

Es. Benefits 731

Chapter 731 The Appearance of the Taiyin Divine Sect Sect Hierarchy_2

Pseudo... Pseudo Celestial!!!

How is this possible!!!

How old is the North Prince this year!

How could he possibly be a Pseudo Celestial!!

Although they knew that the North Prince had high Martial Arts Talent and certain strength, they had not anticipated that he had already become a Pseudo Celestial.

Cao Xianya also realized at this moment that taking the North Prince away today might not be an easy task, but she still didn't plan to give up.

So what if the North Prince is a Pseudo Celestial, a pampered prince like him rarely engages in combat; he might not necessarily be a match for her.

Thinking this, Cao Xianya's gaze instantly became venomous, "Since the North Prince refuses to accompany this old one for a walk, then don't blame this old one for what comes next!"

As she spoke, Cao Xianya thrust her sword toward Lu Chen.

Lu Chen immediately got up and leaped into the air from the already destroyed carriage.

Seeing this, Cao Xianya swung her sword again towards Lu Chen.

With a Shadow Shifting move, Lu Chen instantly broke away from the crowd, but his figure was soon locked onto by Cao Xianya. She thought Lu Chen was trying to run away and followed him without hesitation.

Lu Chen only felt that there were too many people here and he couldn't exert his full power.

Having cultivated for so long, it was time to get moving, and Cao Xianya, being a Pseudo Celestial herself, would serve as a good Touchstone to test his cultivation.

When Lu Chen felt it was about right, he instantly stopped.

Seeing Lu Chen stop running, Cao Xianya sneered, "Why isn't the North Prince running anymore?"

Lu Chen smiled and then said, "The surroundings here are quite nice and there aren't many people left. It's a suitable place for your burial, no need to run."

Hearing these words, Cao Xianya was stunned for a moment, and then coldly said, "I hope the Prince can still be so sharp-tongued later."

Her words fell, Cao Xianya kicked off the ground and charged toward Lu Chen, who clenched his sword tightly.

Tidal Wave!!!

A series of tangible Sword Qi instantly flew out of the sword, like the mighty waves rising from the ocean, turning over the soil of the earth.

Cao Xianya was taken aback in her mind, she didn't expect Lu Chen to use such a fierce Swordsmanship right from the start.

However, Cao Xianya was not the least bit afraid; she flashed and easily dodged Lu Chen's attack, circling to Lu Chen's left side.

Immediately after, Cao Xianya swung her sword.

Soul Devouring Swordsmanship!!!

Dark Sword Qi released from her sword transformed into a horde of skeletons in an instant, and wherever those Skeleton Sword Qi went, the leaves turned yellow.

Seeing this, Lu Chen chuckled. Indeed, typical of the Demonic Sect's Demonic People, these moves seemed utterly ruthless.

Lu Chen did not choose to receive them head on; instead, he used Shadow Shifting again, instantly appearing behind Cao Xianya.

Frozen Snow Field!!!

The moment Spiritual Energy released, the surrounding air was instantaneously sealed, and a clearly visible chill headed straight for Cao Xianya's body.

Feeling the danger behind her, Cao Xianya was about to dodge when, in the next instant, she found her body unable to move.

A look of disbelief appeared on Cao Xianya's face.

What Cultivation Technique is this!

Why can't my body move!

Seeing Cao Xianya's body freeze over, Lu Chen thought to himself that his teacher, Yun Xianxian, had indeed taught him some useful stuff.

The Frozen Snow Field technique could restrain enemies within a certain range and belonged to the category of Control Skills.

The effect was quite noticeable. In a high-level duel, victory often depended on a split second, and sometimes even a brief control could result in being slain by the opponent.

At this moment, Lu Chen launched Tidal Wave again, with waves of Sword Qi rushing towards Cao Xianya.

With all her might, Cao Xianya struggled to break free, but just when she was about to succeed, she was hit directly by countless strands of Sword Qi. However, this did not take her life.

Cao Xianya lay on the ground, spitting several mouthfuls of blood, her complexion fierce as she glared at Lu Chen with a venomous gaze, as if she wanted to tear him apart with her eyes.

"This old one admits, I underestimated the North Prince. But do you think you, Prince, can kill this old one with just a little trick?"

As she spoke, Cao Xianya suddenly produced a bead.

Just as Lu Chen was curious about what it was, Cao Xianya activated the bead.

Bloodthirsty Bead, sacrifice!!!

The next moment, the surroundings turned blood red in an instant.

Seeing this, Lu Chen was stunned. They were still Pseudo Celestials, right? How was it that they could execute such fantastical maneuvers.

Celestials have just entered the path of Daoist Immortality, whereas these Pseudo Celestials are still within the bounds of Martial Arts. Is it really okay to use such powerful treasures?

Isn't the Heavenly Dao supposed to intervene?

At this time, Xuanyuan Chaoge, who was in the distance, saw this scene and immediately took action.

Burial Palm!

With one palm strike, before Cao Xianya could react, she was directly smacked into the ground, and the blood-red bead in her hand also shattered instantly, dispersing the surrounding blood mist.

Xuanyuan Chaoge walked up to Lu Chen, "Your Highness, are you alright?"

As the dust settled, Cao Xianya's tragic state was revealed; she was bleeding from every orifice, her bones shattered, hanging on to her last breath.

Seeing Xuanyuan Chaoge beside Lu Chen, Cao Xianya spat out another mouthful of blood, "Didn't... expect... it was a plot..."

Cao Xianya finally realized that Lu Chen must have known about their Taiyin Divine Sect's presence in Yan County all along. This was a deliberate ploy to draw them out and then act to eradicate them.

Chapter 732 The Appearance of the Taiyin Divine Sect Sect Hierarch_3

Hearing Cao Xianya's words, Lu Chen chuckled.

He then walked directly towards Cao Xianya, "The people of the Taiyin Divine Sect really have no precautions at all."

Just as Lu Chen was about to reach Cao Xianya, a burst of green smoke exploded instantaneously. The smoke spread so rapidly that Lu Chen didn't even have time to use Shadow Shifting.

Xuanyuan Chaoge immediately sensed something wrong with the smoke and hurriedly shouted, "North Prince, be careful, the smoke is poisonous!!!"

After the smoke had dispersed, Cao Xianya burst into laughter, while laughing she said, "Even if this old one has to die, I will... take you... down with me... Puh..."

Cao Xianya coughed up another mouthful of blood.

However, the scene she was expecting did not occur. Lu Chen stood there just fine, looking at her indifferently.

Cao Xianya's pupils contracted.

"No... it's impossible... this is the Sect Hierarch's Bone Melting Poison, how could it be ineffective..."

She had heard from their Sect Hierarchy that this poison could affect even a Celestial being upon direct contact, and the North Prince was just a Pseudo Celestial, so how could he be completely unaffected.

Lu Chen said with a smile, "I'm sorry, this prince is immune to all poisons."

No sooner had his voice fallen than Cao Xianya's body flew up and directly into Lu Chen's hands. Clutching her neck, Lu Chen said, "Alright, former Saintess of the Taiyin Divine Sect, it's time for you to depart!"

In an instant, the fear of death enveloped Cao Xianya's heart as she gathered all her Spiritual Power, intending to explode her Dantian to die together with Lu Chen.

However, Lu Chen's Absorption Technique was well developed, and he didn't give her the chance. He immediately activated his Spiritual Power with full force, and in the blink of an eye, most of the Spiritual Power within Cao Xianya's body drained away.

Feeling the swift depletion of the skill inside her body, Cao Xianya was dumbfounded.

Who is the real Demonic Sect's Demonic Person here!

"You... you..."

Cao Xianya's pupils shrank to pinpoints, her mouth agape in shock as she died.

Feeling the overwhelming skill inside him, Lu Chen suddenly felt an unbearable itch in his hand and his mood became restless, wanting to fight.

If too much power is absorbed and he is unable to break through due to restrictions, it would cause him to feel irritable.

Lu Chen then picked up the sword in his hand and kept swinging it at the distant forest. Sword Qi flew out, and the trees in the forest fell with a rustling sound.

After releasing some of his Spiritual Power, Lu Chen felt much more comfortable and then returned to where they had been with Xuanyuan Chaoge.

The moment Xuanyuan Chaoge returned, the remaining members of the Taiyin Divine Sect were instantly defeated.

In front of Xuanyuan Chaoge, a Celestial, Grandmasters and those below them were mere mortals, utterly incapable of fighting back.

To prevent anyone from fleeing and leaking the news, Xue Linglong directly went to attack Lu Chen. As Xue Linglong approached him, she whispered urgently, "Quick, take control of me!"

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen seemed to understand something and instantly released the pressure of a Pseudo Celestial, knocking the sword from Xue Linglong's hand and then seizing her jade-like arm, twisting her hands behind her back, and subduing Xue Linglong.

Seeing that even the Saintess had been captured, those from the Taiyin Divine Sect still alive immediately despaired.

At this time, Xue Linglong began to struggle and said while struggling, "Dog of a man, release me now, or when our Sect Hierarch awakens, you will sooner or later become his nourishment!!!"

While speaking, Xue Linglong twisted her body, and her hips were pressed tightly against Lu Chen's body. Her wriggling made Lu Chen utterly speechless.

Having just absorbed a large amount of skill, his body was still filled with some violence, and Xue Linglong's antics made Lu Chen wish he could kill this demonic woman right now.

Xue Linglong continued to act as though she would never yield and provocatively said,

"What's the matter? Why are you silent! Dog of a man, you're scared, aren't you! If you're scared, release me now!"

Lu Chen sneered, then said, "Ridiculous, how could this prince ever fear some filthy vermin."

Speaking of this, Lu Chen looked towards those disciples of the Taiyin Divine Sect and ordered the guards, "Kill them all!"

Upon hearing this, some disciples of the Taiyin Divine Sect immediately chose to self-destruct their Dantians, but before they could self-detonate, Xuanyuan Chaoge's palm struck down.

Some disciples of the Taiyin Divine Sect knelt down at once, "I surrender! Don't kill me! I was forced!!!"

However, just as these disciples began to harbor thoughts of betraying the Taiyin Divine Sect, their bodies suddenly exploded, turning into a pool of blood.

Seeing this, Lu Chen frowned, not expecting Xue Linglong's words to be true.

Those who betrayed the Taiyin Divine Sect really did turn into a pool of blood, but isn't this too thorough? There was nothing but blood, not even a speck of bone remains.

What is the principle behind this?

It did not seem like drug control, nor was it mind control, and it certainly wasn't worm control, as he could not find any worm in Xue Linglong's body.

Lu Chen then checked Xue Linglong's body and found no abnormalities.

Just then, the exploded blood suddenly began to flow.

Xuanyuan Chaoge immediately sensed danger and quickly moved in front of Lu Chen, "North Prince, be careful, danger!!!"

No sooner had Xuanyuan Chaoge spoken than the blood converged into a massive visage. The bloody visage looked at Lu Chen and said, "Truly worthy of being the Son of Destiny!"

"The heavens really favor me! At last, I have found the Son of Destiny!"

"Now I can finally leave this cursed place!!!"

"Hahaha, North Prince, await my arrival, and enjoy the last moments of your life in fear!!!"

At this moment, Xue Linglong urgently cried out, "Sect Hierarch, save me!!!"

The bloody visage glanced at Xue Linglong and then sneered, "Useless creature, what need have I for you? Become my nourishment!"

Chapter 733 Of course, it's to interrogate the demoness captured by this prince_1

After the words of the Taiyin Divine Sect fell, nothing happened.

For a time, the atmosphere at the scene became somewhat awkward.

A moment later, the Taiyin Divine Sect exclaimed in disbelief, "How... how is this possible!"

"Why aren't you under my control anymore!"

Seeing the shocked expression of the Taiyin Divine Sect Hierarch, Lu Chen breathed a sigh of relief. He had thought that the Taiyin Divine Sect still had control over Xue Linglong, but it turned out to be just a bluff.

Hearing the words of the Taiyin Divine Sect Hierarch, Xue Linglong was also puzzled. How exactly did she break free from the control of the Taiyin Divine Sect Hierarch?

But then again, although she didn't know how she had broken free from the control, it must be related to the man behind her. After all, it was after she came into contact with this man that she began to consider betraying the Taiyin Divine Sect, and there had been no issues since.

At that moment, Lu Chen asked the system in his mind, "System, how did Xue Linglong escape the control of the Taiyin Divine Sect Hierarch? Do you know?"

Lu Chen had not asked the system before, thinking it was not important, as he believed that the Taiyin Divine Sect used the same methods of control with drugs as his emperor father had done with the Shadow Guards. Thus, after he became intimate with Xue Linglong, she naturally broke free from the control of the Taiyin Divine Sect Hierarch.

However, with the Taiyin Divine Sect Hierarch appearing before everyone in such a magical manner, Lu Chen no longer believed that the Hierarch used drugs to control people.

[The Leader of the Taiyin Sect used a blood imprint method to control Xue Linglong. Ever since Xue Linglong drank the Dragon and Phoenix Tea, the blood imprint on her body was erased, and a host's imprint was planted.]

This...

Lu Chen seemed to understand something.

So the Dragon and Phoenix Tea itself was a type of control method similar to a slave imprint?

Why does he feel like he's becoming a real villain now, with the Dragon and Phoenix Tea and the Absorption Technique, not to mention getting stronger after being intimate with women? His traits seem even more demonic than those of the Demon Sect?

Xue Linglong then pretended to be very panicked and said, "Sect... Sect Hierarch, save me, I... I don't know what happened either!"

At that time, the Leader of the Taiyin Sect looked at Lu Chen and sneered, "As expected of the Son of Destiny, you indeed have some tricks up your sleeve!"

Clearly, the Leader of the Taiyin Sect believed that Lu Chen had just done something that prevented him from killing Xue Linglong.

"Hehehe, I can hardly wait to seize your body!"

"This waste is given to you. Struggle, fear, all of this is the nourishment I need..."

As the Leader of the Taiyin Sect spoke, his voice became more and more distorted, and the blood gradually disappeared.

After everything calmed down, Xuanyuan Chaoge turned to look at Lu Chen and said, "My lord, the demon just now was extremely dangerous; this old servant felt that he could have killed me in an instant."

Lu Chen indifferently said, "He has not yet recovered, no need to worry for now."

"Let's go back first!"

Lu Chen intended to ask Yun Xianxian about it. Clearly, from the words the Taiyin Divine Sect Hierarch had just spoken, it was obvious that the Hierarch was not from this world, and neither was Yun Xianxian, so she should have some understanding of the Taiyin Divine Sect Hierarch.

At that moment, Liang Zong glanced at Xue Linglong being escorted by Lu Chen; he naturally saw that Xue Linglong had intentionally run over to be apprehended by Lu Chen.

Liang Zong originally intended to ask Lu Chen how to deal with the Crown Princess Consort, but after thinking it over, he ultimately decided not to speak. It was evident that Xue Linglong was the woman of their Prince; how to handle her was Lu Chen's own business, and there was no need to inquire.

However, just then, Lu Chen suddenly thought of something, and he said to Liang Zong, "Take this Demon Sect Sorceress and imprison her in Prison A 001 for me."

Upon hearing this, both Liang Zong and Xue Linglong were taken aback.

Liang Zong was somewhat puzzled by what Lu Chen intended to do. Shouldn't Xue Linglong be living in the North Prince Mansion? Why was Lu Chen now ordering her to be locked up in prison?

Although Prison A 001 was meant for imprisoning special prisoners, and its environment was rather good, it was still a prison after all.

Xue Linglong, at that moment, was also stunned, and a feeling of nervousness suddenly arose in her heart, along with some anger deep inside.

This damned man, he had promised not to kill after taking advantage, and now he was having people lock her up in prison!

Despite her anger, Xue Linglong didn't say a word at the moment, and Liang Zong awkwardly said, "Miss Xue, please!"

After Lu Chen released Xue Linglong, she glared at him fiercely, but she didn't make any rash actions, instead, she followed Liang Zong to Prison A 001.

When Xue Linglong arrived at Prison A 001, she was taken aback. The so-called Prison A 001 turned out to be a courtyard, which didn't look like a prison at all.

The courtyard had everything, and the bedroom was beautifully decorated with a large bed.

Xue Linglong incredulously scanned the surrounding environment and asked Liang Zong, "Is this your Prison A 001?"

Liang Zong politely answered, "Yes, Miss Xue."

Xue Linglong sneered and said, "I can't imagine what kind of criminal would be locked up in a place like this."

Liang Zong replied, "Miss Xue, the Prison A 001 was built to detain special prisoners, and you are the first person to reside here."

Xue Linglong was stunned for a moment.

She sneered to herself. The unfaithful North Prince actually intended to kill the donkey after it had done grinding the mill.

Could it be that he planned to imprison her in this place for life?

Should she attempt to escape now?

When she followed Liang Zong inside earlier, she noticed that the security of Prison A 001 wasn't particularly tight, nor were there any strong individuals watching. If she wanted to escape, with her grandmaster abilities, she could easily break out of this place.

But...

Now that she had already betrayed the Taiyin Divine Sect, where could she possibly flee to?

At this time, Liang Zong said, "Miss Xue, if you need anything, you can call the soldiers outside. I will take my leave now."

Having said this, Liang Zong gave Xue Linglong a bow, then turned around and left the courtyard.

Xue Linglong was stunned for a moment.

He's leaving just like that?

Do they really not fear that she might escape?

No, to be precise, Lu Chen didn't think she would run away at all.

As soon as she thought of how Lu Chen had her completely under control, Xue Linglong clenched her teeth. This damned man, he must know that she could no longer leave him. Now that she had betrayed the Taiyin Divine Sect, she had nowhere to go. Thus, he must have decided not to bother with her and simply left her here.

The more Xue Linglong thought about it, the angrier she got, but there was nothing she could do. She then had no choice but to enter the bedroom and sit on the bed to meditate and cultivate.

Meanwhile,

Lu Chen had already returned to the North Prince Mansion.

Upon entering the North Prince Mansion, Lu Chen headed straight for the Yunrong Courtyard, just in time to find Yun Xianxian meditating in the pavilion.

Feeling Lu Chen's arrival, Yun Xianxian asked indifferently, "What brings you to your teacher?"

Yun Xianxian had already sensed the blood aura on Lu Chen, so she instantly guessed that Lu Chen must have come to find her.

Hearing Yun Xianxian's words, Lu Chen was taken aback. He had not expected that Yun Xianxian would immediately realize that he had come to find her. Generally, if he entered the Yunrong Courtyard, he was most likely there to visit Chen Wanrong and Lin Wanyun for pleasure and would hardly ever seek her out.

Without hesitation, Lu Chen replied directly, "Disciple just ran into the Sect Hierarch of the Taiyin Divine Sect."

Hearing this, Yun Xianxian asked, "Did you fight?"

Lu Chen answered, "No, the disciples of the Taiyin Divine Sect suddenly exploded into pools of blood. Then the blood gathered and formed the head of the Taiyin Sect's Hierarch. He said some strange things to the disciple."

After hearing this, Yun Xianxian contemplated for a moment. "It seems that the Taiyin Divine Sect is from another world that has fallen into this one, practitioners of evil cultivation."

"What did he say to you?"

Lu Chen responded, "He said the disciple is the 'Son of Destiny', that he had finally waited for the disciple, and also mentioned that he could leave this world once he takes possession of the disciple's body."

Hearing this, Yun Xianxian let out a snort of laughter. "Son of Destiny? Believing such ghostly nonsense, the brain of the Leader of the Taiyin Sect isn't very smart."

Curiously, Lu Chen asked, "Master, what exactly is the 'Son of Destiny'? Why would the Taiyin Sect's Hierarch think that the disciple is the Son of Destiny?"

Yun Xianxian said coolly, "Legend has it that every few thousand years, this world gives birth to a Son of Destiny, who is the only one capable of becoming an immortal and leaving this world."

She continued disdainfully, "Just hearing it, you know it's fake. Not to mention whether this legend is true or false, even if there really were people who became immortals and left this world, those so-called 'Sons of Destiny' are probably cultivators from other worlds who fell into this one, just like us. Once they regained their strength, they naturally left."

Lu Chen thought about it, so that was it.

It seems that the Taiyin Sect's Hierarch only thought he was special and thus believed the rumor?

However, why did the Taiyin Sect's Hierarch decide he was the Son of Destiny the moment he saw him? There must be something about him that made the Taiyin Sect's Hierarch link him to the Son of Destiny.

With this in mind, Lu Chen asked, "The Leader of the Taiyin Sect determined at first glance that the disciple is the Son of Destiny. Does the master know why he was so certain?"

Yun Xianxian replied, "Because you have cultivated with me, you have been touched by my Immortal Aura. Being an evil cultivator who fell from the Immortal World, he naturally realized you are different from ordinary people, so he thinks you are the Son of Destiny."

Lu Chen thought to himself, that made sense, but was it really so?

In his heart, he somewhat feared that the reason the Taiyin Sect's Hierarch thought he was the Son of Destiny was due to the system.

Yun Xianxian then said coldly, "Just an evil cultivator, nothing to be afraid of. As long as I can regain my strength, I can extinguish him with a flick of a finger."

Lu Chen smiled inwardly; this woman was hinting at him again. She just wanted him to willingly engage in dual cultivation with her.

Yun Xianxian now asked, "Where did the leader of the Taiyin Sect go?"

Lu Chen replied, "He made a threat to the disciple, telling me to wait for him to take possession, and then he dispersed."

After thinking for a moment, Yun Xianxian said, "Transmitting voice over a thousand miles, it seems his strength has surpassed the Heavenly Human Realm, he's not easy to deal with."

Hearing Yun Xianxian say this, Lu Chen became worried. Was this woman thinking about running away again?

Maybe he should take her down earlier to prevent her from trying to escape at the first sign of trouble.

While Lu Chen was staring blankly at Yun Xianxian's beautiful celestial face, she said, "Let's put aside the Taiyin Divine Sect for now. What's most important for you is to head south and fight for the throne."

Lu Chen said, "Disciple understands."

Lu Chen didn't linger too long in the Yunrong Courtyard. Now that he had a basic understanding of the Taiyin Sect's Hierarch, who was just an evil cultivator from the cultivation realm, he should be able to deal with him once the people from the Tai Chu Divine Hall and the Sunset Sword Sect arrive.

After leaving the Yunrong Courtyard, rather than going to his study to handle affairs, Lu Chen headed straight to Prison A 001.

He wanted to see if Xue Linglong had attempted escape again.

When Lu Chen arrived at Prison A 001, Xue Linglong was sitting in meditation on her bed. Seeing this, Lu Chen chuckled softly.

Hearing Lu Chen's laughter, Xue Linglong immediately opened her eyes. She said coldly, "What are you here for?"

Laughing, Lu Chen replied, "Of course, I'm here to interrogate the sorceress this prince has captured."

Chapter 734 You wouldn't count me in as well, would you?_1

Hearing Lu Chen's response, Xue Linglong snorted coldly and then said, "Everything I know, you've already known, what's the point of further interrogation? You might as well just kill me."

Seeing that Xue Linglong had become emotional, Lu Chen immediately felt a desire to tease her, "No matter what, you are a Demon Sect Sorceress. Killing you so easily would be letting you off too lightly, wouldn't it?"

"But then again, there aren't any strong guards in Prison A 001, and you could have totally escaped earlier if you tried. Why didn't you run?"

Hearing what Lu Chen said, Xue Linglong got irritated. She sneered and retorted, "Run? Don't you, Prince, know exactly what methods you've used on me? Where could I possibly run to?"

Even if she were to escape now, she would eventually return to Lu Chen's side, driven by the yearning deep in her heart.

Lu Chen hadn't just imprisoned her body, he had captured her heart. While one could flee from physical captivity, how could she flee with her heart so confined? Wherever she went, without being beside Lu Chen, it felt no different from being in prison.

At this time, Xue Linglong stated, "I think, Prince, you are more like a member of the Demon Sect than I am."

Lu Chen smiled faintly, walked to the bedside, and, lifting her chin to look into her peach blossom eyes, said, "Oh? Is that so? Since you've said as much, then I shall have to use some Demon Sect interrogation techniques on you."

Xue Linglong closed her eyes slightly, putting on a fearless demeanor, "Go ahead, kill me. I don't want to live anyway."

Lu Chen chuckled, and then pushed her onto the bed. Just as Xue Linglong wondered what he was going to do, she suddenly heard a ripping sound, followed by her lips being sealed.

Xue Linglong cursed in her heart, this goddamn man, still knowing to do such things to her. Wasn't he planning to discard her after using her? He might as well just kill her.

Although Xue Linglong harbored deep resentment toward Lu Chen at that moment, thinking of him as a heartless scoundrel who intended to cast her aside after exploiting her,

soon, her resentment toward Lu Chen dissipated without a trace. Under Lu Chen's interrogation, Xue Linglong felt herself becoming more and more unusual.

Lu Chen used many methods on Xue Linglong that even Wang Qingci had not experienced before.

When Xue Linglong awoke the next morning, she found a bell tied around her neck. Recalling the events of the previous day, Xue Linglong turned her head and shot an intensely fierce look at the nearby Lu Chen.

Seeing Xue Linglong awake, Lu Chen revealed a faint smile, then said, "I am a man of my word. A promise once made must be kept."

"I said you would at least have the status of a Consort, so I can't possibly kill you."

"But on the other hand, it seems like you quite enjoyed being tormented, didn't you?"

At these words, Xue Linglong's face suddenly flushed with color, and she didn't understand why. When that despicable man tormented her, she somehow felt excited.

What's wrong with me?

Just as Xue Linglong was about to say something, Lu Chen's expression suddenly darkened, and he said, "That's right, from now on, you must address me as 'Master'!"

Seeing Lu Chen's gloomy face, Xue Linglong's heart trembled, enveloped by fear. She couldn't quite grasp what this man was thinking.

But this time, Xue Linglong did not defy Lu Chen's command, "Master... this... this slave understands."

Hearing her words, Lu Chen raised his hand, stroked Xue Linglong's black hair, and commented, "Mhm, that's more obedient."

At that moment, Xue Linglong wished she could bite down on Lu Chen's hand.

The despicable scoundrel, to actually treat her as nothing more than a plaything.

Seeing the venomous look in Xue Linglong's eyes, Lu Chen's face once again became stern, "As my pet, you dare to look at me with such eyes? It seems you haven't been fully tamed by me; some lessons are in order."

Upon saying this, Lu Chen tugged at the rope, pulling Xue Linglong in front of himself, and then continued to "teach" Xue Linglong.

Soon, cries for mercy echoed once more from the room.

"Prince, spare my life, this slave has learned her lesson..."

"Master, mmm..."

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Lu Chen didn't know how long he "taught" the Demon Sect Sorceress, but by the time Xue Linglong regained consciousness again, she had lost all her defiance.

Lying on the bed and embracing the pillow, she asked in a low voice, "So this is your true facade, Prince?"

Lu Chen replied, "Everyone has a dark side in their heart; I just rarely let it out."

Xue Linglong responded, "It's my bad luck, to have fallen into your hands, doomed to be your toy for life."

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Bad luck? If it weren't for me, you'd still be controlled by the Leader of the Taiyin Sect, continuing as his blood slave."

Xue Linglong huffed, "But am I not your Female Slave now?"

Hearing her words, Lu Chen leaned close, whispering in Xue Linglong's ear, "What, you're unwilling?"

At the sound of Lu Chen's deep voice, Xue Linglong felt a chill down her spine, and her body began to grow restless again.

"Oh well, who asked for this slave to be born with such a lowly fate."

Xue Linglong had accepted the reality; she realized that Lu Chen's earlier cruelty was merely a trick to add some excitement, and his nature was not really so.

Chapter 735 You wouldn't count me in as well, would you?_2

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And strangely enough, she seemed to actually prefer if Lu Chen continued to treat her just the way he had been doing, maybe, just as she said, her life was indeed worthless.

At that time, Lu Chen said, "You should go back to the Prince's Mansion to stay tonight. If you find yourself with too much free time, you can follow Qingci with her work in the future."

"Right, you will accompany me to the south this time."

Upon hearing this, Xue Linglong chuckled lightly and then said, "It seems that Master still doesn't trust this servant."

"Keeping this servant by your side at all times, are you afraid that, once you leave, this servant will harm those ladies you favor?"

Lu Chen didn't deny it; instead, he pulled on the rope again, and immediately Xue Linglong's head was raised, and the bell rang as Lu Chen continued to speak into her ear, "You are right, this prince indeed fears that you, a Demon Sect Sorceress, might harm my women, so I must keep you tethered to my side, to educate you at all times."

"If you don't obey, I will kill you!"

Instead of getting angry, Xue Linglong felt an immense excitement in her heart upon hearing Lu Chen's words.

At that moment, Lu Chen and Xue Linglong were close together, so he distinctly felt her body tense up with excitement. Lu Chen was almost certain now – this Demon Sect Sorceress really did have a problem.

The more he punished her, the more excited she got. He never expected to meet such a person in this world.

At that point, Xue Linglong coquettishly said, "Master is so fierce, this servant will obey."

Lu Chen fiercely said, "Don't think that by acting obedient, I will lower my guard. I will be keeping a close watch on you!"

Lu Chen's words caused Xue Linglong's heart to race even more, and she became increasingly excited.

However, just then, Lu Chen released Xue Linglong and standing up, he said, "That's enough for today. I have other business and must be going now."

By then Xue Linglong had returned to her normal state, she asked, "How does the Prince plan to deal with the Taiyin Divine Sect?"

"As this servant understands, if the Leader of the Taiyin Sect recovers his power, he might become even more formidable than a Celestial."

By now, Xue Linglong had been completely subdued by Lu Chen, and she began to worry about Lu Chen's situation.

Lu Chen said with a smile, "We will cross that bridge when we come to it. Isn't he still far from recovering his strength right now?"

Xue Linglong thought about it, and that made sense.

Lu Chen continued, "You don't need to worry about the matters of the Taiyin Divine Sect. Although the Leader of the Taiyin Sect might be somewhat difficult to deal with, I am not a pushover."

"Once I have seized the throne of Great Sum, I will immediately deal with the Taiyin Divine Sect!"

Lu Chen indeed had some concerns about the cultivator from another world.

By the time the representatives from the Tai Chu Divine Hall and the Sunset Sword Sect arrived, he should nearly have conquered the throne of Great Sum. At that point, he would unite forces from all sides to strike against the Taiyin Divine Sect.

Seeing that Lu Chen already had a timeline in mind, Xue Linglong did not press the issue further.

By then, Lu Chen had finished dressing, and he scanned Xue Linglong once more, her delicate form, white skin, and long legs, a slender waist and seductive voice – such a female slave was indeed irresistible.

Feeling his fervent gaze upon her again, Xue Linglong involuntarily shivered slightly, wondering if the man had those thoughts again.

Fortunately, Lu Chen didn't make another move. He merely glanced her way and then said, "Your experiences are quite similar to Qingci's. You surely have many things in common to talk about, you should chat with her more in the future."

Having the same lack of parents since childhood, being raised by an organization, approaching Lu Chen because of a mission, and in the end, being tormented by Lu Chen to the point of death and rebirth, becoming his female slave, both body and mind subdued by him.

There were differences between them though; Wang Qingci was seductive and charming but did not possess the masochistic quality of Xue Linglong, perhaps because Xue Linglong was a Demon Sect Sorceress, it had twisted her mind in some way.

After hearing Lu Chen's words, Xue Linglong said, "This servant understands. This servant will learn well from Lady Wang and serve Master in the future."

With a faint smile, Lu Chen said no more and left the room.

Once Lu Chen was gone, Xue Linglong glanced at the disheveled room and touched her distended belly.

She couldn't believe that in just one day, she felt like she had gained weight.

Alas...

It seemed she really couldn't escape this despicable man.

At that thought, Xue Linglong snorted coldly, this man was so brazen with her, not the least bit worried that she might be setting a trap. Wait and see, she thought, she would bear him several children and then exact her revenge, beating him through his own offspring.

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At this thought, Xue Linglong felt much more at ease in her heart.

However, despite her thoughts, Xue Linglong began to channel her energy to expel the impurities within her body, after all, she didn't feel very comfortable with her current condition.

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After Lu Chen returned to the Prince's Mansion.

A maid from Wu Junwan's quarters came seeking Lu Chen, mentioning that Princess Junwan had something she wished to discuss with him.

In his mind, Lu Chen thought, hadn't he just visited her chamber a few days ago, and now she couldn't wait again so soon?

They say that a woman at thirty is like a tiger...

But he hadn't felt that Princess Junwan was all that formidable, had he?

Lu Chen didn't think much further and headed straight for Princess Junwan's courtyard.

Upon entering Princess Junwan's courtyard, Lu Chen saw Princess Junwan sparring words with Murong Xue'er as if they were in the midst of an argument.

At that moment, Princess Junwan said to Murong Xue'er, "When Qingrou arrives at North Prince Mansion, I want to see if your mouth is still so sharp at belittling others."

With a laugh, Lu Chen interjected, "My Princess Junwan, how has Xue'er bothered you this time?"

After hearing Lu Chen's voice, Princess Junwan looked up at him and then said, "The maids of the Prince's Mansion do not act like maids, always talking back to their masters, and you, Prince, always indulge them."

Even though Murong Xue'er had her own room in the Prince's Mansion, compared to the status of Princess Junwan, she was indeed no more than a maid.

Lu Chen walked over to the pavilion, sat beside Murong Xue'er, and naturally wrapped his arm around her slender waist, saying, "Xue'er is not just any maid. She's an external officer from Great Jue sent to North Country."

With a cold snort, Princess Junwan remarked, "If she truly acknowledged herself as an external officer from Great Jue, she wouldn't dare to talk back to me every day."

After all, Princess Junwan was a good sister to the Empress of Da Yue, and even an official from Da Yue would treat her with great respect upon meeting her. Only Murong Xue'er, when facing her, did not take her seriously at all.

After all, Murong Xue'er now had a backing, and that was the man who was currently embracing her slender waist, whose hand was wandering over her body.

Lu Chen did not continue on this topic, but instead asked Princess Junwan, "The maid said you were looking for me. Don't tell me you're feeling lonely again and want me to ease your loneliness?"

Princess Junwan ignored Lu Chen's words and threw a letter onto the stone table, "Take a look."

Curious, Lu Chen picked up the letter and read it carefully. After finishing the content of the letter, a slight smile curled up on the corners of his mouth.

"Junwan, the Yue Emperor is supposed to be your good sister, and you betrayed her just like that?"

"You dared to show me the letter she wrote to you?"

Princess Junwan gave Lu Chen a dismissive look. This man was benefiting and yet still playing coy.

She very well knew that she had completely submitted to him, and yet here he was saying such things. Was this an insult to her?

Princess Junwan said, "I just feel she is no match for you and didn't want her to end up like me."

Nodding as he read the content of the letter, Lu Chen remarked, "Well, I must say, her plan is quite good, taking advantage of the vulnerability of North Country, creating chaos, then stealing the weaponry blueprints of North Country, and eventually kidnapping my wives and children, so after I take down Great Sum, she can threaten me with my family."

"Too bad..."

"Your good sister planned everything but failed to foresee that you were already my person."

With no expression on her face, Princess Junwan said, "Don't get ahead of yourself. If I hadn't cooperated with her, she would certainly have sent someone else."

Lu Chen casually said, "Let them come. There are not a few Grandmasters in Yan County, not to mention several within North Prince Mansion itself."

Looking into Lu Chen's eyes, Princess Junwan asked, "You wouldn't include me in that, would you?"

With a smile, Lu Chen replied, "You are now my wife. What, when North Prince Mansion is in danger, would you just stand by and watch?"

Princess Junwan fell silent. If North Prince Mansion were to face real danger, she would certainly not turn a blind eye.

However, when it came to the affairs between Lu Chen and the Empress of Da Yue, she truly did not want to get involved at all.

Chapter 736 I am still very confident in my wife_1

One is a close sister with whom she had experienced life and death, the other is her man; Wu Junwan found it very difficult to make a choice.

But Wu Junwan also knew clearly that a contest between Lu Chen and the Yue Emperor was bound to have a victor.

As of now, it appeared that Lu Chen had a better chance of winning, after all, the North Country had already amassed such formidable military strength, and Lu Chen also had the support of the Mysterious Moon Palace.

The thought of her dear sister eventually getting hurt caused a faint pain in Wu Junwan's heart.

The Yue Emperor walked the Unfeeling Tao; if she were ruined by this young man, could she still become a true Celestial?

Seeing Wu Junwan fall silent, Lu Chen smiled and said, "I am still very confident in my wife."

At this point, Wu Junwan asked, "If one day, you truly defeat the Yue Emperor, what do you plan to do with her?"

Hearing this question, Lu Chen smiled faintly and then said, "It seems you have asked me this question no less than five times."

"My answer remains the same, if she is my type, I would make her my woman, and have her bear my children."

"If she is not my type, for your sake, I would not kill her and would even allow you two to be together."

Although everyone says the Empress of Da Yue is very beautiful, Lu Chen had never seen her, he truly did not know what she looked like.

The critical point is very important, the world is full of beautiful women; when Lu Chen publicly took concubines in the past, many ladies from noble families also came, most of them also very beautiful, but none reached a score of ninety.

Ninety is Lu Chen's bottom line, if they do not reach ninety, he definitely would not take them.

If he were to take every woman who did not reach a score of ninety into his harem, with so many beautiful women in the world, could he even cope?

Moreover, from the standpoint of benefit, women who did not reach a score of ninety did not have much use to him.

So whether Lu Chen would take the Empress of Da Yue into his harem still needed him to see the Empress of Da Yue with his own eyes, only by seeing her in person would he know if she met the criteria to be his woman.

Hearing Lu Chen say he would allow the Yue Emperor to be with her, Wu Junwan's face revealed a strange expression; he always felt Lu Chen seemed to know something.

"Alright, you don't need to worry about these things, I'm not the kind of person who revels in slaughter."

Lu Chen's words had no persuasive power for Wu Junwan; after all, Lu Chen was a ruler, and a ruler who aimed to unify the entire world at that. Even if he was reluctant to kill, in the end, for the sake of unifying the world under his rule, he would inevitably have to kill many.

Especially members of other countries' imperial families.

If he did not take out those members of the imperial family, how could Lu Chen possibly settle his rule?

But then again, perhaps Lu Chen would be different towards female rulers, especially beautiful rulers like the Yue Emperor.

This lascivious young man would most likely treat her as a trophy of war, just as he did with his own.

Thinking this, Wu Junwan sighed softly in her heart.

"If the North Prince Mansion faces any danger, this Palace will act at the first notice."

Hearing Wu Junwan's words, Lu Chen smiled and said, "I knew my lady would not stand by and watch the North Prince Mansion come to harm."

Wu Junwan said lightly, "I hope your journey south goes smoothly, that you ascend as the Great Xia Emperor soon, and quickly unify the entire world."

Lu Chen said, "Oh? So, you also support my unification of the world now?"

Wu Junwan said, "This palace merely does not wish to see the common people suffer from the ravages of war any longer. We have been at war for thousands of years; might as well finish it all at once this time."

Lu Chen said, "It's impossible to finish it all at once, as there are still some of our enemies in the Misty World. When they emerge, war will surely ignite again."

"However, after the unification of the several great dynasties, the common people's lives will definitely be better than now, since resources will be redistributed, and the people of all major dynasties will benefit."

At this moment, Wu Junwan glanced at Lu Chen, then said, "You'd better go take a bath quickly; you reek of a fox's stench."

Having just come out of Prison A 001, Lu Chen indeed smelled quite strongly. He chuckled, "Alright, let's talk later."

As soon as he finished speaking, Lu Chen addressed the maiden beside Wu Junwan, "Go check if there's hot water; this Prince needs to take a bath."

As the master of the North Prince Mansion, Lu Chen naturally used whatever he pleased wherever he went.

Since he had come to Wu Junwan's place, he was destined to use Wu Junwan's bath.

The maiden quickly turned around and went to the bathroom. After confirming that there was hot water in the bathroom, the maiden came out and said, "Prince, the hot water is ready."

Without hesitation, Lu Chen was about to head to the bath to bathe, but at this moment, he suddenly thought of something.

He then walked behind Wu Junwan, and in one move, he lifted her up from behind, then held her in a bridal carry in his arms.

Wu Junwan hastily struggled a bit, "What are you doing!"

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Of course, I'm taking a mandarin duck bath with you. You can help me scrub my back."

Hearing this, Wu Junwan said somewhat angrily, "I'm not your maid; get a maid to scrub your back."

Lu Chen said, "No, I prefer it if you scrub my back."

As soon as he said this, Lu Chen didn't wait for Wu Junwan's agreement and directly carried her to the bath.

Murong Xue'er chuckled at the sight of the two departing figures.

No matter how proud Wu Junwan was, she had no recourse in front of Lu Chen, the shameless rogue.

It wasn't long before Murong Xue'er heard faint sounds coming from the room. Although the sounds seemed very faint from outside, it was because the room's sound insulation was excellent.

In fact, just being able to hear the sounds meant that the noise inside the room was exceptionally loud.

Murong Xue'er picked up the Dragon and Phoenix Tea on the stone table, poured herself a cup, and began to savor it slowly.

She thought to herself that perhaps, before Lu Chen led his troops southward, she should invite him to her room to practice calligraphy or something.

After all, it would likely be a long time before he could return to Yan County once he headed south, and there was even a possibility that he might not return to Yan County temporarily, opting to reside in the Great Xia Imperial Palace instead.

The women of North Prince Mansion might not see Lu Chen for a year, or even several years.

Murong Xue'er, who was now free from her former shyness, used to think of herself as a shameless and wanton woman. Since living in North Prince Mansion and being tormented by Lu Chen for some time, Murong Xue'er's mindset had undergone a significant change.

Now, she felt that intimate relations between men and women were very normal, and there was no reason to feel ashamed at all. After all, she was already Lu Chen's woman, and their conjugal matters were also reasonable.

Moreover, during the times she practiced calligraphy with Lu Chen, she could also improve her cultivation state, which was entirely beneficial to her. There was no reason for her to reject it; accepting it openly was the better approach.

Chapter 737 North Country Mobilizes_1

A month later, the military forces of the North Country had completed gathering, and the army of 200,000 led by Mu Changtian had already headed straight for Heyang County, while Wei Siyuan's Navy had also made preparations to head south.

Lu Chen had entrusted all the affairs of the North Country to Zhuge Zhongguang and, together with the army of 200,000 led by Xuanyuan Chen, headed south as well.

On the eve of their departure south, Lu Chen held a family banquet, and all his women and children came to the Wind Cloud Palace.

The Wind Cloud Palace was actually quite spacious; even when all of Lu Chen's wives and children were present, there was still plenty of room left in the palace.

Of course, even so, they would not dine together in the future. Despite the Wind Cloud Court being large, there were simply too many people in the Prince's Mansion, and one table obviously couldn't accommodate them all.

When Lu Chen held the family banquet, meals were served individually, with food placed in front of each of his wives and concubines, sufficiently spaced apart.

Lu Chen glanced over the wives and concubines in the hall and then turned his gaze to Chu Yuqin, saying, "Madam Chu, after I leave, I entrust the security of the Prince's Mansion to you."

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

Lu Chen's gaze then fell upon Wu Junwan, and with a smile he said, "Princess Junwan, I would trouble you to look after my family as well."

"When I return, I will make sure to repay you properly."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Wu Junwan cast him a deep glance. She was, after all, one of his women now, yet he still addressed her as Princess during the family banquet. Wasn't she considered part of the Prince's Mansion?

Wu Junwan said indifferently, "If there is danger at the Prince's Mansion, this princess will intervene."

Hearing Wu Junwan's response, Lu Chen then said with a smile to the other ladies in the hall, "Junwan and the Great Scholar have both entered the Unity Realm and are close to becoming Celestial beings. I believe with the two of them here, no enemies would foolishly come to provoke the North Prince Mansion."

"However, you must still be very careful. After I leave Yan County, try not to go out. And even if you do, take more people with you or stay in areas where the Great Scholar can quickly arrive."

Mu Zixuan spoke up, "Prince, rest assured, we will try our best not to leave the Prince's Mansion, waiting for your victorious return."

At this moment, Chu Yuqin seemed to think of something and then said, "Chen'er, since you are heading south this time, you might not return for a while; why don't you take Bai with you?"

After pondering for a moment, Lu Chen replied, "Alright."

At this point, Lu Chen turned to look at Bai Qingqing, who sat unobtrusively in a corner, and said, "Bai, you will come down south with me this time."

"Yes, Prince."

Although Bai Qingqing spoke without emotion, her heart was filled with joy. She was somewhat glad she didn't have children and could stay by Lu Chen's side to take care of him, unlike his other wives who could only wait at the North Prince Mansion for his return.

Meanwhile, sitting in another corner, Xue Linglong watched the harmonious scene unfolding in the hall and felt oddly out of place. Even though she attended the family banquet, she sensed that she, as a Demon Sect Sorceress, did not fit in here.

Just then, Wang Qingci said to her in a soft voice, "Sister Xue, you're going to accompany the Prince south as well, right?"

Seeing Wang Qingci initiate conversation with her, Xue Linglong breathed a sigh of relief, having felt somewhat isolated and excluded because no one had spoken to her until then.

Xue Linglong responded, "Hmm, the Prince has asked me to go with him."

With a beaming smile, Wang Qingci said, "I envy Sister Xue for being able to take care of the Prince and stay by his side all the time, receiving his affection."

Hearing this, Xue Linglong chuckled lightly and then suggested, "If Sister Wang is envious, why not speak to the Prince and have him take you along as well?"

Wang Qingci replied, "I have children and need to take care of them in the North Prince Mansion; I can't accompany the Prince south."

While Wang Qingci and Xue Linglong were conversing, the other wives and concubines of Lu Chen were also chatting among themselves, making the hall suddenly very lively.

Looking at this bustling scene, Yun Xianxian felt very uncomfortable.

In the hall, aside from the maids and servants of the North Prince Mansion, there were only Lu Chen's wives, concubines, or children, all intimately related to him, but she was merely his Master.

She always felt it was a bit odd for her, as his Master, to attend Lu Chen's family banquet.

She initially had no intention of coming; for a cultivator like her, physical desires were no longer important, and she could go without food for days without a problem.

However, Chen Wanrong insisted on bringing her, claiming that Lu Chen might have important things to discuss later on. Upon arriving, all she saw was Lu Chen doting on his wives and concubines, with no sign of any important matters being discussed.

Yun Xianxian couldn't help but suspect that Lu Chen included her in his harem as well.

Though she felt uneasy, Yun Xianxian did not say much. Then, Mu Zixuan suddenly addressed her, "Senior Yun, we entrust the Prince's safety to you."

Hearing Mu Zixuan's words, Yun Xianxian replied coolly, "Lu Chen is my direct disciple, and I naturally won't allow him to come to harm. There is no need for concern, Your Highness."

Mu Zixuan replied, "Then I thank Senior Yun in advance."

Chapter 738 North Country Mobilizes_2

Yun Xianxian did not reply anymore and continued drinking the white liquor brewed by the Prince's Mansion.

After the banquet ended.

The women looked at Lu Chen, wanting to know how he would arrange things tonight, as he was to leave early the next morning.

Lu Chen glanced at them and smiled, saying, "Madam Chu, stay in the Wind Cloud Palace tonight; I have something to discuss with you."

In the past few days, Lu Chen had already taken care of his wives and concubines, visiting each one.

There was only one night left, and since he had to head south early the next morning, he couldn't possibly have all his wives and concubines stay in the Wind Cloud Palace.

Hearing Lu Chen's words, the beautiful Madam Chu Yuqin felt a faint blush rise on her face, "Okay, I understand."

Afterwards, the women began to leave the Wind Cloud Court one after another, leaving only Mu Zixuan and Chu Yuqin.

Lu Chen first took a quick bath with Mu Zixuan and Chu Yuqin and then got down to business with Chu Yuqin who, feeling somewhat helpless, remembered it was her who had suggested having two wives or concubines take care of him each night.

But every time Lu Chen involved her in such misdeeds with another woman, she would feel overwhelmingly ashamed.

However, tonight's focus for Lu Chen wasn't to commit misdeeds with Chu Yuqin; after they were done, he had a thorough discussion with Chu Yuqin and Mu Zixuan about what they should pay attention to in the North Prince Mansion after his departure.

The conversation lasted until daybreak.

When the first rays of dawn entered the room, Lu Chen also realized it was time to depart.

He had made up his mind when he left the Capital city that one day he would return, and now was the time to fulfill that aspiration.

Lu Chen released Chu Yuqin from his embrace and then got up to head towards the bath, with Chu Yuqin and Mu Zixuan quickly rising to help him bathe and then personally dressing him in the black robe with golden trimmings.

After getting dressed, Lu Chen looked at Chu Yuqin and Mu Zixuan and said, "Madam Chu, my beloved wife, I leave the Prince's Mansion in your care."

Both women spoke in unison, "Prince (Chen'er), be careful on your journey, we await your early return!"

Lu Chen smiled faintly, not saying much more, and then he walked towards the exit.

As Lu Chen arrived at the Prince's Mansion's main gate, his wives and concubines were already there waiting for him.

At this moment, the women came forth, wearing expressions of reluctance on their faces, as no one knew how long it would be before Lu Chen could return from his journey to the South.

Lu Chen glanced at his wives and concubines, a smile touching his face, reflecting on the nearly twenty years he had been in this world. He felt fortunate to have such a happy and large family.

In his past life, it would have been impossible to have what he had now.

Regardless of why the system chose to bond with him, he had at least enjoyed it.

He was thankful for this world and the system.

After saying his farewells to each of his wives and concubines, Lu Chen got into the carriage and then headed to the train station platform.

This time they would take a train to Anping City, where they would complete the assembly of the Imperial Army and launch a campaign to annihilate Qi Country.

For the upcoming period, Lu Chen would stay in Anping City until all obstacles impeding the southward advance were thoroughly removed, and only then would he lead his troops directly to the Capital city for the relief effort.

The autumn wind rustled, and as Lu Chen boarded the southbound train, he watched through the window as the scenery turned to a blanket of yellow. The leaves danced in the wind, and his heart was filled with deep sentiment.

Back on Earth, during his studies, he had learned about the histories of others, never imagining that one day he would also become a person who created history.

He hoped that everything would go smoothly this time.

Once he seized the throne and unified the world, it would mean success for halfway, and after that, toppling the remaining great dynasties would not be so difficult.

...

Qi Country, the Capital.

Qi Prince Mansion.

Qi Prince Lu He and Tai hosted an evening banquet to entertain the heads of the aristocratic families within Qi Country's boundary.

At that moment, Qi Prince looked at the glass in his hand and said, "The North Prince has been eyeing us from North Country covetously and has even published a 'call to arms' in the newspaper. It seems that it won't be long before he leads his troops southwards."

"Everyone, think carefully about what we should do next," he added.

Hearing Qi Prince's words, everyone in the grand hall looked at each other, none speaking out, and the hall fell into an unnerving silence.

It was then that one of the family heads said, "Putting aside other matters, just from observing what the North Prince has done in North Country, we cannot allow him to ascend to the throne."

"Once he takes the throne, not to mention his measures to reduce the power of the nobles, he will surely take all the land for himself. From then on, we will be nothing but his slaves," he continued.

After hearing this family head's remark, another one agreed, "Exactly, we must assist the Imperial Court to stop the North Prince at all costs, ensuring he cannot come south."

Qi Prince swirled the wine in his glass and then replied indifferently, "With Great Wu's hundreds of thousands of troops defeated by North Country, do you really believe I have the power to stop the North Country army?"

At this, a family head promptly said, "Please be assured, Your Highness. To face this crisis, our aristocratic families will undoubtedly unite and offer our full support. Whatever you need, be it soldiers or food, we aristocratic families will provide."

Hearing this, Qi Prince showed a trace of a smile and then said, "With your help, I am reassured."

"However, North Country's mysterious weapons are still of some concern to me. The previous time when the North Prince aided Prince Lu Yi in attacking Heyang County, he managed to capture the entire county in an extremely short time," he added.

At that moment, the current head of the Wang Family stood up and said, "Your Highness, please rest assured. To fend off the North Prince's advance south, our Wang Family is willing to turn over the Piercing Cloud Bow and the Piercing Cloud Arrows to Qi Country. With these weapons, I believe Your Highness's soldiers will surely defeat the North Prince!"

After the Jiangnan aristocratic families were annihilated, some who escaped from Sufeng City came to Qi Country and were accepted by the Qi Prince.

Although the Jiangnan families no longer possessed their former glory, they still wielded significant resources. When they fled, members of the Wang Family took many of the Piercing Cloud Bows and Arrows with them.

The Piercing Cloud Bow was able to easily kill a Grandmaster; Qi Prince had always coveted it, but the Wang Family, wary of the Prince, had never revealed it.

However, the Wang Family had no choice this time. If the North Prince invaded southwards, they feared their family might never rise again. Compared with the Sum Emperor, the North Prince was considered far more terrifying to the aristocratic families.

Whereas the Sum Emperor eliminated only part of the ruling families, the North Prince's actions threatened the very existence of the majority, relegating them to mere dependencies of the North Prince.

Hearing the Head of Wang Clan's offer to bring out the Piercing Cloud Bows, Qi Prince felt an overwhelming joy. He drained the wine in his cup and then declared, "Be assured, as long as I live, I will not allow the North Prince to march south."

Qi Prince thought to himself that with the Imperial Court's two hundred thousand strong army, plus the tens of thousands of troops he had quietly expanded and the fifty thousand soldiers already at his disposal, this amounted to almost half a million men under arms.

If he could rely on the terrain and fortify cities for defense, North Prince's two hundred thousand strong army would find it nearly impossible to advance south.

With this thought, Qi Prince revealed a confident smile.

He was also aware that he should not directly confront the North Prince, as the North Prince's troops had defeated Great Wu's forces.

But victory in war didn't always rely on the combat strength of the armies. Qi Country was situated at the transitional zone between the plains and the mountainous regions, which were abundant in mountains naturally serving as barriers. Furthermore, some cities were strategically located between mountain passes, making them perfect checkpoints to stop the enemy.

Qi Prince believed that as long as he didn't initiate an attack and devoted all his resources to defense, with the help of the Imperial Army's two hundred thousand troops, it would be extremely difficult for the North Prince to advance even one step.

As Qi Prince entertained this thought, suddenly a soldier rushed into the grand hall, exclaiming, "Your Highness, the North Country army is upon us!"

Hearing this, Qi Prince's expression instantly darkened.

"So soon?"

He immediately inquired, "Where is the Imperial Army now?"

The soldier quickly replied, "The Imperial Army has already reached Ziyang City."

After a moment of contemplation, Qi Prince immediately ended the evening's banquet and summoned all the military generals of Qi Country.

Chapter 739 Persuasion to Surrender_1

Ziyang City.

The autumn wind whistled, and Imperial General Du Yongyuan stood atop the city walls, his eyes fixed on the distant fluttering flag of the North Country, his heart filled with worry.

Although he had never personally experienced the combat strength of the North Country soldiers, the few wars that the North Country had engaged in since the North Prince's arrival revealed a military force that the Great Sum Army could not match.

The North Country not only defeated the Barbarian Tribe to the north but also overcame the formidable Great Wu, even forcing Great Wu to cede territory and pay reparations. The North Country was already more than just a feudal state of a dynasty.

Moreover, this time the North Country's army headed south, and it wasn't just the soldiers of the North Country that were moving south—the North Prince was too. If it were only the army, the North Country was likely pursuing some political objective, but the North Prince's joint presence implied that he was aiming to contend for the throne.

Any enemy standing in the North Prince's path would be utterly swept away by the North Country's Imperial Army.

In Du Yongyuan's heart, there was also another deeply unsettling matter.

As he headed north, the Sum Emperor had someone hint to him that he should offer symbolic resistance upon encountering the North Country's army, but he must not actually hold out against them. Ultimately, they had to create the appearance of the Imperial Army's defeat.

As a wise man, Du Yongyuan knew all too well what the Sum Emperor's intentions were. The Sum Emperor wanted to lure the North Prince to the Capital city.

It was bad enough that the Sum Emperor wanted to draw the North Prince to the Capital city, but then to send their two hundred thousand strong army north to a certain death? It would have been better not to deploy them at all; they could have simply stayed in the Capital city and waited for the North Prince to lead his army south.

What was the point of such actions?

Doing so would not only waste Imperial troops but also demoralize their soldiers. By the time the North Prince reached the Capital city, the Imperial court's chances of victory would decrease even further.

It was at this moment that a deputy general approached Du Yongyuan and said, "General, according to the scouts, there are only two hundred thousand North Country soldiers near Anping City. Shall we launch a preemptive attack?"

Hearing this, Du Yongyuan let out a snort of laughter, "An offensive? You do have quite the imagination."

"It's rumored that in the battle at Yongan County, the North Country soldiers routed Great Wu's three hundred thousand strong army in less than a day. Do you really believe our green recruits have more combat strength than Great Wu's battle-hardened veterans?"

The two hundred thousand Imperial soldiers under Du Yongyuan's command were not the elite of the court; they were recruited within the last one or two years, many of whom had never seen battle. They had little to no combat ability.

Du Yongyuan couldn't help but suspect if the Sum Emperor deliberately sent their two hundred thousand strong army to certain death, making the North Country believe this was the true strength of the Imperial soldiers, thereby loosening their vigilance.

If elite troops were initially dispatched to withstand the North Country's assault, the North Prince would have surely been exceedingly cautious on his march south.

Not dispatching troops wouldn't work either; if the Imperial court did not send a single soldier, even a fool could guess that the court had dug a large trap for the North Prince.

Regardless of the reason, Du Yongyuan felt extremely frustrated.

After all, Du Yongyuan was a General; a defeat would tarnish his reputation.

But he was also aware that his twenty thousand day-filling recruits stood no chance against the North Country's grand army, and he was merely a tool in the Sum Emperor's hand.

With this thought, Du Yongyuan sighed. It was pointless; he was just a General, unable to change anything. He would just follow the Sum Emperor's orders.

Meanwhile.

In Anping City, where Lu Chen was staying temporarily.

After a period of preparations, all the pre-battle arrangements had been completed, just waiting for Lu Chen's command.

At this time, Xuanyuan Chen arrived in the makeshift office where Lu Chen was dealing with affairs of state, "Your Majesty, we're only awaiting your command now."

Lu Chen glanced at the map on his desk and said indifferently, "There's no rush. Send someone to deliver this letter to the commanding officer at Ziyang City."

Having said that, Lu Chen pushed the letter he had just finished writing across to Xuanyuan Chen.

Looking at the letter before him, Xuanyuan Chen instantly understood Lu Chen's intention: Lu Chen planned to persuade Du Yongyuan to surrender. After all, both Du Yongyuan and his two hundred thousand strong army were from Great Sum, and Lu Chen himself was a Seignior of Great Sum, so avoiding battle was preferable.

Xuanyuan Chen took the letter and immediately said, "Your servant will arrange for someone to deliver the letter right away."

With that, Xuanyuan Chen left the study and sent someone to deliver Lu Chen's handwritten letter to Du Yongyuan.

By evening.

Du Yongyuan was still analyzing the map by the faint candlelight, attempting to locate the best retreat route.

Just then, a soldier spoke at the door, "General, an envoy from the North Prince Faction has arrived!"

Hearing this, Du Yongyuan was taken aback.

He immediately walked out of his room and asked the soldier at the door, "Who did you say sent an envoy?"

The soldier replied, "Reporting to the General, it was the North Prince."

After pondering for a moment, Du Yongyuan said, "Bring the envoy to my study immediately."

"Yes, General."

Shortly, a North Country soldier dressed in the garb of an ordinary civilian arrived at Du Yongyuan's study and personally handed him the letter, "General Du, this is a personal letter from our Great King. He hopes General Du will prioritize the well-being of the state over factional loyalty and not become a party to traitors."

Hearing this, Du Yongyuan scoffed internally. The North Prince had the gall to call others traitors, when it was apparent his own march southward was a bid for the throne.

Du Yongyuan then took the letter from the soldier's hands and read through it carefully.

The message from Lu Chen was simple: he was urging him to surrender without getting involved in the struggle for the throne.

Du Yongyuan thought to himself, if he surrendered outright, wouldn't he be effectively siding with the North Prince, still entangling himself in the battle for the throne?

Besides, the Sum Emperor was still alive, and the North Prince's march south was a clear challenge to his authority. Surrendering now would make him a rebel too.

Should he betray, his relatives and friends in the Capital city would suffer the consequences.

Thereupon, Du Yongyuan said to the North Country soldier, "You go back and thank the North Prince for his kind intentions, but my family and friends are in the Capital city. I do not wish to be a traitor, nor can I afford to be one."

After hearing Du Yongyuan's response, the soldier didn't say much else, merely a messenger, "I understand."

Latter, Du Yongyuan had the North Country soldier who delivered the letter escorted out of Ziyang City.

Once the North Country soldier had left Ziyang City, Du Yongyuan stared blankly at the letter in his hand.

Who would emerge as the final victor was something Du Yongyuan wasn't sure of; the power of the North Country was indeed formidable, having even defeated Great Wu.

However, the Prince Lu Yi of the south and the Zhao King also possessed considerable strength, both standing a chance to vie for that position.

Of course, the crux of the matter still lay in the fact that his relatives and friends were in the Capital city; under no circumstances could he betray the Imperial Court at this juncture.

Once he surrendered, his loved ones would likely become immediate casualties.

Chapter 740 Attack the City_1

When Lu Chen heard Du Yongyuan's response from the soldier who delivered the message, he was not surprised at all.

In ancient times, the family of a military general was no different from hostages; if the general betrayed his cause, he would certainly end up with his entire clan being implicated and punished.

Of course, there were those cold-blooded enough to choose to surrender to the enemy without any regard for their family's life or death, all for the sake of their own survival and future.

If Du Yongyuan were such a person, even if he truly surrendered, Lu Chen would not dare to use him, and might even eliminate Du Yongyuan in the end.

Instead, Du Yongyuan's initial refusal made Lu Chen feel that he still possessed some humanity, and such a person was worth persuading to defect.

If Du Yongyuan was only concerned about himself and extremely cold-blooded, such a person could not be controlled in the future.

The next morning.

After getting up, Lu Chen gathered the military generals for a brief military meeting.

When the generals heard that the Prince had summoned them, they thought that Lu Chen was ready to attack Ziyang City and were very excited. But when they arrived at Lu Chen's study, they discovered he had other plans.

At this moment, Lu Chen glanced at the generals around the sand table and then said, "Yesterday, I sent a letter urging the commander of Ziyang City to surrender. He refused."

Upon hearing this, one of the generals spoke up, "Such ignorance to defy the Prince's persuasion to surrender. Prince, why don't we deploy our troops and attack Ziyang City now?"

At this moment, everyone's gaze fell upon Lu Chen, awaiting his response.

Lu Chen said indifferently, "We are for certain to deploy troops, but not for a real fight."

This...

Everyone was momentarily stunned.

Not for a real fight?

Is there such a thing as a feigned attack in warfare?

Lu Chen continued, "The soldiers of Ziyang City are all from Great Sum, and you are as well. As the Prince of Great Sum, I naturally do not wish to see our people slaughtering each other."

Xuanyuan Chen of course understood Lu Chen's meaning. He wanted to show his merciful side to win over the hearts of the people.

However...

Xuanyuan Chen immediately said, "My Lord, I understand your intention, but the commander of Ziyang City has already rejected the surrender. If we don't truly attack, how can we seize Ziyang City and continue southward to eliminate Qi Country?"

Lu Chen said indifferently, "That's simple."

"Later, send someone to the front of Ziyang City to remind their soldiers to stay away from the North City wall; we will attack at noon."

Hearing this, the military generals were somewhat puzzled. Warning the enemy before attacking? What kind of tactic was this?

Lu Chen continued, "At noon, have the artillery troops bombard the North City wall of Ziyang City until it collapses. After the wall falls, cease the assault immediately."

Xuanyuan Chen had an epiphany, grasping Lu Chen's plan once more; he intended to use the power of the cannons to intimidate the soldiers of Great Sum.

As long as they witnessed the might of the cannons, soldiers from the North Country would inevitably falter.

Xuanyuan Chen said, "I understand now. I will arrange for someone to remind the garrison of Ziyang City immediately."

They set into action at once.

Before long,

outside Ziyang City, a troop of the Northern Army appeared, holding some strange objects in their hands.

On seeing the Northern Army's cavalry, the soldiers of Great Sum quickly notified Du Yongyuan, who immediately climbed to the top of the city walls, ordering the soldiers to prepare for battle.

However, at that moment, Du Yongyuan noticed that only a few hundred cavalymen from the North Country had come, which didn't seem like a setup for an assault; moreover, they were holding some strange objects in their hands.

Just then, a Northern Army soldier, using a makeshift horn, loudly exclaimed, "At noon today, the Northern Army will attack the North City. Out of respect that you are all citizens of Great Sum, our Lord has specially sent us to remind you to distance yourselves from the North City gate by noon or face the consequences!"

Hearing the proclamation of the North Country soldier, Du Yongyuan was stunned.

The North Prince was giving them a heads-up before attacking Ziyang City?

Could it really be such a display of martial integrity?

Could it be that the North Prince had not yet given up on persuading him to surrender, deliberately sending the notice in advance to exert the final pressure on him?

If he did not surrender by noon, the North Country's army might truly attack.

While Du Yongyuan was mulling over this, the Northern Army soldier shouted again, "The weapons we use are far beyond the resistance of your flesh. Retreat from the North City wall before noon, or face the consequences."

At that moment, the Northern cavalry dispersed, revealing strange, arrowless shafts to which they attached leaflets, and began shooting them incessantly at the city walls.

Seeing this scene, the soldiers of Great Sum thought that the Northern Army soldiers were already attacking.

Just then, an arrow flew straight towards Du Yongyuan, and a soldier quickly warned him, "General, be careful!"

Unflustered, Du Yongyuan raised his hand and caught the arrowless shaft, then took the leaflet attached to it and began to read carefully.

The leaflet's message was simple, much like the Northern Army soldier's shouted warning – it instructed them to stay away from the city wall by noon when the North Country would attack.

Then Du Yongyuan reassured them, "Don't panic, the North Country hasn't attacked yet."

At this time, a deputy general also caught an arrow, glanced at the leaflet, then scoffed and said, "Ridiculous, the North Country is about to attack and they tell us not to defend the city. Do they expect us to just watch them invade?"