

## **My System 341**

### Chapter 341 - The Commander Leads the Troops \_4

Cheng Guang, seeing Qin Yanqiu in such a state, did not continue to speak. Instead, he informed her about Qin Beifeng's situation first to prepare her psychologically, so she wouldn't make any foolish moves later.

Cheng Guang stood up, walked over to Qin Yanqiu, patted her shoulder, and slowly made his way to the bedroom.

At the moment, besides dealing with Qin Yanqiu, there was another matter that was even more important for him.

That was to receive the task reward.

This time, the task reward was something Cheng Guang couldn't quite understand.

It was called the General's Seal.

Just by looking at the name, it was impossible to ascertain what purpose the General's Seal served.

But based on Cheng Guang's experience, though the system was sometimes unreliable, there was no faulting it when it came to task rewards.

Thus, the General's Seal was likely quite valuable.

Cheng Guang closed the bedroom door tightly and then spoke in his mind, "System, claim the reward!"

As his voice faded.

A series of golden glimmers started twinkling abruptly before Cheng Guang's eyes.

The golden light, like flowing water, streamed out from the void, forming strands of silk that converged in front of Cheng Guang into the shape of a runic symbol.

The symbol appeared ancient, entirely a bright yellow, with many intricate and obscure patterns drawn on it, which made one's eyes blur and mind waver just by looking at it.

This symbol had not even been used yet, and it was already affecting one's spirit.

At this time, even Cheng Guang's fifth-grade Ascension Realm cultivation was not much use against the General's Seal, and he couldn't help being somewhat affected.

Cheng Guang did not hesitate, reaching out with one hand towards the General's Seal.

The moment Cheng Guang's fingertips touched the General's Seal, it instantly transformed from ethereal to solid.

When held in hand, the General's Seal did not feel like a regular piece of paper with a few patterns drawn on it, light and airy, but more like holding a chunk of Black Iron, very heavy.

Holding the General's Seal did not require one to become its master.

A piece of information appeared in Cheng Guang's mind.

[General's Seal: Those who lead soldiers are generals. The General's Seal can summon a hundred soldiers to obey you, or it can be used to boost the morale and strength of your own troops.]

Cheng Guang, looking at the description of the General's Seal, was slightly stunned, and his expression gradually turned peculiar.

The General's Seal was indeed related to the term "general."

To summon a hundred soldiers and make them obey me, turning me into a minor general.

At the same time, the General's Seal could also enhance the morale and strength of one's own soldiers.

Both effects seemed rather unimpressive at first glance; their usefulness depended on the strength of the summoned soldiers and the extent of the boost to morale and strength.

If the summoned hundred soldiers turned out to be weaker than him, that would be quite embarrassing.

Even if one could use the General's Seal to boost morale and strength, it wouldn't be very effective.

Cheng Guang surveyed the bedroom around him and felt that the space was too small to experiment with the General's Seal.

Suddenly having a hundred Great Han soldiers appear in this bedroom.

They'd likely burst out of this tiny room.

At the same time, Cheng Guang wasn't in a position to explain to Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, or anyone else where these hundred people came from.

If he exposed the existence of the Devil Transformation Armor in front of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, the Duke may not wonder much.

After all, given Cheng Guang's identity and status, occasionally acquiring one or two heaven-level Different Treasures was not something unusual.

But if it happened too frequently.

If Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, noticed that Cheng Guang's hands were conjuring several strange and powerful Different Treasures from thin air from time to time, anyone would sense something was amiss.

Even though Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, was extremely fond of Cheng Guang and wouldn't say anything, he would inevitably become more vigilant and pay attention to where Cheng Guang was getting these Different Treasures from.

Cheng Guang did not want to expose the existence of the system to anyone else.

Cheng Guang decided to wait until he was outside North City and back in the Capital city to find an opportunity to thoroughly explore the uses of the General's Seal.

Cheng Guang carefully put away the General's Seal.

At this moment, Cheng Guang seemed to hear something and looked towards the door.

"Princely Heir."

A cool voice came through.

Qin Yanqiu, dressed in Silvermoon Battle Armor, stood at the doorway.

Cheng Guang, puzzled, walked to the door and opened it.

Qin Yanqiu's face looked very weary at this point, clearly having expended her spirit because of Qin Beifeng's matter.

She looked at Cheng Guang, her cold and stunningly beautiful face perfectly revealed to Cheng Guang's eyes.

Cheng Guang appreciated Qin Yanqiu's beauty for a moment, then asked in confusion, "What's wrong?"

Qin Yanqiu pressed her red lips together as if she wanted to say something to Cheng Guang, but then quickly shook her head.

She walked to Cheng Guang's bed, didn't even take off her Silvermoon Battle Armor, and lay down directly.

Seeing this, Cheng Guang smiled wryly.

The two of them were, after all, officially married, so it was natural they should sleep together.

But Cheng Guang hadn't done anything with Qin Yanqiu before, and with the incident involving Qin Beifeng, he thought she might avoid him.

He had not expected that she would take the initiative to come to him.

At this time, Cheng Guang could roughly understand Qin Yanqiu and knew what she was thinking.

Perhaps initially, Qin Yanqiu wanted to ask Cheng Guang if there was any way to save Qin Beifeng or to have his crimes wiped away.

But obviously.

That was impossible.

Qin Yanqiu was a soldier of the Northern Expedition Army herself, and she knew how severe the consequences and the end would be for betraying the Northern Expedition Army.

Those who betray the Northern Expedition Army are supposed to be executed on the spot.

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But Qin Beifeng was in the same situation, his identity and status were too high.

Therefore, he was not immediately executed.

They gave Qin Beifeng a bit of face, selecting an auspicious time to carry out his execution.

This was already one of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's last few acts of kindness.

On the other hand, Qin Yanqiu also knew that even if Cheng Guang pleaded with Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, to spare her father, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, no matter how much he doted on Cheng Guang, would not compromise on this matter.

A sense of helplessness rose in Qin Yanqiu's heart.

Lying on the bed, her beautiful eyes looked at Cheng Guang, the normally strong Qin Yanqiu, at this moment, her beautiful eyes faintly shimmered with tears.

Cheng Guang chose to ignore Qin Yanqiu's expression at this time.

He couldn't save Qin Beifeng either.

Cheng Guang sat at the table beside him, if it weren't for the matter concerning Qin Beifeng, and with Qin Yanqiu coming to his bedroom, he would not have been courteous and would have devoured Qin Yanqiu.

But with the issue of Qin Beifeng at hand, Cheng Guang also lost much interest in matters of men and women.

The sky grew darker, and midnight was approaching.

Cheng Guang knew that the system's new mission would very likely be issued soon, so he simply sat there, propping his chin with one hand, idly waiting.

Qin Yanqiu was not sleepy; she had come today mainly to complete the act of marriage with Cheng Guang.

To try to conceive Cheng Guang's offspring.

Hoping Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, would consider her face and not make things difficult for Qin Beifeng.

However, since arriving in the bedroom, Qin Yanqiu realized that Cheng Guang hardly let his gaze fall upon her.

She was already lying on the bed, and Cheng Guang still showed no reaction.

This caused Qin Yanqiu to doubt her own charm somewhat.

At the same time, she was a bit deflated.

Cheng Guang didn't know Qin Yanqiu's thoughts at this time; if he did, he'd probably want to laugh.

Dressed in the Silvermoon Battle Armor, with a cold demeanor, she didn't look like she was there to share a bed at all.

To the uninformed, it might seem that Qin Yanqiu was gearing up to head into battle to slay a few Demon Beasts.

Cheng Guang had not been very interested in Qin Yanqiu to start with, so seeing her fully armed like this, he lost all interest completely.

Sitting at the desk, Cheng Guang waited for the task prompt from the system to echo in his mind.

When midnight arrived.

An icy, emotionless voice sounded in his mind.

[On the 34th year of the Zhensheng era, the 70th day as a Sky-Man in the Heavenly Human Realm, you uncovered the hidden puppet master among the Northern Expedition Army. You never expected that the mastermind would turn out to be a senior general within the army, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's most trusted Qin Beifeng.]

[Upon learning this information, your heart was shaken, finding it hard to believe. At the same time, you also realized that Qin Beifeng's ability to seize the exact moment to withdraw from the Border Area battlefield and instigate a military coup during the internal strife of the Great Yan Dynasty was not a coincidence.]

[It was a scenario well-planned in advance.]

[It suddenly dawned on you that if this was also a premeditated event, it meant that Qin Beifeng was merely a pawn and that there was still a pusher behind him.]

[The more you thought about it, the more shocking it became. Just who was capable of orchestrating the turmoil within the Great Yan Dynasty back then and could even manipulate the military power of the dynasty, withdrawing from the Border Area battlefield and creating such an opportunity for Qin Beifeng?]

[The thought occurred to you that, soon after the Northern Expedition Army suffered damage, there were whispers within the Great Yan of remnants from Great Chu. You wondered if all this could be the work of the remnants from Great Chu.]

[The more you thought about it, the more plausible it seemed, although, the Chu remnants had barely surfaced before they were hunted down and executed by the World Royal Family, without causing much of a disturbance.]

[Thinking of this, you felt somewhat disappointed that you couldn't personally punish the Chu remnant who caused the death of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan.]

[The portrait of the Chu remnant was widely circulated; they were exceedingly beautiful, and their body was never found. You speculated that perhaps the Chu remnant was not dead.]

[You planned to take some time to travel to the capital of the Great Yan Dynasty, Skyfire City, to search for traces of the Chu remnant.]

[Four-star mission: Find the Chu remnant.]

[Mission reward: Princess Tomb.]

After listening to the system's task prompt, Cheng Guang's expression turned odd.

He had been curious as to how Qin Beifeng managed to predict so accurately the Dynasty's chaos and withdrawal from the Border Area battlefield.

All the arrangements made by Qin Beifeng were for this moment.

It was as if Qin Beifeng knew in advance that such an event was going to happen.

Aside from the possibility of Qin Beifeng being a reborn individual, there was only one other possibility, that the chaos originated within the Great Yan Dynasty was neither accidental nor sudden.

It was also a premeditated event.

Behind Qin Beifeng, there were other people from Great Chu.

Cheng Guang wasn't clear on who the Chu remnant mentioned in the system task prompt was at this moment.

Logically, the Emperor of Chu only married the Empress of Chu, and they had only one child.

That is to say, his former self.

The only person with the royal blood of Chu was him.

So, the Chu remnant couldn't possibly be an offspring of the Emperor of Chu; then who else could it be?

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If it weren't for the bloodline of the Great Chu imperial family, it likely wouldn't be called the remnants.

At most, they would be deemed the remains of Great Chu.

Could it be that the Emperor of Great Chu, behind the Empress's back, found another woman and had an illegitimate child?

Cheng Guang stroked his chin, pondering such thoughts.

Although this line of thinking was a bit disrespectful towards the Emperor and Empress of Great Chu,

one had to admit, it was indeed a possibility.

As Cheng Guang pondered, his gaze shifted over the system's mission.

He noticed that, according to the system's mission, the Great Chu remnant was said to have already died, and moreover, died in Skyfire City, the capital of the Great Yan Dynasty.

It was said that he had already died.

But no body was ever found.

The system also assigned him this task, to search for the Great Chu remnant.

One could foresee that the Great Chu remnant had not really died.

Cheng Guang clicked his tongue, realizing that whoever could plot against Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, and even succeed, was clearly no ordinary Great Chu remnant.

Those who survived amidst the encircling suppression of the World Royal Family were even less ordinary.

This Great Chu remnant was not just anybody.

His own mission to complete this task would not be so easy.

At this moment, Cheng Guang also realized that if the one behind Qin Beifeng truly was the Great Chu remnant, then could he possibly contact that "Great Chu remnant" through Qin Beifeng?

Cheng Guang felt that it might indeed be possible.

To let Qin Beifeng lead him to the Great Chu remnant, Qin Beifeng could not be allowed to die so easily for the time being.

Cheng Guang gently rubbed his forehead. Originally, he had no intention of involving himself in this matter; he could not expose his identity for the time being.

Saving Qin Beifeng would bring little benefit and may instead bury a hidden danger for himself.

Who knows, after being saved by him, whether Qin Beifeng would continue to idle about with nothing better to do than attempt to assassinate him.

Having a Ninth-order Martial Emperor Realm powerhouse like Qin Beifeng by his side made him feel somewhat intimidated.

But at the moment, he still had to hope to make contact with that Great Chu remnant through Qin Beifeng, so Qin Beifeng could not die yet.

Cheng Guang contemplated as his gaze fell to the window.

Outside the window, the great night enveloped everything, with stars twinkling in the sky.

Cheng Guang's sight settled on Qin Yanqiu lying on the bed, her eyes slightly closed, who had fallen asleep.

Cheng Guang noticed that there were still some tears at the corners of Qin Yanqiu's eyes.

He sighed.

He walked quietly to the side of the bed, gently wiped the tears from the corners of Qin Yanqiu's eyes, picked up her delicate body, embraced her, covered her tightly with the blanket, and slowly fell asleep.

The next day.

When the sky was slightly bright.

Cheng Guang had already gotten up.

Qin Yanqiu was still asleep.

Last night, Cheng Guang had not done anything to Qin Yanqiu.

Her Silvermoon Battle Armor chafed him.

After hugging her for a while, Cheng Guang found it unbearable.

For the latter half of the night, they basically slept separately.

After getting up, Cheng Guang washed up briefly, then headed towards the military prison in North City.

The military prison within North City was not far from Duke Zhen's Mansion.

Primarily, soldiers who had committed reversals of conduct were imprisoned there.

Most of them had made minor mistakes.

If the offense were serious, they would be executed on the spot by their superior officers.

And among them, the only person who had made a serious mistake and was still alive was Qin Beifeng.

Deep inside the military prison.

Qin Beifeng was bound by iron chains on his hands and feet, looking haggard.

Having not seen him for a day, Qin Beifeng's figure had become much thinner than the day before, his complexion pale, and the corners of his mouth were stained with traces of fresh blood.

One could not see any trace of the former valiant general.

Cheng Guang entered the prison and couldn't help feeling a pang of sorrow seeing Qin Beifeng's condition.

"Princely Heir, General Qin is here. For safety, it's better if the Princely Heir does not enter the cell,"

The soldiers escorting Cheng Guang into the military prison spoke respectfully.

Cheng Guang nodded slightly without much regard.

Qin Beifeng had already become such that he practically had no means to make a move against him.

Even if there were any.

Cheng Guang himself still had the Devil Transformation Armor.

Even in his prime, Qin Beifeng was hardly a match for him.

Let alone now, Qin Beifeng was practically as good as crippled.

Cheng Guang was not the least bit flustered and slowly walked towards Qin Beifeng.

When Cheng Guang approached, Qin Beifeng seemed to sense something and slightly lifted his head to look at Cheng Guang.

Upon seeing Cheng Guang, Qin Beifeng was first stunned, then the corners of his mouth curled into a bitter smile.

"Princely Heir."

Qin Beifeng didn't spew any vicious words, merely addressing Cheng Guang.

Cheng Guang watched Qin Beifeng calmly, waiting for him to continue speaking.

He knew Qin Beifeng had more to say.

Indeed, as Cheng Guang expected.

After pausing for a moment, Qin Beifeng spoke again.

"Princely Heir, I hope you'll be kind to Yanqiu in the future."

"She is married to you, and she knows nothing of my identity, nor was she involved in these affairs."

"It is I who owe her."

With those words from Qin Beifeng, a face that once exuded martial dignity was now filled with pleading.

No matter what, Qin Yanqiu was already wed to Cheng Guang.

She was the official Wife of Crown Prince.

Because of Qin Beifeng's incident, it was highly probable that Qin Yanqiu might be sent back, and in this era, being sent back by someone of Cheng Guang's noble stature was almost as good as having killed her.

Even if Qin Yanqiu herself did not care for such matters, in the eyes of outsiders, her image was ruined.

Even under favorable circumstances where Cheng Guang did not abandon Qin Yanqiu, it was highly likely her status as Wife of Crown Prince would be unstable.

To even be considered a Concubine would already be fortunate.

Qin Beifeng could foresee the difficulties Yanqiu would face in the future because of him.

But at the moment, he had no other ability but to beg Cheng Guang.

Cheng Guang responded to Qin Beifeng's plea with a slight nod, then smiled and said, "I thought, Mr. Qin, you would ask me to save you."

At these words, the bitterness on Qin Beifeng's face deepened. He lowered his head and fell silent.

He had no face to ask Cheng Guang to save him.

After all, he had genuinely wanted to kill Cheng Guang with his own hands.

If it weren't for Cheng Guang's sudden transformation into the Iron Shell Turtle, Cheng Guang would have been killed by him by now.

Qin Beifeng shook his head, then seemed to recall something, looked up slightly at Cheng Guang, and said,

"Princely Heir, what brings you to see a dying man like me today?"

"Surely, you're not here to mock a dying man like me?"

Upon Qin Beifeng's questioning, Cheng Guang went straight to the point,

"Mr. Qin, that person from the Great Yan Dynasty, the one behind you, is he from the World Royal Family of Great Chu?"

No sooner had Cheng Guang spoken.

Qin Beifeng's lifeless expression changed instantly, his eyes widened, bloodshot.

He looked at Cheng Guang with disbelief.

He could not comprehend.

How Cheng Guang knew about that person from the Great Yan Dynasty!

And even more unfathomable.

How Cheng Guang knew...

That the person behind him was related to Great Chu!

Even if he himself was from Great Chu, the person behind him had never been exposed!!!

Qin Beifeng was confounded!

In his wide eyes, his pupils trembled slightly, filled with incredulity!

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Qin Beifeng couldn't fathom why the words "among the Great Chu royal family" would come from Cheng Guang's mouth.

What puzzled Qin Beifeng even more, was how Cheng Guang knew there were other figures lurking behind him.

Bewilderment, shock, astonishment.

All sorts of emotions surged in Qin Beifeng's heart at this moment.

Qin Beifeng slightly opened his mouth, looked at Cheng Guang, wanting to say something, but no words came out.

After a long silence,

He then slowly began to speak again, "I don't understand what the Princely Heir is talking about."

Qin Beifeng immediately wanted to bluff his way through.

In his view, Great Chu had been destroyed many years ago, and not much news had surfaced about the surviving members of Great Chu in all those years; probably Cheng Guang was just guessing.

Therefore, after a brief shock, Qin Beifeng suppressed all the complex emotions in his heart.

Seeing Qin Beifeng react in such a manner, Cheng Guang wasn't too surprised; if Qin Beifeng had immediately admitted that there were indeed other people behind him, and among those people were members of the Great Chu royal family, that would have been truly bizarre.

Cheng Guang smiled slightly, without delving deeper.

Instead, he asked out of curiosity,

"Mr. Qin, back when you were one of the Great Chu's hundred generals, I wonder if you ever saw the Great Chu Emperor or the Great Chu Empress."

When Qin Beifeng heard Cheng Guang ask this, his eyes lifted slightly to look at Cheng Guang, and even he couldn't make out Cheng Guang's intent at this point.

But because of what Cheng Guang had just said, Qin Beifeng still became somewhat wary of him.

"The Emperor and the Empress are not so easily seen; in the presence of the Emperor, we, the hundred generals, dare not look up directly, and have only seen the Emperor's face in portraits."

"As for the Empress, she made even fewer appearances, and there are pitifully few portraits of her. It is only said that the Empress was the most beautiful woman in Great Chu, and like most people in the world, they have only heard of her name but have never seen her in person."

Listening to these words, Cheng Guang felt something strange in his heart.

He had always found it peculiar.

His appearance combined the best traits of both the Great Chu Emperor and the Great Chu Empress's features, and anyone with discerning eyes could notice the resemblance to the former Great Chu Emperor and Empress upon closer inspection.

Yet, all these days, almost no one had recognized him, nor had anyone linked his appearance to that of the former Great Chu Emperor.

Later, Cheng Guang found that his resemblance to the Great Chu Emperor was not significant, but he bore a striking resemblance to the Great Chu Empress.

Even so, it was unreasonable that no one became suspicious about his appearance.

Even Qin Beifeng, a former Great Chu general, hadn't noticed anything unusual about his appearance and hadn't connected him to the Great Chu royal family at all.

It was quite preposterous.

Only now did Cheng Guang realize that the Great Chu Empress made very few public appearances back then, and there weren't many portraits of her.

Even though he resembled the Great Chu Empress, there weren't many who could recognize him; naturally, no one would link him to the Great Chu Emperor.

Cheng Guang sighed, feeling a bit relieved yet also a bit disappointed.

The relief came from the fact that the Great Chu Empress rarely showed her face, and few people knew of her appearance, so his looks did not bring disaster upon him.

The disappointment came because now, if he wanted to make use of Qin Beifeng to find the remnants of Great Chu, it would take extra effort.

Qin Beifeng would not easily agree to lead him to those behind him.

It seemed he could only attempt to make a deal for now.

With this thought in mind, Cheng Guang turned to Qin Beifeng and said, "Mr. Qin, I can save you, but I have only one request – you must take me to meet the person behind you."

As these words came out, Qin Beifeng's expression changed slightly, his immediate reaction was to shake his head in refusal, but then he quickly remembered his earlier statement claiming ignorance of what Cheng Guang was talking about, so he abruptly stopped the motion, returning his expression to normal.

Qin Beifeng wore a bitter look.

"The Princely Heir is joking, I don't have anyone behind the scenes."

"The Princely Heir has no need to save me."

In response to Cheng Guang's reaction, Cheng Guang was not particularly surprised but merely laughed again, "Mr. Qin, you may not value your own life right now, but someone will certainly value it."

"What do you think, if I spread the word that you will be executed in a few days, would the person behind you come to save you when they hear the news?"

"By then, we might as well stage an act of luring the tiger out of the mountain..."

Before Cheng Guang could finish, the composure Qin Beifeng just had was instantly difficult to maintain, looking unbelievably at the smiling and distinguished Duke of the State's Heir before him.

Clearly, he had not anticipated that Cheng Guang could be so shameless.

Cheng Guang exuded such confidence, as if he was certain that there were other people behind Qin Beifeng.

Why could this Duke of the State's Heir know about this?

Qin Beifeng didn't understand, was baffled, and at the same time, a sense of powerlessness arose.

If Cheng Guang were to indeed spread the news of his execution, the person who heard the news would, despite others' objections, try to save him.

By then, if that person's identity were exposed, the World Royal Family would not ignore it.

If they could join forces to cut the roots of Great Chu in the past, they would not leave a glimmer of hope for Great Chu today.

Qin Beifeng's expression became extremely complex, conflicted; in his eyes that looked at Cheng Guang, there was also an endless chill and anger.

Cheng Guang threatened him in such a way, holding a clear advantage, not worried at all that Qin Beifeng might disregard the matter.

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Qin Beifeng could no longer keep up the pretense; his psychological defenses crumbled at Cheng Guang's relentless probing, and he gritted his teeth, "Princely Heir, what exactly do you want to do?"

"Right now, I'm acting alone and will take responsibility for my actions. It doesn't matter if someone is behind me or not; what you're doing is pointless."

With a faint smile on his face, Cheng Guang said, "How can you say it's pointless."

Cheng Guang spoke with profound implications, paused for a moment, then walked over to Qin Beifeng with an air of composure, looking into his eyes that were slightly reddened.

"Mr. Qin, rest assured, I simply wish to meet the person behind you, nothing more."

Upon hearing Cheng Guang's words, Qin Beifeng didn't trust him at all.

Although Qin Beifeng didn't know how Cheng Guang had learned of the existence of another person behind him, nor how he knew that the person was from the World Royal Family of Great Chu,

Qin Beifeng knew that Cheng Guang would definitely not come to him without reason.

On the surface, the condition for helping him escape was merely to meet the person behind him...

Is it necessary?

What would change if they met?

And what if they didn't?

Was it to completely uproot the person behind him?

As Qin Beifeng pondered, a chill ran down his spine, and he dared not speak to Cheng Guang any further, choosing instead to close his eyes.

In doing so, Qin Beifeng had decided to feign death.

He was gambling, betting that Cheng Guang, the esteemed Town-Nation Duke's Heir, wouldn't be so shameless, and also betting that his own patron would not come to rescue him.

Cheng Guang didn't care.

He had long anticipated that it wouldn't be easy to get in contact with that remnant of Great Chu through Qin Beifeng.

After a chuckle, Cheng Guang turned to leave, but paused near the cell door and said with a smile, "Mr. Qin, I recently learned that there have been sightings of Chu remnants in Skyfire City, the Imperial Capital of the Great Yan Dynasty."

"Several royal families have already begun to take action, preparing to encircle and suppress these Chu remnants."

"I was thinking, perhaps Mr. Qin knows this Chu remnant."

"It's a pity that Mr. Qin, once a prominent general of Great Chu, does not recognize the other party; that Chu remnant must be an imposter."

After finishing, Cheng Guang was about to turn around and leave the military prison.

However, at this moment, behind him, Qin Beifeng, who had just closed his eyes and seemed unwilling to say more, suddenly opened his eyes, his bloodshot gaze fixated on Cheng Guang.

Qin Beifeng's eyes were wide open, filled with disbelief!

This is impossible!

The whereabouts of that noble had always been well concealed; how could they have been exposed?

Moreover...

How did Cheng Guang, the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, come to know that his patron was in Skyfire City, the Imperial Capital of the Great Yan Dynasty?

If his patron's whereabouts were truly exposed, it would be very ill-omened!

"Wait!"

Just as Cheng Guang was about to exit the military prison, Qin Beifeng hastily called out to stop him.

Cheng Guang paused in his steps, turned his body, and his gaze fell upon Qin Beifeng,

Qin Beifeng's eyes were full of conflict and struggle, and he finally gritted his teeth, "Princely Heir, is what you said true? If you get me out, do you merely wish to meet the person behind me?"

Hearing Qin Beifeng say this, a slight smile appeared at the corner of Cheng Guang's mouth.

The words he had said earlier were naturally not true; they were just to provoke Qin Beifeng.

Though it was bound to happen in the future, at the moment, the whereabouts of the Great Chu remnant had not been exposed, and the World Royal Family had no basis for action against Great Chu.

Qin Beifeng might have guessed that Cheng Guang's words were false, but he didn't dare take the risk.

Because every word that Cheng Guang spoke was full of confidence, with not the slightest hint of deceit.

If the whereabouts of that noble were indeed exposed, the situation would be extremely perilous; if he were to perish in such a manner, the consequences would be unthinkable.

Cheng Guang nodded slightly and sighed, "Mr. Qin, if I wanted to do anything to the person behind you, why would I bother to come to you?"

"As a clever man, Mr. Qin, you must understand this point of reasoning."

Qin Beifeng nodded slightly, his expression somewhat bitter as he said, "What the Princely Heir said makes sense."

"However, I hope the Princely Heir will agree to one condition."

Cheng Guang clicked his tongue, "You sure have a lot of conditions."

Qin Beifeng remained silent.

Seeing Qin Beifeng's demeanor, Cheng Guang felt it was tedious and said helplessly, "Speak."

Qin Beifeng said, "I hope that when the Princely Heir goes to meet my lord, you won't bring anyone else, and it would be best to go alone."

When Cheng Guang heard Qin Beifeng speak like this, he wanted to laugh.

"Do you mean to send away everyone by my side so you can strike at me in the dark?"

Qin Beifeng felt a bit embarrassed as well.

He had just been contemplating assassinating Cheng Guang, yet now, he wanted Cheng Guang to send away his guards and follow him alone to meet his so-called patron.

Even Qin Beifeng himself found it somewhat hard to bear.

But it was a necessary maneuver.

That noble was far too important; no mishaps or accidents could be allowed.

If it weren't for this revelation from Cheng Guang that his lord's whereabouts had been exposed, and his desire to go out and aid his patron, Qin Beifeng himself would not want to struggle any longer and was prepared to die a gruesome death.

"Princely Heir, I hope you can trust me; I will not lay a hand on you," he said.

"Moreover, the Princely Heir should also know that I am actually incapable of injuring you," Qin Beifeng added after a moment's hesitation.

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Qin Beifeng was, indeed, not wrong in his statement—unless he suddenly ascended to the Heavenly Human Realm, there was no way he could harm himself in his Iron Shell Turtle state.

Cheng Guang watched Qin Beifeng for a moment and, after slightly nodding his head, turned and walked away.

He waved his hand behind him towards Qin Beifeng.

"Fine then, Mr. Qin, you rest up for now."

Cheng Guang exited the military prison.

Qin Beifeng gazed at Cheng Guang's retreating figure, a look of bewilderment on his face.

No, wait.

Princely Heir, what did your "fine then" mean?

Did you agree, or did you not?

Qin Beifeng felt an inexplicable discomfort in his heart, his gaze carrying a trace of sorrow as he watched Cheng Guang leave.

Once Cheng Guang's silhouette had completely vanished from his sight,

Qin Beifeng's eyes drooped, his gaze falling upon the cold stone slabs of the military prison's floor. His pupils flickered with an indescribable sheen, his thoughts drifting off to somewhere unknown.

.....

Cheng Guang did not actually plan on completely agreeing to Qin Beifeng's terms; he was still going to bring guards with him.

If he couldn't have guards out in the open, then he'd resort to using ones in secret.

As for Qin Beifeng, Cheng Guang couldn't afford to let down his guard completely.

Maintaining a high level of vigilance was the proper respect to show towards Qin Beifeng, the backstabber.

Cheng Guang left the military prison and returned to Duke Zhen's Mansion, where he sought out Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan.

Duke Zhen Guo was currently enjoying tea in the palace hall.

While perusing reports sent by his subordinates, he was also subtly nurturing his body.

Even though Duke Zhen managed to repel the two Demon Kings and the numerous Demon Beasts after their battle, and did not suffer any obvious injuries, there were many hidden ones.

These hidden injuries required time to heal gradually and couldn't be resolved instantly.

Upon sensing the door being pushed open, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, lightly raised his eyes. An ancient and authoritative gaze landed on Cheng Guang.

"Grandson, why have you come? Sit down first."

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, gestured for Cheng Guang to sit down.

At the same time, he looked slightly puzzled. Why was his grandson coming to see him again?

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, found that Cheng Guang would not come to him for no reason. Each time he visited, either something significant was occurring, or an accident had happened.

Overall, it didn't seem like any good news would follow.

So Duke Zhen Guo faced Cheng Guang with an involuntary sense of tension.

Cheng Guang, unaffected by Duke Zhen Guo's nervousness, walked up to him, sat down, and said,

"Grandfather, I came here regarding Qin Beifeng."

When Duke Zhen Guo heard Cheng Guang say this, he uttered a light "Oh," and inwardly he sighed with relief.

Thankfully, no major incident had occurred.

Duke Zhen Guo smiled kindly at Cheng Guang and asked, "So, grandson, are you intending to plead for leniency on behalf of Qin Beifeng?"

Cheng Guang slightly nodded and then shook his head a bit, "Not quite. Qin Beifeng still has his uses. It would be rather regrettable if he just died simply like that."

Duke Zhen Guo's expression faltered for a moment after hearing Cheng Guang's words before he chuckled, evidently surprised by such a response.

If Cheng Guang truly intended to plead for Qin Beifeng, even if he would not voice any concerns, Duke Zhen Guo would have felt a certain level of disappointment.

The leader of an army, or even an empire, should never harbor unwarranted sentiments of compassion.

Letting emotions dictate decisions could potentially lead to immense disasters in the future.

Duke Zhen Guo had assumed Cheng Guang came to plead for Qin Beifeng, but he did not expect Cheng Guang to present such a rationale.

Qin Beifeng still had value; to let him die would be too wasteful.

This was a sound reason.

Duke Zhen Guo looked towards Cheng Guang, his eyes revealing a hint of admiration.

He shared the sentiment. With exceptional talent, Qin Beifeng had reached the Ninth-order Martial Emperor Realm by just fifty and, given time, could ascend to the Heavenly Human Realm, becoming the second amongst the Northern Expedition Army, after himself, to be elevated to a Sky-Man.

This was why Duke Zhen Guo had valued Qin Beifeng so highly before.

However, Qin Beifeng was now a man of Great Chu, having even betrayed the Northern Expedition Army.

Even though beheading Qin Beifeng would be a pity, there was little that Duke Zhen Guo could do about it now.

He couldn't possibly get Qin Beifeng's loyalty back from Great Chu.

Thus, Duke Zhen Guo was resolute in his decision to execute Qin Beifeng.

Now hearing from Cheng Guang that Qin Beifeng still had utility, he felt somewhat relieved, but then he sighed.

"Grandson, even though Qin Beifeng does have his uses, the danger and risks he brings are much greater than the benefits," said Duke Zhen Guo.

"The Northern Expedition Army can no longer accommodate him."

As he said this, Duke Zhen Guo observed Cheng Guang's expression and noted that there was not much change, yet a faint smile was blossoming on his face.

Duke Zhen Guo felt puzzled.

Just as he was about to inquire, he heard Cheng Guang speak,

"Grandfather, the value I'm talking about doesn't only lie in Qin Beifeng's strength but something else."

"Qin Beifeng's betrayal of the Northern Expedition Army— he's merely a pawn. There are others behind him."

"I think I can use Qin Beifeng to locate the person pulling the strings behind the scenes."

On hearing these words from Cheng Guang, Duke Zhen Guo's experienced and authoritative eyes flickered with surprise, "Grandson, are you saying there are others behind Qin Beifeng?"

"Qin Beifeng was one of the hundred generals of Great Chu, not many could command him or use him as a chess piece."

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"Could it be..."

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, seemed to have thought of something, his eyes intently staring at Cheng Guang as he quickly spoke up and asked.

"My grandson, have you discovered something? Could the person behind Qin Beifeng be the remnants of the Great Chu royal family?"

Cheng Guang shook his head, "It's not certain yet, so first we use Qin Beifeng to investigate. If we find out, we can also eradicate the potential troubles of the Northern Expedition Army once and for all."

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, felt that what Cheng Guang said made sense and slightly nodded in agreement.

"Since you've said so, my grandson, let's proceed with that."

"We can use Qin Beifeng to investigate, just don't get hurt."

Having obtained the agreement of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, Cheng Guang considered his goal achieved.

Without chatting much more with Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, Cheng Guang planned to go to the military prison to fetch Qin Beifeng.

As he was about to leave, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, seemed to suddenly remember something; the teacup he had brought to his lips was placed back down as he looked towards Cheng Guang and said, "My grandson, this marriage arrangement was my poor selection."

"Given the scandal that has occurred with Qin Beifeng, allowing him to become part of our Cheng Family by marriage would likely turn us into a joke throughout the land."

"When you return to the Capital city, let your parents choose another match for you. I shall not interfere in this matter any further."

"As for Yanqiu..."

As Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, said this, his tone briefly faltered, and a complex expression emerged on his dignified, aging face. He stroked his beard and slowly continued, "After all, she has already been wed. You should treat her well; if she can't be the main wife, having her as a concubine is also very good."

Cheng Guang nodded slightly, agreeing, "Understood, Grandfather."

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, gave a slight nod, then began to gesture for Cheng Guang to leave.

After leaving Duke Zhen's Mansion, Cheng Guang headed straight for the military prison in North City.

Without Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's consent, he would not be able to release Qin Beifeng from the prison, so he had to make several trips.

Cheng Guang had not expected that he would persuade Duke Zhen Guo so easily.

Perhaps Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, himself was filled with hesitation over whether or not to execute Qin Beifeng.

Although Qin Beifeng had targeted Duke Zhen Guo and betrayed North City, before the outbreak of this incident, Qin Beifeng had always behaved properly for many years.

With so much kindness shared, even Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, could not easily let go.

He was perhaps trying to find a reason for himself to allow Qin Beifeng to live.

But after much thought, he found no suitable reason. Even if his heart was in anguish, he would still have to kill Qin Beifeng.

This time, however, Cheng Guang gave Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, such a reason: Qin Beifeng still had some use, so there was no need for him to die.

This is why Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, agreed without much hesitation.

Cheng Guang released Qin Beifeng from the military prison, had the soldiers give him a simple wash and changed him into some clean clothes, then led him back to Duke Zhen's Mansion.

Qin Beifeng's steps were still somewhat unsteady. Although he was temporarily free, the restrictions on his cultivation had not been lifted.

At this moment, the purpose was merely to release Qin Beifeng from his cell; they could not be too cautious.

As Qin Beifeng approached the gate of Duke Zhen's Mansion, his expression was complex.

Previously, when he came to Duke Zhen's Mansion, he was a great general of the Northern Expedition Army, full of vim and vigor, but now, he had become a traitor to the Northern Expedition Army, an object of universal contempt.

From the military prison to Duke Zhen's Mansion, he made his way.

Qin Beifeng could not count how many scornful glances he received from the soldiers they passed along the way.

He knew that if it weren't for the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, Cheng Guang, standing by his side, he would probably not know how many times he would have been spat upon by the passing soldiers.

Cheng Guang walked ahead.

"Mr. Qin, stop dawdling, let's go. Qin Yanqiu has been quite worried about you these past days. Now that you're out, it's a good opportunity to see her."

Upon hearing those three words, "Qin Yanqiu," Qin Beifeng's heart trembled, recalling how he had willingly sent his daughter from a young age to be raised by the Duke to gain the Duke's trust and even sacrificing her to marry the Princely Heir.

And yet it wasn't enough.

He had even, at one point, been willing to use the death of Qin Yanqiu to weaken the spirits of the soldiers enamored with her, to gain control of some soldiers and open the city gates.

For Great Chu, for that person of high standing.

Qin Beifeng believed whatever he gave was worth it.

But Qin Yanqiu knew nothing, understood nothing, yet she had already sacrificed so much for him.

At this moment, Qin Beifeng felt ashamed to face Qin Yanqiu.

Following Cheng Guang, he entered Duke Zhen's Mansion, nearing the courtyard.

Qin Beifeng's nerves increasingly tensed.

His palms were sweaty, yet his limbs were cold.

Following Cheng Guang into the courtyard, Qin Beifeng saw Qin Yanqiu sitting in a gazebo on the side, her gaze vacant as she stared into the distance.

Her eyes were red with swollen rims, and the corners held lingering tears, as if she had just been crying.

Upon witnessing this, Qin Beifeng sighed again inside.

Cheng Guang stood at the doorway and let out a soft cough.

Qin Yanqiu heard the noise and immediately turned her head, first looking at Cheng Guang. She seemed a bit frantically to wipe away the tears at her eyes, as if she didn't want Cheng Guang to see her in such a vulnerable state.

Her complexion, much paler than the day before, contrasted with her silvery-white long hair.

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Pale as pear blossoms, her face, slender as willow branches, her waist.

Despite the redness rimming her eyes, weariness was still evident.

Cheng Guang, seeing Qin Yanqiu in such a state, remained unconcerned, aware that this was simply her nature.

After all, she was the Female Martial God, a figure of considerable resilience, revealing little of her vulnerability even before her own father, let alone before him.

Cheng Guang turned his head to look at Qin Beifeng by his side.

His gaze swept to the figure behind him, and his expression suddenly turned to mild surprise.

Qin Beifeng, a man of stature, now showed the timid shyness and awkwardness of a young girl.

Quietly hiding behind Cheng Guang, he kept his head down, silent.

Seeing this, Cheng Guang felt a bit helpless and slightly stepped aside to reveal Qin Beifeng, who was concealed behind him.

Qin Yanqiu had initially focused all her attention on Cheng Guang, but upon seeing him step aside and expose the silhouette behind him, her expression instantly filled with astonishment, and then she felt like crying again.

"Father..."

Qin Yanqiu glanced at Qin Beifeng behind Cheng Guang and then at Cheng Guang himself, momentarily at a loss, but she quickly realized it was Cheng Guang who had rescued Qin Beifeng.

In that moment, Qin Yanqiu's gratitude towards Cheng Guang soared to its zenith.

"Princely Heir, you... this... I..."

Qin Yanqiu shifted her gaze away from Qin Beifeng back to Cheng Guang, her hands flailing as if not under her control. Being naturally cool in disposition, she was at a loss for words in such a situation.

Cheng Guang smiled, "No need for further words. Have a good talk with your father and tell him to stop scheming against me if he can. We will be setting off for the Capital city tomorrow."

After saying this, Cheng Guang stood up and returned to his bedroom.

He left Qin Yanqiu and Qin Beifeng to their time together.

Qin Beifeng, at this moment, was unreliable.

Even his rescue hadn't been out of allegiance to himself.

The promise Qin Beifeng made to let him see the person behind him was merely a transaction.

There was no telling what other variables might arise later.

Therefore, controlling Qin Beifeng was not a simple task for Cheng Guang. Using Qin Yanqiu to leverage Qin Beifeng could be effective but not significantly.

After all, Qin Beifeng was a ruthless man who was capable of using his daughter's life to achieve his aims.

In the face of his goals, everything else was trivial.

While Qin Yanqiu was indeed Qin Beifeng's daughter and he held a certain affection for her, it was not profoundly deep.

It was as if the bond had been cultivated rather than being rooted in blood kinship.

Cheng Guang wasn't sure if he was overthinking it.

Cheng Guang sat cross-legged in the bedroom to rest. As the night deepened and Qing Luan had prepared the dinner outside with a good number of dishes laid out, he stepped out again.

Approaching the stone table in the courtyard, seeing the many dishes and pastries, he did not hesitate and called to Qing Luan, who was still busy, "Qing Luan, no need to cook any more dishes, this is already enough."

Qing Luan hesitated and cast a glance at Qin Beifeng, who was talking with Qin Yanqiu aside.

Cheng Guang chuckled, "It's enough, unless my grandfather comes to join us for the meal."

Upon hearing this, Qing Luan nodded, washed her hands, put down what she was doing, and wiped her water-drenched hands on the Brocade Handkerchief.

Picking up a pot of brewed tea, she walked towards Cheng Guang.

After pouring a cup of tea for Cheng Guang, Qing Luan started to get up, her gaze about to speak when it suddenly paused on the figure behind Cheng Guang, and she froze on the spot.

"Duke..."

Qing Luan was taken aback, then quickly composed herself and bowed respectfully towards the figure behind Cheng Guang.

Cheng Guang also sensed something and turned to look behind him.

There stood Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, dressed in a grey robe, his gray hair neatly combed, his posture erect; despite his slender frame, he exuded the majesty of towering mountains.

"Grandfather, you..."

Cheng Guang looked at Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, his eyes revealing slight surprise, seemingly not expecting him to appear at that moment.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, looking at Cheng Guang and stroking his beard, smiled, "Grandson, you'll be returning to the Capital city tomorrow, and who knows when you'll visit North City again. It won't be easy for this old man to see you then."

"Before you go, I wanted to have a proper meal and chat with you."

Cheng Guang nodded slightly, responding with a smile, "Grandfather, what are you saying? Anytime you wish to see me, I'll come."

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, upon hearing this, showed a tinge of wistfulness on his aged face, "Back in the day, that's exactly what your father said. But once he got married, he stopped visiting this old man."

Cheng Guang could only smile wryly at these words.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, seemed inexplicably to be hinting to Cheng Guang:

— "Caring for the Elderly"

After speaking, Duke's gaze fell upon Qin Beifeng nearby.

Qin Beifeng, just finished communicating with Qin Yanqiu, tensed up remarkably upon the arrival of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan.

Facing Duke previously, Qin Beifeng had mentally prepared for death, enabling him to remain composed.

But now...

He no longer wished to die.

With his master in danger, he at least wanted to protect his master's journey.

If his master faced peril while he could do nothing but watch powerlessly, Qin Beifeng could never forgive himself.

After hesitating for a moment, Qin Beifeng stood up and stepped forward, giving Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, a military salute.

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"Duke."

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, gazed at Qin Beifeng, the bright, chrysanthemum-like smile he had just shown in front of Cheng Guang had vanished into thin air.

All that remained were coldness and indifference.

"Beifeng, you have disappointed me profoundly."

Qin Beifeng's expression was complicated, he clenched his teeth slightly, and just as he was about to say something, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, gestured dismissively with his hand.

Indicating he did not wish to listen.

"There are some things my grandson needs you to do, just cooperate well, and if it weren't for my grandson speaking on your behalf, I would have wanted to kill you with a single slap right now."

"Whether you can survive afterward will depend on your performance."

"If you are still obsessed with the incidents of Great Chu from years ago, even if my grandson pleads for you, I will not spare you."

After Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, finished speaking, he looked at Qin Yanqiu standing beside Qin Beifeng.

And he sighed again.

Looking at Qin Beifeng, he felt a tight knot in his heart at the thought of so many years of careful grooming.

Qin Beifeng had become nearly indistinguishable from his own son.

Who could have imagined that Qin Beifeng would betray him, betray North City, betray the Northern Expedition Army at such a time?

Having heard the words of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, Qin Beifeng was overwhelmed with shame. He had betrayed them, but his betrayal had not succeeded; instead, he had been saved by the Princely Heir's intercession.

Towards the Duke, he naturally held tremendous resentment. In his view, the fall of Great Chu had been the Duke's doing, as were the deaths of the Emperor and Empress of Great Chu.

But after so many years by the Duke's side, having spent so much time with him, Qin Beifeng could feel the charismatic integrity of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan.

Though he had emerged from a sea of corpses and blood, he was not one to slaughter indiscriminately.

In addition, as Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, had said, he was but a pawn of the World Royal Family.

But in the grand game of world affairs, was not he too a pawn?

Between pawns, where could one speak of right or wrong?

At that moment, Qin Beifeng's mood was even more despondent than he had anticipated.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, did not say much more at the time. He extended a hand, his fingertips shimmering with divine glossiness, and touched Qin Beifeng's forehead.

Qin Beifeng realized something, and his eyes widened slightly.

"Duke, you..."

Qin Beifeng attempted to struggle, but Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, did not afford him the opportunity. A bit of his aura surged out like a great mountain pressing down upon Qin Beifeng.

Qin Beifeng's body sank slightly, as though even the bluestone beneath his feet might crack.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's finger slowly touched Qin Beifeng's forehead.

Streams of Divine Power Marks and laws flooded into his mind.

Moments later, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, gradually withdrew his aura and pulled out a sesame-sized, transparent figure from Qin Beifeng's forehead.

He then took out a pitch-black stone that resembled a chunk of iron and pressed Qin Beifeng's Primordial Spirit into it.

Instantly, Qin Beifeng let out a scream of agony, shivering uncontrollably, his limbs twitched, and his eyes rolled back.

Qin Yanqiu, observing Qin Beifeng in such a state, showed a touch of worry on her otherwise serene face, yet she could sense that Duke Zhen Guo had no intention of killing Qin Beifeng.

Otherwise.

Qin Beifeng would have already been dead by now.

Therefore, Qin Yanqiu simply stayed put and did not make any unnecessary moves.

After Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, had extracted a portion of Qin Beifeng's Primordial Spirit and pressed it into the black stone, its surface began to melt, gradually shaping into a human figure.

The palm-sized figurine's face slowly became clear, visibly morphing into the likeness of Qin Beifeng.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, approvingly nodded at the pitch-black stone in his hand, seeming satisfied, and tossed the black stone to Cheng Guang.

"Grandson, although facing Qin Beifeng won't cause you harm, it is still better to be cautious. This Fate Stone of mine is a Different Treasure of the earth class, capable of linking the life of a person to this Fate Stone."

"If the Fate Stone shatters, Qin Beifeng dies."

"If Qin Beifeng dies, the Fate Stone shatters."

"No matter what you plan to have Qin Beifeng do, you can use this to control him."

Cheng Guang took the Fate Stone into his hand, feeling its cool touch, and at the same time, as he held the Fate Stone, it seemed he could sense Qin Beifeng's location as well as Qin Beifeng's thoughts.

Every move Qin Beifeng made, even the slightest intention, could not escape his eyes.

Originally, Cheng Guang had been worried that Qin Beifeng, the back-stabber, might betray him again, but now, instead, he felt secure.

Cheng Guang vaguely suspected that Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's sudden visit was to present him with a treasure.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, smiled at Cheng Guang and leisurely took a seat at an ancient table nearby, "If Qin Beifeng can wholeheartedly follow your orders, that would be excellent. This Different Treasure of mine is no match for your Devil Transformation Armor."

Cheng Guang smiled, "This is already quite remarkable."

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, nodded slightly and turned his gaze toward Qin Yanqiu, "Your father will be fine. It is just a fragmentation of the Primordial Spirit, he will recover after a night's rest."

Qin Yanqiu nodded slightly, her gaze settled on Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's face, hesitated a moment, then asked in a clear voice:

"Duke, given my father's condition, can I still marry the Princely Heir?"

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, was stunned for a moment, not expecting Qin Yanqiu to ask so directly. He thought she wouldn't care about her own marriage.

After a moment, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, couldn't help but laugh in spite of himself.

After all, Qin Yanqiu was still a girl, and no matter how bold she was, it was impossible for her to be completely indifferent about her own marriage.

He had spent too much time in the military, surrounded by men, and he was uncertain about Qin Yanqiu's thoughts.

The Duke asked with a smile, "What are your thoughts?"

Qin Yanqiu pursed her red lips, gathered her silver-white hair, and her stunning beauty barely changed with a touch of aloofness.

"I'll listen to the Duke."

"But after all, I've been married before, and I do wish to marry the Princely Heir."

"Now that my father has become like this, if I marry the Princely Heir, perhaps he might look upon my face favorably in the future and treat my father kindly."

Qin Yanqiu wasn't much for scheming; she spoke her mind as it was.

The Duke chuckled and nodded.

"Then let it be so."

"The status of the Princely Heir's wife might not do, but becoming a side consort is certainly no issue."

"Isn't that right, grandson?"

As he said this, his gaze fell upon Cheng Guang's face.

Cheng Guang felt a bit awkward, "That's the way it should be, that's the way it should be."

Cheng Guang urged Duke Zhen Guo Cheng Shiyuan to have some food.

Perhaps because Cheng Guang was to depart for the Capital city from North City the next day, that night, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, talked with Cheng Guang about many things.

Cheng Guang was also happy to keep the Duke company, as a way to chat and relieve the old man's boredom. It wasn't boring at all.

He listened to the Duke's stories from over the years.

He watched as the Duke, in his storytelling moments, displayed a spirited demeanor.

Listening to him telling stories of how he used to defeat a Devil Emperor with each punch and stomp out a Demon Emperor with each kick, fighting for three days and nights without as much as blinking.

Cheng Guang couldn't help but want to ask.

Three days and nights of fighting, don't your eyes get dry?

Cheng Guang hesitated for a moment, fearing a beating, so he didn't ask.

.....

The night deepened.

The starry sky was immaculate, and the silvery moonlight mingled with the snowflakes falling on North City, draping the ground.

Cheng Guang lay in his bedroom, finding it hard to feel sleepy.

He was still pondering whom the 'remnant of Great Chu' mentioned in the system tasks could be.

Could it be the illegitimate child of the former Emperor of Great Chu?

Or could it be that among the royals and nobles of the former Great Chu, this so-called 'remnant of Great Chu' was actually a descendent of a scion with the bloodline of the Great Chu royal family?

Cheng Guang clicked his tongue, feeling that this possibility existed.

After all, every World Royal Family and their extended clans were vast.

Although not everyone could claim a strong royal lineage, many still had it to varying degrees.

After musing for a while, Cheng Guang decided not to dwell on it further, as he would surely find out the identity of the remnant of Great Chu when they met.

Coming back to the point, he didn't know when the news of the remnant of Great Chu within the Great Yan Dynasty would be revealed.

As Cheng Guang was contemplating, sleepiness took over.

Just as he was about to drift into deep sleep, he suddenly felt a cool sensation entering his embrace.

It was the distinct touch of the Silvermoon Battle Armor.

Cold.

Hard.

And somewhat annoying.

"I mean, can't you take it off?"

"Who sleeps in armor anyway?"

Cheng Guang was helpless.

He looked down.

Inside the bedcovers, there was that impeccably beautiful and cool face.

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Cheng Guang's opinion was ultimately not adopted.

Qin Yanqiu's beautiful, cold face didn't change in the slightest as she silently snuggled into Cheng Guang's arms, closed her eyes, and seemed to intend to just sleep like that.

To Qin Yanqiu, it appeared that the affairs of the bridal chamber were just that simple.

Cheng Guang didn't know whether she truly didn't understand or was feigning ignorance.

He smirked, tempted to say something, but then he glanced at the longsword that Qin Yanqiu was clutching tightly in her hand.

Forget it.

There was no point in trying to reason with a big chunk of ice like Qin Yanqiu.

When they return to the capital city, he would confiscate her Silvermoon Battle Armor, and then she would learn what being a wife means.

The night passed without incident.

.....

The next morning, the air had cooled down considerably.

Cheng Guang set out from North City early in the morning.

The accompanying guards had already packed everything up.

Apart from the miscellanea they had brought with them on their way there, several more carriages had been added for the return journey.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, had given Cheng Guang a lot of Demon Blood and Flesh, telling him to eat it when he had nothing else to do, to replenish his body.

Most of these Demon Blood and Flesh came from high-ranking Demon Beasts, and eating them occasionally would increase one's Qi and Blood, something martial artists around the world yearned for.

Ordinary people, even if they went bankrupt, might not be able to obtain such Demon Blood and Flesh, not even a fist-sized piece.

And yet, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, had prepared several large carriages full of high-ranking Demon Blood and Flesh for Cheng Guang this time, including some from Demon Kings.

Even if Cheng Guang ate this Demon Blood and Flesh like regular meals, he would still have more than enough to last over half a year.

In a way, it was a happy problem to have.

Returning to the capital city took much less time than the journey there, only five days before they reached the capital.

Compared to North City, the climate in the capital was much milder.

And a lot more bustling.

Just entering the capital, one could hear the hawkers' cries, see the rising curls of smoke in front of tea houses, and the endless stream of pedestrians.

Arriving back in the capital, Cheng Guang felt for a moment as if he had traveled to another world.

North City didn't have so many worldly distractions; after all, it was a city of war, where everything was prepared for the sake of war.

Cheng Guang peered out through the carriage's curtain for a glance, then let it fall back into place, shifting his gaze to Qin Yanqiu, silent and seated beside him.

This was also Qin Yanqiu's first time leaving North City.

Having grown up in North City, the things she was exposed to limited her world to just that place.

Though she had experienced various customs and cultures along the way, the bustle of the capital still left her stunned.

Qin Yanqiu gazed blankly out the window, observing the vendors and their exotic wares with flickers of light in her beautiful eyes, full of curiosity about it all.

In her unconsciousness, the coldness on her face diminished significantly, replaced by an excitement towards this unknown, novel world.

Tsk, just how long has this unfortunate child been cooped up in North City?

Too pitiful.

She might have never even tasted candied hawthorns.

Cheng Guang thought as he looked at Qin Yanqiu.

He planned to take some time later to properly take Qin Yanqiu out for a visit, but for now, upon returning to the capital, the first thing was to go back to Duke's Mansion.

They'd head to the Great Yan Dynasty soon to seek out the remnants of Great Chu.

Cheng Guang couldn't afford to delay.

He did not know when the news of the Great Chu remnants would come out, and once it did, all eyes in the world would converge on the imperial city of Great Yan, Skyfire City.

If the attention of the whole world was focused there, finding those remnants of Great Chu wouldn't be so easy anymore.

Musing, Cheng Guang's gaze drifted away from Qin Yanqiu and looked outside again.

The long caravan of carriages, as they entered the capital, moved more slowly.

The pedestrians passing by, seeing the banners hung on both sides of the carriages, did not need the coachmen or guards to scold them; they moved aside with faces of respect and fear.

The journey was uneventful.

When the carriage arrived in front of Duke Zhen's Mansion, it came to a stop.

Cheng Guang stepped down from the carriage and immediately saw Cheng Zhihai and Wu Yuemei standing in front of the mansion's gate, as if they had been waiting there for some time.

Cheng Zhihai evaluated Cheng Guang; he seemed to have learned of Cheng Guang's actions in recent days from Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, and as he observed Cheng Guang, a hint of pride and satisfaction unintentionally showed in his gaze.

Why, his own son Guanger had managed to accomplish one big thing after another just after arriving in North City.

First, he helped Duke Zhen Guo save Qin Yanqiu, who had accidentally fallen into a Secret Realm, and then he captured Qin Beifeng, who had betrayed the Northern Expedition Army.

That was quite impressive.

Having come to this realization, Cheng Zhihai's eyes shifted, moving from Cheng Guang to Qin Beifeng, who stood not far besides Cheng Guang, silent.

Qin Beifeng looked much thinner than before in both stature and appearance.

It was as if he wasn't the same person from their last encounter.

Cheng Zhihai looked at Qin Beifeng with mixed feelings.

The Duke had not expected Qin Beifeng to betray North City and the Northern Expedition Army.

Neither had he.

Cheng Zhihai had already prepared himself for the possibility of becoming in-laws with Qin Beifeng, and now it had almost turned into enmity.

Well, things have turned out quite differently.

Qin Beifeng was now a prisoner.

And the position of Qin Yanqiu's main wife was gone.