

My System 351

Chapter 351 - Who Are You, If Not You? Thanks to the Great Mother! (Please Subscribe)_2

If the Duke weren't soft-hearted, knowing that all of Qin Beifeng's actions had nothing to do with Qin Yanqiu, they wouldn't even be able to become in-laws with Guanger's concubine's family.

Cheng Zhihai sighed, "Qin, why put yourself through this agony?"

When Qin Beifeng heard Cheng Zhihai's words, his eyes dimmed slightly, but he didn't say anything and just silently shook his head.

Cheng Shiyuan knew that Qin Beifeng was not in the mood for much conversation at the moment, so he turned his gaze to Qin Yanqiu who was standing aside.

He had seen Qin Yanqiu's countenance in the paintings.

The experience of seeing her in person was different from seeing her in the paintings.

Just one glance at Qin Yanqiu, and Cheng Zhihai's spirits brightened; clad in armor, she radiated a military air purged of any artifice, not someone prone to scheming.

If it weren't for the mess Qin Beifeng had caused, she would have been most suitable as Guanger's principal wife.

Now, there was little chance of that.

Cheng Zhihai sighed again, feeling it a pity.

In a brief moment, Cheng Zhihai didn't know how many times he had sighed.

Qin Beifeng could somewhat understand Cheng Zhihai's thoughts; he too felt uncomfortable, but he had brought this situation upon himself. To him, these sacrifices seemed necessary for the sake of Great Chu.

If his plans had succeeded, Duke Zhen's Mansion would have collapsed, and then the spectacle would have been something to see.

Now that his plans had not succeeded and he had ended up looking like this, it was the consequence he had to bear.

Qin Beifeng didn't feel much; he just thought it unfair to Qin Yanqiu.

Cheng Shiyuan and Qin Beifeng both seemed to be burdened with heavy thoughts.

In contrast, Wu Yuemei appeared "carefree", her face breaking into a bright and tender smile with Cheng Guang's return.

She walked swiftly to him, took his hand, and then tenderly cupped his cheeks to look closely at him.

"Guanger, have you suffered on your trip to North City, to your grandfather's place? Your face seems to have slimmed down quite a bit during this time."

"Your grandfather told me that you've done a lot of important work in North City and earned quite some merit, which is truly remarkable. Yet, you mustn't neglect your health either."

"By the way, speaking of which, were you injured in North City? I heard that you were hurt by someone... Qin Gaozhi? It was him, huh..."

"He's dead? Well, that settles it. Our Guanger is so honest and well-behaved, how could anyone bear to bully you?"

At this moment, Wu Yuemei was quite the chatterbox, pulling Cheng Guang along and talking.

Cheng Guang wasn't annoyed and responded intermittently to Wu Yuemei's words with a smile.

After talking with Cheng Guang for a while, Wu Yuemei rolled her eyes at him, a mix of indulgence and helplessness, "You child, always making us worry whenever you leave home."

"It was the same with the Great Zhou and Great Wei martial competition, and it's the same with this trip to North City. The Great Yan Dynasty was in turmoil, and you just happened to be in the middle of withdrawing from the Border Area. Thank goodness nothing happened this time, what would your mother do?"

Cheng Guang patted Wu Yuemei's hand with a smile and said, "Mom, don't worry needlessly, I have a strong will to live; I won't die so easily."

Wu Yuemei snorted lightly and gently shook off Cheng Guang's hand, taking Qin Yanqiu's hand instead and examining her closely.

"So, you must be Yanqiu."

Qin Yanqiu knew the beautiful woman before her was the Princely Heir's mother, and her cool features twitched as she tried to reveal a pleasing smile. However, her attempt only resulted in a strained half-smile.

Yet even that was beautiful.

Wu Yuemei, aware of Qin Yanqiu's temperament, covered her mouth and chuckled, "Child, you just call me 'mom' like Cheng Guang does. Originally, I planned to have another wedding ceremony in the Capital City before asking you to call me that, but now..."

"So there's no plan for another wedding; you'll just stay here in the mansion with us."

As Wu Yuemei spoke, it was as if she remembered something, and she said to Qin Yanqiu, "Yanqiu, the Duke has informed me that as long as you bear Guanger a child, afterward, whether you wish to continue living in the mansion or return to North City or to the Northern Expedition Army, it will be your choice."

When Qin Yanqiu heard Wu Yuemei say this, she felt a bit relieved in her heart, as she was looking forward to returning to North City sooner.

Although the Capital City was bustling with excitement, she had always felt like an outsider, unable to fit in with its ways. North City was the place where she belonged.

"Um... Mom..."

Qin Yanqiu nodded and hesitated for a moment before finally calling out "mom".

Qin Yanqiu was not naive; she knew that under the current circumstances, she would inevitably stay at Duke Zhen's Mansion for a while, so she should keep her future mother-in-law happy.

When she called out "mom", Qin Yanqiu felt a moment of disorientation.

Ever since she could remember, she had little concept of a mother.

Her father had raised her from a young age.

It was as if she had never had a mother.

In the past, when she asked Qin Beifeng, he never gave her a straight answer and just dismissed it casually.

Qin Yanqiu's cool gaze dropped slightly, and a touch of loss crossed the depth of her eyes.

She decided to ask Qin Beifeng again later whether her mother was dead or alive, as she did not even know.

This left a touch of bitterness in Qin Yanqiu's heart.

Wu Yuemei, not noticing Qin Yanqiu's thoughts, pulled her by the hand and called to Cheng Guang to come inside.

Chapter 352 - Who Are You, If Not You? Thanks to the Great Mother! (Please Subscribe)_3

Cheng Guang followed behind Wu Yuemei, watching her chat with Qin Yanqiu in an intermittent fashion and couldn't help but chuckle and shake his head.

Indeed, with a daughter-in-law in mind, one forgets one's own child.

But when did the Duke ever tell his own mother to let Qin Yanqiu choose where to go after having a child?

Although Cheng Guang also knew that Qin Yanqiu wouldn't stay in the Capital city for long and would inevitably return to North City,

he never expected the Duke of the State to use the matter of having children as a leverage over Qin Yanqiu.

Tsk, is this the obsession with childbearing inherent in the principle of single-line inheritance?

Cheng Guang felt the weight of responsibility on his shoulders.

After following Wu Yuemei into the mansion and settling down the things he brought back from North City, Cheng Guang returned to Million Specie Garden.

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After several days away from the mansion, Million Specie Garden showed little disarray, indicating that even in Cheng Guang's absence, Wu Yuemei still instructed the servants to keep his garden clean.

Cheng Guang sat in the pavilion, watching Qing Luan pack up the luggage, his gaze wandering to the outside of the courtyard.

On the way to the mansion, after some idle chat, Wu Yuemei found out that Qin Yanqiu hadn't shared a room with Cheng Guang yet and frowned.

Immediately after,

Qin Yanqiu was taken away by Wu Yuemei.

The two of them, who knows what they talked about.

And Qin Beifeng was pulled away by Cheng Zhihai; before this affair came to light, the two men had a very good relationship.

Now, with this incident, their pure friendship had been tainted with strange elements.

As soon as he entered the mansion, soon Cheng Guang was left all alone.

Cheng Guang didn't mind; he sipped his tea while waiting for Qin Yanqiu and Qin Beifeng to return, as he pondered for an excuse to convince Cheng Zhihai and the others to let him go to the Great Yan Dynasty.

The Great Yan Dynasty was even more distant than North City.

The distribution of the world's dynasties was not regular, and the four major dynasties weren't adjacent; in between the Great Zhou Dynasty and the Great Yan Dynasty were several smaller dynasties.

Going to the Great Yan Dynasty would at least take half a month, and if any mishaps occurred, it could take several months.

Getting Cheng Zhihai and the others to agree to let him go to the Great Yan Dynasty was far from a simple matter.

If Cheng Zhihai and Wu Yuemei refused to agree, should he sneak out on his own?

Cheng Guang took a sip of his tea, his thoughts slowly unfolding in his mind.

As he pondered, he heard some noise from outside the courtyard.

Cheng Guang looked outside and saw Qin Beifeng and Qin Yanqiu returning together.

Qin Beifeng appeared deeply troubled, while Qin Yanqiu, usually cold in demeanor, showed a few hints of red on her face, leaving one to wonder what each had experienced.

At their side, Cheng Zhihai rubbed his forehead with a pained look on his face.

Cheng Zhihai walked into Million Specie Garden, looking at Cheng Guang and waved, saying, "Guanger, come, there's something else."

On hearing Cheng Zhihai speak this way, Cheng Guang stood up, a puzzled look on his face, "What's wrong?"

Cheng Zhihai rubbed his forehead helplessly and said, "Guanger, did you know about the recent unrest in the Great Yan Dynasty?"

Cheng Guang nodded.

He was aware of it, and it was precisely because of the internal turmoil in the Great Yan Dynasty that they withdrew their troops from the Border Area, which amounted to a stab in the back for North City.

Indeed, the internal turmoil in the Great Yan Dynasty seemed to be related to Qin Beifeng and the remnant from Great Chu behind him.

Cheng Zhihai sighed and massaged his furrowed brow, "After the unrest in the Great Yan Dynasty, some intelligence faintly came from there suggesting the presence of remnants from Great Chu."

Upon hearing Cheng Zhihai say this, Cheng Guang's eyes widened uncontrollably.

The identity of that remnant from Great Chu was exposed? So soon?

Cheng Guang was startled, but not overly anxious, since it was still just a piece of news. Even if the World Royal Family wanted to eradicate the roots of Great Chu, it wouldn't be easy to find that remnant from Great Chu.

He still had time and opportunity.

If he could find that remnant of Great Chu before the World Royal Family, his mission still had a chance of success.

Meanwhile, Qin Beifeng's brow also furrowed deeply.

His face harbored deep worry.

If it weren't for the circumstances not allowing it, he would have even considered going to the Great Yan Dynasty alone and swiftly.

Cheng Guang suppressed the surprise in his heart, looking to Cheng Zhihai, waiting for him to continue.

Telling him about the remnants from Great Chu in the Great Yan Dynasty certainly meant more than just informing him; there surely was a follow-up.

And just as Cheng Guang expected,

Under Cheng Guang's watchful eye, Cheng Zhihai spoke reluctantly.

"The Emperor just sent me a message, asking us at the Bureau of the Lamp to immediately investigate the information about remnants from Great Chu in the Great Yan Dynasty. If we can find that remnant before the other royal families do, then we should bring them back; but if we can't find them before the others and discover the remnant later on, then we should secretly eliminate them," he said.

"If this matter is accomplished, it will be a great achievement, but if not, it could incur the Emperor's blame."

"I was planning to just send someone, perhaps Qian Siyuan or another Gold Lantern Catcher, to go to the Great Yan Dynasty to complete the mission, but the Emperor specifically named you for the task."

On hearing this, Cheng Guang's mouth fell slightly open, in disbelief, pointing to himself.

"Me, to go?"

Cheng Guang was naturally happy about the chance to go to the Great Yan Dynasty, but he was surprised that the Emperor himself had assigned the mission.

Chapter 353 - Who Are You, If Not You? Thanks to the Great Mother! (Please Subscribe)_4

Cheng Guang was well aware that even though his status was particularly eminent, in the eyes of Emperor Zhou, he was still just a kid.

Why would Emperor Zhou entrust such an important matter as investigating the remnants of Great Chu to him?

Cheng Guang was puzzled.

Cheng Zhihai noticed Cheng Guang's expression and said helplessly, "Guanger, you previously uncovered the Devil Clan's smuggling ports and identified the crown prince, showing exceptional performance. To Emperor Zhou, you may possess a unique talent."

"That's why the Emperor is letting you go this time."

Worry flickered in Cheng Zhihai's eyes. If it were up to him, he would never be willing to let Cheng Guang go to the Great Yan Dynasty.

With the news of the remnants of Great Chu coming out, the World Royal Family's attention would all be on the Great Yan Dynasty. Trying to find the remnants of Great Chu before anyone else among a pack of wolves was extremely difficult. If they failed to find them first, they would have to forcibly erase the remnants of Great Chu from the hands of other dynasties.

The difficulty had just climbed several new levels.

Even Cheng Zhihai, considering the task ordered by the emperor, had little confidence. How could he allow his own son, Guanger, to undertake it?

After hearing Cheng Zhihai's words, Cheng Guang felt a bit of a toothache.

So the Emperor is sending me to the Great Yan Dynasty to investigate the remnants of Great Chu because of the attention I garnered earlier.

Is this not like lifting a rock only to drop it on my own foot?

Cheng Guang felt helpless, but soon he saw the bright side.

Though the Emperor had assigned him a task, placing certain responsibilities and pressures on him, it did not affect him negatively.

The advantages far outweighed the disadvantages.

With the Emperor's command, he could not only go to the Great Yan Dynasty legitimately, but he could also bring a large group of constables from the Bureau of the Lamp. He almost didn't have to worry about his safety anymore.

And if he failed to complete the task, given his identity and status, Emperor Zhou would most likely not say much, at worst just reprimand him a few times, wounding his pride at most.

It was unlikely the Emperor would have him beheaded.

Cheng Guang thus nodded in agreement.

"Father, since the Emperor has commanded it, I shall go," he said.

Cheng Zhihai sighed, his voice filled with worry, "Guanger, you've just returned home and haven't had time to rest, and yet you have to head to the Great Yan Dynasty. You must take care of yourself and not overexert."

"If I were not otherwise engaged, I would have liked to accompany you to the Great Yan Dynasty. Since I can't go, you should take Qian Siyuan and Li Zhengyang with you this time. Both of them are strong Eighth-Rank King Realm fighters, and with Qin Beifeng by your side, no one in the world, except for the Sky-Man, could harm you," he continued.

Cheng Guang nodded at Cheng Zhihai's words.

At the same time, he also felt curious why the news of a single survivor from Great Chu could shake Emperor Zhou and even the entire royal families of the Four Directions Mortal World.

The Great Chu Dynasty had already perished, so why were they being so cautious?

Cheng Guang turned to Cheng Zhihai and voiced his doubts, "Father, is there something special about this survivor from Great Chu? Why is the World Royal Family stirring up so much over a mere, uncertain piece of news about a survivor from Great Chu?"

Cheng Zhihai shook his head, "It's not that the survivor from Great Chu is special, it's that the royal family of Great Chu is special."

Cheng Guang was caught off guard, "How so?"

Cheng Zhihai looked at Cheng Guang, smiled, and patted his forehead, "You are still young and unaware of the events of the past."

"Back then, an object of unknown rank among the Different Treasures appeared in the world. This treasure manifested as a golden list and could predict the future."

"When the golden list was revealed, everyone just had to look up to see the text written upon it."

"It read: 'Great Chu rises, the world unites.'

"These six words made every royal family view Great Chu as a fierce and dangerous beast. No royal family wished to be ruled by another dynasty, which is why the World Royal Family regarded Great Chu and its royal family with hostility."

"When Great Chu was obliterated, although our Great Zhou contributed the most and exerted the most effort, it was the result of the entire World Royal Family's behind-the-scenes maneuvering," he explained.

Cheng Zhihai continued slowly.

Qin Beifeng, who was by his side, felt a trace of sorrow upon hearing these words. He couldn't help but clench his fist tightly before releasing it with regret and helplessness.

Great Chu rises, the world unites.

This golden list that had predicted the future appeared irresponsibly and disappeared just as irresponsibly.

Great Chu hadn't even risen before it was destroyed.

With the demise of Great Chu at that moment, the world was destined not to be united under Great Chu.

Even so, the World Royal Family still refused to let go of Great Chu.

Cheng Zhihai noticed Qin Beifeng's expression and, knowing he was a former The Great Wind General of Great Chu, felt an inexplicable emotion rise in him for him.

After a pause, Cheng Zhihai added, "Though Great Chu has fallen, the royal families of the world have not forgotten the prophecy. They are curious why 'Great Chu rises, the world unites' would occur if Great Chu rose. Is there something special about the bloodline of the Great Chu royal family, or are the people within it extraordinary?"

"Many royal families are curious, but when your grandfather razed the Imperial Palace of Great Chu and exterminated the royal family, there was nowhere left for these inquisitive families to investigate."

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"Now that news of a survivor of Great Chu has surfaced, those who wish to investigate the royal family of Great Chu will not miss this opportunity."

Chapter 354 - Who Are You, If Not You? Thanks to the Great Mother! (Please Subscribe)_5

"So, Guanger, if you are the first to find the remnants of Great Chu, just kill them directly. Don't think about bringing them back. Other royal families will not allow anyone besides themselves to dig deep into the secrets of the Great Chu Imperial Family."

"If you aren't the first to find the remnants of Great Chu, there's actually no need for you to take action. Aside from the royal family who finds the remnants of Great Chu, all other royal families around the world will not stand by and will send people to do it."

"By then, you just join in the commotion, and be careful not to get hurt,"

After Cheng Zhihai finished speaking, Cheng Guang fell into contemplation.

He suddenly realized that among all the World Royal Families, it seemed that only Emperor Zhou was the least concerned about the secrets of the Great Chu Imperial Family and why Great Chu could unite the world.

It made sense.

When Great Chu fell,

The one who gained the most was Great Zhou.

The one who stormed the Imperial Palace of Great Chu, attracted the hatred of Great Chu, and was used as a pawn by the World Royal Families was the Great Zhou Dynasty.

So, in this situation, Emperor Zhou no longer cared much about why Great Chu could unite the world; he was more worried that Great Chu could achieve such unity.

Because if Great Chu were to rise from the ashes,

Other royal families around the world might still have the possibility to be absorbed by Great Chu, but the Great Zhou Dynasty does not.

Neither does Emperor Zhou.

Nor does the Great Zhou Imperial Family.

Once Great Chu rose, the fate of the entire Great Zhou Dynasty would be unimaginable.

That's why Emperor Zhou is so intent on killing all of Great Chu, not sparing even a remnant. Although he might be somewhat concerned about the secrets of the Great Chu Imperial Family, compared to the life and death of the entire Great Zhou, he could only not care and not mind it.

Having understood the reasons, Cheng Guang's expression changed.

Cheng Zhihai patted Cheng Guang's shoulder, "Guanger, don't think too much. On your trip to the Great Yan Dynasty, you will inevitably encounter people from other dynasties. Just pay more attention to your safety."

"If you are the first to find that remnant of Great Chu, just execute that person directly. No matter how much the others from those royal families might want that remnant of Great Chu, they wouldn't be able to do anything."

"They probably won't make things difficult for you."

After saying this, Cheng Zhihai looked up at the sky, which was gradually darkening.

The Capital city's lanterns were just being lit, adding a touch of brightness to the city that was slowly being enveloped by the night.

Cheng Zhihai glanced at the sky, then turned to look at the person beside him whose face was shrouded in shadow, his emotions not discernible in that moment—it was Qin Beifeng, The Great Wind General of the once mighty Great Chu.

In front of Qin Beifeng, Cheng Zhihai freely discussed past discoveries concerning Great Chu and the plan to exterminate the remnants of Great Chu with Cheng Guang.

Cheng Zhihai thought that Qin Beifeng would be angry or perhaps upset, but Qin Beifeng was not.

Cheng Zhihai sighed, walked up to Qin Beifeng, "Qin, Great Chu has fallen. That remnant of Great Chu cannot survive under the scrutiny of the World Royal Families. If you could someday change your heart and mind, and willingly work alongside my father, Duke Zhen Guo, the mistakes you made before are not irredeemable."

"Is it worth it for you to do this for a Great Chu that has no future? If you won't consider for yourself, think about Yanqiu, the child."

After saying this, Cheng Zhihai bid farewell to Cheng Guang, instructing him to get up early the next day and set off for the Great Yan Dynasty immediately.

Cheng Zhihai left quickly.

After listening to Cheng Zhihai's words, Qin Beifeng, who remained in place, showed a hint of bitterness on his lips. Experience more on empire

He had given so much for such a hopeless Great Chu, but was it worth it?

He had spent decades of his life in North City, with the Northern Expedition Army, all to gain the trust of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, and ultimately seize control of the Northern Expedition Army from Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan.

All these years of schemes came to nothing.

Did he regret it?

Qin Beifeng was silent for a moment, took a deep breath, and his eyes unexpectedly reddened slightly.

Qin Beifeng didn't know anymore.

All these years, it was obsession that sustained him.

The soul of Great Chu, the glory of Great Chu, that supported him.

Perhaps it was because he regretted.

But now, whether he regretted it or not no longer held significance.

In this life, he was a man of Great Chu and would be for all eternity.

Only...

Qin Beifeng's gaze turned to the side, to Qin Yanqiu sitting beside Cheng Guang, whose cold face bloomed with a touch of red and her eyes appeared panicked, as if she was lost in wild thoughts.

After a moment of silence, knowing that he might not return from this trip following Cheng Guang to the Great Yan Dynasty, Qin Beifeng took a deep breath and beckoned to Qin Yanqiu.

"Yanqiu."

Qin Yanqiu, hearing Qin Beifeng's voice, snapped out of her jumbled thoughts, quickly stood up straight, and walked toward Qin Beifeng.

"What is it, Father?"

Qin Yanqiu approached Qin Beifeng.

Qin Beifeng took Qin Yanqiu aside and whispered something to her.

Cheng Guang, watching from the side, did not listen closely.

It was a private matter between father and daughter, and he had no need to pay attention.

Compared to what Qin Beifeng was discussing with Qin Yanqiu, Cheng Guang was more curious about what his mother, Wu Yuemei, had said to Qin Yanqiu that made the always cool Qin Yanqiu blush for so long, as if her entire CPU had burned out.

She was exuding an air of being in a daze.

Cheng Guang stroked his chin and thought carefully, suddenly wondering if his mother could have said something inappropriate for children to Qin Yanqiu.

The thought of Qin Yanqiu, a Female Martial God who only knew about fighting and killing, being pulled aside by Wu Yuemei to be taught the secrets of the bedroom made Cheng Guang struggle to hold back a laugh.

Chapter 355 - Who Are You, If Not You? Thanks to the Great Mother! (Please Subscribe)_6

The corners of his mouth curved up inadvertently.

He found it extremely amusing.

If it was really the case, then had Qin Yanqiu grown?

For some reason, he was somewhat looking forward to Qin Yanqiu's performance tonight.

Cheng Guang slowly sipped his tea, lost in aimless thoughts.

But in a moment,

Qin Yanqiu walked back in.

Cheng Guang lifted his eyes to Qin Yanqiu, about to say something, but then noticed that something was off with her entire being.

Her cool eyes shimmered with unshed tears, and her beautiful, jade-like face was full of exhaustion.

What had happened??

Had Qin Beifeng told Qin Yanqiu a ghost story? Scared her?

Cheng Guang was puzzled.

Qin Yanqiu stood not far away, looking at Cheng Guang, sniffing, looking like she wanted to cry, then as if she didn't want Cheng Guang to see her like this, she quickly wiped the tears from the corner of her eyes.

Pretending as if nothing had happened, she sat back down beside Cheng Guang.

Without saying a word.

It was obvious to anyone with eyes that Qin Yanqiu was not in the right state, everyone except for Qin Yanqiu who thought her acting was quite good.

Cheng Guang glanced over at Qin Beifeng, noticing that his condition wasn't much different from Qin Yanqiu's, the whole person seemed a bit emo.

What's going on here??

Father and daughter chatting and both simultaneously falling into late-night emo time??

Being born as human, I'm sorry???

Cheng Guang lifted his teacup to his lips, not wanting to interfere, but seeing Qin Yanqiu forcing herself to hold on, occasionally wiping her eyes, and pretending as if nothing had happened, he couldn't help himself.

He set down his teacup.

Looked at Qin Yanqiu.

"Did something happen??"

Qin Yanqiu hastily wiped her eyes, thinking that Cheng Guang had noticed something and quickly said, "Nothing."

She was like a child who had been caught stealing snacks by the teacher, still stubbornly insisting she hadn't eaten anything.

Cheng Guang was skeptical.

"Really nothing?"

Qin Yanqiu shook her head.

"Really nothing."

Cheng Guang fell silent.

Qin Yanqiu also bowed her head again.

The air once again returned to silence.

Unintentionally, Qin Yanqiu felt like crying again.

Just as she was about to stealthily wipe her tears, a brocade handkerchief was handed over.

Without much thought, Qin Yanqiu took it and wiped her eyes, cleaning herself up. As she did so, it seemed like she suddenly realized something and quickly looked up, her gaze meeting the smiling Cheng Guang.

"Princely Heir, I... I wasn't crying..."

Qin Yanqiu hurriedly explained.

Cheng Guang laughed, "I didn't say you were crying."

Qin Yanqiu felt awkward, pursing her red lips, her clear eyes looking at Cheng Guang. Her eyes, already reddened, now grew more so, and sparkled even more with tears.

Whether she was angry at Cheng Guang or she had decided not to hold back anymore was unclear.

Cheng Guang sighed, took the brocade handkerchief, and gently wiped the corners of Qin Yanqiu's eyes, "What exactly happened? Both you and your father seem so strange right now."

Qin Yanqiu was silent for a moment, then said, "My father said, I'm not his biological daughter."

Upon hearing this, Cheng Guang first froze, and then wore a face full of question marks.

"What?"

After Qin Yanqiu spoke, she seemed a bit relieved, shaking her head in confusion.

"I don't know why. Ever since I was little, I've grown up alongside the Duke, my father."

"Now all of a sudden he says that I'm not his biological daughter, that I was picked up from the Border Area battlefield."

"I don't understand. That kind of place, normal people can't survive, let alone an infant."

"I think my father is lying, but I know him, he has no reason to lie to me about this sort of thing."

After hearing Qin Yanqiu's words, Cheng Guang himself also felt somewhat dumbfounded.

Qin Yanqiu turned out not to be the biological daughter of Qin Beifeng.

No wonder.

No wonder there had never been any news about Qin Beifeng's wife before.

No wonder Qin Beifeng had previously been able to harden his heart and use Qin Yanqiu's life to achieve his goals.

It turns out that was the reason.

Not being his biological child, so it was possible to use her.

Cheng Guang's face showed an unusual color as he gently tapped his finger on the table.

Looking at Qin Yanqiu now, he didn't know how to comfort her.

The man he thought was his father suddenly told him one day that he wasn't his biological parent, and that there was no blood relation between them—something most people could hardly bear.

It could even cause one's entire world view to collapse.

Moreover,

Qin Yanqiu was still unaware that her accidental fall into the Secret Realm was all by Qin Beifeng's doing.

If she also knew that Qin Beifeng only used her as a tool to gain the trust of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, and even plotted to take her life at one point,

one couldn't imagine what kind of collapse Qin Yanqiu would undergo.

Even though Qin Yanqiu wasn't born to Qin Beifeng, the years they had spent together had built some affection between them.

It wasn't just Qin Yanqiu who felt affection for Qin Beifeng.

The affection Qin Beifeng felt for Qin Yanqiu, while originating from a desire to use her, had inevitably mixed with some familial love.

Revealing such a matter would be too cruel, both for Qin Yanqiu and Qin Beifeng.

Cheng Guang decided to keep this matter buried in the deepest recesses of his heart.

He silently sipped his tea.

Cheng Guang raised his eyes to look at Qin Yanqiu, sighed softly, and gently wiped away the teardrops sliding down her cheeks.

"It's alright, so what if it's not by birth? The years of being together mean more than blood, don't they?"

"Don't let this weigh on your heart."

"Think of the happy things, now that we are married, your family hasn't shrunk, it has grown."

At this moment, Cheng Guang showed a tenderness he had not displayed before.

Qin Yanqiu, treated with such gentleness by Cheng Guang, first paused, then nodded slightly in a daze. Soon after, it was as if she suddenly realized something, and her cool eyes widened slightly.

The blush on her face resurfaced, then she quickly got up and left in haste, retreating into the inner room, busying herself with something unknown.

Seeing this, Cheng Guang couldn't help but find it amusing.

Though this girl was somewhat aloof, she was still quite interesting.

One moment she would cry, the next she would laugh.

It's just that her putting on a tough front and holding herself up was not quite right.

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Perhaps living in the Northern Expedition Army since her youth, self-reliance had become her creed.

She, who was called the Female Martial God by the soldiers, was after all just a girl not yet twenty years old.

Cheng Guang stood up and looked at the sky—it was already late. He prepared to go back to bed to sleep.

Qing Luan came over at the right time, speaking softly, "Princely Heir, the hot water is ready."

Cheng Guang nodded.

With the service of Qing Luan, he washed up quickly and lay down on the luxurious bed in the bedroom. Just as he was about to pull Qing Luan over to do something joyful,

Qing Luan dodged with a smile.

"Princely Heir, today it can't be Qing Luan."

After saying that, she hurriedly ran out.

Cheng Guang lay on the bed, a bit puzzled by what Qing Luan meant.

It can't be Qing Luan?

Could it be that Qing Luan had a relative visiting?

Cheng Guang pondered momentarily, then decided not to think any further and planned to fall asleep.

He didn't expect that Qin Yanqiu, the big block of ice, would come over to warm the bed.

Qin Yanqiu was more powerful than him. To have her come over, lie in the same bed still clad in armor and holding a sword, he feared any slight movement might get him cleaved in half.

As Cheng Guang felt sleepiness descend,

the bedroom door was gently pushed open.

Cheng Guang sensed something.

The next second,

a soft, cold, fragrant body slid into his arms.

Thinking it was Qing Luan, Cheng Guang was taken aback for a moment until he realized.

"No, who are you?"

Cheng Guang lifted the blanket to look at the person on the bed; his face was full of pain as he gazed at the beauty with cool eyes, quietly watching him, and he was stunned.

Qin Yanqiu?

Cheng Guang was startled.

Cheng Guang was startled for a brief moment, truly not expecting that this block of ice had finally thawed.

Suddenly thinking of something, his mouth curved into a smile.

He didn't hesitate anymore, pulling the covers back over them.

The room plunged back into darkness.

All was well.

—"Thank You, Mother"

Chapter 356 - Not So Fast (Added! Please Subscribe)

Throughout the night in the little building I listened to the wind and rain, come morning in the deep lanes they'll be selling apricot blossoms.

Duke Zhen's Mansion.

At dawn, the weather gradually warmed and the flowers and plants in the courtyard began to bloom, sprouting new branches and buds.

Compared to the bitter cold of North City, Cheng Guang couldn't help feeling as if he were worlds apart.

That day, Cheng Guang rose early to practice his martial arts.

The previous night's battle achievements were neither particularly good nor bad. Cheng Guang believed he had fought Qin Yanqiu to a draw. Perhaps he had a bit of an advantage since it was Qin Yanqiu's first time, but overall their strengths were comparable.

Uh.

One might also say that Qin Yanqiu was a tad better.

At this thought, Cheng Guang's old face reddened, and he quickly shook his head.

Practice martial arts, practice martial arts!

In those days spent in North City, Cheng Guang had hardly dedicated any time to proper cultivation, especially after acquiring the Devil Transformation Armor. He realized that even without much advancement in his cultivation, he could still be invincible under the Sky-Men, or at least not be defeated.

His motivation suddenly wasn't so strong.

But now, after being spurred on by Qin Yanqiu, Cheng Guang felt that practicing martial arts was still very necessary.

After all, the Devil Transformation Armor was just a Different Treasure; it couldn't make him truly powerful.

He had to work hard on his own.

After being slack for a few days, Cheng Guang resumed his cultivation with a speed of advancement that didn't decrease but rather increased; it seemed there was merit in combining work with rest.

In the middle of the small courtyard, Cheng Guang moved with large and wide movements, cultivating the Divine Python Coiling Skill, enhancing the Qi and Blood within his body. Every move was extremely complex and difficult, but they appeared quite effortless when performed by Cheng Guang.

Perhaps it was also due to, in North City, consuming an excessive amount of high-class Demon Beast blood and flesh, which had its quintessence stored within his body.

Without cultivation, he never had the chance to utilize it.

Now, as soon as Cheng Guang resumed his cultivation,

his Qi and Blood visibly increased.

Cheng Guang could clearly feel that every muscle, every inch of his sinews, and every bone in his body were continuously vibrating, refining pure strength during his martial arts practice.

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Between his bones, the sound of metal clashing was incessant.

All the bones in Cheng Guang's body seemed to have turned into pieces of Black Iron, being tempered over and over again.

After practicing the Divine Python Coiling Skill for a while, Cheng Guang felt his blood rush like wild horses breaking free, galloping through his veins.

In just a short moment, sweat began to form all over Cheng Guang's body. As soon as the sweat emerged on the surface of his skin, it was instantly vaporized by the temperature of his body.

Wisps of white steam rose from Cheng Guang's body, making him look extraordinary.

After several cycles of the Divine Python Coiling Skill, Cheng Guang could feel that with every breath he took, Qi was confined within his body by his strong Qi and Blood, visibly strengthening his physique.

Next, Cheng Guang practiced his own martial arts, the Heavenly Gang Star Fight, a formidable martial art he had learned from Old Deng.

Once the Divine Power Marks refined from the Heavenly Gang Star Fight were perfected to a certain degree, resonating and responding to the Heavenly and Earthly Qi, one could break through to the Prime God Realm.

If the Fourth-grade Divine Realm of martial cultivation is considered a step,

then the Fifth-grade Prime God Realm is a threshold.

If you cross over, you can borrow the Qi of heaven and earth, rely on the great power of the cosmos, and wield Divine Powers against your enemies.

Those martial artists who have not crossed into the Prime God Realm, ultimately still rely solely on their internal Qi or brute physical strength.

Even if such martial artists are strong, they are no match for a cultivator who has entered the Prime God Realm.

"After this period of accumulation, I've actually already reached the martial cultivation realm needed to break through to the Prime God Realm," Cheng Guang murmured to himself.

"After I completed Zhang Shunlong's task, the three hours of martial arts prosperity buff I received directly enlightened my Heavenly Gang Star Fight martial arts to the Application Realm. With more practice today, I have a premonition that I can break through to Ascend."

"Once I reach the Ascend Realm, breaking through to the Prime God Realm will bring even more benefits. I won't need to continue consolidating at the Prime God Realm. If my Heavenly Gang Star Fight martial arts realm breaks through to Perfect, I might even be able to break through to the Rebirth Realm in one go."

"In the Rebirth Realm, engraving the Divine Power Marks onto oneself, while not reaching the point of regenerating from a drop of blood, injuries like severed hands and feet would still be capable of recovery, of rebirth."

"Such a realm, again reaches another height."

Cheng Guang pondered joyfully in his heart; his aptitude was not low. The martial arts prosperity lasted only three hours, but it still accumulated a lot of wealth for him.

All he needed to do was to keep cultivating step by step, and perhaps before long, he would be able to commune with heaven and earth, step into the Prime God Realm, or even engrave Divine Powers onto his body and rejuvenate like a brilliant sun.

After thinking for a while, Cheng Guang practiced the God Emperor Cultivation Method for a bit and visualized the Proving Dao Map in his mind.

Cheng Guang found that as his cultivation improved, the figure of the deity in the Proving Dao Map in his mind also gradually became clearer.

Although it was still hazy and difficult to look directly at, the features of the deity's face could now be discerned.

Maybe in not too much time, I will be able to see the deity's face clearly.

Cheng Guang planned in his heart.

By noon,

Qing Luan had also woken up.

Having just returned from North City yesterday, she had been busy tidying up the Million Specie Garden and dealing with some post-arrival affairs, which was utterly exhausting, so she slept deeply and got up a little later today.

Yawning, Qing Luan saw that Cheng Guang had just finished his cultivation and quickly fetched water to the side for Cheng Guang to wash up.

Chapter 357 - Not So Fast (Added! Please Subscribe)_2

Cheng Guang washed up, splashing water over his face, while saying to Qing Luan, "Qing Luan, go to the room later and help Qin Yanqiu with a simple wash as well."

"We'll have a simple lunch at noon, and then we'll head for the Great Yan Dynasty."

Qing Luan nodded slightly and, at the right moment, took a brocade handkerchief to gently wipe the droplets from Cheng Guang's face.

After Cheng Guang finished washing up, Qing Luan then entered the bedroom to help Qin Yanqiu get up.

In a short while, Qin Yanqiu came out of the bedroom.

Her face was as beautiful and emotionless as usual.

Although Qin Yanqiu tried to hide it, her cool eyes still betrayed a hint of fatigue.

At the same time, Qin Yanqiu's way of walking was a bit unnatural compared to yesterday.

Seeing these changes in Qin Yanqiu, Cheng Guang smiled and exchanged glances with her; they both tacitly turned their heads away without saying a word.

Qing Luan went to cook.

Then, Qin Yanqiu sat in the pavilion, gently caressing her belly, and looked at Cheng Guang.

"Princely Heir, do you think I could be with child now?"

Cheng Guang picked up his teacup, about to take a sip, and upon hearing Qin Yanqiu's question, he nearly spat the freshly sipped tea out.

His teacup-holding hand trembled slightly as he swallowed the clear tea in his mouth, then looked at Qin Yanqiu.

"It's not that quick."

"?"

Qin Yanqiu looked puzzled, as if a question mark was hovering over her head.

Her cool eyes watched Cheng Guang quietly, flickering with slight confusion.

Cheng Guang sighed, "Technically, it's a matter of luck; sometimes you may conceive on the first try, and other times, if the luck isn't good, it might take many attempts."

At these words, Qin Yanqiu was a bit stunned.

Her cool gaze shifted away from Cheng Guang, which instantly relieved him of much pressure.

But the next moment, Cheng Guang became uneasy again.

He saw Qin Yanqiu start to reminisce and began to count on her fingers.

"One time, two times, three times..."

"Last night there were five times; that should be enough, right?"

Cheng Guang's eyebrows twitched slightly at her words, thinking, if five times weren't enough, did she want more?

Worried for his old back, and not wanting to continue the conversation, Cheng Guang quickly looked over to Qing Luan in the side room and shouted:

"Qing Luan, are the dishes ready yet?"

Still cooking over the fire in the side room, with some soot on her fair, jade-like cheeks, Qing Luan heard Cheng Guang's call and was a bit puzzled.

The Princely Heir, even when hungry, had never rushed her before.

Why was today different?

Could it be that last night had been exhausting?

While Qing Luan pondered this, she also replied, "Princely Heir, almost done, I just need to stir-fry one more dish."

Cheng Guang breathed a sigh of relief, turned to Qin Yanqiu with a smile, and said, "We'll eat soon, don't think about it too much."

"By the way, I'm going to the Great Yan Dynasty tomorrow, do you want to come along?"

Qin Yanqiu looked at Cheng Guang, pondered for a moment, and nodded slightly.

"Yes."

Cheng Guang was stunned; he had assumed Qin Yanqiu would not go since she had never traveled far from home.

Being in the capital city was already very uncomfortable for her.

Leaving the Great Zhou Dynasty to go to the Great Yan Dynasty, wouldn't that be making things difficult for herself?

As Cheng Guang wondered about this, he heard Qin Yanqiu, caressing her belly, murmur.

"Princely Heir, you said it's a matter of luck, if it doesn't work once, you usually need to try several times."

"If the Princely Heir goes to the Great Yan Dynasty and stays for most of the year, wouldn't I be wasting that much time?"

As she spoke, Qin Yanqiu's cool eyes glanced at Cheng Guang.

As if to say,

She wasn't foolish.

Cheng Guang's mouth twitched slightly, and he couldn't quite understand why he began to fear Qin Yanqiu. What was going on?

He secretly rubbed his slightly sore back, feeling a little exhausted.

...

The dishes Qing Luan prepared were as delicious as ever.

After the meal, Discover hidden tales at empire

Qing Luan packed Cheng Guang's personal clothes and other essentials for the journey, and followed Cheng Guang and Qin Yanqiu out the gate of the mansion.

In front of Duke Zhen's Mansion.

The scene was as grand as ever.

The members of the Bureau of the Lamp formed dense ranks in front of Duke Zhen's Mansion.

Most of the constables from the Bureau had mobilized.

At a glance, there were many Gold Lantern Catchers, an unbroken line of Silver Lantern Catchers, and countless Black Lantern Catchers.

Outsiders apparently didn't even qualify to join the mission at such times.

Cheng Zhihai stood to one side, conversing with Qian Siyuan and Li Zhengyang, the two Deputy Directors of the Bureau of the Lamp.

For this trip to the Great Yan Dynasty, to seek out the remnants of Great Chu, one could imagine that they would encounter many challenges and dangers.

Unable to go himself, Cheng Zhihai could only provide Cheng Guang with as much security as possible.

Besides the support from a host of constables from the Bureau, the best security came from the two Deputy Directors, Qian Siyuan and Li Zhengyang.

Within the Great Yan Dynasty, the Bureau of the Lamp had also established a branch. With the escort of these two Deputy Directors and the support of the branch's Director, it was likely that the journey would be safe.

Even if the mission failed, they could ensure the people's safe return.

This is what Cheng Zhihai calculated in his mind, unconcerned whether Cheng Guang would complete the mission, as long as he returned safely and soundly.

Moreover, Cheng Zhihai was also contemplating: the news of remnants from Great Chu within the Great Yan Dynasty had been spread, but it remained unclear who had disseminated this information and whether it was true or false.

Chapter 358 - Not So Fast (Added! Please Subscribe)_3

If this turns out to be a fake.

Wouldn't the World Royal Family become a laughing stock for reacting to mere rumors?

No one has the audacity to fool the World Royal Family.

Thus, this news must have come from no ordinary person.

Furthermore, most of the World Royal Family knew who had spread the news, and they trusted this person completely, without a shred of doubt, which prompted them to act immediately.

If such a character truly existed, even Cheng Zhihai himself had yet to come in contact with him, one could imagine that they were beyond his reach.

Perhaps only emperors of great dynasties or those who had reached the Heavenly Human Realm could have access to such an existence.

Cheng Zhihai thought to himself and, noticing Cheng Guang emerge from the gate, pressed down all his thoughts.

"Guanger."

Cheng Guang stepped forward and greeted Cheng Zhihai with a slight bow, then warmly regarded Wu Yuemei, who was not far from Cheng Zhihai.

Wu Yuemei's gentle and beautiful face showed a hint of worry.

"Guanger, you've barely returned and yet you must leave again, without even a few more days spent at home."

Cheng Guang consoled her with a smile, "Mother, this trip to the Great Yan Dynasty is merely a long journey due to the distance. The round trip will take some time, but that's all there is to it."

Wu Yuemei sighed, smoothed Cheng Guang's collar, patted his shoulder, and said, "Just be safe, that's all your father and I ask for."

"Besides, since the match with Yanqiu didn't work out, the Duke isn't planning to inquire into your new marriage arrangement and has left me in complete charge. If you have no objections, shall I pick someone out for you?"

Hearing what Wu Yuemei said, Cheng Guang had no objections.

Arranged marriages were the norm in this era.

Cheng Guang nodded slightly.

Wu Yuemei also nodded gently, softly saying, "Then that's settled. Once you return from the Great Yan Dynasty, you shall marry. It would be laughable for the esteemed Duke of the State's Heir not to have a principal wife."

"Speaking of which, I was quite satisfied with Yanqiu, if only Qin Beifeng hadn't stirred up such trouble."

As she said this, Wu Yuemei suddenly glared at Qin Beifeng who was standing aside and daydreaming.

Qin Beifeng groaned inwardly.

Why was he being dragged into this again?

Qin Beifeng already felt guilty towards Qin Yanqiu, and Wu Yuemei kept jabbing him where it hurt, leaving him tongue-tied in suffering.

Cheng Zhihai interrupted Wu Yuemei with a smile, "Alright, Qin has already ended up this way. Fortunately, no major disaster ensued, and that's good news."

"Guanger,"

Cheng Zhihai's eyes settled on Cheng Guang, "It's time for you to set off."

"The Great Yan Dynasty lies many thousands of miles away from the Great Zhou Dynasty. It'd be too slow on foot with just an Exotic Beast, better take the Flying Boat instead."

"Flying Boat?" Cheng Guang was briefly stunned upon hearing this from Cheng Zhihai.

He had never heard of a Flying Boat before.

What novel contraption was he speaking of now?

Noticing the confusion on Cheng Guang's face, Cheng Zhihai knew what he must be thinking, and a faint smile appeared on his lips as he began to explain. Continue your adventure with empire

"A Flying Boat is considered a high-grade Different Treasure. However, unlike ordinary Different Treasures, it has some man-made additions."

Cheng Guang still didn't quite understand.

Cheng Zhihai chuckled, not explaining much further, as he drew a delicately-made small boat from his bosom and tossed it lightly.

The palm-sized boat rapidly expanded with the wind, in the blink of an eye transforming into a massive Flying Boat that could shield the sun.

Cheng Guang glanced up toward the sky.

Below the massive Flying Boat, a distinct hexagon-shaped dark cyanstone was embedded, surrounded by runes that appeared to be drawing energy from it.

Pale blue vapors enveloped the Flying Boat.

Cheng Zhihai pointed at the Flying Boat, chuckling as he explained, "That's the Floating Stone Treasure, and the whole Flying Boat is constructed around the Floating Stone."

"Floating Stones are extremely rare Different Treasures, so a Flying Boat is a rare sight among the various dynasties. I would not be willing to bring it out, except that you are traveling to the Great Yan Dynasty this time."

Cheng Guang was at a loss for words upon hearing Cheng Zhihai.

This was essentially an alternative form of an airplane from this era, wasn't it?

Utterly enchanted.

"Climb aboard. This is the compass for controlling the Flying Boat."

Cheng Zhihai handed Cheng Guang an ancient bronze compass, then waved at him.

It was clearly time to shoo him off.

There was no lengthy goodbye.

Cheng Guang bid farewell to Cheng Zhihai and Wu Yuemei with a slight bow. He then proceeded to board the Flying Boat with Qing Luan, Qin Yanqiu, and the entourage from the Bureau of the Lamp.

The Flying Boat could increase or decrease in size at will, suggesting the materials used to construct it were far from ordinary.

Cheng Guang didn't really understand how the Flying Boat was made, but the craftsmanship of the age still seemed remarkably extraordinary and ingenious.

With Cheng Guang, Qing Luan, Qin Yanqiu, and the dozens from the Bureau of the Lamp on the Flying Boat, not to mention several Exotic Beasts, the spaciousness was such that they didn't feel the least bit crowded.

Upon reaching the Great Yan Dynasty, it would be best to avoid using such an ostentatious thing as the Flying Boat if possible.

Keeping a low profile was the main theme for this journey to the Great Yan Dynasty.

After boarding the Flying Boat, Cheng Guang glanced over the map, determined the direction of the Great Yan Dynasty, picked up the compass, and steered the Flying Boat toward the Great Yan Dynasty.

Chapter 359 - Not So Fast (Added! Please Subscribe)_4

The Flying Boat could ascend to a considerable height, usually able to maintain its position above the sea of clouds, allowing one to see the early sun slowly rising from amidst the clouds.

Cheng Guang felt a strong sense of déjà vu, as though he was on an airplane in a previous life.

Cheng Guang stood on the deck and watched the scenery for a while, but soon he lost much of his interest.

After all, high above the sea of clouds, the view below was not very clear, and the environment was monotonous. After looking for a long time, it wasn't very interesting.

Cheng Guang returned to his room inside the Flying Boat to rest.

Although the constables from the Bureau of the Lamp were not military men, they still maintained clear discipline. Once aboard the Flying Boat, there was not much conversation, and everyone was silent and taciturn.

Even though there were dozens of people on this Flying Boat, to Cheng Guang, it felt as if there were only two or three.

Qian Siyuan and Li Zhengyang hardly spoke as well.

As for Qin Beifeng, he was completely silent, not sleeping at all, just staring in the direction of the Great Yan Dynasty.

It was unclear what he was worried about.

Now, the news about the "mysterious character from Great Chu" had been spread, but no one knew where he was.

The territory of the Great Yan Dynasty was not small.

Searching for one person, the "mysterious character from Great Chu," in the entire Great Yan Dynasty was almost no different from looking for a needle in a haystack.

Not everyone was like him, who knew directly where the "mysterious character from Great Chu" was.

Cheng Guang stroked his chin and pondered deeply. The system task prompt said that the "mysterious character from Great Chu" was eventually surrounded and killed in Skyfire City, the capital of the Great Yan Dynasty.

It seemed that the "mysterious character from Great Chu" might not have been forced to Skyfire City of Great Yan.

If she wanted to hide, it would be impossible for her to hide in a place with countless converging powers like the capital of the Great Yan Dynasty, Skyfire City.

Even if it were said that the most dangerous place is the safest, that still didn't make sense.

Therefore, in Cheng Guang's view, it was very likely that the "mysterious character from Great Chu" might have always been in Skyfire City, the capital of the Great Yan Dynasty, without ever leaving.

Thinking this way, Cheng Guang felt somewhat confident about finding the "mysterious character from Great Chu."

In Cheng Guang's opinion, even if the "mysterious character from Great Chu" was not currently in Skyfire City, the capital of the Great Yan Dynasty, it didn't matter because she would ultimately come to Skyfire City.

He just needed to wait patiently for her to appear.

Cheng Guang made plans in his mind.

.....

During the voyage of the Flying Boat, there were few setbacks.

Hastening all the way to Skyfire City, the capital of the Great Yan Dynasty.

Even though the distance was tens of thousands of miles, one hardly felt the passage of time when traveling on the Flying Boat.

After ten days passed, Cheng Guang didn't feel much; it just seemed like they quickly arrived at the Great Yan Dynasty.

Even so, he felt somewhat stifled and irritable.

Being stuck inside the Flying Boat for a full ten days, he felt almost breathless.

Luckily, he had brought Qing Luan and Qin Yanqiu with him to relieve his boredom; otherwise, he didn't know how he would have managed the journey.

Skyfire City, the capital of the Great Yan Dynasty, was located at the very center of the territory.

The Great Yan Dynasty was named not because the royal family's surname was Yan or because their Bloodline Divine Powers were related to fire, but due to the geographic features of their land.

There were active volcanoes throughout the land of the Great Yan Dynasty.

From time to time, they would spew out volcanic fire.

The capital, Skyfire City, was built near an active volcano. Although the volcano had not erupted for thousands of years, the fire within the earth would still sporadically erupt.

Many craftsmen of the Great Yan Dynasty relied on this fire to forge weapons.

Because of this advantage, the weapons and armor of the Great Yan Dynasty were always far superior in quality compared to those of other dynasties.

They indeed had benefited from the bounty of the land.

Cheng Guang, looking at the appearance of the capital of the Great Yan Dynasty and seeing that Skyfire City was nearly built upon a volcano, was somewhat astonished.

Fortunately, this world was a world of cultivators.

Even if the volcano erupted, powerful cultivators could suppress it with single-handed power.

Otherwise, Cheng Guang could not imagine what kind of thinking led people to build a city on top of a volcano.

Cheng Guang steered the Flying Boat, slowly approaching Skyfire City.

The closer he got to Skyfire City, the air became subtly hotter and drier, and with each breath, it felt like he could breath out sparks.

Cheng Guang's cultivation was certainly up to the task, yet even so, as he drew near Skyfire City for a moment, his body was covered with a thin layer of sweat.

Qi surged out, covering his body, bringing a hint of coolness to him.

In such a scorching environment, how could the ordinary people within Skyfire City stand it?

Cheng Guang was slightly amazed.

At that moment, as his Flying Boat neared Skyfire City, about to enter, many military leaders of the Great Yan Dynasty on the city walls noticed Cheng Guang's vessel.

They looked up in astonishment, their faces full of shock.

Clearly, these ordinary military leaders had seldom seen a Flying Boat, this rare existence.

At the same time, many soldiers took one look at the Flying Boat and felt that the people aboard must be individuals of extraordinary status.

As the Flying Boat drew closer, they recognized the insignia of the Great Zhou Dynasty and the crest of Duke Zhen's Mansion of the Cheng Family on it. They were greatly agitated and hurriedly opened the city gate respectfully.

"People from Duke Zhen's Mansion of the Great Zhou Dynasty have actually come to Great Yan?"

"Hiss, it makes sense when you think about it. In recent times, apart from Great Zhou, both Great Wei and Great Mongol, and the other three great dynasties have sent delegates here. And as for smaller countries, they are too numerous to count."

Chapter 360 - Not So Fast (Added! Please Subscribe)_5

"What exactly has happened? All these dynasties have sent people to our Great Yan."

"Hey, what else could it be? Isn't it widely spread? It's rumored that the remnants of Great Chu are hiding in our Great Yan Dynasty. After learning the news, every dynasty couldn't sit still and sent people to our Great Yan, one after another, to find that Chu remnant."

"Isn't it just a rumor? Why are they treating it as if it's real?"

"True or false, we don't know, but the royal family believes it, maybe it is true."

On the city walls of Skyfire City,

a group of soldiers watched the sky, as an incredibly exquisite and luxurious Flying Boat obscured the sun.

While they discussed in low voices, their eyes were filled with envy.

Such Flying Boats, under the heavens, not many can own one, right?

The Town-Nation Duke's Heir might be one of them.

Under everyone's gaze, Cheng Guang piloted the Flying Boat into Skyfire City.

It was tolerable on the outskirts of Skyfire City, but upon reaching the inner city, Cheng Guang felt a pressure bearing down on him.

"Young friend, once we reach the inner city, such ostentation is no longer appropriate. Please put away the Flying Boat."

An aged voice sounded in Cheng Guang's ear.

Cheng Guang looked towards the depths of Skyfire City, and could vaguely see that within the Great Yan Imperial Palace, someone was watching him.

It might be Emperor Zhou, or it may be someone else.

Cheng Guang wasn't quite sure, and he also didn't plan to continue piloting the Flying Boat.

Once inside the inner city, he would have reached his destination.

The outer city was too chaotic, with commoners aplenty, and mostly blacksmith shops, not a place suitable for residing.

Living in the inner city would be more convenient.

If they needed to search for someone later, they could let the people from the Bureau of the Lamp make a thorough search in the outer city.

Cheng Guang stopped the Flying Boat.

Members of the Bureau of the Lamp leaped down from the Flying Boat one after the other.

The appearance of a line of Bureau of the Lamp's powerhouses in Skyfire City created quite a stir among the bystanders.

But it seemed that since they had already witnessed similar scenes before, their shock didn't last long, and they diverted their attention back to their own matters soon afterward.

Cheng Guang shrunk the Flying Boat and placed it into his storage ring.

Observing the expressions of the people around him,

he realized that within the Great Yan Dynasty, the news of the Chu remnants seemed to be merely a spectacle for the World Royal Family, irrelevant to the vast majority of ordinary people.

Inside Skyfire City, many people simply glanced at Cheng Guang and his party and then paid them no further attention.

Cheng Guang shook his head with a wry smile, knowing that the vast majority of ordinary people only cared about their own daily necessities and were indifferent to the grand affairs of the world and the struggles of the royal family.

The World Royal Family fought and changed, but their lives as commoners hardly changed, only the Emperor had been replaced by someone else.

Understanding the reason behind this, Cheng Guang could grasp why so many ordinary people could remain so calm when the World Royal Family was agitated by the news of the Great Chu remnants.

After disembarking the Flying Boat, Qian Siyuan took a moment to survey the surroundings and respectfully said to Cheng Guang, "Princely Heir, let's head to the local branch of the Bureau of the Lamp next."

"They have collected quite a bit of intelligence there, and perhaps there will be news of the Chu remnants."

Cheng Guang nodded slightly and said to Qian Siyuan, "Lead the way."

Qian Siyuan walked ahead of Cheng Guang, showing him the way.

Cheng Guang followed behind Qian Siyuan, and they proceeded unobtrusively but imposingly towards the branch of the Bureau of the Lamp.

It's common knowledge that the Bureau of the Lamp has branches in the Great Yan Dynasty.

It's not that Great Zhou has the audacity to set up an intelligence agency in the Great Yan Dynasty, blatantly operating under their noses, unafraid of Great Yan's retaliation.

Rather, it's because all the dynasties typically interpenetrate each other's affairs, and the Great Yan Dynasty also has its intelligence agencies within the Great Zhou Dynasty.

It has long since ceased to be a surprise.

If you annihilate my people today, your people will die tomorrow.

After killing each other back and forth, the royal families of the various dynasties have grown weary, choosing instead to overlook it all.

Perhaps most are of the mindset that anything you are able to uncover is already public knowledge.

As for secrets, you won't be able to discover them anyway.

This contributes to the creation of such an astonishing situation.

Cheng Guang followed Qian Siyuan down a few streets and arrived at a bustling market, thronged with traders and shops.

The crowd was lively and extraordinary.

The markets of the Great Yan Dynasty, when compared to those of the Great Zhou Dynasty, possess a unique air that belongs solely to Great Yan.

The vast majority of goods sold are weapons crafted by artisans of the Great Yan Dynasty.

The quality is excellent, and although they don't compare to the weapons used by the people of Great Yan themselves, they are still among the best when taken elsewhere.

As Cheng Guang walked along, he surveyed his surroundings but did not intend to spend any money.

They soon arrived at the Bureau of the Lamp's branch.

"Princely Heir, we have arrived," Qian Siyuan said to Cheng Guang, bending slightly in respect.

Cheng Guang stopped and looked at the building in front of him.

The Bureau of the Lamp's branch, located in the Great Yan Dynasty, was somewhat unexpected to Cheng Guang.

It was merely an ordinary teahouse.

Cheng Guang had thought it might be a brothel or a singing house.

It seemed that the Bureau of the Lamp maintained a more respectable tone when operating abroad.

It had not been swayed by the influence of Emperor Zhou, the back-stabber.

If Emperor Zhou were involved, he'd probably export brothels wherever he went, living up to his name as "Mr. Tang."

Cheng Guang entered the teahouse.

As the group of dozens from the Bureau of the Lamp entered the teahouse, they created quite a disturbance, attracting the attention of many gazes.