

My System 391

Chapter 391 - General, Requesting to Fight! _5

Qin Yanqiu's body trembled slightly.

First there was no feeling.

Then she suddenly spat out a mouthful of fresh blood, her clear and cold eyes abruptly widened, and her delicate body, like a shattered mirror, cracked apart.

The skin all over her body broke apart, and the blood turned into a pool of bloodstains.

In a breath, she disappeared.

At this moment.

There was a sudden stillness between heaven and earth.

Everyone seemed to sense something, their fighting movements paused slightly, and the roaring sounds of Qi in the air suddenly diminished greatly.

They looked up at the blood that showered down from the sky.

Li Longhu waved his robe with an indifferent expression, as if he had done an inconsequential thing, and continued to walk towards Cheng Guang at a leisurely pace.

Halfway there, Li Longhu suddenly seemed to sense something and slowly turned his head to look at the spot where Qin Beifeng had just collapsed.

Qin Beifeng was already near death on the ground, and even if he did nothing, Qin Beifeng couldn't hold on for much longer.

But at this time.

Qin Beifeng, with a nearly pierced heart, suddenly stood up.

His body stained in blood, covered in wounds, he supported himself with a broken greatsword, raised his eyes to the heavens, tears of blood streaming down his tiger-like eyes.

"Dead?"

"Just died like that?"

Qin Beifeng's hoarse voice murmured, then he suddenly let out a bitter smile and said, "Silly kid, you're really too naive."

"How could you alone oppose the Sky-Men, you've been so proud for so long, have you finally tasted hardship?"

Qin Beifeng laughed, his laughter growing louder, followed by coughing.

A large amount of fresh blood, like a fountain, spurted from his mouth and the wounds on his body.

"In this life, I, Qin Beifeng, have no regrets in my heart."

"In this life, I, Qin Beifeng, have no regrets towards my country."

"But in this life, the only thing I, Qin Beifeng, regret is you..."

"You're so foolish, thinking I had died, and so you wanted to avenge me?"

"I don't need it, don't need it."

Qin Beifeng murmured to himself, a glint began to flicker around his heart, starting faintly but then becoming stronger and stronger.

Li Longhu watched Qin Beifeng intently, and as he watched, the typically indifferent look on his face began to change.

Qin Beifeng was gradually shrouded by a vast and mysterious force.

The wounds all over his body were contained.

"This is... the Heavenly Human Realm..."

"Qin Beifeng has ascended to the Heavenly Human Realm??"

"Sss, how old is Qin Beifeng? Isn't he under a hundred years old?? A Heavenly Human Realm under a hundred years old!?"

"That's outrageous!?"

All the martial artists who witnessed this change narrowed their eyes.

In their brows, disbelief was instantly written, revealing shock.

Simultaneously.

Li Longhu's eyebrows furrowed sharply and, without hesitation, he stepped forward, appearing in front of Qin Beifeng the next moment.

He struck out with a palm.

Qin Beifeng's body instinctively moved, lifting the sword to block in front of him.

Boom!!!

Their forces collided.

Qin Beifeng, who previously could not withstand one strike from Li Longhu, now resisted Li Longhu's attack, his body merely trembling slightly.

But his body did not take a single step back.

Li Longhu's eyes narrowed slightly, "How does it matter if you've just ascended to the Heavenly Human Realm? With such grave injuries, in the end, you'll just struggle a bit more."

"I, an old man, don't have the time to keep you company!"

Li Longhu didn't want to waste time on Qin Beifeng any longer.

Even though Qin Beifeng had now ascended to the Heavenly Human Realm, the severe injuries he suffered and his nearly shattered heart meant he was still in a deadly predicament.

Li Longhu knew that wasting time on Qin Beifeng was utterly pointless.

After striking out with a palm, Li Longhu intended to use Divine Power to immobilize Qin Beifeng, then go and take Cheng Guang, the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, and the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning back to the Great Yan Imperial Palace, and hide them somewhere.

Li Longhu could feel that countless eyes from all over the world were fixed on Skyfire City.

The longer he delayed, the weaker his home advantage became.

Once other dynasties reacted and the Sky-Men arrived at the scene, it would be impossible for Great Yan to eliminate the remnants of Great Chu alone.

Li Longhu's hand lifted slightly, Divine Power shimmering around him as he was about to act, but Qin Beifeng's body suddenly appeared beside him.

Li Longhu immediately waved his robe, and his fierce attack turned into sword edges sweeping towards Qin Beifeng.

Li Longhu thought Qin Beifeng would dodge.

But surprisingly, Qin Beifeng directly embraced him.

Li Longhu only felt his body tighten.

Qin Beifeng's body trembled, and with a few puchi sounds, his body, like a torn cloth, was pierced again.

Qin Beifeng's mouth spurted blood, which since the distance was so close, directly sprayed onto Li Longhu's face.

Li Longhu's black hair was tinged with a layer of blood.

"What are you doing! Let go of me!!"

Li Longhu was a mix of shock and anger, his body's Qi trembling, bursts of energy exploded from him, attempting to shake Qin Beifeng off.

However...

Even though Qin Beifeng's body was almost falling apart, he did not let go at all.

Qin Beifeng, having lost too much blood, could only recover a bit of his spirit with the Heavenly Human Realm cultivation.

At this moment.

All of that spirit had almost vanished.

"I won't let go, you old fart. Even you, a Sky-Man, are not so impressive."

Qin Beifeng's eyes were filled with exhaustion, his lips seemed to want to curl into a smile, but his mouth twitched weakly and ended up falling slack.

His Qi began to stir, and a destructive aura rose from his body.

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Li Longhu merely sensed the aura emanating from Qin Beifeng.

His eyes instantly constricted.

The calm and composed demeanor he always maintained had now vanished without a trace.

"You want to self-destruct?!"

"A Heavenly Human Realm self-explosion! Do you realize the entire Skyfire City will be destroyed??"

"Stop it now!! Stop it right now!!"

Qin Beifeng's eyes were almost closed as he held Li Longhu tightly, his voice barely a whisper, "Leave Skyfire City and don't lay a hand on my Princely Heir, and I will stop."

Li Longhu's Qi exploded several more times, turning Qin Beifeng's body limp as if it were a piece of useless meat. No matter how he attacked, Qin Beifeng's hands remained tightly clenched together, not leaving his body for a second.

Feeling the terrifying aura of destruction growing stronger inside Qin Beifeng,

Li Longhu finally grew afraid, his forehead covered in beads of sweat as he hurriedly said, "I agree, I agree to your terms!"

Having said that, Li Longhu quickly dashed towards the outskirts of Skyfire City.

In just a breath, Li Longhu had already reached the outskirts of Skyfire City.

"Is that enough, General Qin? I can heal your injuries! You don't have to do this!"

Li Longhu hurriedly spoke to Qin Beifeng, who was still clinging onto him:

"Moreover, I promise not to target your Princely Heir anymore. I promise you, I will not only refrain from targeting your Princely Heir, but I will also help him escape!!"

Qin Beifeng's eyes drooped tiredly and closed.

"Not enough, farther still."

Li Longhu hurriedly dashed further away.

"Is that enough now!?"

"General Qin!!"

Li Longhu was truly frightened.

"Still not enough..."

"Still not enough..."

Feeling the increasingly intense terrifying aura from Qin Beifeng, and with Qin Beifeng still gripping him firmly, refusing to let go,

Li Longhu was truly frightened.

He could only keep moving, head down, away from Skyfire City.

Only when he was nearly ten thousand li from Skyfire City did Li Longhu, gasping for breath, finally stop.

"General Qin!!"

"What about now??"

Li Longhu quickly turned his head to look at Qin Beifeng, who was clinging to him, only to be shocked to find Qin Beifeng with his eyes closed, his entire body exuding fatigue, his breathing so faint it could hardly be perceived.

The terrifying aura had been but a feint.

This Qin Beifeng...

Clearly, he had long since lacked the strength to self-destruct.

Li Longhu's expression was complex.

He looked towards Skyfire City in the distance and sighed.

He felt that even if he were to return to Skyfire City, unless the aging Emperor of Great Yan intervened, Great Yan would likely lose any chance of capturing Cheng Guang, the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, as well as the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning.

Li Longhu reached out, gripped Qin Beifeng's hand, and tried vigorously to pry it off, but found that Qin Beifeng's hand wouldn't budge.

Li Longhu watched silently as Qin Beifeng's features gradually grew cold and rigid, falling into silence.

For a moment, Li Longhu thought he saw Qin Beifeng's lips move slightly, as if he were saying something.

Li Longhu bent down to listen.

"Great Chu, The Great Wind General."

"When the north wind rises, I harbor no regrets."

Having heard that,

Li Longhu shook his head.

"The Great Wind General."

"You indeed lived up to your name."

Li Longhu sat down, leaning against a tree, gazing into the distant skies.

A moment later,

Qin Beifeng's breathing completely ceased.

Li Longhu rose slightly, shook Qin Beifeng's body off, then leapt up, vanishing into the void. Just as his figure disappeared, he reappeared suddenly.

He flicked his robe.

Dust flew up in the air.

The ground churned, burying Qin Beifeng's body within it.

Having done all this, Li Longhu's figure disappeared once again.

.....

Inside Skyfire City.

After Qin Beifeng left,

the battle did not cease.

On the contrary, with the absence of Qin Beifeng and Li Longhu, all the powerhouses present felt they had a chance to snatch away Cheng Guang, the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, and the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning.

The attacks grew even more fierce.

The Bureau of the Lamp's members were already extremely weary at this point.

Facing the encirclement of everyone, they were somewhat overwhelmed.

Qian Siyuan and Li Zhengyang were covered in wounds, leaning on each other amidst the many corpses around them, exuding an even more resolute spirit.

"Old Li, it looks like we're going to die here."

"I wonder if the Princely Heir is going to have a chance to escape."

Qian Siyuan spoke with a raspy voice, smiling.

Li Zhengyang shook his head, "I don't know, but as long as we're here, these people won't be able to harm the Princely Heir."

Qian Siyuan nodded slightly.

Just as he was about to say something,

he suddenly felt a vast surge of Qi.

From within the crowd, Wu Qiche led the Great Yuan's powerhouses in their charge.

Dozens of Seventh Rank powerhouses, Eighth Rank powerhouses, and Wu Qiche, a Ninth Rank powerhouse.

Even if the members of the Bureau of the Lamp hadn't gone through such a battle earlier and their powers were not much higher than those of the numerous powerhouses of Great Yuan, they could only be considered barely on par.

After a fierce battle, the Bureau of the Lamp's members were already drained, their combat effectiveness reduced to a fraction.

Under these circumstances, how could they possibly stand against the people of Great Yuan?

"The people of the Great Yuan Dynasty have finally lost their patience."

Qian Siyuan chuckled disdainfully and struggled to stand, "Come on then, it's good that you've come!"

"Fight again!"

Li Zhengyang and Qian Siyuan supported each other, the two deputy directors of the Bureau of the Lamp, standing in front of the constables, their bodies bloodied, facing Wu Qiche and his oncoming group.

At that moment, the Bureau of the Lamp's warriors were either dead or wounded, having lost half of their number, and those still standing had not a single spot of unscathed skin left.

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Even so, they were still able to stand and face the approaching Wu Qiche and his cohorts.

Wu Qiche, leading a group of strong individuals from the Great Yuan Dynasty, walked up to Qian Siyuan and Li Zhengyang, pausing slightly in his step.

Even though they were from opposing camps, Wu Qiche couldn't help but feel respect for Qian Siyuan, Li Zhengyang, and the other members of the Bureau of the Lamp who had fought until this moment.

The forces from the lesser dynasties and noble families, as well as many other powerful individuals, had all failed to defeat the Bureau of the Lamp.

The casualties were substantial.

If he had been the one to attack from the very beginning, he, too, would have suffered heavy losses.

Luckily, he had waited and watched; now, reaping the benefits was incredibly satisfying.

"The Town-Nation Duke's Heir is fortunate to have subordinates like you."

"But tell me, why do you still protect him so fiercely even though the Town-Nation Duke's Heir's identity has been revealed? He's not the real heir but very likely the Crown Prince of Great Chu. Why do you still guard him with your lives?"

Wu Qiche didn't understand.

Qian Siyuan laughed and said, "What do you understand?"

Li Zhengyang, holding his sword and gasping for air, cracked a smile and said, "What's with all the nonsense? If you want to fight, come on; if not, get lost."

Wu Qiche shook his head.

"How foolish, all you are is servants sacrificing your lives for your master, each of you acting as if you're someone of importance. Even in this situation, willing to fight to the death for him, it's utmost stupidity."

Having said this, Wu Qiche slightly raised his hand, about to have the multitude of strong individuals behind him trample the remaining members of the Bureau of the Lamp.

Suddenly, Wu Qiche's attention was caught by something else.

He saw on a teahouse not far away.

The exceptionally handsome Town-Nation Duke's Heir, resembling none other than a celestial being, slowly walked down.

He approached Wu Qiche.

"Oh?"

"You actually came down. I thought you would hide until the end, and after witnessing all these fools dead, you would kneel and beg me for mercy."

Wu Qiche's refined face looked at Cheng Guang with amusement, speaking slowly.

Cheng Guang didn't respond to Wu Qiche, his gaze merely landing on Qian Siyuan, Li Zhengyang, and the others from the Bureau of the Lamp.

"You all withdraw for now."

"This time, let me handle it."

Upon seeing Cheng Guang descending from the teahouse, Qian Siyuan was initially taken aback. He had thought Cheng Guang was going to flee or at least stay inside the teahouse for safety under their protection.

But...

Qian Siyuan truly didn't expect that the Princely Heir would step out at a time like this!

"Princely Heir... you..."

Cheng Guang didn't say much, his gaze falling on Wu Qiche as he smiled and said, "The Third Prince of Great Yuan, isn't it?"

Wu Qiche scrutinized Cheng Guang, seemingly unsure of the latter's purpose for suddenly appearing at this moment.

Did this Town-Nation Duke's Heir still have tricks up his sleeve?

Wu Qiche's heart was filled with doubts and hesitated to take direct action, instead nodding, "Indeed."

Cheng Guang smiled again and said, "I will stay here alone, let my people leave."

Cheng Guang didn't discuss it with Wu Qiche, speaking as if giving an order.

This tone made Wu Qiche feel uncomfortable.

But then he thought about it; though most of the members of the Bureau of the Lamp were depleted in strength, dealing with them was still somewhat troublesome.

Since Cheng Guang, the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, was willing to stay alone.

That would be just fine.

Capturing the Town-Nation Duke's Heir alone and then returning to Great Yuan would not be a loss.

Wu Qiche nodded slightly.

Cheng Guang cast a glance at Qian Siyuan and Li Zhengyang.

"Uncle Qian, Uncle Li, take everyone and leave."

Qian Siyuan instinctively wanted to refuse, but looking at Cheng Guang's indifferent gaze, he hesitated for a moment and, in the end, gritted his teeth and agreed.

He held immense respect for Cheng Guang.

And dared not contradict him.

Qian Siyuan led the members of the Bureau of the Lamp away.

Beneath the teahouse, only Cheng Guang and Wu Qiche's group remained, with the other dynasties' and families' powerhouses silently retreating to the periphery, quietly watching this unfold.

They too did not understand the confidence of Cheng Guang, the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, to face the Third Prince of Great Yuan alone under these circumstances.

As everyone mulled over their doubts.

Cheng Guang made his move.

In full view of everyone, Cheng Guang took out a runic token.

He lightly waved the token, and it spontaneously burst into flames.

As if in a trance, a seemingly ethereal voice arose.

"General's Token."

"In my name, I summon troops and horses, heed my command, and descend upon the world!"

Around Cheng Guang, streaks of bizarre light began to shine.

The cavalry hooves thundered.

The military horns sounded.

The war drums roared.

In that instant, knights clad in heavy armor, their faces concealed by ghostly masks, as if stepping out from the depths of hell, emerged into the air.

They formed a formation beside Cheng Guang.

They saluted in unison.

"Great Chu's hundred generals, pay their respects to the general!"

"Great Chu's hundred generals, pay their respects to the general!"

"Great Chu's hundred generals, pay their respects to the general!"

Wave after wave of voices echoed through the ages.

The knights standing by Cheng Guang were fully clad in black armor, obscuring their faces, yet the aura emanating from them suggested that each one was no ordinary figure.

And the crowd, upon hearing the words uttered by those heavily armored knights, were each struck as if by lightning!

Great Chu's hundred generals!?

This Cheng Guang, the heir of the Duke of the State, the true Crown Prince of Great Chu...

Had he truly summoned Great Chu's hundred generals!?

How could this be possible!?

Wasn't Great Chu vanquished!?

Aside from Qin Beifeng, hadn't all of Great Chu's hundred generals perished!?

What in the world was happening!?

All eyes were filled with shock, their pupils trembling.

Wu Qiche, upon seeing the soldiers who appeared miraculously around Cheng Guang, was momentarily dazed. Having originally intended to confront Cheng Guang, he suddenly didn't dare to move.

The aura surrounding these soldiers by Cheng Guang's side was at least Eighth Rank.

So many Eighth Rank together could battle against a Ninth Grade!

Even give them a chance,

Wu Qiche doubted they would dare wield their swords against Sky-Man!

Great Chu's hundred generals, death does not lead to retreat!

Great Chu's general spirits, eternal and undying!

Wu Qiche, confronting the hundred generals from the once preeminent Great Chu Dynasty, found his breath slightly caught.

Suddenly,

Wu Qiche felt as if he saw a pair of familiar eyes among those hundred generals of Great Chu.

Those eyes, lifeless, lacking any trace of vitality,

Yet seemed exceedingly familiar to him.

As if...

They belonged to Qin Beifeng who had just left.

Hadn't Qin Beifeng already departed?

How could he appear here again?

No, that's not right!!

Wu Qiche suddenly realized, if the hundred generals of Great Chu by the Town-Nation Duke's side were all deceased, did it mean that Qin Beifeng had already died?

Wu Qiche, though relieved to know that Qin Beifeng would not return unexpectedly, along with Li Longhu, would not come back easily.

But still,

facing the eerily present Duke's Heir, facing the hundred generals of Great Chu who appeared miraculously, he could still feel an immense pressure!!

No matter what, now was his only chance.

If he missed this opportunity, it would not be so easy for him to secure the remnants of Great Chu and bring them back to Great Yuan to dig deeper into Great Chu's secrets.

"Kill!"

Wu Qiche gave the order with a wave of his hand.

He simply did not believe that a host of lost souls could stir up any significant trouble!

And at that moment,

Great Chu's hundred generals began to move.

Without needing instructions from Cheng Guang.

"General, I, General Huangsha, request to fight!"

"General, I, General Shanhe, request to fight!"

"General, I, General Chaotian, request to fight!"

"....."

"General, I, The Great Wind General, request to fight!"

"..."

Calls after calls!

With each call, a figure rode forth on horseback!

All who witnessed this scene could not help but tremble in their eyes, their minds restless.

In that moment,

They seemed to glimpse the once glorious era of the great Great Chu.

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As the hundred generals charged out, the sound of drums thundered like roaring thunder.

Off to the side, Wu Qiche suddenly felt a chill, the imposing might of the Great Chu's hundred generals, and the bone-piercing intent to kill made his scalp tingle and his back involuntarily break out into cold sweat.

"Protect His Highness!"

The powerful beings from Great Yuan around Wu Qiche quickly swept forward, shielding Wu Qiche in front of them, and charged towards the hundred generals of Great Chu.

Boom!!!

As the two forces clashed, Qi burst forth with a boom, the air vibrated, and it was as if the heavens and earth had gone deaf, no longer hearing any other sound.

One could only see blades clashing, only see bodies wrestling in hand-to-hand combat.

Cheng Guang's hair was tousled by the breeze, his countenance serene and peerlessly handsome.

The strength of Great Chu's hundred generals was not weak, and with the morale boost from the General's Seal, even if summoned from the realm of the deceased, with their strength diminished, they had little difficulty dealing with Wu Qiche and his entourage.

Cheng Guang merely glanced once at Wu Qiche, who was protected by the powerful ones from Great Yuan, then shifted his gaze to the firmament above.

Above the firmament, that person who had always remained hidden behind the scenes had gone to great trouble, had made so many moves.

What exactly was it for?

Was it to drive Commandery Princess Ning into a desperate situation?

Thoughts churned in Cheng Guang's mind. No matter what, if he could disrupt the plans of that person hiding behind the scenes, they would eventually become restless.

They would show themselves sooner or later.

As Cheng Guang pondered, the hundred generals of Great Chu, mounted and with swords drawn, began to battle with the numerous powerhouses of Great Yuan.

As they met, their strengths were evenly matched, the commotion of their fight was not weaker but stronger than that of the recent clash with the Bureau of the Lamp's men.

Wu Qiche, faced with the seemingly bizarre hundred generals of Great Chu, had his eyes tremble, not understanding how Cheng Guang, the Duke's Heir, could have summoned these hundred generals of Great Chu that had been extinct for so many years.

He pondered in his heart and couldn't help feeling that he probably could not get the better of these uncanny hundred generals of Great Chu.

If Sky-Man did not make a move, it was very likely that Cheng Guang along with Commandery Princess Ning could escape by relying on these hundred generals of Great Chu!

Wu Qiche felt quite helpless at the moment, entirely lacking a way to deal with the hundred generals of Great Chu.

Furthermore, if he continued to allow his subordinates to clash with these bizarre hundred generals of Great Chu, it was very likely that in the end, he would gain no advantage, and instead, he would suffer heavy losses.

Such a situation, such an outcome, was something Wu Qiche could not accept no matter what.

He was already considering whether he should pull back now, and find another way to deal with Cheng Guang, the so-called Duke's Heir, who was in reality the Crown Prince of Great Chu, as well as Commandery Princess Ning.

And just as Wu Qiche was torn,

Above the clouds, the figure clad in white robes, sitting amidst the mist, slightly lowered his gaze, looking at Cheng Guang with a hint of surprise.

He stroked his beard, pondering for a moment, then again set his sights on the hundred generals of Great Chu standing in front of Cheng Guang.

"Why does this Crown Prince of Great Chu possess so many Different Treasures?"

"To even have something like the General's Seal..."

"It is not raising troops from the soil but summoning from the realm of the dead..."

The eyebrows of the figure in the white robe seemed to slightly furrow, feeling that the situation was troublesome; everything had been progressing smoothly until the appearance of this Duke's Heir, and then mistakes followed one after another.

He hesitated for a moment, slightly raised his hand, preparing to personally take action to slay these "resurrected" hundred generals of Great Chu below.

Even if this could likely reveal his presence.

But if he really let the Crown Prince of Great Chu rely on these hundred generals to escape with Commandery Princess Ning, then all the plans he had made before would have been for nothing.

Just as the white-robed figure was about to lower his hand, his body suddenly froze, he looked up into the distance, as if he saw some interesting presence and slowly withdrew his hand.

He stroked his beard and chuckled.

"It seems there's no need for this old Taoist to make a move."

The direction the white-robed figure was looking toward.

In the distant firmament.

Suddenly a streak of light appeared.

One after another, powerful auras approached swiftly!

They were auras unique to Sky-Men!

At the same time, a series of gazes swept down!

Wu Qiche, who was preparing to retreat, suddenly looked up towards the distant sky.

Above the firmament, a figure stood out of thin air.

It was an elder, clad in armor, holding a long saber, the saber bloodied, as if he had just come from the battlefield and had not yet had time to change.

The elder's thin face was full of a cold authority, an imposing aura of Sky-Man emanating from him.

Even without getting close, Wu Qiche could feel the strength of the elder.

Though mighty, the elder seemed very weary, not just bodily but also spiritually. The feeling of fatigue from the elder's body spread almost tangibly around him.

Wu Qiche stared at the elder's face, contemplated for a moment, and then a name emerged in his mind.

"Duke Zhen Guo of the Great Zhou Dynasty, Cheng Shiyuan!"

When Wu Qiche thought of this name, his body stiffened slightly, feeling a natural fear towards this Sky-Man from the Great Zhou Dynasty, who controlled the iron-blooded Northern Expedition Army.

He had not expected.

That the Duke would come to Great Yan at this time.

The distance from Great Zhou to Great Yan is more than ten thousand miles, and even for Sky-Men, traversing such a distance is not easy.

No wonder Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, appeared so exhausted.

Upon seeing the arrival of Duke Zhen Guo Cheng Shiyuan, Wu Qiche suddenly realized something and quickly turned his head to look at Cheng Guang beside him.

Wu Qiche knew that once Duke Zhen Guo Cheng Shiyuan arrived, his chances of successfully killing Cheng Guang, who was on the surface the Duke's Heir but in reality the Crown Prince of Great Chu, would be significantly diminished.

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Additionally, aside from Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan of Great Zhou, it seemed that several other Sky-Men had arrived at the scene.

He didn't know whether his own imperial father had come.

No matter what, under the current circumstances, only Sky-Men, perhaps, could get involved; everyone else could only watch.

This might be a good opportunity to watch the drama unfold.

Wu Qiche shifted his gaze away from Cheng Guang and spoke to his subordinates:

"All of you, retreat!"

As Wu Qiche's voice faded, the multitude of powerful figures from Great Yuan began to retreat one after another, extricating themselves from the assault of the Great Chu's hundred generals.

Their faces were pale.

Clearly,

the pressure exerted by the Great Chu's hundred generals was not small; in fact, it was quite substantial.

When Cheng Guang saw Wu Qiche ordering his subordinates to retreat, he wasn't too surprised; even if they didn't pull back, it wouldn't make much of a difference.

At the same time, Cheng Guang had noticed Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's presence from the very first moment he appeared.

He shifted his gaze from Wu Qiche to Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan.

Looking at Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, Cheng Guang couldn't help but feel a mixture of emotions.

He had imagined countless times what he would do if his identity were exposed. How should he face them?

He had not expected that day to arrive so soon.

He looked up calmly and exchanged a glance with Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan.

After a moment of hesitation, he ultimately did not pay respects to Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan as he had in the past, nor did he call out "Grandfather" as he once did.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan looked at Cheng Guang, his icy demeanor unchanged as he scrutinized Cheng Guang, observing the aura around him, his tiger-like eyes trembling.

He seemed unwilling to believe it, as if wondering if he had seen incorrectly.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan continued to look for quite a while; no matter how many times he observed, the aura of the Cheng Guang before him left no trace of familiarity.

"When did this happen?"

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan looked at Cheng Guang silently for a moment before slowly speaking with a hoarse, sorrowful tone.

Upon hearing Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's question, Cheng Guang realized, without needing further explanation, that Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan was asking when he had replaced the original Town-Nation Duke's Heir.

Cheng Guang pondered for a moment, "About a month ago, I suppose."

"Not a long time ago."

Drawing a deep breath, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, suspended high above, slowly closed his tiger eyes and then asked again,

"So what has become of my grandson now?"

Cheng Guang shook his head, "He's naturally dead; if he were alive, I wouldn't be."

Upon hearing this news, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, who had always been upright and dignified, seemed to suddenly stoop; he visibly aged a bit.

His already weary face now looked as though it had lost its spirit.

His body subtly trembled a few times as a terrifying and vast aura surged out from Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan.

Opening his eyes, he looked at Cheng Guang with a cold gaze, laughing mournfully with tears brimming in his eyes,

"Good, worthy of being the Crown Prince of Great Chu. Your resolve truly exceeds that of the common man."

"If it were me, I, too, would eradicate the roots and leave no survivors."

"Well done, well done indeed."

While saying this, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan laughed out loud.

In this moment, Cheng Guang felt as though he was caught in the midst of a violent storm, knowing that if Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan so much as entertained a thought, he would be killed instantly.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's tiger eyes teared up, yet he still laughed,

"In my life, I've been decisive in killing, walking on mountains of corpses and rivers of blood to get to where I am today."

"All that I have done over these years was not for fame or fortune, but only to seek peace for my family for one lifetime."

"To protect my son, to ensure my grandchildren could live in peace, without struggling among the masses."

"But in the end, in the end..."

"My grandson still died."

"Back then I stormed the Imperial Palace of Great Chu, and today you killed my grandson. Is this how we repay debts of gratitude?"

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's voice grew softer and softer.

Even as Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's voice faded, everyone around could still hear his words clearly.

Many people also felt that, even though his tone seemed calm, the grief and rage in his heart could no longer be described in words.

Everyone felt that Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan at that moment was like a volcano on the verge of erupting.

Any slightest mishap, and it could burst forth.

The air fell silent for a time.

No one dared to disturb Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's brow, and there was no longer any sound or movement.

Even the Sky-Men didn't rush to say or do anything at this time.

They simply hid in the shadows, quietly watching the scene unfold.

Under the gaze of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, the pressure Cheng Guang felt was exponentially greater compared to the others around him.

His breath caught slightly.

Merely at the instant Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's gaze fell upon him, it was as though a mountain range was pressing down on him.

The skin, flesh, sinews, and membranes on his body trembled, his right hand reaching out quickly as his Qi and Blood surged. Thanks to his long-term practice of both Martial Cultivation and Spirit Dao, both his physique and Primordial Spirit were strong.

Otherwise, under the scrutiny of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, his spine would likely have been crushed instantly. He wouldn't have been able to stand upright, much less look as calm as he was now, meeting Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's gaze head-on.

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Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's icy face was wet with tears as he gazed down at Cheng Guang beneath him.

At this moment, he seemed to have become unable to distinguish clearly.

Whether it was the face of his own grandson, or that of the Great Chu Crown Prince.

After taking a deep breath, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan said nothing more, and sent a palm strike towards Cheng Guang from the air.

A terrifying aura, mixed with torrential Qi brilliance, formed a palm that seemed capable of covering the sun and falling straight towards Cheng Guang.

The Sky-Men surrounding them had their eyes flicker, watching as the Crown Prince of Great Chu was about to die, ready to make a move.

When the Great Chu royal family was trampled upon years ago, they had not caught on, nor did they have the chance to understand the royal family's secrets. The survival of this Crown Prince of Great Chu, if he were to die now, it would be quite a pity.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan sensed the Sky-Men's movements around him and with a glowering face, he bellowed, "Get away from me!"

The Sky-Men who considered intervening hesitated, their expressions ugly, but they refrained from any further action.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's palm struck Cheng Guang.

In front of Cheng Shiyuan, a Sky-Man, Cheng Guang had no chance to react at all; his body, as if struck by lightning, froze on the spot.

With just one palm strike, it made him feel as if his body were being torn apart.

His Primordial Spirit instantly dissipated.

Blood flowed from the seven orifices of his flesh.

After a few tremors of his body, he fell straight to the ground.

In the end, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan still showed restraint, leaving Cheng Guang an intact corpse.

Otherwise, at this moment, Cheng Guang would have already been annihilated.

After being struck by Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, Cheng Guang's vital energy disappeared instantly, and his once unparalleled handsome face turned dull and lightless.

The air around became still.

"So... he's dead?"

Some exchanged looks.

They had not expected Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan to act so decisively.

Nor had they expected Cheng Guang, the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, to die so simply.

But as time ticked by, the lack of any sign of life in Cheng Guang's body proved that he was most certainly dead.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan watched the fallen Cheng Guang with cold tiger eyes, his expression unchanged.

He seemed extremely calm, but from the trembling of his hands, it was clear.

That executing Cheng Guang had required a great resolution from him.

Cheng Guang resembled his real grandson exactly.

And they had spent time together, day and night.

Even if Cheng Guang's identity was false, for a time, the feelings between them had been real.

The time they had shared together was also real.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan closed his eyes in pain, waving his hand, his gesture thoroughly dispersing Cheng Guang's body.

Those who had been keen to fight over Cheng Guang's body, on seeing Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan directly dispersing it, couldn't help but sigh in disappointment.

At the moment of Cheng Guang's death.

Qing Luan beside him felt her breath catch, and with a mournful cry, she seemed to step into emptiness and fell towards the ground.

Her entire body collapsed, feeling an acidity at the tip of her nose.

Tears streamed from her beautiful eyes incessantly.

Her lips parted slightly, yet she was unable to speak a word.

Before Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan had appeared, she had thought they could escape.

But the moment when Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan appeared, with a single exertion of his power, he had directly killed Cheng Guang.

The capability to overpower Wu Qiche, the Third Prince of Great Yuan, no longer held much use.

Beside Qing Luan, the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning's eyes flickered endlessly. Since the moment Cheng Guang had given her the yellow flower, her whole person seemed to have been plunged into a state of daze.

Until the death of Cheng Guang.

Only then did she come back to her senses.

Her heart felt like it had been struck by a heavy hammer, a piercing pain.

The Commandery Princess of Prince Ning clutched her chest tightly with her hands, completely bewildered.

At this moment, she felt as if the entire world before her eyes had turned the color of blood.

"He's dead, dead..."

"Now in this world, only Jing'er is left alone."

"Father Emperor, Mother Empress, what should Jing'er do, what to do..."

The Commandery Princess of Prince Ning felt her heart wrenching, a bone-chilling cold arose from nowhere, infiltrating her limbs and bones unboundedly.

She silently gazed at the many strong figures around, looking at the spot where Cheng Guang had just been standing.

That place.

Where Cheng Guang had just stood.

Only little pieces of his brocade robe remained.

Not far from Cheng Guang, the warriors of Great Chu stiffened the moment Cheng Guang died. The lifelessness in their eyes was now replaced with unstoppable sorrow.

"Our general has fallen, and so shall we!"

All at once, a voice echoed.

The warriors of Great Chu drew their swords and mounted their steeds, beating the war drums as they charged towards Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, who stood aloft in the air.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, hearing the commotion, looked down at the warriors of Great Chu with an icy, numb gaze.

He raised his hand slightly.

Calmly striking down.

The bodies of the warriors of Great Chu halted abruptly, and a gentle breeze caressed them.

All warriors of Great Chu, their bodies like formations of sand, were scattered by the wind without any resistance.

In moments, they all disappeared from this world.

After shattering the warriors of Great Chu with one palm, Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's gaze fell on the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning not far away.

His eyes condensed slightly, just about to step forward and target the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning.

That's when the nearby Sky-Men, who had been watching the scene unfold, finally could no longer sit idly by.

"Duke of the State from Great Zhou, we have no objections to you killing that Crown Prince of Great Chu, but you cannot harm this Commandery Princess of Prince Ning."

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"Kill him, and the royal bloodline of Great Chu will be severed."

"Back then, the prophecy on the golden list said that Great Chu would rise and unite the world. How could it speak such words? Now, we can no longer know the reasons behind it."

Figures emerged from the void surrounding Duke of the State, Cheng Shiyuan.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, paused in his step, his gaze falling on the people behind him.

Scanning the arrivals, Cheng Shiyuan ultimately set his eyes on Emperor Zhou.

Emperor Zhou shook his head helplessly.

He also wished to kill Commandery Princess Ning.

But with so many Sky-Men around, even he was powerless to act.

Cheng Shiyuan ceased his efforts and desisted.

His gaze rested on the bewildered Commandery Princess Ning, sensing that if he didn't kill her now, there would be great trouble later.

Meanwhile, Cheng Shiyuan did not notice that, at the moment he ceased his efforts, the figure in white robes above the clouds let down his hand with a smile.

"Duke Zhen Guo of Great Zhou, Sky-Man at the pinnacle, your cultivation is not bad. It is only a pity that you've been involved in too much killing, enmeshed in karma. I fear this life of yours will be halted here."

The figure in white commented, yet he paid no more attention to the many Sky-Men gathered at Skyfire City, the emperors of the major dynasties, and turned his eyes to Commandery Princess Ning.

Stroking his white beard, the depths of his eyes sparkling, he nodded slowly.

"It should be about time."

"The death of the Great Chu Crown Prince, followed by the agony of losing kinsmen, should be sufficient to awaken the origin within her body."

The figure in white observed Commandery Princess Ning closely.

At this moment, Commandery Princess Ning's eyes were full of confusion, like a child who couldn't find her way home. The heavy sorrow, the despair under the scrutiny of Sky-Men, made her close off her mind.

A faint light glittered at her brow.

A supremely regal aura began to brew from her brow, initially faint and barely discernible, but quickly drawing the attention of the surrounding Sky-Men.

Emperor Great Yan, Li Longhu who had just returned, Emperor Zhou, Duke of the State, Emperor Great Yuan, Empress Wei, as well as the hermit Sky-Men watching from hiding, all turned their eyes to Commandery Princess Ning.

The aging Emperor Great Yan's eyes trembled slightly, "What is this?"

"This aura on the Princess of Great Chu from years ago is off, oppressive even to me."

Emperor Zhou's authoritative gaze remained unchanged as he watched Commandery Princess Ning, his brow slowly furrowing.

He felt that Commandery Princess Ning seemed to be brewing something terrifying.

Originally not very interested in the remnants of Great Chu, Emperor Zhou became slightly more cautious at the sight of the changes occurring in Commandery Princess Ning.

Emperor Zhou pointed his finger, sending a golden speck drifting towards Commandery Princess Ning.

Initially, all the emperors sought to delve deeper into the secrets of the Great Chu royal lineage.

But sensing the strange change in Commandery Princess Ning, their thoughts shifted.

Commandery Princess Ning exuded an incredibly majestic aura.

This regal presence made numerous emperors and empresses who ruled over the mortal realms involuntarily bow their heads.

This was truly terrifying.

They did not understand what changed within Commandery Princess Ning.

Since Emperor Zhou was willing to make the first move, it was just as well to let him probe.

Emperor Zhou pointed again, and the golden speck manifested as a war god charging at Commandery Princess Ning.

At the same time.

A gentle breeze blew by.

The Divine Power unleashed by Emperor Zhou, the manifested divine form, became rigid in the wind, then crumbled as if eroded, vanishing in a breath.

"This..."

Emperor Zhou's stern and icy expression briefly faltered as he seemed to notice something, looking up toward the clouds above.

Emperor Zhou narrowed his eyes and saw a figure seated among the clouds.

Cheng Shiyuan and the other Sky-Men also looked upwards.

They saw the person sitting on the clouds.

The figure in white no longer concealed himself, smiling as he rose to his feet, treading on clouds, descending from above, and standing before the many Sky-Men.

"Gentlemen, she... you can't touch her yet," he said.

Cheng Shiyuan looked towards the figure descending from the clouds, his numb, icy gaze rippling slightly.

He recognized the newcomer.

"It's you."

Cheng Shiyuan recognized the person.

But including Emperor Zhou, numerous Sky-Men from the World Royal Family were all puzzled.

Looking at the white-robed elder, then back at Cheng Shiyuan.

Cheng Shiyuan paid no heed to the onlookers, simply addressing the white-robed elder, "Elder, was it you who revealed my grandson's identity?"

The white-robed elder nodded with a smile, "It was indeed I."

Upon hearing this, Cheng Shiyuan thought for a moment, then nodded, "It makes sense. He could hide before my eyes only if an elder, capable of seeing through the heavenly secrets, made a move. Otherwise, there would be no one else in the world who could see through his identity."

Cheng Shiyuan made his statement.

The white-robed elder neither confirmed nor denied, standing with his hands clasped behind him, his gaze falling on Commandery Princess Ning beside him, speaking, "Gentlemen, you can't attack her now. Give it a little time, and if you still wish to make a move later, I will not stop you. Would you give me this bit of face for now?"

The conversation between the white-robed elder and Cheng Shiyuan was heard by Emperor Zhou, Emperor Great Yan, and the surrounding Sky-Men, stunning them and leaving them in disbelief.

They had come to realize the identity of the mysterious and powerful figure before them.

Could it really be the Heavenly Machine Elder, shrouded in enigma and having lived for untold years!?

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All the Sky-Men were dumbfounded.

Although they had long heard of the name of the Heavenly Machine Elder, few had actually seen him.

Had it not been for Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, recognizing him,

they would have been afraid that even if the Heavenly Machine Elder appeared before them, they would not have recognized him.

The Emperor of Great Yan's aged eyes sparkled with light as he readily agreed.

"Since the Elder has spoken thus, what is the harm in saving this face for him?"

In Emperor Yan's view, the changes occurring in the Commandery Princess from Ning Wang County seemed somewhat strange, but they were not fatal.

After a moment, once the aura around the princess stabilized, it would be fine to make a move.

With so many Sky-Men present, Emperor Yan did not believe they couldn't suppress a mere Commandery Princess from Ning Wang County.

After the Emperor of Great Yan spoke,

the emperors of the other three dynasties said nothing more.

Should they not give face to the Heavenly Machine Elder at this moment, the Elder might not grant them the same courtesy.

They didn't know the depth of the Heavenly Machine Elder, only that his strength was exceptional. Under these circumstances, they did not want to conflict with such a figure.

After a moment of silence, everyone's gaze fell on the Commandery Princess from Ning Wang County.

Under their watchful eyes,

the aura around the Commandery Princess progressively grew stronger, and a glint of gold blossomed at her brow.

Around her, it seemed as if celestial music was chiming, and as if Immortals were blessing her.

A marvel revealed itself.

The Commandery Princess slowly stood up, and her appearance suddenly underwent an earth-shattering transformation. Her previously delicate face now exuded an indescribable dignity, and the original tender visage showed a resolute expression.

Her posture was erect, like that of a proud Empress.

Golden flames burned within her eyes, and her star-like eyes that flickered with golden flames swept around her. First confused, she then focused upon seeing the white-robed elder not far away.

The Commandery Princess raised her hand, her mind flooded with one image after another, causing her to touch her forehead unconsciously. After absorbing all the memories, she appeared lost.

"So it turns out, so much time has already passed."

She looked towards the white-robed elder, her starry eyes shifting, her majestic and dignified gaze falling on the Heavenly Machine Elder, "The recent events that have befallen me, they were all your doing?"

The Heavenly Machine Elder stroked his beard with a smile: "It is indeed fortunate that the Empress has awakened. Reincarnation and awakening go against the heavens and earth. If the old Daoist hadn't used some means, who knows how much longer it would have taken."

The Commandery Princess fell silent for a moment before suddenly raising her hand and striking out with her palm.

The Heavenly Machine Elder's eyes showed a hint of surprise as he hurriedly waved his sleeve.

Boom!!

Following a barely audible boom, a terrifying shockwave spread out in all directions.

The powerful Heavenly Machine Elder was struck by the Commandery Princess, and no one knew where she had sent him flying.

The Commandery Princess's expression was indifferent, "Meddler.

Having said this, she then turned her gaze once again to the Sky-Men around her, placing her hands calmly in front of her, her demeanor regal, composed, and graceful.

"Were you just saying that you wish to make a move against me?"

"Now you may."

The meaning behind the Commandery Princess's words seemed to imply that all the Sky-Men around her might as well take action together.

Yet at this moment, due to the Commandery Princess's recent hand that repelled the Heavenly Machine Elder, the many dumbstruck and shocked Sky-Men, upon hearing her words, turned pale.

Staring blankly at the Commandery Princess,

naturally, they could not understand why the Commandery Princess, who just a moment ago had been at the sixth or seventh rank, had suddenly increased so much in strength that she could send the Heavenly Machine Elder flying with a single gesture.

After a moment of hesitation, no one made a move.

Emperor Yan, unable to grasp the situation before him, cast down his aged eyes, lost in thought.

From the conversation between the Commandery Princess and the Heavenly Machine Elder, he could tell that it seemed the Commandery Princess knew the Elder.

Moreover,

the Heavenly Machine Elder called the Commandery Princess "Empress?"

Empress?

Which dynasty's Empress?

Who is it that could be referred to as Empress by the Heavenly Machine Elder?

A myriad of questions inundated Emperor Yan's mind.

It wasn't just Emperor Yan who noticed this point, but the other emperors and Sky-Men as well.

Their minds filled with uncertainty.

Perhaps it was because of the power the Commandery Princess displayed, or perhaps it was due to her particularly close relationship with the Heavenly Machine Elder.

Those who had originally intended to make a move against her, now dared not act.

Offending someone who could attack the Heavenly Machine Elder, someone of terrifying strength, seemed suddenly of far less concern than the secrets of Great Chu's royal family.

The Emperor of Great Yuan was a middle-aged man, his dragon robe sprinkled with a few snowflakes, as though he had just come from the northern lands, with the snow on his clothing yet to melt.

"This matter of Great Chu, my Great Yuan will not meddle anymore; I leave forthwith."

Upon saying so, the Emperor of Great Yuan looked towards Wu Qiche.

"Let's go."

As his words fell, the Emperor of Great Yuan left with his entourage.

Empress Wei had little interest in the secrets of Great Chu's royal family. Seeing the Commandery Princess's strange transformation and this unforeseeable situation, she felt uneasy.

With a mere glance at the Commandery Princess, she led her people away.

Of the four great dynasties, aside from the host, the Great Yan Dynasty, only the Great Zhou Dynasty remained.

Emperor Zhou was just as uncertain about the current Commandery Princess as everyone else. He looked to Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, ready to leave first and plan later.

As long as the Commandery Princess didn't hold a grudge against Great Zhou over Great Chu's matters.

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...

The two could coexist peacefully.

But if the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning held a grudge against Great Zhou because of matters related to Great Chu, the situation wouldn't be so easily resolved.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan sensed Emperor Zhou's gaze and slightly nodded, his cold and numb heart barely stirred.

The death of Cheng Guang didn't bring him any joy.

On the contrary, it was more painful.

Just as Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan was about to leave,

The Commandery Princess of Prince Ning unexpectedly blocked his way.

While gazing at Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan with her magnificent face, she said, "Others may leave, but not you."

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's eyes, cold and numb, lifted slightly to meet her gaze and he chuckled, "Why, do you intend to take action against me?"

The Commandery Princess of Prince Ning nodded slightly.

Perhaps Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan wanted to relieve the heaviness in his heart or maybe he wanted to test the depth of the princess's strength. He laughed heartily and leaped into the sky.

The Commandery Princess of Prince Ning stamped her foot on the ground and her body swooped into the air.

Upon witnessing this scene, both Emperor Zhou and the Emperor of Great Yan were taken aback.

Clearly, neither had expected the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning to engage in combat with Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan.

Above the heavens, Qi exploded, and a terrifying presence surged as the colors of the sky and earth seemed to fade.

The fight between the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning and Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan appeared to tear the very sky apart.

Emperor Zhou looked up, his eyes narrowing at the spectacle.

He naturally had no doubts about Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's strength.

But he hadn't expected the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning to be so formidable.

Hadn't she previously displayed the strength of only the sixth or seventh rank? How could her power have increased so much so suddenly?

He didn't know why.

Suddenly, Emperor Zhou thought of Zhang Shunlong, who seemed to have stepped into the Heavenly Human Realm that very day.

Both the Emperor of Great Yan and Li Longhu beside him were no less shocked.

Before revealing her identity, the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning had always been the daughter of Prince Ning, having grown up under their watchful eyes in the capital city.

Although the princess was talented, her abilities had not reached the level she was displaying now.

Compared to her other performances, her current strength was perhaps the least remarkable.

Why was this happening?

How did the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning come to know the Heavenly Machine Elder?

Why had she changed so drastically all of a sudden?

One question after another loomed like a thick fog over the Emperor of Great Yan and Li Longhu.

Countless onlookers raised their heads to witness the battle between the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning and Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan in the sky.

And it was at this moment,

that Cheng Zihai finally arrived, though belatedly.

His cultivation had not reached the level of Sky-Man, so his travel speed was slower than that of Emperor Zhou and Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan.

When he reached the scene,

he was first shocked by the commotion caused by the fight between the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning and Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan.

Then his gaze swept over the scene, finally resting on a blood-stained brocade.

Cheng Zhihai's eyes contracted sharply a few times, "So, he's already dead."

From the residual Qi on the brocade, he guessed that it was his father's doing.

When Cheng Zhihai initially heard that his child was the Crown Prince of Great Chu, he was extremely angry.

He rushed over immediately, intending to execute Cheng Guang.

But when he arrived and found Cheng Guang already dead,

his heart didn't feel any lighter, but rather, it felt empty.

Cheng Zhihai dared not imagine what Wu Yuemei would feel when she found out that her son had been dead for a while, and all this time, it was the Crown Prince of Great Chu who had been by her side.

What would she think?

Cheng Zihai approached the pool of blood, picked up the torn brocade with one hand, and his legs inexplicably weakened.

"Director,"

"Director,"

Seeing Cheng Zihai's arrival, the constables of the Bureau of the Lamp from the nearby tea house came over to salute.

Qian Siyuan and Li Zhengyang both had red-rimmed eyes, tearfully grieving at they knew not when.

"Director, the Princely Heir, he..."

Qian Siyuan's voice was hoarse, and having spoken halfway, he could not bear to continue. He turned his head away, closing his eyes to weep, biting down on his teeth in agony.

The previously cheerful expression was no longer there.

Li Zhengyang let out a sigh and opened his mouth, not knowing what to say.

From their perspective, they wanted to protect Cheng Guang.

But from Cheng Zhihai's perspective, it was only right and proper to execute this impostor Crown Prince of Great Chu.

Li Zhengyang couldn't say that he had failed to protect the Princely Heir.

Because there was no need for his protection.

Cheng Zhihai stayed silent for a moment, not saying much. He just patted Qian Siyuan on the shoulder and then patted Li Zhengyang as well.

He struggled to stand up straight.

But his legs failed him.

Leaning against the wall, Cheng Zhihai sat down, his luxurious clothes soiled with mud, but he didn't care.

Cheng Zhihai laughed.

"Dead is dead."

"The bastard deserved to die. Who could have thought that he was the Crown Prince of Great Chu; I have no idea when he killed my birth son."

"If he hadn't revealed himself now,"

"I still wouldn't have known how much longer I'd be deceived by this bastard."

"I truly thought that my boy had the makings of a Sky-Man, and he was starting to make me proud..."

"But this is the reality."

"So this is it..."

Cheng Zhihai laughed as he spoke.

By the end,

this man, always so strong, suddenly began to shed tears like a disappointed child.

At first, he seemed unaware of his tears, but as soon as he noticed, he quickly and frantically wiped them from his cheeks.

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Cheng Zihai didn't know why he was crying.

Was it for his own son?

Or for the Crown Prince of Great Chu?

At that moment, Cheng Zihai couldn't think so much; he could not control his emotions.

Qian Siyuan and Li Zhengyang turned their heads slightly, no longer looking toward Cheng Zihai.

They knew.

Their Director probably didn't want them to see him like this.

Everyone kept silent, mute and still.

The air itself seemed to crystallize.

A moment later.

The sounds of the battle in the sky diminished significantly.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan, gasped for air, his armor shattered, his aged face smeared with blood, hands dropping powerlessly as a smile crept across his lips.

"Indeed formidable."

"What relation are you to the Heavenly Machine Elder?"

"It seems your true identity isn't that of a Great Chu princess, is it?"

At this time, the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning, seemingly having overexerted herself, looked pale. She glanced at Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan but didn't answer his question.

Another finger was pointed.

As if disturbing some invisible string, several rays of light flashed, surging towards Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan.

Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan's eyes slightly widened, and then he shook his head and chuckled ruefully.

"Old man's grandson, to have someone like you avenge him is very good indeed."

The hand that he intended to lift had already dropped.

Just as he prepared to welcome death.

A figure in a white robe suddenly appeared, standing in front of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan.

The Heavenly Machine Elder looked at the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning, his voice gentle, "Empress Your Majesty, you have awakened your past life, the karma of your reincarnated body; you needn't taint yourself with it further."

"He can't die by your hands."

The Commandery Princess of Prince Ning looked at the Heavenly Machine Elder with detached eyes, "Step aside."

The Heavenly Machine Elder shook his head.

The Commandery Princess of Prince Ning raised a hand, a fearsome aura brewing at her fingertips, causing the Heavenly Machine Elder's expression to change slightly, "Have you gone mad?"

"The merit left to you by that person, do you really want to use it all up?"

"Now that you have been reincarnated and are cultivating anew, you rely entirely upon this bit of merit!"

The Heavenly Machine Elder, losing his composure, and without regard for politeness, hastily retreated.

The Commandery Princess of Prince Ning's jade finger moved.

The terrible aura from her fingertip, shining like golden light, instantly enveloped Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan.

After a few breaths.

The mist dissipated.

The figure of Duke Zhen Guo, Cheng Shiyuan disappeared from the spot.

The heavens and earth stained with blood.

As the Sky-Man fell, the heavens and earth mourned together.

The Commandery Princess of Prince Ning looked at the empty, void space, lost in emptiness.

"Pff!"

A moment later, the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning's body shook as if struck by lightning, and she coughed out a mouthful of fresh blood, sitting on the cloud bank, her originally black hair turning white instantly.

Her aura rapidly withered.

The figure of the Heavenly Machine Elder gradually appeared, his expression complex as he looked at the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning.

"Alas, why put yourself through this?"

"Though the Heavenly Dao is incomplete, this karma still persists."

The Commandery Princess of Prince Ning ignored the Heavenly Machine Elder, touching the blood at the corner of her mouth with her finger, and smiled bitterly.

"Past and present life, it's all me."

"In the past life, I was alone; in this life, I am also alone. It has never changed."

"It would've been better if you had never appeared from the start."

The Commandery Princess of Prince Ning removed the yellow flower from beside her ear.

Looking at the yellow flower, her eyes flickered with tears as she broke into a smile, shook her head gently, and tenderly swayed it on her fingertips.

"What is this, the life-saving thing you spoke of?"

"It's just an ordinary yellow flower, that's all."

The Commandery Princess of Prince Ning's breathing stabilized, sitting on the cloud bank, gazing at the distant sunset.

The sunset gradually transitioned towards dusk.

Originally, the Heavenly Machine Elder wanted to take the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning with him, but he also knew that if he disturbed her now, he would probably be beaten up.

Just as the Heavenly Machine Elder thought of leaving,

He suddenly sensed something, pausing in his step.

He saw the yellow flower raised in the hand of the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning.

Under the twilight's glow, the yellow flower radiated with an enigmatic shimmer.

The complexion of the Commandery Princess of Prince Ning froze, her eyes reflecting the flower as she suddenly laughed.

Tears mixed with the laughter.

The Commandery Princess of Prince Ning wiped away the tears at the corner of her eyes, behaving like a willful and coquettish girl.

"So this is how it is."

"So this is how it is."

"Your flower was not just to cheer me up after all; it can save lives."

As she spoke, a youthful demeanor appeared on her majestic face.

Or rather, she was indeed a girl of that age.

The Commandery Princess of Prince Ning said, gently plucking the yellow flower.

The enigmatic glow on the flower, initially barely visible, grew ever more intense, shining brightly like the grand sun.

The Heavenly Machine Elder, who was about to leave, was taken aback, his pupils contracted, his eyes full of shock.

Under his gaze.

The twilight-like luster blooming from the flower enveloped him entirely.

Or rather, it enveloped the entire world!

It seemed to contain some immense heavenly power.

He was powerless to resist!

What was it...?

The Heavenly Machine Elder was terrified!

In the next instant.

His consciousness plunged into darkness!