er was a favorite of the Great Yue Empress, it was not that easy to sway her.

However, Lu Chen didn't explain any further to Chu Yuqin, and by now they had reached the bedside. Lu Chen gently laid Chu Yuqin's body down on the bed, then he removed the hairpin that held up her hair, and the next moment, her coiffure came undone, her fine hair spilling out over the bed.

Chu Yuqin, with affection in her eyes, gazed into Lu Chen's, "The important matter you mentioned, is it this kind of thing?"

Chu Yuqin had genuinely thought Lu Chen had something important to discuss with her, but the naughty fellow started to get handsy as soon as he entered the room.

While undressing Chu Yuqin, Lu Chen said, "Of course not, didn't I mention it earlier when we were outside? It's about your Realm."

Chu Yuqin asked curiously, "It's about my Realm?"

At this point, visions of their previous naughty acts in bed flashed through Chu Yuqin's mind, and she suddenly remembered that Lu Chen practiced a Dual Cultivation Skill, which could speed up her Realm advancement.

Thinking of those scenes, Chu Yuqin's face became redder and hotter.

Lu Chen continued, "My master gave me a Realm Breaking Pill; just by taking it, one could break through from the Master Realm to the Grandmaster Realm directly."

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin was stunned for a moment, then said, "I'm not an Extreme Realm Master yet, so this pill won't be of any use to me, will it?"

"This pill should be taken by Bai or Longyue."

Laughing, Lu Chen said, "It would indeed be useless now, but what if I help you advance to the Master Realm?"

Upon hearing these words, Chu Yuqin said, "It is not so easy to break through to the Master Realm."

As soon as Chu Yuqin finished speaking, Lu Chen took out an Essence Pill, then said to Chu Yuqin, "Madam Chu, take this Essence Pill first."

Seeing the pill in Lu Chen's hand, Chu Yuqin was stunned for a moment. Not long ago, Lu Chen had given her an Essence Pill, so she was very clear about its purpose.

Chu Yuqin hastily said, "Chen'er, I have already taken one. You should give this one to someone else instead, don't waste it."

Lu Chen said, "If it can help you break through to the Grandmaster Realm as quickly as possible, then this pill will not be wasted."

Chu Yuqin said, "Although the Essence Pill does aid in enhancing my realm, to break through to the Master Realm in a short time isn't as simple as just taking a pill."

Lu Chen said, "Of course I know that, so I plan to help you speed up the advancement of your realm."

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin asked, "Help? How?"

Before she could finish, Chu Yuqin noticed that Lu Chen had undone her waist belt and lifted her blue Cloud Attire, directly exposing her white undergarment.

Seeing this scene, Chu Yuqin seemed to understand something.

This little rascal intended to use that method to help her swiftly enhance her realm...

But they had practiced together before, and she hadn't noticed any acceleration in the advancement of their realms.

In fact, this had little to do with the Dragon-Phoenix Yin-Yang Spell. Dual Cultivation Skill focuses on the cooperation between both parties, and is not merely about pursuing certain desires.

In the past, when Lu Chen was with his wives and concubines, he seldom truly practiced the Dragon-Phoenix Yin-Yang Spell, concentrating more on enjoyment. Although the spell was in motion, it didn't play a significant role, making the outcome not particularly apparent.

Lu Chen planned to be more serious today, not chasing after certain sensations but instead fully concentrating on cultivation, to help Chu Yuqin ascend to the Master Realm as soon as possible.

Just as Chu Yuqin was about to speak, Lu Chen put the Essence Pill into his own mouth, then bent down and directly sealed Chu Yuqin's red lips, feeding her the Essence Pill.

Seeing Lu Chen act so domineering, Chu Yuqin sighed inwardly, not struggling and letting him have his way.

Although she didn't think she could break through to the Master Realm quickly, it was Lu Chen's good intention, and naturally, she would accept it.

Soon, Chu Yuqin noticed something was off. She could feel the skill within her body accelerating significantly, as if controlled by something, rushing through the meridians inside her body.

Chu Yuqin was astonished; she had not expected this method of cultivation to actually work, and to be so effective at that.

When Lu Chen did bad things to her in the past, why hadn't the effect been so pronounced?

While Chu Yuqin pondered this, she encountered another issue; she managed to remain clear-headed, which would have unlikely been the case before, as she would have already become dazed by now.

Chu Yuqin quickly realized what was going on.

It must be this little rascal's single-minded pursuit of mischief, never earnestly practicing the Immortal Law, focusing all his thoughts on such matters, which resulted in the limited efficacy of that method of cultivation.

Realizing this, Chu Yuqin felt a slight stir of emotion, but she didn't plan to reprimand Lu Chen. Soon, she entered a meditative state, the skill in her body becoming more abundant, and her realm reached the threshold of breakthrough.

After an indeterminate time, two streams of spiritual power burst forth from their bodies simultaneously.

Chapter 528: Did I Break Through Just Like That?_1

Feeling her realm break through to the Master Realm, Chu Yuqin was somewhat bewildered.

Was that a breakthrough just now?

The practice session with Lu Chen couldn't have lasted more than two hours, could it?

Could the breakthrough have happened so quickly?

Is this the terrifying aspect of Immortal Law?

After sensing Chu Yuqin's breakthrough, Lu Chen immediately stood up, placing his hands on either side of her head and stared into her eyes, saying, "Madam Chu, how are you feeling now?"

Chu Yuqin's face was flushed as she, too, stared intently back into Lu Chen's eyes, "Before, did you actually never focus on your cultivation?"

Lu Chen smiled and then denied it, saying, "Madam Chu, why would you think that? I have been practicing diligently every day."

Chu Yuqin cast him a resentful glance, "Do you take me for a fool? Before, you must have focused all your attention on enjoying life, which is why your cultivation techniques were of little use to me. Today, since you focused all your attention on cultivating, that's what accelerated my training speed."

Lu Chen countered, "Madam Chu, you're mistaken. The reason you've cultivated so quickly this time is because you took the Essence Pill. Moreover, you were already on the verge of breaking through, so it may look like your realm improved exceptionally fast. An average person would simply not achieve such an effect."

Lu Chen certainly didn't want to be supervised by Chu Yuqin in his cultivation whenever he would come seeking her company in the future.

If Chu Yuqin were to discover that he had never earnestly practiced before, then the next time he came to her, she'd surely expect him to concentrate fully on cultivation.

Hearing Lu Chen's retort, Chu Yuqin stared straight into his eyes, trying to discern from his gaze whether he was lying.

However, seeing the brightness in Lu Chen's eyes, Chu Yuqin thought to herself that maybe she was overthinking it. Perhaps it really was the effect of the Essence Pill that made her cultivation speed so fast.

At that moment, Lu Chen said, "Alright, let's not talk about this anymore, Madam Chu. Please take the Realm Breaking Pill."

As he spoke, Lu Chen took out the Realm Breaking Pill and handed it to Chu Yuqin.

Chu Yuqin didn't continue to object. She directly took the Realm Breaking Pill, put it in her mouth, and swallowed it.

Chu Yuqin's thoughts were simple: Lu Chen already had many strong protectors by his side, so he no longer needed her. However, Lu Chen wouldn't always stay in the North Prince Mansion.

As Lu Chen's strength grew stronger and the North Country's power increased, it was inevitable that the North Country would go to war with other dynasties or with Great Sum. In the future, Lu Chen

would likely leave Yan County again, and it was possible that those protectors would also leave Yan County.

Thinking that she wouldn't be able to protect Lu Chen anymore, Chu Yuqin decided she would protect his wives, concubines, and children instead, since she would likely spend her days with them from now on.

If she were stronger, Lu Chen could have some peace of mind, even if he went off to lead troops into battle.

After Chu Yuqin took the pill, green Spiritual Energy quickly gathered around her body. The energy was very faint, but with the help of the Realm Breaking Pill, it was sufficient to help her break through to the Grandmaster Realm.

In the next moment, Chu Yuqin's body erupted with a wave of Spiritual Power, followed by profuse sweating as she expelled all the toxins and impurities from her body.

Chu Yuqin hurriedly sat in meditation to stabilize the power within her body.

At that time, Lu Chen stood up and simply sat on the side watching.

After an indeterminate amount of time, Chu Yuqin finally opened her eyes. She stood up to find herself drenched in sweat and quickly said to Lu Chen, "I'll go wash up."

Upon saying that, Chu Yuqin entered the room next door. The bedrooms in the new Prince's Mansion were different than before, each being adjacent to a bathroom and restroom. Whenever the

master of the house visited a woman in the bedroom, the maids in the courtyard immediately began heating water to fill the baths next door, ensuring there was always hot water available in the tubs.

In an era without electricity and water heaters, only someone of Lu Chen's high status could enjoy the luxury of constant access to hot water.

After a quick rinse, Chu Yuqin submerged herself in the bath, intending to soak for a while, when Lu Chen suddenly walked in.

Seeing Lu Chen enter the bathroom unobstructed, Chu Yuqin spoke softly, "What are you doing? Go out, I'll be done soon."

Lu Chen said with a smile, "We're an old married couple. What's there to be shy about?" As he spoke, Lu Chen, with a shameless grin, waded into the bath and wrapped his arms around Chu Yuqin's waist.

Chu Yuqin was just about to warn Lu Chen about fooling around in the bathtub when he said, "Yuqin, now that you have broken through to the Grandmaster Realm, the safety of the Prince's Mansion is in your hands."

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin replied, "Hmm, I will take good care of the Prince's Mansion for you."

At this moment, Chu Yuqin asked, "Recently, I've noticed that Zixuan, Xiaoxiao, and Youyou seem to have cultivated some skill. That must be thanks to your Cultivation Technique, right?"

Lu Chen answered, "Yes."

Chu Yuqin said, "Ordinary people with skill can live longer. Don't just think about enjoying yourself when you visit their rooms in the future; help them raise their Realm as well."

While Lu Chen's hands roamed over Chu Yuqin's body, he said, "Don't worry, my dear. I'm always fair to my women. One day, I will help them become Grandmasters as well."

Chu Yuqin remarked at his words, "It might be difficult for ordinary people to become Grandmasters."

Lu Chen replied, "Your darling is no ordinary man."

Realizing what he meant, Chu Yuqin thought, that's right, Lu Chen was a man blessed by Immortal Law. Helping an ordinary person ascend to a higher Realm might be difficult for others, but not for him. Hadn't he helped her make the leap to the Grandmaster Realm in one go?

Chu Yuqin conceded, "That's true, then I can rest easy."

Lu Chen said, "Alright, enough of this talk. Now that you are a Grandmaster and your physical condition has improved significantly, tonight is a good time to test your enhanced Grandmaster strength from the Realm Breaking Pill."

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin thought Lu Chen wanted to spar with her, but in the next moment, he pinned her against the edge of the bath, and then the bathwater stirred violently.

Meanwhile.

Chu Qingli was outside in the courtyard, cuddling Lu Chengwang, who seemed to really like her, calm and content in her arms.

Seeing Lu Chengwang smiling at her, Chu Qingli's maternal instincts surged. Suddenly, she also wanted a child of her own.

It was just unfortunate that, being a high-quality martial artist, she found it hard to conceive.

Since sharing a room with Lu Chen, she had stopped purging impurities from her body through cultivation, yet she still hadn't conceived. It's not easy to get pregnant, and in the entire Prince's Mansion, it seemed only her sister, also a martial artist, had managed it on the first try.

Chu Qingli wondered how much Chu Yuqin must've suffered under Lu Chen to bear his child and, coming to her senses, she quickly stopped her wandering thoughts.

How could she want his child!

That bad man had not only monopolized her sister but also tricked her into giving herself to him; he was a despicable villain through and through.

She didn't want to carry that bastard's child.

Chapter 529: North Prince Delivers Tea_1

A week flew by in the blink of an eye.

Murong Xue'er still hadn't left her bed since that incident with Lu Chen; she spent every day recuperating in bed.

Initially, Murong Xue'er thought that encountering such a strong man wasn't entirely a loss. But then, the thought struck her—if every time she got close to Lu Chen, she had to spend seven or eight days in bed afterward, wouldn't that be a colossal waste of time?

At this moment, Murong Xue'er slowly rose from the bed. Seeing her get up, the maid in the room hurried over to help her before assisting her with dressing and grooming.

Murong Xue'er still felt a faint soreness and clenched her teeth thinking: it had been seven days since that man had taken her, and he hadn't come to see her even once, nor had he sent anyone to express his concern. Truly, a man who doesn't recognize you once his pants are back on.

She wondered whether she had managed to seduce him at all.

If the North Prince was just after a new thrill, then she was in trouble. In that case, she would not only have lost her innocence, but also failed in her mission.

Worried, Murong Xue'er's mind raced with these thoughts.

Just then, a maid at the doorway spoke, "Lord Murong, the North Prince has sent over a jar of tea leaves, claiming it's beneficial for martial arts training."

Upon hearing this, Murong Xue'er was momentarily stunned. She had just been fretting over whether the North Prince was the kind to forget her after the act, and suddenly, there was a gift from him.

What did sending tea signify, though?

She responded, "Bring it in."

The maid then pushed open the door to enter, placing a white porcelain jar before Murong Xue'er, who glanced at the jar and then personally removed the lid.

The moment the lid was opened, Murong Xue'er was enveloped by a strong tea aroma that invigorated her spirits.

Murong Xue'er was astonished; she hadn't even tasted it yet, but just the scent of the tea had revitalized her so significantly—this tea was no ordinary tea!

She then instructed the maid, "Take some tea leaves and brew them immediately."

Hearing her command, the maid who had just brought in the tea quickly said, "The servant from the Prince's Mansion mentioned that the tea leaves do not need boiling, just steeping in hot water will do."

Following that, Murong Xue'er said, "Then fetch a kettle of hot water."

Upon this instruction, the maid turned and swiftly left the room.

Murong Xue'er scooped up some tea leaves from the jar and sniffed them again, finding the aroma increasingly enchanting. She slowly realized that this tea offered more than mere alertness and clarity of mind.

After smelling the tea, the skill coursing through her body also flowed more smoothly, as if the scent of the tea accelerated her cultivation rate.

Murong Xue'er grew increasingly excited, not only astonished by the effects of the tea but also delighted that the North Prince had sent her something so precious.

For the North Prince to gift her such a valuable item implied he had taken a liking to her; otherwise, he certainly wouldn't have sent her anything.

Now that the North Prince seemed to fancy her, she didn't have to worry about failing her mission. The next time she shared a room with the North Prince, she planned to extract the secrets of the North Prince Mansion from him.

At that thought, the corners of Murong Xue'er's mouth curved upward in a slight smile.

Not long after, the maid returned with a hot kettle, and Murong Xue'er personally prepared the tea.

Once the tea was ready, she took a slow sip. The very next moment, her internal power surged noticeably. Murong Xue'er was once again thrilled; the tea was indeed extraordinary, capable of directly enhancing a person's skill.

If the North Prince had sent her such a treasure, did that not mean he was quite satisfied with her body?

Murong Xue'er proceeded to drink the entire kettle of brewed tea, not once considering that the tea could be problematic in any way.

The reason Murong Xue'er experienced such a notable effect after drinking the Dragon and Phoenix Tea was mainly because she harbored favorable feelings for Lu Chen.

The Dragon and Phoenix Tea was designed for women who have a fondness for Lu Chen. When these women drink the Dragon and Phoenix Tea, not only does it enhance their affection for Lu Chen, but it also significantly increases their skill. The higher the favorability, the more pronounced the effects.

Although Lu Chen is the ruler of an enemy state to Murong Xue'er, he meets all her criteria for a man, so her fondness for him is not low. Moreover, her body was taken by Lu Chen at the Hundred Flowers Tower, where she felt his strength firsthand, which further increased her favorability towards him.

Of course, the current Murong Xue'er only knows that the tea from the Prince's Mansion can increase her skill, and is completely unaware of the tea's other effect.

Meanwhile.

North Prince Mansion, study room.

Lu Chen sat in front of the desk, earnestly reading the intelligence in his hands. After finishing, he spoke up and asked, "Are you certain that Zhao King has truly mobilized his troops and is not attacking any other feudal states?"

Liang Zong, seated opposite Lu Chen, replied, "Your Highness, it is true. He has indeed led his troops and is heading straight for the Capital."

Lu Chen said, "Strange, my memorial should have also reached the royal court by now. How dare they make a move? Aren't they afraid that I will also lead my troops southward?"

At that moment, Lu Chen suddenly recalled what Zhuge Zhongguang had told him—that Zhao King seemed to be his father emperor's secret collaborator. Therefore, his mobilization of troops was likely not genuine, but rather a means to provoke other Seigniors into rebellion.

As long as other Seigniors led their armies to the Capital, his father emperor would have a reason, an excuse, to directly deal with all of the Seigniors at once.

However, by now, each Seignior had expanded their military to some extent, and with the continuous power struggles within the court, it was questionable whether the royal army still maintained its combat effectiveness.

Was his father emperor truly confident he could take down all the Seigniors at once?

If his father emperor failed, what might await Great Sum could very well be the disaster of national extinction.

After pondering the situation, Lu Chen turned to Liang Zong and instructed, "Continue to monitor the situation. Inform me immediately if there is any news."

"Yes, Your Highness. This subordinate takes his leave."

Liang Zong, having spoken, turned and left the study.

After Liang Zong's departure, Lu Chen muttered to himself, "I hope my stance can temporarily stabilize the situation in Great Sum. It's not yet the right time."

At that moment, Lu Chen quickly realized that if he only submitted his memorial, once his father emperor became aware of it, his own stance would surely be suppressed.

His father emperor would prefer to see Seigniors rise in rebellion; how could he allow anyone to disrupt his plans? Merely submitting a memorial was likely pointless.

Thinking of this, Lu Chen immediately called out to the maid at the doorway of the study, "Go to the Eastern Newspaper Agency, ask Ms. Dongfang to come here, and tell her that I need to see her about an important matter."

"Yes, Your Highness."

...

A few days later, the official gazette of the North Country released an article titled "North Prince's Announcement to the People of Great Sum." The content was quite simple and easy to understand. In it, Lu Chen reminded all the commoners of Great Sum that the current situation was chaotic and that if war broke out in Great Sum, they could immediately head to North Country to avoid the turmoil.

Moreover, Lu Chen clarified his position, firmly supporting Prince Lu Yi as the Crown Prince, and directly mentioned in the announcement that should anyone with ulterior motives dare to take advantage of the chaos, he would lead his troops southward to quell the rebels.

After the "North Prince's Announcement to the People of Great Sum" was published by the North Country official gazette, the Eastern Times quickly released a series of analyses concerning the current situation. In these articles, it was repeatedly mentioned that North Country was suspected to have a military force of six hundred thousand.

The release of Lu Chen's "North Prince's Announcement to the People of Great Sum" swiftly deterred those Seigniors who were restless. With the North Country's military strength being so formidable, it was clear that the North Prince was not making empty threats. He said he would mobilize troops, and indeed it was a real possibility.

Some Seigniors, after evaluating their own strength, decided to stand down and let Zhao Country clash with North Country first.

Chapter 530: Trash, all a bunch of trash!_1

Lu Chen's "North Prince's Announcement to the People of Great Sum" not only made the seigniors within Great Sum's territory feel extremely upset but also annoyed the major dynasties.

Just as Great Sum was about to be thrown into chaos, about to start fighting, out came the "North Prince's Announcement to the People of Great Sum" from North Prince, which directly intimidated the seigniors within Great Sum. For a time, only Zhao King raised troops and headed north, with no other seigniors responding.

This also made Zhao King so angry he wished he could charge to the North Country and slaughter Lu Chen himself, watching as his plan was about to succeed, only for this brat to pull such a stunt.

Although there were rumors among the common folk that "the North Country does not have a Heavenly Human Realm powerhouse," most seigniors dared not gamble on this possibility.

In the eyes of those seigniors, North Country already possessed a Heavenly Human Realm powerhouse. If North Prince truly led his troops south, it was highly probable that they, the seigniors, would not be a match for him.

Since North Prince had already made it clear that he supports Prince Lu Yi, the best method was still to eliminate Prince Lu Yi.

In this way, the struggle for succession was once again confined within the Capital city's limits, and the seigniors could only offer some superficial help, such as providing assassins to murder Prince Lu Yi.

Great Xia Dynasty.

Capital city, Imperial Palace.

Sum Emperor was meditating on his bed with his eyes closed, listening to the Shadow Guard's report. After hearing the Shadow Guard's report, Sum Emperor suddenly opened his eyes, staring ahead with wide, furious eyes, and cursed, "Good for nothings, all of them are good for nothings!"

"Someone just issued an announcement, and it completely scared all of them, what a bunch of useless cowards!"

The "good for nothings" Sum Emperor referred to were evidently those seigniors. He had hoped that those seigniors would rebel and give him enough reason to eliminate them. The most crucial point was that once they started causing trouble, it would surely weaken everyone's strength.

Moreover, his original plan was to lure those seigniors to lead their troops into the Royal Capital. This way, Zhao King's troops could act from behind and take the opportunity to ambush those seigniors' feudal states.

His plan seemed to be on the verge of success as seigniors from all over had already become restless, all of them thinking of leading their armies into the Royal Capital, being the first to control the city, then to command the other lords by holding the Emperor hostage.

But the result was that the announcement from North Prince directly intimidated all the seigniors within Great Sum's territory. Apart from the chess piece that was Zhao King, not a single seignior decided to rebel, all of them stayed within their own areas, watching the show unfold.

The more Emperor thought about it, the angrier he became.

However, Sum Emperor soon calmed down.

North Prince, unlike those seigniors itching for action, openly declared his support for Prince Lu Yi to be Crown Prince and directly threatened the seigniors, asserting that if any dared to rebel, he would be the one to attack them. This was obviously a move to stabilize the situation in Great Sum.

Does this not also mean that North Prince, at heart, really has no plans to head south now to snatch the throne?

It looks like Zhuge Zhongguang truly didn't Break through the Heavenly Human Realm.

Otherwise, with North Country's so-called massive army of five hundred thousand, North Country could totally head south or choose to move south while the seigniors were rebelling, but North Prince did not do so. Instead, he used this threatening method to temporarily stabilize Great Sum's situation.

With this realization, Sum Emperor felt somewhat relieved. As long as Zhuge Zhongguang hadn't broken through to the Heavenly Human Realm, once he himself broke through, North Country could be destroyed in the blink of an eye.

Yet now, all the seigniors within Great Sum's territory had been cowed by North Prince, and to rouse them into action again to march north would probably not be so easy.

The best course of action now was to work from the angle that Zhuge Zhongguang hadn't broken through to the Heavenly Human Realm. The main reason the seigniors feared North Country was due to the presence of a Heavenly Human Realm powerhouse.

Although North Country's military might was strong, as long as one could control all of Great Sum, with its foundation, it was fully possible to engage in a war of attrition against North Country.

However, the presence of a Heavenly Human Realm powerhouse changed everything. One side with a Heavenly Human being could completely crush the other. The seigniors thought that even if they later occupied the Royal Capital and installed a puppet Emperor, once North Prince marched south, all their efforts would be in vain. Therefore, they preferred not to rebel and wait to see how things would unfold.

Sum Emperor's idea was simple, if he could make the seigniors from various places believe that North Country currently didn't have a Heavenly Human powerhouse, they would likely be agitated and choose to rebel.

However, how could he convince those seigniors that North Country didn't have a Heavenly Human powerhouse?

This matter requires careful planning...

...

Several days had passed.

Murong Xue'er felt the urgency of time growing, as the Yue Emperor had sent people to hasten her to complete the task.

She also wanted to finish the task quickly, but Lu Chen had been staying inside the North Prince Mansion. Before, Lu Chen would still go out to inspect, but these past few days he simply hadn't come out at all, which made it impossible for her to get close to Lu Chen.

In the last few days, Lu Chen had also sent people to deliver her food, necessities, and clothing, as if he truly treated her as a concubine he kept outside.

Murong Xue'er felt that she couldn't go on like this, being so passive and waiting for Lu Chen to take the initiative to find her would be like waiting for an eternity. Since Lu Chen wasn't taking the initiative to see her, then she would take the initiative to go to the North Prince Mansion to find Lu Chen.

North Prince Mansion.

Lu Chen was busy dealing with official documents in the study when the maid's voice sounded outside the study.

"Prince, Miss Murong requests an audience."

Hearing this, the corners of Lu Chen's mouth lifted slightly; the cold and aloof woman had finally succumbed to loneliness.

Lu Chen then said, "Bring her to the study to see me."

"Yes, Prince."

Before long, Murong Xue'er, dressed in white garments with black edges and a black headband, exuding an aura of cool elegance, appeared in Lu Chen's study.

As Murong Xue'er entered Lu Chen's study and saw him working on official documents, she glanced over the mountainous pile of papers on his desk.

Murong Xue'er thought to herself, no wonder the North Prince was always staying inside the North Prince Mansion and not going out. With so many documents to process, when would he finish? Perhaps even the Empress couldn't handle so many in a single day.

In the Da Yue Dynasty, most of the official documents were directly handled by the ministers below, only the specially important ones were submitted to the Empress for review.

While Murong Xue'er was lost in thought looking at the documents on the desk, Lu Chen put down his fountain pen and looked up at Murong Xue'er, saying, "Miss Murong, you've come. My apologies for not noticing earlier. I was deeply focused."

Murong Xue'er said, "Prince, by coming to see you, have I disturbed you from your duties?"

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Not at all, I have actually been hoping Miss Murong would come to see me."

Having said that, Lu Chen rose from his chair and walked straight towards Murong Xue'er.

Upon approaching Murong Xue'er, he didn't touch her but said, "Miss Murong, please follow me; let's talk somewhere else."

Murong Xue'er thought to herself, that made sense; the North Prince's study likely contained many secrets, so he didn't want to meet with her there to avoid her stealing any secrets from the North Prince Mansion.

Murong Xue'er immediately replied, "Alright."

Then Lu Chen walked toward the lounge next to the study.

Although the study's lounge was cleaned and had its bedding changed daily by the maids, it hadn't been used for quite some time. Since Murong Xue'er had taken the initiative to come to him that day, it seemed appropriate to make use of the lounge.

If it remained unused, wouldn't that be a waste of the servants' hard work?