

My System 331

Chapter 331: What Counts as the Great Wind General _7

It was as if time had flowed backwards.

Cheng Guang possessed the Tai Chi Diagram, a Different Treasure, so he had some understanding of the concept of time's power, allowing him to acutely sense the slightly eerie change in Qin Beifeng, aware that some force was at play behind it.

Cheng Guang observed Qin Beifeng for a moment, feigning concern and delight on his face.

"Mr. Qin, are your injuries healed?"

Qin Beifeng, while donning his armor and slowly straightening his clothes, bore a smile on his heroic face and nodded slightly upon hearing Cheng Guang's words.

At the same time, he began to walk toward Cheng Guang at a leisurely pace.

"Princely Heir, my injuries are healed, you needn't worry," he said.

As Qin Beifeng approached, the smile on his face started to fade slowly.

Cheng Guang's heart tightened; he felt a sense of danger prickling his skin.

It sent a chill down his spine.

Qin Beifeng walked up to Cheng Guang and placed a hand on his shoulder, shaking his head, "However, Princely Heir, you should start worrying about yourself now."

"I had planned to find you after my injuries were healed, but now it seems I can save myself the trouble."

Cheng Guang's face showed confusion.

Internally he was cursing, but he maintained a foolish expression on the surface.

"Mr Qin, what are you talking about? What do you need me for?"

Qin Beifeng did not answer. Gone were the usual expressions on his heroic face, replaced by a look of someone completely different, cold and authoritative.

"I have no time left, Princely Heir. Please forgive me," he said.

Without offering any explanation, Qin Beifeng grabbed Cheng Guang, and with one step, they seemed to pass through the void, soundlessly, and in the next moment, they appeared near the city gate.

When Qin Beifeng's figure suddenly appeared near the city gate, the soldiers of the Northern Expedition Army who guarded the vicinity were at first stunned, then overjoyed.

"General Qin, your wounds are healed!?"

"Truly worthy of being General Qin. So formidable, to recover from such serious injuries so quickly," they said.

"Come to think of it, that Fire Dragon Devil King must have used some dirty trick, otherwise, how could General Qin have been defeated?"

The many soldiers discussed among themselves.

Qin Beifeng, under the gaze of many soldiers, reacted not at all, simply saying, "Open the city gate."

Upon hearing these words from Qin Beifeng, the assembled soldiers were initially stunned; and as they were about to voice their concerns, they realized several soldiers behind them were already operating the gate mechanisms.

These men were Qin Beifeng's trusted followers.

The city gate of North City was slowly being raised.

Aside from Qin Beifeng's confidants, all other soldiers watched with incredulous eyes, both towards Qin Beifeng and the soldiers working the city gate.

"What's going on here?"

Some still didn't grasp the situation.

As some began to catch on and were about to push away Qin Beifeng's confidants from the gate mechanism, those confidants, anticipating such reactions, drew their swords in a flinty flash.

Qi surged forth, streaking past the soldier.

Just as that man was about to be beheaded,

a burst of laughter came from the side.

"Old Qin, what are you up to by opening the city gate?"

It was Li Baxun's voice.

As his words ended, the sword was restrained, and the confidants of Qin Beifeng who had been operating the city gate stopped, shocked, and quickly turned to look at Li Baxun, who had just appeared.

Li Baxun's emaciated hands rested on the shoulders of Qin Beifeng's confidants.

Not a word was said.

But Qin Beifeng's confidant started to tremble, his face turning pale.

"Li... General Li..."

"Why are you here...?"

Qin Beifeng frowned slightly too, surprised by Li Baxun's sudden appearance.

Originally, he had planned to open all the gates of North City simultaneously, but now, his plan had been foiled for reasons unknown to him.

He could only infiltrate his secretly trained confidants into the city's defense forces unnoticed.

It was still a good outcome to be able to open one gate.

But he hadn't anticipated, at such a critical time, that Li Baxun would not be engaged in battle with the Demon Kings but would appear here instead.

Why?

Qin Beifeng was puzzled.

In silence, he watched Li Baxun without speaking.

Li Baxun, receiving no response from Qin Beifeng, heaved a sigh, looking aggrieved and rubbing his forehead as if it pained him.

"Duke of the State must have anticipated this, instructing me to keep a closer eye on you," he said.

"I was oblivious to what was happening until I saw you bring the Princely Heir over here, claiming to open the gate."

...

"Mr. Qin, given your status and position, you wouldn't stoop to colluding with Demon Beasts, would you?"

"Why the unnecessary agony?"

Upon hearing Li Baxun's words, Qin Beifeng felt somewhat disappointed, but even more shocked.

"Did the Duke foresee this?"

How could this be possible?

Qin Beifeng considered himself well-hidden, having concealed his true identity ever since he joined the Northern Expedition Army.

To gain the trust of the Duke of the State, he married and had children in North City; he even sent his own daughter to be raised by the Duke from a young age.

Logically, even if his recent battle with the Fire Dragon Demon King hinted at a suspect defeat, it shouldn't have been enough to raise the Duke's suspicion, right?

Qin Beifeng didn't understand!

Qin Beifeng was puzzled!

Qin Beifeng took a deep breath, then, looking at Li Baxun, he said with a smile, "The unnecessary agony?"

"It's too bitter."

"The generals of Great Chu were crushed by the Duke of the State alone, the Imperial Palace of Great Chu was overthrown by him alone, the lands of Great Chu were defeated by him alone."

"Even if the nation is destroyed, the spirit of Great Chu's generals lives on; even if the nation is destroyed, the people remain."

"To avenge the destruction of our country and homeland, even if it means I have to shatter to pieces, I'm willing to do so."

"My years of patient hiding were all for today."

"With me alive, the spirit of Great Chu's generals lives on; Great Chu hasn't perished yet."

Qin Beifeng spoke these words.

Li Baxun fell silent.

Clearly, he had not expected Qin Beifeng to be one of the Great Chu generals from the past.

Back then, the Great Chu generals, leading less than ten thousand soldiers, defended the surroundings of the Imperial Palace against a million-strong Northern Expedition Army, and never retreated until their last drop of blood was spilled.

They died standing up.

Even as enemies, Li Baxun held a measure of respect for them.

Li Baxun had not anticipated that any of the Great Chu generals, nearly completely wiped out, would still be alive.

How had Qin Beifeng survived?

Li Baxun knew how Qin Beifeng had joined the Northern Expedition Army.

Without a scratch on him.

But in such a battle, with the nature of the Great Chu generals, they would never do anything to cling to life in disgrace.

So, Qin Beifeng was a survivor?

It was said that Great Chu once had a prodigy who, not yet thirty years old, attained the rank of a seventh-grade officer and was about to assume the post of The Great Wind General among the Imperial Guard generals.

The Northern Expedition Army overran the Imperial Palace of Great Chu when it was time for the old to give way to the new.

Li Baxun thought of something and looked at Qin Beifeng, stroking his chin, "So, Mr. Qin, you were The Great Wind General among the Great Chu generals back then?"

Qin Beifeng let out a forced laugh, his laughter growing louder, seemingly with tears in his eyes.

"The Great Wind General..."

"Before I could take my post, the nation was gone."

"What Great Wind General am I..."

Qin Beifeng's laughter was tinged with desolation.

It seemed like self-mockery, and also like grief.

Cheng Guang, subdued by Qin Beifeng, found Qin Beifeng's words incredibly odd.

He truly felt like it was all screwed up.

He hadn't expected Qin Beifeng to be from Great Chu.

And as for himself, he should still be considered the Crown Prince of Great Chu, right?

Isn't this like a flood washing over the Dragon King Temple?

Considering the situation, even if Cheng Guang said he was the Crown Prince of Great Chu,

Qin Beifeng wouldn't believe him.

Let alone Qin Beifeng, even Cheng Guang himself couldn't believe this fantastical turn of events.

Cheng Guang sighed, truly feeling miserable.

You say...

What an incident this is.

Originally, Cheng Guang had planned to simply trick Qin Beifeng to death.

But upon hearing that Qin Beifeng was actually from Great Chu, and that he was targeting the Northern Expedition Army as a Spy Code to avenge Great Chu,

He suddenly found it hard to proceed with his plan.

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Cheng Guang's feelings were very complicated at the moment.

Qin Beifeng had once been a member of Great Chu, and his former self was also the Crown Prince of Great Chu.

In a sense, they were on the same side.

Even though Cheng Guang wasn't particularly concerned about his previous identity, facing Qin Beifeng now, there was still a sense of frustration in his heart.

If Qin Beifeng knew that he was actually the last Crown Prince of Great Chu, who knows what he would think.

But at this moment, Cheng Guang couldn't reveal such things to Qin Beifeng.

Even if he did, Qin Beifeng wouldn't believe it.

After all, how could the illustrious Duke's son be the Crown Prince of Great Chu?

Cheng Guang felt helpless.

At this moment, Qin Beifeng's laughter was tinged with tears.

Perhaps there was sadness for his plans being seen through, or perhaps it was the pain from years of restraint.

Grasping Cheng Guang's shoulders, Qin Beifeng's smile relaxed, then he said, "Li Baxun, now that the Princely Heir is in my hands, stop interfering. Otherwise, even if I only kill the Princely Heir today, it will not be a loss for me."

"If you stop interfering and let my men open the city gates, perhaps this Princely Heir might have a slim chance of survival."

Upon hearing Qin Beifeng speak like this, Li Baxun first frowned slightly, then laughed dismissively.

"Old Qin, you're seriously underestimating the Duke. The Duke has arranged multiple life-saving measures around the here, even Sky-Man may not be able to hurt him, so how could you?

"Moreover, the importance of these city gates is clearer to you than to me. Once the gates are opened, and the layers of Demon Beasts outside infiltrate North City, it will no longer be just about the safety of the Princely Heir; the entire North City could be destroyed because of it."

Qin Beifeng's heroic features remained unchanged; he opened his mouth slightly, about to say something when he realized that a domineering gaze from above was falling upon him.

Qin Beifeng slightly raised his eyes, looking up into the sky and noticed Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, who was battling two Devil Emperors.

Ever since Qin Beifeng had been momentarily outplayed by the Fire Dragon Devil King, Cheng Shiyuan had been keeping an eye on Qin Beifeng's actions.

If the Devil Emperor hadn't appeared suddenly, making him temporarily unable to extricate himself, he would have preferred to personally watch over Qin Beifeng.

When Cheng Guang entered Qin Beifeng's tent, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, acutely sensed something and, unable to extricate himself from the Devil Emperor's entanglement, he instructed Li Baxun to check on the situation, to cautiously deal with it and prevent any mishap to Cheng Guang.

Even though Cheng Guang had probably guessed Qin Beifeng's identity and suspected something was amiss, Qin Beifeng, after all, was a Ninth-grade Martial Emperor, not someone Cheng Guang could compare with.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, couldn't help but worry.

The facts were just as he had expected, Qin Beifeng's injuries had recovered as before.

The process of recovery, although Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, hadn't seen it himself, he could imagine that Qin Beifeng's healing methods were not weaker than the Everlasting Divine Power that Cheng Guang previously used to heal.

If it hadn't been for Cheng Guang's warning that Qin Beifeng might be a spy, Qin Beifeng might really have succeeded in not only opening the city gates but also capturing Cheng Guang as well.

Qin Beifeng didn't yet know how he would use Cheng Guang to threaten him.

Thinking this, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, frowned and looked at the current Qin Beifeng, then glanced at the two battling Devil Emperors.

"Beifeng, have you colluded with the Devil Beasts?"

As the Duke tasked with defending the border, who frequently contended with Devil Beasts devoid of humanity, he harbored not a shred of goodwill toward this foreign race.

For traitors within the Human Race that colluded with the Devil Clan, his disgust ran deep.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, was somewhat reluctant to believe that Qin Beifeng truly was a spy within the Northern Expedition Army.

He was even more unwilling to believe that Qin Beifeng was actually one of the soldiers of Great Chu who had supposedly died in battle years ago.

Qin Beifeng's identity shocked Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan.

Simultaneously, he also roughly understood why Qin Beifeng, regardless of his prominent status within the Northern Expedition Army, would betray it.

However.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, couldn't understand why Qin Beifeng would collude with Devil Beasts.

Once North City could not withstand the Devil Beasts' attack and was flooded with them, the consequences would not only affect him, the Duke of the State. It would extend to the tens of millions of humans living in the Border Area, the subjects of the empire.

The voice of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, wasn't loud, but it was clear enough for Qin Beifeng to hear.

Despite battling two Devil Emperors, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, still found time to talk to Qin Beifeng, his breathing steady.

It seemed that the two Devil Emperors had not exerted much pressure on him.

Qin Beifeng raised his eyes, watching the figure of the Duke fighting the Devil Emperors in the sky and shook his head.

"Duke, I certainly won't collude with Devil Beasts. I'm merely using them," he said.

"Using them to obliterate North City."

"Half of Great Zhou's people were once subjects of Great Chu; naturally, I will not target them. Rest assured, Duke, after North City is reduced to flat land, I have my ways to make the Devil Beasts retreat."

Qin Beifeng's tone was relaxed.

With what he said, it felt like Qin Beifeng was boasting immensely at that moment.

Qin Beifeng, merely a Ninth-order Martial Emperor, would find himself powerless if North City were truly obliterated and Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, died on the spot under the pressure of the two Devil Emperors. How then, could he make the horde of Devil Beasts withdraw?

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Upon hearing what Qin Beifeng said, everyone couldn't help thinking that he was talking nonsense like a madman.

As Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, was fighting with the two Demon Kings, he couldn't help but his brow twitched slightly, then took a moment to lower his gaze towards Qin Beifeng.

His tone became stern.

"Beifeng, I believe I have treated you well over the years," said Cheng Shiyuan. "The incident with Great Chu was not what I desired. If you recognize your mistake and are willing to correct it now, I will not pursue the matter."

"However, if you are stubborn and still intend to harm my grandson, don't blame me for not considering our past bond!"

The stern words of Duke Cheng Shiyuan did not cause much change to Qin Beifeng's expression.

He simply smiled again.

"Duke, you should focus on dealing with the two Demon Kings for now. Normally, you could suppress me with just one hand, but now, it seems you have the will but not the strength," said Qin Beifeng.

Having said his piece, Qin Beifeng no longer cared about Duke Cheng Shiyuan's reaction and withdrew his gaze from the sky above, turning to look at Cheng Guang.

He then turned his attention to Li Baxun who was standing to one side.

"Li Baxun, you've just been through a big battle. You must have expended a lot of energy and Qi," Qin Beifeng stated. "There's little point in fighting me now. If you're seeking death, then come and stop me."

After speaking, Qin Beifeng, holding Cheng Guang, quickly made his way towards the city gate.

Approaching the gate, Qin Beifeng raised his hand slightly, and divine glossiness surged around him, with Qi gathering in his palm like substance.

Qin Beifeng struck out with his palm, and the vast Qi surged out, transforming into an enormous, amber-colored, semi-transparent hand in mid-air that could blot out the sun, heading towards the city gate with a terrifying presence.

If he had used his trusted followers to open the gate, there would have been much less commotion.

It might have been the case that by the time the gate was fully opened, Duke Cheng Shiyuan and the high-ranking officers of the Northern Expedition Army would have noticed that a part of North City's gate had been breached.

At the same time, they would have been able to keep his identity hidden for a bit longer.

But at this moment, Qin Beifeng knew that his identity had already been exposed.

Being able to do it himself, he still decided to take action personally.

As Qin Beifeng began to act, Li Baxun stood atop the city wall, looking up at Qin Beifeng's figure and the divine martial arts he displayed, and took a deep breath.

"Old Qin, your cultivation realm has certainly improved a lot," Li Baxun remarked. "You're just one step away from ascending to a Sky-Man."

"I must say, your initial defeat to the Fire Dragon Devil King was poorly acted, to say the least," he added.

Li Baxun offered his comment, then with a loud shout, he stepped on the Qi, his Qi and Blood surging like a rainbow, and charged through the air towards Qin Beifeng.

In mid-air, he threw a punch, and the void trembled, the Qi dissipated, as if it evolved into countless ferocious monsters, traversing the void to meet the attack.

Two thunderous roars resonated.

The figures of Li Baxun and Qin Beifeng then stood together.

The air burst, and Qi vibrated.

Beneath the clash of two Sky-Men, the absolute elite, Cheng Guang found his breathing becoming difficult.

If it wasn't for the fact that Qin Beifeng still somewhat intended to keep him alive and Li Baxun didn't want to hurt Cheng Guang, both sides consciously or unconsciously avoided him.

Otherwise, Cheng Guang would have been in grave danger already.

Cheng Guang took a deep breath and held tightly to the steel ball transformed from the Devil Transformation Armor, ready to shrink away at the first sign of trouble.

It might seem a little disgraceful.

But at least preserving his life was undoubtedly correct.

While Qin Beifeng and Li Baxun were fighting.

Inside North City, many soldiers of the Northern Expedition Army caught sight of this scene.

Seeing Qin Beifeng and Li Baxun, two of the Northern Expedition Army's top generals, inexplicably fighting each other, all of them were so astonished they gaped, and their stern faces showed an expression of disbelief.

"What's going on with General Qin and General Li?"

"Why are they fighting each other?"

"I don't know, look, General Qin is holding the Princely Heir."

"What on earth has happened?"

The soldiers of the Northern Expedition Army, while battling Demon Beasts, saw the fight between Qin Beifeng and Li Baxun and discussed in low voices, puzzled.

Fighters at the level of Qin Beifeng and Li Baxun, aside from Sky-Men and Devil Emperors, there weren't many who could intervene.

Above the heavens, while Duke Cheng Shiyuan fought against the Demon Kings and unleashed Divine Powers, he occasionally cast his gaze downwards towards Qin Beifeng.

For Qin Beifeng's betrayal, he did not feel much anger in his heart, his emotions were quite complex.

Qin Beifeng was seeking revenge for Great Chu, and no matter how he viewed him, it was justified.

But.

Qin Beifeng should not have attacked Cheng Guang.

Nor should he have leveraged the Demon Beasts, disregarding the countless innocent lives beyond the border.

Duke Cheng Shiyuan took a deep breath, paused slightly, and pushed away the two Demon Kings in front of him, his authoritative gaze falling on them.

He drew a deep breath.

And spoke slowly,

"I don't have time to indulge in your games any longer, let's end this quickly."

As Duke Cheng Shiyuan's voice fell, the aura around him instantly climbed another notch, and an invisible and domineering force emanated from him.

Many Demon Kings, upon touching the force emanating from Duke Cheng Shiyuan, were instantly pulverized to dust.

Intricate divine glossiness flowed around the Duke like water, its might astonishing.

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The Ghost Spider Devil Emperor's expression stiffened as he noticed the change in the aura of the Duke of the State, his body suddenly rigidifying. In those eyes that had always been lofty and brimming with confidence, for the first time, uncertainty and despair began to show.

"How can you still have strength to spare!?"

"You've battled with the two of us for so long, and yet you were still holding back!?"

The Ghost Spider Devil Emperor couldn't believe it. The Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, had managed to keep some tricks up his sleeve while fighting both Devil Emperors.

How could he dare?

To what extent had Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's strength really reached?

Both the Ghost Spider Devil Emperor and the Soul Devouring Devil Emperor beside him were visibly shaken.

Exchanging a glance, they were already tempted to turn tail and run.

As they were about to turn and flee.

Suddenly, a loud boom emanated from the walls of North City below.

One of the gates collapsed thunderously.

Seeing this, the Ghost Spider Devil Emperor, his face marked with mysterious black patterns, was first stunned, then his visage lit up with wild joy.

"The gate has collapsed!"

The Soul Devouring Devil Emperor exclaimed with delight, "How did it collapse!?"

The Ghost Spider Devil Emperor shook his head, a slight smile already spreading at his lips, "I don't know, it seems to be the doing of North City's own people. Although I don't know what happened, it doesn't matter."

"Now all we need to do is tie down this Duke of the State in front of us!"

The Ghost Spider Devil Emperor and the Soul Devouring Devil Emperor had been planning to flee, but they were overjoyed to see one of North City's gates suddenly fall. This gave them the will to fight again.

If they could just hold back the Duke of the State, once the Demon Beasts flooded into North City, the Demon Beasts, outnumbering the Northern Expedition Army within, would not need much time to completely flatten North City and the army.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan also noticed the commotion inside North City, his eyes narrowing slightly, his brow furrowing.

"It seems Li Baxun still couldn't hold off Qin Beifeng. Qin Beifeng's talent in Martial Cultivation is not inferior to mine, it even slightly surpasses mine."

"Given time, his achievements won't be lesser than mine. Li Baxun losing to him is to be expected."

"Qin Beifeng destroying the gate is only his first step. Guanger is still in his hands, what will he do next?"

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan muttered to himself, a hint of agitation rising unexpectedly within his usually calm heart.

Cheng Guang had already informed him that Qin Beifeng was very likely the Spy within the Northern Expedition Army. He hadn't believed it, and his doubts had made him hesitate to act against Qin Beifeng.

If he had just detained Qin Beifeng from the start, and later after the great battle was over, even if it was a misunderstanding, he could have just explained and released him.

How did it come to this point?

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan now regretted his hesitance, but there was no turning back. He had to deal with the Devil Emperor first, then face Qin Beifeng afterwards.

Before then, he couldn't let Qin Beifeng make another move.

Otherwise, even if he repelled the Devil Emperor, North City might still not be saved.

Realizing this, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan made a swift decision, sending a message to the senior officers of the Northern Expedition Army who were fighting the swarm of Demon Beasts and Demon Kings, ordering them to confront Qin Beifeng.

While these officers might not be as powerful as Qin Beifeng, the difference wasn't huge, and they could suppress him with their numerical advantage.

The only trouble was, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan himself would have to bear even more pressure.

Without the Northern Expedition Army's officers to share the burden.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan was now facing not only two Devil Emperors but also the surrounding multitude of Demon Kings.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan took a deep breath, without a moment's hesitation, he charged towards the Ghost Spider Devil Emperor and the Soul Devouring Devil Emperor who stood suspended in air not far away.

"Come, fight!"

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, alone, rushed into the endless sea of Demon Beasts.

A blinding flash passed by, the sky darkened, and the air within hundreds of miles exploded with the sound of bursting due to the terrifying force it couldn't withstand.

In just a moment, a rain of blood descended from the sky.

Below, as one of North City's gates was destroyed by Qin Beifeng, the Demon Beasts surrounding the city, seeing an opening, began to rush madly towards it.

The soldiers of the Northern Expedition Army on the ramparts, already barely able to cope, still bravely headed for the fallen gate.

Their flesh and blood became the gates that fended off the innumerable outer Demon Beasts.

Atop the walls, debris lay scattered.

Li Baxun, gasping for air and exhausted, leaned against the wall, his gaze fixed on Qin Beifeng.

"Old Qin, it seems you're still one step ahead."

"I am not your equal."

Li Baxun said, his once vigorous Qi and Blood now showing signs of waning due to the excessive force he used.

Qin Beifeng shook his head, speaking indifferently, "It's no surprise you lost to me this time."

"You were already in a worse condition than me, and you should have foreseen this outcome."

"Li Baxun, back then you killed many of Great Chu's hundred generals, and today, by killing you, I'm settling our past scores. I won't touch your descendants."

Just as Qin Beifeng was about to strike Li Baxun's head with a palm, he suddenly sensed something and looked up to the sky.

In the sky, the senior officers of the Northern Expedition Army who had just been fighting alongside the Demon Beasts and Demon Kings were now dropping down from the heavens, charging towards Qin Beifeng himself.

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And in the firmament above,

at that moment, only Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, remained.

Seeing this scene, the calm expression on Qin Beifeng's face could not be maintained, his lips twitched slightly, and his eyes were filled with emotion.

"The Duke actually asked for all of you to retreat."

"Is he planning to face the tens of millions of Demon Beasts alone, with the strength of just one person?"

If Qin Beifeng believed he understood Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, witnessing such courage from Cheng Shiyuan, even he, harboring intentions to kill the Duke, could not help but feel a trace of admiration in his heart.

It seemed not unjust for Great Chu to perish at the hands of such a man.

Qin Beifeng did not remain stunned for long; he quickly regained his composure with a smile on his lips.

"Very good, very good, I had originally planned to seek each of you out, one by one; stabbing a knife in the back would have made things easier for me. But now that you've all come together, it saves me the trouble of finding each of you individually, and that indeed saves me time."

Qin Beifeng casually threw Cheng Guang aside.

His original plan was to use Cheng Guang to threaten Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan.

But at this moment, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, was already engaged in battle with the tens of millions of Demon Beasts and could not look after Cheng Guang, thereby diminishing Cheng Guang's leverage.

If Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, managed to slay two Devil Emperors and escape from the Demon Sea, he would simply recapture Cheng Guang.

With Cheng Guang in hand, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, under hesitation to harm him for fear of endangering his pawn, would not dare to take action against him.

And if Cheng Shiyuan failed to escape from the Demon Sea and was slain by the Demon Beasts,

then Qin Beifeng would be at ease.

Moreover, in Qin Beifeng's view, Cheng Guang, with his cultivation level, could not run far, so he had no concerns in mind.

After throwing Cheng Guang aside, Qin Beifeng's gaze did not linger on Cheng Guang, and he spoke offhandedly.

"Princely Heir, if you do not wish to die, be sure to dodge properly."

Having said that, Qin Beifeng stepped forward, with Qi forming a barrier in front of him.

Swinging both his hands, he unleashed his Martial Arts Divine Power; the void trembled, his Qi surged enormously, and countless translucent golden palms formed in front of him, slamming heavily into the sky, toward the officers of the Northern Expedition Army diving down on him.

"Qin Beifeng, how presumptuous!"

"Dare you demolish the city gates? Do you not care after all these years of the Duke's nurturing!?"

"Seeking death!!"

The officers of the Northern Expedition Army, facing Qin Beifeng's assault, remained composed amidst the danger and faced the onslaught of Qin Beifeng's golden palms.

The forces clashed.

Boom!!!

Many officers of the Northern Expedition Army, upon contact with Qin Beifeng's Divine Power, felt an incredibly firm and invincible force, overwhelming like a mountain collapsing upon them, leaving them feeling as if they were hit by a savage beast from ancient times. Their Qi and Blood churned, and they tumbled backward several steps in midair.

Meanwhile,

Qin Beifeng remained unmoved.

His cultivation level was bordering on the Heavenly Human Realm.

Even up against the fully powered Li Baxun, he still had reserve strength. Facing these officers of the Northern Expedition Army whose cultivation levels had just stepped into the Ninth-Grade Martial Emperor Realm, or even only the Eighth-Rank King Realm, it was still quite easy for him.

In just a short while, he would be able to dispose of these high-ranking officers.

Qin Beifeng was composed.

And a group of high-ranking officers of the Northern Expedition Army, having just stabilized themselves, felt the overwhelming force contained within the Divine Power unleashed by Qin Beifeng, and their hearts shook fiercely.

They became vigilant.

"Qin Beifeng's strength is already only a step away from reaching the Heavenly Human Realm," they thought.

"We must join forces! We cannot let him scatter us!"

"We must slay Qin Beifeng here!"

The high-ranking officers of the Northern Expedition Army whispered to each other with resolve, exchanging glances before they stood in succession, forming a certain battle formation. Their might turned into a fierce and ferocious tiger, rising into the sky.

The leading figure, a Northern Expedition Army man garbed in pitch-black armor, raised his sword with the multitude of Northern Expedition Army officers doing likewise behind him. Their collective strengths, aura, and oppressive might converged upon the leading man, focusing on him.

Qin Beifeng watched this and narrowed his eyes slightly but showed little surprise or panic.

That was the Tiger-shaped Array, part of the Four Symbols Battle Formation of the Northern Expedition Army, which excelled at offensive tactics.

Once, he had been a part of this formation himself.

He was extremely familiar with it.

A group of Ninth and Eighth Grade Martial Artists used this formation to engage with someone of the Heavenly Human Realm.

That they would use this formation against him was a sign of great respect.

Qin Beifeng lifted a hand slightly, as force converged in the palm of his hand.

In just a moment.

Boom!!!

The battle formation composed of high-ranking officers of the Northern Expedition Army reached its peak in momentum. The leading man swiftly struck with his sword releasing a domineering and unstoppable Destruction Sword Qi that swept through the myriad Demon Beasts and the officers and soldiers of the Northern Expedition Army like a galactic river rising up to the heavens.

The air around Qin Beifeng was instantly blown open by this strike, forming waves that spread outwards.

This strike possessed the power to turn the skies, shatter the firmament, and reforge the world!

Its might neared that of the Heavenly Human Realm!

As the Sword Qi emerged, a tiger took form, roaring as it descended towards Qin Beifeng's head.

"Well struck," said Qin Beifeng.

Taking a deep breath, a golden human figure seemed to surface behind him, he lifted his hand and the golden figure did likewise; when he stepped down, the golden figure mimicked his motion.

In perfect sync.

Qin Beifeng roared and pushed out with a palm.

"Break!"

As the words fell, the golden human figure behind Qin Beifeng shone brilliantly, swelling several times in size in an instant before launching a palm strike.

The movements of the golden figure behind Qin Beifeng, as if swiftly moving through the void, brought forth thousands of peculiar runes from within his palm, which flickered like a mere glimpse, transforming into chains in the blink of an eye.

Chapter 336 Blood Sea Crazy Sword! Unrivaled in This Era! _5

He forcefully controlled the blade that was chopping down directly above his head.

The combined attack from the senior generals of the Northern Expedition Army, comparable to the Heavenly Human Realm, was actually blocked by Qin Beifeng in such a tough manner.

Yet, Qin Beifeng's expression did not change much.

The senior generals of the Northern Expedition Army's faces were filled with shock and fear.

This Qin Beifeng...

What is going on here!?

Even if Qin Beifeng was at the pinnacle of the Ninth Grade, about to step into the Heavenly Human Realm, he shouldn't have been able to block it so effortlessly.

Could it be that Qin Beifeng had already reached the Heavenly Human Realm?

The senior generals of the Northern Expedition Army found it hard to believe.

Qin Beifeng seemed to have noticed the doubt in the hearts of the Northern Expedition Army's generals, but he did not explain aloud. Naturally, he had not reached the Heavenly Human Realm at this time; if he had, his move just now would not have been simply blocking the attack of the senior generals of the Northern Expedition Army like that.

Instead, he would have wiped them all out.

Qin Beifeng was also not feeling too good inside.

His Qi and Blood surged, and the recoil from the strength caused him quite a few internal injuries.

Qin Beifeng had not expected Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, to be so decisive and immediately call down all senior generals of the Northern Expedition Army to deal with him,

While Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan himself, went to face those two Demon Beasts, numerous Demon Kings, and countless devils of the Demon Sea.

Qin Beifeng couldn't help but sigh internally, trying to stabilize the surging Qi and Blood in his body, and chose not to entangle with the senior generals of the Northern Expedition Army to the death.

He had overestimated his own strength.

Against the united efforts of the senior generals of the Northern Expedition Army, even he could not deal with them quickly.

It was better to destroy a few more city gates at this time.

With the Northern Expedition Army stretched thin, it was foreseeable that the city would be overrun by Demon Beasts.

Before that, he still needed to find Cheng Guang.

Cheng Guang's identity was very special; even though Qin Beifeng now felt that the situation was stable, whether he needed Cheng Guang was no longer very important.

But at this moment, he somewhat wanted to take Cheng Guang down.

At this time, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, ventured alone deep into the Demon Sea.

Qin Beifeng suddenly realized that as long as he killed Cheng Guang, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's mind would be shaken, his battle strength would plummet by at least thirty percent, and it was very likely he wouldn't come back alive.

Even if he didn't kill the Duke in the end, by killing Cheng Guang, it could not be said that he had gained nothing.

Qin Beifeng's gaze swept below the city wall, and in just a moment, he found Cheng Guang's figure.

He did not hesitate, his figure flickering as he swooped toward Cheng Guang.

The generals of the Northern Expedition Army were still stunned by Qin Beifeng's strength and had thought Qin Beifeng would continue to attack them. However, they had not expected Qin Beifeng to suddenly leave them behind and instead dash toward the wall below.

Upon closer inspection of the direction in which Qin Beifeng was heading, there stood a figure at the endpoint, exuding a sense of nobility all over.

Many generals of the Northern Expedition Army were infuriated.

This Qin Beifeng was actually planning to make a move on the Princely Heir again!

"Stop right there!"

Several generals shouted loudly, no longer caring to maintain the battle formation as they charged toward Qin Beifeng.

But Qin Beifeng paid no heed to the group of senior generals of the Northern Expedition Army behind him and continued to rush straight towards Cheng Guang.

He had anticipated the reaction of the senior generals of the Northern Expedition Army; rushing to kill Cheng Guang now was also to make them hesitate and break their battle formation.

Qin Beifeng glanced sideways, turning his head to look at the group of Northern Expedition Army generals charging at him rapidly, his expression indifferent.

After a glance, he turned his head back, lifted his hand again slightly, aiming at Cheng Guang, with his palm shimmering with surging Qi light.

Qin Beifeng looked at Cheng Guang, not far away, expecting the dignified Crown Prince to panic under such circumstances and to display great vulnerability.

But unexpectedly,

Under Qin Beifeng's gaze, Cheng Guang's expression was calm.

He just stood there.

On the surface, he looked as if he had been scared stiff.

But upon closer inspection, one could see a faint smile on Cheng Guang's lips.

It was as if he had anticipated this scene and had been waiting for Qin Beifeng's arrival much earlier.

Qin Beifeng was slightly startled by Cheng Guang's reaction, and for a moment, he could not understand why this esteemed Town-Nation Duke's Heir could remain composed in such a situation.

He pondered for a moment, and in the twinkling of an eye, his thoughts flashed by, and naturally, he came up with nothing.

Qin Beifeng suppressed his emotions, his body flashed, and in the blink of an eye, he appeared in front of Cheng Guang.

He did not hesitate, his palm striking toward Cheng Guang's head.

A terrifying and lethal aura surged from Qin Beifeng's palm.

The senior generals of the Northern Expedition Army chasing behind Qin Beifeng had red eyes and bellowed as if on the verge of splitting.

"Qin Beifeng, you dare!"

"Stop right now! If anything happens to the Princely Heir, the Duke will not spare you!"

Qin Beifeng ignored them.

As Qin Beifeng fixed his gaze on him, Cheng Guang's smile widened slightly, "Mr. Qin, I just knew you, a back-stabber, would make a move on me."

As the words fell,

A slightly odd sheen flashed by,

And the originally handsome figure of Cheng Guang disappeared on the spot, replaced by an Iron Shell Turtle, its mountain-like body sprawling on the ground.

Qin Beifeng's fatal attack landed on the turtle shell, failing to stir any ripples, as if it was neutralized by an invisible force.

Qin Beifeng could feel the sensation from his palm, extremely hard!

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This...

What is happening!?

The perfectly fine Town-Nation Duke's Heir suddenly turned into a turtle??

Qin Beifeng was completely dumbfounded.

He stood frozen in place for a long time without being able to react.

Behind Qin Beifeng, a group of high-ranking officers from the Northern Expedition Army quickly followed suit, and seeing this scene, they were also greatly frightened.

Their own Princely Heir, how did he simply turn into a Devil Beast?

And judging by the aura, it seems to be of the Ninth-order Demon King level.

What's going on??

Could it be that some Demon King under my watch transformed in an instant and replaced the Princely Heir?

Everyone watching this scene felt a sense of absurdity rising in their hearts.

Qin Beifeng stood there, his expression changing several times. Looking at the primitive face of the turtle, which showed a human-like sneer, he suddenly realized something and immediately struck at Cheng Guang with another palm.

Qin Beifeng had come to realize that the Iron Shell Turtle before him was none other than Cheng Guang.

With the fall of that palm, Cheng Guang's body merely shook slightly, brushing off the momentum contained in Qin Beifeng's palm.

Cheng Guang didn't even feel a trace of pain.

Qin Beifeng immediately felt a sense of toothache.

He had seen much, and by now he naturally realized the race of the Demon Beast Cheng Guang had turned into.

He had originally thought that Cheng Guang's transformation into an Iron Shell Turtle was merely for show, but the first palm could be called an accident, what about the second palm?

It couldn't be possible that Cheng Guang could block his attacks every time, could it??

Grinding his teeth, Qin Beifeng now had little care for the high-ranking officers of the Northern Expedition Army behind him, striking at Cheng Guang with several consecutive palms.

At this moment, the group of high-ranking officers of the Northern Expedition Army seemed to have just realized that this Iron Shell Turtle was likely to be their own Princely Heir, and they hurriedly stepped forward to stop it.

Just as they made a move, before even reaching Cheng Guang, their steps unavoidably slowed down.

Because they discovered.

Qin Beifeng's attacks, falling upon Cheng Guang, were of no use at all.

It was almost like scratching an itch, making no difference whatsoever.

The high-ranking officers of the Northern Expedition Army looked on with slight astonishment, followed by a surge of ecstasy in their hearts.

"The Princely Heir is indeed skilled, and Qin Beifeng can hardly do anything to him."

"The Princely Heir is unharmed, we should capture Qin Beifeng first!"

"Quick, take action. Although the Princely Heir is fine for now, we don't know how long he can maintain this state!"

The high-ranking officers of the Northern Expedition Army voiced their thoughts, no longer hesitating, and moved to capture Qin Beifeng.

Qin Beifeng was feeling nothing but toothache at this point, looking helplessly at Cheng Guang, who had turned into the Iron Shell Turtle.

The shell of this Iron Shell Turtle was just too hard.

Moreover, the Iron Shell Turtle that Cheng Guang had transformed into was of the Ninth Grade, making him nearly invulnerable to anyone in the world aside from those in the Heavenly Human Realm.

At this moment, it was not just about one or two palms anymore; even if his hands were to split open, he would not be able to harm Cheng Guang!

Helpless!

Uncomfortable!

Qin Beifeng simply gave up on Cheng Guang and was about to deal with the unorganized high-ranking officers of the Northern Expedition Army when he slightly shifted his position.

Just as he thought of getting up.

But he found that two relatively thick turtle hands swiftly stretched out. Qin Beifeng had not paid much attention to Cheng Guang, and in an instant, he failed to dodge and was directly embraced by Cheng Guang.

Cheng Guang was incredibly strong.

Even Qin Beifeng couldn't help but have his face flush red.

He shook his Qi, trying to push Cheng Guang away.

Yet he found that the Qi he released, along with his Divine Power, though all landing on Cheng Guang's body, were mostly like stones sinking into the sea, causing not even the slightest ripple on Cheng Guang.

At the same time.

Cheng Guang remained calm, giving no response whatsoever to Qin Beifeng.

The more Qin Beifeng resisted, the tighter Cheng Guang embraced.

Cheng Guang now possessed the body of a Ninth-order Martial Emperor Realm Iron Shell Turtle, and though his demonic power could not keep up, in terms of physical defense and sheer brute strength, even Qin Beifeng, an apex Ninth Grade Martial Emperor pressing to reach the Heavenly Human Realm, could do nothing to Cheng Guang.

At the same time, Qin Beifeng was completely unable to break free from Cheng Guang's embrace.

As Cheng Guang's arms tightened, Qin Beifeng's complexion had turned the color of liver.

There was nothing he could do.

He could only roar in helpless fury.

At this point, the previously composed and serene image of the great general of the Northern Expedition Army had completely disappeared from Qin Beifeng.

Facing Qin Beifeng's shouting and laughter, Cheng Guang felt like laughing a bit.

His Devil Transformation Armor's strength was roughly on par with Qin Beifeng's.

After all, it only had defensive capabilities, and not much offensive power.

As long as Qin Beifeng was on guard, he had no way to deal with him.

But alas...

Qin Beifeng never took him seriously.

He approached him carelessly, not to mention he even dared to expose his back right in front of him.

Do you really think my Iron Shell Turtle body at the Ninth-order Martial Emperor Realm is a fake?

When Cheng Guang used his body, as heavy as a small mountain, to restrain Qin Beifeng, the senior officers of the Northern Expedition Army who rushed over, were stupefied at the sight.

They came beside Cheng Guang with puzzled expressions, then turned to look at Qin Beifeng, their faces wanting to burst into laughter.

They noticed that Qin Beifeng's face had turned the color of a pig's liver.

Qin Beifeng was desperately twitching his arms and legs, exploding with Qi, trying to break free from Cheng Guang's body.

But it was to little avail.

It only caused the ground beneath Cheng Guang to form a massive crater.

At the same time, the more Qin Beifeng struggled, the tighter Cheng Guang restrained him, his face flushed bright red, like that of a monkey's butt.

The scene was quite comical at one point.

The senior officers of the Northern Expedition Army watched as Qin Beifeng, who just moments ago was pressuring them, now seemed to have no ability to fight back in Cheng Guang's hands. They were filled with sighs, and at the same time, they were shocked by Cheng Guang's methods.

They carefully felt Cheng Guang's body, which had transformed into the Iron Shell Turtle.

They realized not a trace of Cheng Guang could be seen on the Iron Shell Turtle's body.

Even Cheng Guang's presence had disappeared.

All that remained was the aura of the Iron Shell Turtle.

If they hadn't seen with their own eyes Cheng Guang transform into the Iron Shell Turtle,

And hadn't witnessed how Cheng Guang alone restrained Qin Beifeng,

They would never dare believe that the Iron Shell Turtle, with the Qi of a Ninth-order Martial Emperor Realm, was Cheng Guang.

Shock! Awe!

Complex emotions surged in the hearts of the senior officers of the Northern Expedition Army, leaving them speechless for a good while.

After exchanging looks with each other, they then heard a thunderous roar coming from the heavens.

The sky was stained with blood.

An image of an elder in blood-stained armor stood alone amidst dark clouds.

One strike commences!

Blood fills the sky!

The next moment, from the void, the Devil Emperor's cries of pain were heard.

"Damn it! How is he so strong?"

"The collapsed walls of North City have been repaired, there's no chance of winning, let's go!! No more fighting!"

Two Devil Emperors emerged from the clouds in a somewhat embarrassed manner, dragging long trails of air, their faces pale, dripping strands of golden blood.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, wielding the Blood Sea Crazy Sword with his Martial Arts and Divine Powers!

Unrivaled in this world!

At the same time, numerous Demon Kings fell from the heavens as if on cue, and once again blood drifted through the land and air!

Including the Fire Dragon Devil King from the beginning, most of the Demon Kings were beheaded by Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan himself with a single slash!

The senior officers of the Northern Expedition Army couldn't help but gasp.

Although they had some expectations about Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's strength, their eyes were still filled with shock.

The Duke was not only able to battle alone against two Devil Emperors, but he also managed to slay all Demon Kings amidst tens of millions of Demon Beasts!

It was simply unimaginable!

Qin Beifeng, restrained under Cheng Guang, saw this scene, his pupils contracted, his eyes wide with disbelief.

His breathing halted.

The Demon Beasts retreated.

And he was immobilized by Cheng Guang's inexplicable method.

At this moment...

Had he already lost?

Qin Beifeng, in utter disarray, suddenly shook violently, his hair in dishevelment, his Qi and Blood churning, and he spurted out a mouthful of fresh blood.

His originally flushed face turned as pale as paper in an instant!

His spirit was crushed!

Chapter 338 - The Commander Leads the Troops

Qin Beifeng was weak and his complexion had reached an appalling state.

Previously restrained by Cheng Guang, he was still struggling, but the sight of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, repelling two Demon Kings and slaying several Demon Beasts alone.

His spirit shattered, he no longer had much desire to resist.

This upheaval in the Great Yan Dynasty, the retreat from the Border Area battlefield, for Qin Beifeng, was an opportunity that comes once in a millennium.

After so many years of painstaking planning, this was all he had achieved in the end.

Qin Beifeng found it hard to accept for a moment.

But now, he had no chance of victory. With the Devil Emperors gone, no matter how many Demon Beasts surrounded North City, they couldn't possibly breach its defenses.

Qin Beifeng's face was ashen, his eyes brimming with sorrow.

After all, he had failed to avenge Great Chu.

The power of the Duke.

Far exceeded his imagination.

As Qin Beifeng stood motionless and void of response, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, slowly descended from the high skies and landed before him.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, looking at Qin Beifeng held down by Cheng Guang, had an extremely complex expression on his face.

First, he sighed, then stood with his hands behind his back, looking towards the firmament where the Demon Beasts were gradually retreating, and slowly said.

"Qin Beifeng, The Great Wind General, for Great Chu to have a general like you was the Emperor of Chu's good fortune."

"If not for the fall of Great Chu, you would have surely become someone like this old man within its ranks."

Upon hearing Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's words, Qin Beifeng's ashen face did not show the slightest stir.

He felt that he was a dead man walking.

Designing to destroy the city gates, plotting to assassinate the Princely Heir.

Any one of these crimes alone would have made him deserving of death a thousand times over.

Therefore, Qin Beifeng could now face Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, whom he had always respected and never dared to offend, with utmost calmness.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan was not overly concerned about Qin Beifeng's disrespect at the moment; his gaze went to the dissipating shadows of the Demon Beasts in the sky, and his majestic eyes slightly closed, falling upon Cheng Guang.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, looking at Cheng Guang who had become an Iron Shell Turtle, his aged and authoritative eyes revealed a hint of emotion and astonishment.

"Duke, this is the Princely Heir."

"The Princely Heir has suddenly turned into this form for some reason."

An officer of the Northern Expedition Army nearby noticed the shock in Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's eyes and explained aloud.

Upon hearing this, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan clicked his tongue in surprise, clearly not expecting Cheng Guang to have turned into such a form.

Looking at the Iron Shell Turtle, its demonic power was pure and didn't betray any sign of Cheng Guang.

If not for the reminder from the high-ranking officer of the Northern Expedition Army, he would have likely mistaken the Iron Shell Turtle for a real Demon Beast and not Cheng Guang.

As Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan pondered, he suddenly associated the previous request from Cheng Guang for a demonic pill, and now looked at the Iron Shell Turtle before him, with the aura of a Ninth Grade Demon King.

He had realized something.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan chuckled and shook his head, truly not having expected Cheng Guang to possess methods even he himself was unaware of.

This ability to use demonic pills to transform into a Demon Beast and inherit some powers—if it were not his own grandson who had it, he might actually be envious and wish to take it for himself.

He decisively released Qin Beifeng whom he'd been holding down.

A strange light flickered, and the mountain-like figure of the Iron Shell Turtle vanished from the spot in an instant, revealing Cheng Guang's graceful figure once again.

Now that Cheng Guang possessed this method, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan naturally would not think further on it.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan looked at Cheng Guang, now in the guise of an Iron Shell Turtle, and said with a smile, "Grandson, that's enough, let him go. With your grandfather here, he can't do much anyway."

Cheng Guang, upon hearing the Duke's words, a primitive smile appeared on the turtle's face.

He decisively released Qin Beifeng whom he'd been holding down.

A strange light flickered, and the mountain-like figure of the Iron Shell Turtle vanished from the spot in an instant, revealing Cheng Guang's graceful figure once again.

Cheng Guang smiled at Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan and called out coyly, "Grandfather."

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan personally witnessed the transformation from the Iron Shell Turtle back to Cheng Guang, his hand stroking his white beard stilled for a moment.

He exclaimed, "Grandson, your technique is truly extraordinary."

"To be able to transform into a Demon Beast is one thing, but to actually possess such terrifying strength and defensive power is another."

As Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan marveled, he also felt a trace of relief in his heart.

It was fortunate that Cheng Guang had more techniques at his disposal than he had anticipated.

Otherwise, if Qin Beifeng had acted against Cheng Guang, he would have had to make time to save him.

Even though he could've escaped from the entanglement of the two Devil Emperors and free himself to save Cheng Guang, and with his methods directly eradicate Qin Beifeng, the subsequent fight with the Devil Emperors would likely have been at a disadvantage.

Cheng Guang, facing the words of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, didn't know what to say. The Devil Transformation Armor was a Heavenly Treasure awarded by the system, extremely rare and precious, and even Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan did not possess many treasures of such caliber.

That was why Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan was so astounded.

"Grandfather, this is a Different Treasure I stumbled upon. By using demonic pills, and recording the Demon Beasts, I can transform into the adversary's form and inherit certain abilities," Cheng Guang said.

Stroking his beard, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan nodded slightly, "I see. No wonder you asked me for a demonic pill before."

As Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan spoke, Cheng Guang timely said, "If grandfather could find me a Devil Emperor's demonic pill, I could probably become invincible below the Sky-Man."

Chapter 339 - The Commander Leads the Troops _2

Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan, upon hearing Cheng Guang's words, couldn't help but cough twice.

It was a bit too much for him to take.

The Devil Emperor was not so easily killed.

That he managed to repel two Devil Emperors was already quite commendable.

If the Ghost Spider Devil Emperor and the Soul Devouring Devil Emperor hadn't left of their own accord, continuing the fight would have led to a situation where both sides suffered heavy losses.

Of course, if it were a one-on-one fight, and the Devil Emperor did not run away, then Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan, still had confidence in slaying a Devil Emperor.

Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan's face turned slightly red, and he said, "That, well, grandson, if there's a chance, Grandfather will certainly help you get a Devil Emperor's demon pill."

Cheng Guang smiled and nodded, accepting the big promise drawn by Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan.

As for the Devil Emperor's demon pill, he wasn't so eager for it anymore.

Having the demon pill of a Ninth Grade Demon King, the Iron Shell Turtle, for the time being, was already enough for him.

Some Devil Emperors, their defensive power isn't even as good as the Iron Shell Turtle's defense.

If the inherited power were to diminish to thirty percent, in the end, their overall strength might not even compare to the Iron Shell Turtle.

Cheng Guang took it quite well.

Cheng Guang glanced at Qin Beifeng beside him, and asked, "Grandfather, what should be done with him?"

Even though Qin Beifeng was a great general of Great Chu and did all these things in order to avenge Great Chu, for Duke of the State and for the Northern Expedition Army, betrayal was an unforgivable act.

Cheng Guang could anticipate what sort of end awaited Qin Beifeng.

Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan, heard what Cheng Guang said, shifted his gaze back to Qin Beifeng, and upon seeing his deathly pale face, he sighed again.

"Beifeng, I've always treated you as one of my own and trained you, in the future when this grandson of mine takes over my position, you would become the most powerful assistant and the most reliable support by my grandson's side."

"As for the affair of Great Chu back then, I was just a knife, a knife wielded by the World Royal Family. The imperial family is aloof and high above, what can we subjects do about the disputes between them?"

Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan, watched Qin Beifeng, and no matter what he was thinking inside, he still expressed his thoughts and explained a bit.

Qin Beifeng, having heard Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan's words, could only smile bitterly.

How could he not know that Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan, was but a blade, yet he couldn't even do anything to Cheng Shiyuan, let alone take action against Emperor Zhou within the capital city.

In Qin Beifeng's plan, he would first eliminate Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan, step by step to replace him, take control of the Northern Expedition Army, and with the strength of the army, challenge Emperor Zhou.

Even if he couldn't deal with Emperor Zhou in the end, having the Northern Expedition Army would give him an additional hope for the restoration of the country.

But...

His plan hadn't even started and was shattered at the very first step.

This left Qin Beifeng feeling utterly powerless.

His mouth showed a deep bitterness as he looked at Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan, and said, "Duke, I have lost, and now that it has come to this, you can decide whether to kill or flay me."

After saying this, Qin Beifeng remained silent.

Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan looked at Qin Beifeng, who had already resigned himself to death, and felt an inexplicable sense of sorrow. He watched Qin Beifeng silently for a while and then waved his hand.

"For such crimes, he deserves death; choose a time to behead him."

"Li."

As Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan's words fell.

Li Baxun who had been quietly observing the scene stepped forward quickly upon hearing the Duke's call.

Li Baxun respectfully saluted Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan, "Duke."

Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan turned his head, waving his hand, "Take him down and seal his cultivation, lock him up in the military prison."

"For such crimes, he deserves death; choose a time to behead him."

After speaking, Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan walked away slowly, without a moment's delay.

On the surface, it seemed that the usually mild-mannered Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan, was now showing a starkly cold-blooded side.

For Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan, although Qin Beifeng was a promising individual and important to the Northern Expedition Army, more than that, he had just become related by marriage.

Just newly related by marriage.

And Qin Beifeng had caused such a trouble.

This made Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan feel quite sentimental, and at the same time, he was not going to show any mercy.

Qin Beifeng had been able to lie low in the Northern Expedition Army for decades, waiting for just one opportunity, to betray him.

If it were not for Cheng Guang's prior warning, Qin Beifeng's scheme might have actually succeeded.

At that time, not only he would die, the entire North City would be destroyed because of Qin Beifeng, and the entire Northern Expedition Army would perish because of him.

Just thinking about that consequence made Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan, feel a cold sweat on his back and a chill down his spine.

Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan harbored a killing intent towards Qin Beifeng, but he was not someone who forgot old connections, so he was letting Li Baxun do the killing; he did not want to do it himself.

Li Baxun complied, and after Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan left, he walked over to Qin Beifeng and struck him with a palm.

A series of thuds erupted from Qin Beifeng's body.

All of Qin Beifeng's Qi Meridians were sealed, making it impossible for him to use his cultivation.

During the process, Qin Beifeng did not resist.

Even if he had resisted, it would not have made much difference.

At the moment, with the Demon Beasts withdrawing, the Duke could suppress him here with just a thought.

Even though his strength was the highest among the generals of the Northern Expedition Army, there was no way for him to escape under such circumstances.

After Li Baxun finished sealing Qin Beifeng's cultivation, he escorted Qin Beifeng to the prison.

Chapter 340 - The Commander Leads the Troops _3

After the event, Cheng Guang did not linger at the original place and turned around to return to Duke Zhen's Mansion.

At this moment, he still didn't know how to face Qin Yanqiu.

Having just married, Cheng Shiyuan had orchestrated the death of Qin Yanqiu's brother, and her father, Qin Beifeng, was also on the brink of death.

Even if Qin Yanqiu was typically aloof by nature, she would not remain indifferent to her own father's death.

Looking back, a major reason Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, wanted Cheng Guang to marry Qin Yanqiu was to establish a connection with Qin Beifeng.

Even if something unexpected happened to Cheng Shiyuan in the future, having Qin Beifeng, a great general, meant that Cheng Guang could safely take over the banner of the Northern Expedition Army.

But now...

Qin Beifeng was a spy within.

Simply unreliable.

Qin Yanqiu's value for a marriage alliance was also greatly diminished.

At this point, Cheng Guang wasn't even sure if this marriage was going to fall apart.

.....

Escorted by a host of guards, Cheng Guang returned to Duke Zhen's Mansion.

He walked into the courtyard.

By now, it was 5pm, and the weather in North City was as cold as ever.

Frost had already formed on the flowers and plants in the courtyard early on; the lights were blazing bright in the evening, reflecting off the mist under the night sky, beautiful indeed, but with a much more desolate air.

In the courtyard, Qin Yanqiu was practicing her martial arts.

She was dressed in Silvermoon Battle Armor, holding a Longsword in her hand. Her face was stunningly beautiful and aloof, her figure graceful. As she moved and swayed, every gesture embodied a cool elegance.

Although the war had broken out, Cheng Shiyuan did not let Qin Yanqiu go to the battlefield since she had just gotten married, to avoid tarnishing the joy of their nuptials.

Thus, Qin Yanqiu was still unaware of the commotion caused by Qin Beifeng.

She could only faintly sense the intensity of the battle that had erupted around her from within the courtyard.

As soon as Cheng Guang entered the courtyard, Qin Yanqiu noticed and slowly stopped her movements, looking towards Cheng Guang.

"How did it go?"

Qin Yanqiu was a woman of few words.

But Cheng Guang understood her, she was asking about the status of the battle outside.

Cheng Guang nodded slightly, "It's almost over."

He walked slowly to Qin Yanqiu's side and sat at the stone table nearby, pouring himself a cup of clear tea.

Hearing Cheng Guang say this, Qin Yanqiu also breathed a sigh of relief.

"For this battle, if the Duke had not forbidden it, I would have participated as well."

As she spoke, a hint of disappointment was visible on Qin Yanqiu's cool face.

Cheng Guang chuckled and shook his head, just about to say something.

Meanwhile, Qing Luan, who was cooking, said with a smile, "The Wife of the Crown Prince has been talking about it all along, how she regrets not being able to take part in such an important battle."

As she spoke, Qing Luan was bustling about the side kitchen, busy with cooking and kindling fires.

"Princely Heir, the meal will be ready soon. Qing Luan has made your favorite dishes."

Interrupted by Qing Luan's words, Cheng Guang swallowed the words he was about to say, deciding not to mention it until after they had finished their meal.

The matter concerning Qin Beifeng still had to be told to Qin Yanqiu.

At least to prepare her mentally for what was coming.

A short while later, Qing Luan brought over several plates of freshly cooked dishes and set them on the stone table.

The three of them ate simply.

After finishing the meal, Qing Luan cleared away the dishes and chopsticks.

Cheng Guang looked to Qin Yanqiu, who was slowly sipping tea, and said, "I have something to tell you."

Qin Yanqiu's cool gaze fell on Chen Guang, somewhat puzzled.

She could sense the seriousness in Cheng Guang's eyes.

It seemed something significant had occurred.

"What is it? Just speak frankly," said Qin Yanqiu.

Under Qin Yanqiu's gaze, Cheng Guang began, "Your father, Qin Beifeng, is in trouble."

Upon hearing these words from Cheng Guang, Qin Yanqiu was initially stunned, as if she couldn't grasp what he meant, then she quickly realized the implications and exclaimed:

"Has my father been injured, or what has happened?"

Cheng Guang shook his head, "It's not because of that, he's not injured."

Hearing Cheng Guang say this, Qin Yanqiu once again found herself at a loss.

Her father was not injured.

The battle had subsided as well.

Everything seemed joyous.

How could there be trouble?

Qin Yanqiu didn't understand.

Cheng Guang watched Qin Yanqiu, preparing to reveal the truth, but as the words approached his lips, he didn't know how to start.

In the end, he simply said,

"Your father, Qin Beifeng, has betrayed the Northern Expedition Army."

Upon hearing this, Qin Yanqiu's cool face paused slightly, her eyes slightly widened in disbelief.

She seemed to search Cheng Guang's face for a hint of jest.

But soon, she became disappointed.

For on Cheng Guang's face, she saw no trace of jest, but a grave seriousness.

This matter...

Didn't seem like a joke.

And this Princely Heir had no reason to jest about such a grave matter as her own father betraying the Northern Expedition Army.

So...

Was this true?

After a brief moment of shock, Qin Yanqiu compressed her lips slightly and her eyes gleamed as she looked at Cheng Guang.

"Why?"

"My father has no reason to do this," she said.

Cheng Guang, however, nodded, "He had his reasons."

"Do you know your father's background?"

Qin Yanqiu shook her head.

Cheng Guang sighed, "He was once one of Great Chu's hundred generals; this treason against the Northern Expedition Army was also to seek vengeance for Great Chu."

Upon hearing Cheng Guang's words, Qin Yanqiu momentarily lost her composure.

Great Chu...

That term was too foreign to Qin Yanqiu.

So, she didn't understand what those two words, Great Chu, meant to Qin Beifeng.