

My System 451

Chapter 451 - Bad Luck, Bad Luck, It's All Petty People Causing Trouble!

Empress Wei of Great Wei watched the air around her, focusing on those invisible entities.

They were swooping towards her at a swift pace.

Stirring the air, they caused ripples to surge as if the very air was the surface of water.

Those ripples, which appeared momentarily, grew larger and grander, the whole shrine space seeming to be disturbed by an invisible pair of large hands.

The entire area burst into tumultuous waves in an instant.

Empress Wei didn't have time to think further, her Qi swept out. Although she couldn't see them, she could sense, with her Qi, the presence of tiny, hardly perceivable dust particles floating in the air.

These particles were invisible to the naked eye, but under a magnification of millions of times, one could see that they were entirely white worms.

With sharp mouthparts and lengthy wings adorning their bodies.

These Worms had soft bodies, with heads that were slightly elongated, wiggling back and forth, looking like squirming intestines. They didn't have eyes, yet they seemed to sense everything around them.

As Empress Wei's Qi swept out, she instantly perceived countless tiny Worms swarming towards her.

"Scatter!"

Her face slightly sank, and with a delicate shout, her Qi vibrated. Light burst forth from between her lips, and the numerous Worms around her scattered in alarm.

But the Worms quickly realized—

the Qi swept across their bodies,

but it did not harm them in the slightest.

It merely caused their bodies to undulate a bit due to the vibration.

After a moment of panic, the Worms quickly reformed their formation and charged at Empress Wei again.

Empress Wei's complexion turned even paler.

At this moment, she was uncomfortable with the mysterious existence in the air.

She suddenly realized that, as a Sky-Man, her attacks couldn't even kill some of these hardly visible Worms!

What on earth was going on?

This Secret Realm, as well as the bizarre chicken that had just claimed to be the Demonic Moon Emperor, hadn't managed to instill any fear in her. However, these Worms had.

Empress Wei's expression darkened with resolve, no longer hesitating, she immediately retreated with a swift flight backward.

But as fast as she retreated,

the surrounding Worms converged even faster.

To Empress Wei's perception, within the solemn and stern shrine, a swarm of Worms moved, like surges of white tides billowing forward.

In only the span of a few breaths, Empress Wei was engulfed by them.

They were densely packed, and in vast numbers; a mere glance at them could induce trypophobia.

Surrounded by Worms, the cold and majestic purple eyes of Empress Wei were filled with fear.

All she could do now was to continuously vibrate the Qi around her, trying to keep all the peculiar insects out.

But the Worms, like agile snakes, clung tightly to her.

Empress Wei's struggle became feeble.

In the air, which was now rippling like water, there came a hissing noise.

It was uncertain whether it was the sibilance of the air or the hissing of the Worms.

Outside the shrine, all the strong beings who hadn't reached the Heavenly Human Realm saw Empress Wei looking as if she was madly fighting the air.

She appeared terribly neurotic.

Although most couldn't see or perceive the Worms, their instincts vaguely triggered an ominous premonition within them.

Chills ran down their backs.

While the numerous strong presences watched Empress Wei with confusion, the Seven Star Sect Master, who had previously escaped the shrine, seemed to have seen something, cursed "Dammit" under his breath, and quickly made a panicked exit.

He followed the footsteps of the other Sky-Men and left.

This Secret Realm was simply too bizarre!

For the Seven Star Sect Master, staying with the other numerous Sky-Men was perhaps the safest option.

Seeking opportunities was no longer the most important thing for the Seven Star Sect Master at this moment.

Survival was what mattered most!

The Seven Star Sect Master, who had clawed his way up from the very bottom, knew well the principle that only through living could there be hope.

Shortly after the Seven Star Sect Master left, the Worms assaulting Empress Wei found that they couldn't stick to her body at the moment, and they became even more agitated and frenzied.

The hissing sounds in the air became increasingly sharp and dense.

Soon after, they turned their attention to the surrounding area. The cold and ruthless gaze of the multitude of Worms swept over the many strong presences and finally settled on Yuan Wuxie of the Great Abyss Dynasty, who was severely wounded.

Upon seeing Yuan Wuxie of the Great Abyss Dynasty, they were like predators discovering a delicious feast.

After letting out a hissing cry,

they instantly pounced towards the severely wounded elder, Yuan Wuxie.

By this time, Yuan Wuxie had already sustained heavy injuries, and his perception had greatly declined.

Although he could sense something was around Empress Wei, it was invisible and intangible to him.

He had wanted to leave this trouble-filled place early, but with his injuries, he simply could not manage to forcefully get up.

His cultivation in the Heavenly Human Realm, placed in his decaying body, couldn't muster even a third of his strength from his prime.

When Yuan Wuxie of the Great Abyss Dynasty realized that a group of unseen entities were sweeping towards him and ripples formed in the air around him, his face changed dramatically.

But before he could react,

suddenly, Yuan Wuxie felt his body come into contact with something chilling. His body shook, and then, from all over his body, there came a dull, dense gnawing sound.

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Yuan Wuxie was momentarily stupefied.

Then he let out a scream so horrific it seemed inhuman.

At the same time!

His body began to struggle violently!

Although he was on flat ground, Yuan Wuxie's limbs flailed as if he were struggling underwater, his movements unbearably slow as if he were bound by weeds!

Empress Wei heard Yuan Wuxie's scream and cast her gaze upon him.

She merely glanced at Yuan Wuxie.

In her perception, she could clearly see Yuan Wuxie's body swarming with dense clusters of worms.

These worms clung to Yuan Wuxie like snakes made of souls, tightly entwining him.

Yuan Wuxie's struggles quickly weakened as his breathing was drowned out by the hissing sounds of the worms.

The skin of Yuan Wuxie, the Sky-Man, was as fragile as paper before these worms, easily torn open to reveal the bloody flesh beneath.

Immediately following,

Countless worms began to burrow into Yuan Wuxie's body, their movements twisted and utterly horrifying!

Empress Wei took one look and felt her entire being was not right.

The thought that she, too, could end up surrounded by these worms with a fate similar to Yuan Wuxie's, made her skin crawl.

Empress Wei withdrew her gaze.

Outside the shrine, Cheng Guang also noticed the change in Yuan Wuxie.

Cheng Guang watched Yuan Wuxie intently.

Ever since that eerie Chicken Demon died and the white worm eggs inside it cracked, the atmosphere both inside and outside the shrine had become oppressive and terrifying.

Cheng Guang, although he could not see, could guess from the hissing of the worms and the disturbances in the air as if manipulated by an invisible hand.

These beings were probably the Mysterious Bugs mentioned in the system's mission prompt.

Cheng Guang knew he had coated himself with Tri-color Grass, so these Mysterious Bugs wouldn't be able to approach him.

So now he intended to observe Yuan Wuxie, to deduce the tactics of the Mysterious Bugs from his reactions.

Cheng Guang studied Yuan Wuxie and saw him contorting in agony, layer after layer of skin and flesh disappearing into thin air.

First the skin, then the fascia, followed by flesh and bone!

Within moments, Yuan Wuxie was transformed into a misshapen giant, his skin gone, with countless beings threading through the flesh beneath.

In just a short while, the shrine became even more oppressive and terrifying due to Yuan Wuxie's transformation, leaving only the hissing of the worms echoing within and outside, aside from the breathing of the onlookers and the sound of Empress Wei's Qi oscillating.

Yuan Wuxie's struggling sounds grew weaker and weaker until they completely vanished.

In this suffocating scene, Yuan Wuxie's body finally stopped struggling.

But his body had not been entirely devoured as imagined, flesh and membrane intact.

The Mysterious Bugs, it seemed, had left Yuan Wuxie with a breath, but not much.

Cheng Guang looked closely and could clearly see that among the bloody flesh of Yuan Wuxie, there suddenly appeared several white granules.

Those white granules clung to Yuan Wuxie's flesh, throbbed as if they were drawing nutrients, or perhaps providing some to him.

At this moment, Yuan Wuxie was less alive than a host to parasites.

Cheng Guang's eyes narrowed as he witnessed this.

Now parasitized by these Mysterious Bugs, Yuan Wuxie was not immediately dead. However, given his physical condition, he was breathing less in and more out, likely not to live much longer.

The entity that claimed to be the Demonic Moon Emperor, the Chicken Demon, must have also been parasitized by a multitude of Mysterious Bugs, but strangely, it did not die.

It had not only survived.

It was still strong.

Even stronger than a typical Sky-Man.

Cheng Guang could hardly imagine how powerful the Demonic Moon Emperor must have been in its heyday.

Yuan Wuxie was beyond saving.

Cheng Guang decided not to keep his attention on him and glanced at Empress Wei within the shrine, before his gaze landed on the various items on the offering table inside.

He moved slightly and stepped forward, heading straight into the shrine.

The shrine had become a forbidden place in the eyes of the many mighty ones around.

Seeing that both the Sky-Man Yuan Wuxie and the formidable Empress Wei were in such dire straits, how could they dare to enter?

They did not dare to go in, and had they found a way out of the Secret Realm, they would have already fled.

The many frightened strong ones, in their nervousness, suddenly saw Cheng Guang, the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, stepping out and slowly walking towards the shrine.

All at once,

Everyone's mouths dropped open in shock.

"What on earth is the Town-Nation Duke's Heir trying to do?"

"Is he truly fearless? Think about it, he was the first to enter the Secret Realm."

"The Town-Nation Duke's Heir seems to have some skills, haven't you seen that he is still alive and well?"

"He is alive and well now because after entering the Secret Realm, he basically didn't move, unlike us who rushed into Daoist Mountain and suffered heavy casualties to the Monkey Devil almost instantly."

Strong ones around the shrine gazed at Cheng Guang, discussing amongst themselves.

Meanwhile, Cheng Zhihai and Qin Beifeng behind Cheng Guang had not caught on to his actions yet.

Just as Cheng Zhihai was about to step forward and stop Cheng Guang, Qin Beifeng said, "Let's see what the Princely Heir intends to do."

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Cheng Zhihai listened to Qin Beifeng's words, his face slightly startled, then a series of changes passed over it, flickers of worry incessant.

Instinctively he wanted to refute and say something.

But in the end, he said nothing.

After Cheng Guang entered the Secret Realm, he was even calmer than him.

He seemed to be thoroughly prepared for everything.

Perhaps Cheng Guang really knew more about this Secret Realm than he did.

At this moment Cheng Zhihai himself also knew that he couldn't help Cheng Guang much; in the Secret Realm, Ninth-order Martial Emperor Realm warriors, although ranked first under Sky-Man,

were at best considered just a slightly stronger ant among a congregation of Sky-Men in the Secret Realm.

They were nothing special at all.

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Cheng Guang walked slowly into the shrine; as soon as he entered, the entire space seemed to boil over.

Every place Cheng Guang passed, the air vibrated wildly, waves of air spreading all around.

Cheng Guang couldn't see those Mysterious Bugs, but his expression was calm and composed, without the slightest change.

People around, seeing Cheng Guang unharmed, and the shrine's airwaves becoming a bit more intense, but not like Yuan Wuxie earlier, being gnawed at by some unknown presence, felt a rise of surprise and uncertainty.

And at this time, Cheng Guang.

In the beautiful eyes of Empress Wei, he was presenting another scene.

In fine brocade clothes, Cheng Guang stepped leisurely into an incalculable swarm of bugs.

The Worms, on seeing Cheng Guang approach, instinctively rushed at him.

But just as they made contact with Cheng Guang, before they could even open their mouths, as if they had smelled something, many Worms immediately let out a scream, their thick, white bodies trembling non-stop, exuding an aura of fear all over.

And without enough time for further reaction, they hastily retreated in panic.

"This... "

"These Worms are actually so afraid of the Town-Nation Duke's Heir???"

Empress Wei, watching this scene, was somewhat stupefied for a moment, already somewhat unable to comprehend what was happening before her eyes.

Even as a Sky-Man, she was quite fearful of these mysterious Worms.

It was evident how troublesome these Worms were.

Empress Wei had thought she was close to perishing in the Underworld.

Yet she hadn't expected that Cheng Guang, this Town-Nation Duke's Heir, actually had a means to deal with these Worms!

In Empress Wei's beautiful eyes, a glimmer of vitality emerged.

Her exquisite face turned towards Cheng Guang, deciding to seek his help.

After hesitating for a moment, Empress Wei's red lips moved slightly, lowering her status, she said to Cheng Guang:

"Town-Nation Duke's Heir of Great Zhou, I remember you."

"You should be able to sense the presence of the bugs around us."

"Save me and get out, and I can promise you everything you want."

Empress Wei spoke slowly, her voice indescribably pleasant.

Even in requesting help from Cheng Guang, her words sounded more like a transaction; she lowered herself, but not by much.

After all, she was still an empress of a nation, among the four major dynasties, the ruler of the Great Wei, far outranking the Town-Nation Duke's Heir like Cheng Guang in status and position.

To be able to speak in such a way now was quite rare for Empress Wei.

Empress Wei's gaze was fixed on Cheng Guang, she originally thought that after her words were spoken, Cheng Guang would agree to rescue her.

But what Empress Wei didn't expect was that Cheng Guang, after hearing her words, merely glanced in her direction.

Then he simply ignored her, his gaze falling on the distant shrine's offering table.

At this time, Cheng Guang had no interest in dealing with Empress Wei.

Even if Empress Wei was very beautiful, he was not a man swayed by looks.

Rescuing Empress Wei didn't offer much advantage; what she promised might well be an empty check.

Even if it wasn't an empty check.

Cheng Guang didn't care.

Great Wei was near destitute.

After all, he was the Town-Nation Duke's Heir of Great Zhou, with access to resources that might well exceed those of the Empress of Great Wei.

Who was richer than whom was still up for debate.

If there was no significant benefit, that was fine, but in Cheng Guang's view, the key point was that there might be quite a lot of drawbacks afterwards.

After weighing pros and cons, Cheng Guang did not respond to Empress Wei and walked straight to the offering table to examine the offerings.

There were three jade plates placed upon it.

The plates' material was crystal clear, having gone through who knows how many years, yet still slightly glossy, just covered in a thick layer of dust.

Cheng Guang gave the plates a cursory glance and focused his attention mainly on the contents of the plates.

The first plate contained several pills.

The surfaces of these pills were traced with intricate patterns, faintly emitting a golden light; getting closer, one could still smell a remnant of the fragrance of the pills.

These pills actually seemed to still be useful.

However, having been eroded by the years, most of the pills had lost ninety percent of their efficacy.

Cheng Guang collected the pills along with the plate into his storage ring, then turned his attention to the White jade rice and a bowl of water nearby.

That White jade rice.

At first glance, they looked like crystal clear grains of rice, but upon closer inspection, it was discovered that these grains seemed to have some rough patterns and wrinkles on them.

They were actually in the shape of bugs.

All these grains were actually bugs???

Cheng Guang picked up the teacup, just about to examine a "grain" more closely, but found that as he gently pinched the "grain" with his finger, it gave a faint tremor.

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Due to extreme fear, his body curled up tightly.

These white worms were actually alive??

If the nearly invisible white worms in the air were the same kind as the ones here.

How long would it take for them to grow from being microscopic to the size of rice grains??

Cheng Guang's eyes slightly widened in astonishment, finding it difficult to comprehend why these worms were placed on the offering platform of this shrine.

In the Five Daos Mountain, could it be that the ancient deities, not eating anything else, only had a taste for worms??

Cheng Guang silently speculated.

At the same time, Cheng Guang thought of something else.

"Previously, the Chicken Demon said not to touch his Fruits of Path to Divinity. Could it be that these worms are not just simple food to him but are akin to elixirs, both invaluable to cultivation?"

Cheng Guang stroked his chin, feeling more convinced of the possibility the more he thought about it.

After all, when the Chicken Demon died, an egg burst out of its body.

Cheng Guang's gaze shifted, and he glanced over at Yuan Wuxie, who lay not far away on the ground, life and death uncertain.

Perhaps, thinking more deeply about it.

The Chicken Demon might have lived for so many years and not yet died, perhaps also thanks to these worms.

At the Daoist Mountain's base, those Monkey Devils whose bodies vanished after death, did they all have worms inside them??

Cheng Guang thought of this and immediately felt his scalp tingle.

This wasn't just Five Daos Mountain; it was clearly an insect nest!

Cheng Guang released the white worm he held lightly between his fingertips back into the jade dish, and quickly placed the dish into his storage ring.

These white worms were very unusual, and being able to grow this big, they might have some use.

Anyway, there wasn't much danger to him, so he might as well take them with him directly.

After Cheng Guang put all the rice-sized white worms into the storage ring, his gaze fell on the water on the offering platform.

The water in the bowl appeared black.

Approaching, he did not feel much discomfort, only a dense moisture.

Cheng Guang didn't look too closely and, after putting the water into the storage ring as well, was ready to leave the shrine.

Just as Cheng Guang was about to leave, Empress Wei could no longer sit still.

Her purpose in coming here was for the few items on the offering platform.

This time.

Not only did Empress Wei not gain anything, but she had also inadvertently cleared obstacles for Cheng Guang, the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, allowing him to easily take what she had her eyes on into his possession.

That would have been fine.

Without the items, she could be indifferent.

But when she saw Cheng Guang really ready to leave without any intention of saving her, it made Empress Wei unable to sit still.

"Town-Nation Duke's Heir, wait a moment!"

Empress Wei urgently called out to Cheng Guang.

Cheng Guang's departing steps briefly paused.

His gaze fell on Empress Wei.

Empress Wei watched Cheng Guang, observing how his body created a clear dividing line between himself and the surrounding white worms.

No matter how many times she saw it,

She was profoundly shocked.

Empress Wei couldn't understand what method Cheng Guang had used that the white worms, which she had little control over, could not approach his body.

Empress Wei furrowed her brows, then her tone lowered a few degrees, "Town-Nation Duke's Heir, would you be willing to help me?"

"You don't need to do much; just come to my side."

Currently, Empress Wei herself was surrounded by a dense swarm of white worms that she couldn't even count; she continuously vibrated her Qi to keep the countless worms from approaching and to maintain temporary safety.

If she intended to directly break out of the white worm enclosure, she feared she wouldn't get far before her body would be covered with many worms.

Empress Wei was already somewhat anxious, her tone even more earnest than before as she dropped her usual proud demeanor a bit.

At this moment, Empress Wei did not at all resemble her previous domineering and unparalleled self, the one who punched Sky-Men and trampled the Chicken Demon underfoot.

Cheng Guang watched Empress Wei and after observing her for a while,

He slowly turned his head and continued walking towards the exit of the shrine.

Empress Wei watched Cheng Guang about to leave, her face frozen in disbelief, then a wave of incredulity washed over her.

She hadn't expected that even after she had pleaded desperately to Cheng Guang, the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, he still wouldn't react at all.

Was he not taking her, Empress Wei, seriously at all??

Empress Wei's expression darkened slightly, her mood growing increasingly anxious.

Finally, with a gloomy face, she spoke out.

"Wait!"

"What would it take for you to lend me a hand?"

By saying this, Empress Wei was essentially letting Cheng Guang name his price.

Even if Cheng Guang demanded the most outrageous conditions, she would accept them at this moment.

Cheng Guang, hearing these words, was beginning to find the situation somewhat amusing.

Watching Empress Wei like this, he pondered for a moment, ready to continue leaving, when he suddenly saw far in the sky above the mountain peaks,

A stretch of blood-red color revealing itself.

A celestial phenomenon.

A Sky-Man had fallen.

Although Yuan Wuxie was half-dead by now, he hadn't died yet.

In a strict sense, the first true Sky-Man death should have been him.

Cheng Guang looked toward the distant mountaintop, wondering what beings those Sky-Men who had gone up the mountain before had encountered, for a Sky-Man to die so quickly.

The journey into the Secret Realm hadn't taken too long, had it?

Cheng Guang felt some unease about the road ahead.

Inside this Secret Realm, besides the mysterious bugs and some other inexplicable beings, there were also numerous Sky-Men present.

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At this moment, he was the only one who could deal with the mysterious bugs, although only Empress Wei of Great Wei knew about it.

Most of the others couldn't see them,

nor did they know what was happening.

Even if Cheng Guang simply ignored Empress Wei, it wouldn't matter much.

But who could say for certain whether they would encounter the mysterious bugs again later on?

After all, Empress Wei was a Sky-Man, and much stronger than the average Sky-Man at that. If she were by his side offering protection,

even if other Sky-Men learned of his methods and wanted to investigate, with Empress Wei blocking them, it wouldn't be easy.

With this in mind,

Cheng Guang had formed a plan. His gaze fell on Empress Wei's exquisite face as he slowly began to speak, "Anything I want is acceptable?"

Empress Wei's complexion had grown increasingly pale from using her Qi to shake off the worms for a long time. Her skin was clear and translucent, almost devoid of color.

Although the worms were extremely small, their bodies were incredibly tough. Her cultivation as a Sky-Man simply couldn't breach their defenses, let alone injure them.

Empress Wei had already despaired.

Upon hearing Cheng Guang's words, it was as though she had seized the last straw that might save her life.

Her usually neat and dignified hair had loosened somewhat, and her watery eyes added a touch of vulnerability to her.

"Whatever you want, just say it! I'll agree to it!"

At this point, Empress Wei was no longer in the mood to bargain.

Cheng Guang nodded slightly, his gaze sweeping over Empress Wei's form. After a thorough look, he slowly said, "I want you, within this Secret Realm..."

"Agreed!"

Cheng Guang hadn't finished speaking, but Empress Wei had already agreed outright.

With a cold and disdainful expression, Empress Wei said, "I've agreed to it!"

Cheng Guang looked at Empress Wei somewhat bewilderedly, not expecting that she would agree before he had even finished speaking.

But an agreement is an agreement.

What is up with that look of revulsion??

Could she have misunderstood?

Cheng Guang grumbled in his heart but seeing Empress Wei agree, he didn't say much more, only asking, "You agree now, but what if you renege on it later?"

"I don't have any means to bind you, a Sky-Man."

Empress Wei's autumn eyes turned frosty, and after biting her red lip, she clenched her teeth and said, "I will make an oath!"

"An oath? Is it effective?" Cheng Guang looked up at Empress Wei.

Empress Wei's bosom heaved as she thought that if she wanted to survive, she really felt like slapping the Duke's Heir of the State to death right then and there.

"It is effective! It's particularly efficacious for Sky-Men and bears strong binding power! Your low Cultivation Realm is why you aren't aware, which is quite normal!"

While saying this, she couldn't help but give Cheng Guang a disdainful look.

Hearing this, Cheng Guang was unconcerned. Empress Wei was not much older than he was, and yet she was already a Sky-Man, and a strong one among them at that.

She indeed had the right to look down on him.

Cheng Guang nodded slightly and said, "Then make your oath now."

After hearing Cheng Guang's words, Empress Wei did not hesitate or struggle with herself this time and immediately said, "I hereby swear that I accept the request of the Duke's Heir of the State and offer him my body..."

Cheng Guang, realizing Empress Wei had misunderstood him, cut her off before she could finish, "What are you talking about?"

"Who wants your body?"

As he said this, he himself looked rather disgusted.

This expression from him utterly blindsided Empress Wei.

She looked at Cheng Guang with a shocked face.

Her mind seemed fogged with disbelief, not comprehending what was happening as she failed to respond for a moment.

"So, what do you want?"

Empress Wei asked with an unsightly expression on her face.

Cheng Guang said, "I want you to protect me within this Secret Realm, and after we leave the Secret Realm, you must not harm me of your own accord."

Empress Wei felt a sense of relief upon hearing this, although she had just misunderstood something, but luckily, what Cheng Guang was asking for was not a big deal.

It was merely protection.

Compared to yielding her body, this was far more acceptable.

Empress Wei's breathing slowed as she began to recite the oath anew.

"I hereby swear, in this Secret Realm, to protect the Duke's Heir of the State..."

After Empress Wei had finished her oath, she clearly felt an unknown force being placed upon her.

Feeling the force atop her heart, Empress Wei looked at Cheng Guang.

"Are you satisfied now?"

Cheng Guang nodded slightly,

not appearing to be too petty.

He had started walking towards where Empress Wei was located as soon as she began to recite the oath.

The closer he got to Empress Wei's position, the more numerous the worms became.

As soon as Cheng Guang approached, all the worms instantly surged, screaming in terror, and scattered in all directions.

Some of the worms surged out beyond the shrine.

The many powerhouses who were standing around watching intently felt a powerful gust of wind, and then many of them felt a stinging sensation all over their bodies.

Even though they couldn't see,

the hissing sounds reached their ears, making it instantly clear to them that the mysterious entities that had been hovering in the shrine, causing Yuan Wuxie such a miserable state, had come out!

"Run!!! Run!!!"

"What the hell are these things?!"

"The Duke's Heir has a way to deal with these things!! Heir, save us!!!"

Some people screamed.

Some people scrambled to flee.

Some people pleaded with Cheng Guang for help.

Cheng Guang glanced at the strong ones around him, then disinterestedly turned his head away.

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After approaching Empress Wei of Great Wei,

he said to her, "Stay close to me, let's go."

Once Cheng Guang reached Empress Wei's side, she immediately felt a sense of relief in her breathing, and her body softened considerably; as she was about to fall towards Cheng Guang, she stubbornly straightened herself up again.

Before she could open her mouth to say anything,

Cheng Guang had already started to walk slowly towards the exterior of the shrine.

Empress Wei's delicate features froze for a moment, and, gritting her teeth in anger, she hurriedly followed Cheng Guang's steps, clutching tightly onto the corner of his clothes with one hand and secretly exerting force to ensure he didn't get too far away from her.

Once they were outside the shrine,

many powerful individuals who were inadvertently injured by the Worms fleeing in all directions desperately rushed towards Cheng Guang,

hoping to gain his protection.

But as they got close, before even reaching Cheng Guang, they were forcibly suppressed by a powerful aura and stopped in their tracks.

One could see that alongside Cheng Guang, Empress Wei took a step forward, her resplendent royal robes endowing her with extraordinary dignity.

"All of you, keep your distance from me!"

With a cold look on her beautiful face, Empress Wei shouted angrily, the force of her voice spreading around.

At the moment, Empress Wei had no idea what method Cheng Guang had employed to make the Worms fear him so.

Nevertheless,

from Empress Wei's perspective, the safest place was at Cheng Guang's side.

If these people were to stay by Cheng Guang's side, wouldn't they be competing for her spot?

Empress Wei would under no circumstances agree to that.

The crowd, shouted back by Empress Wei, wailed, then looked towards Cheng Guang with pitiful eyes.

"Princely Heir, this..."

"Princely Heir, please help us. We have no way to deal with these mysterious creatures."

Cheng Guang's lips twitched slightly in response to the crowd's pleas.

He realized that the Mysterious Bugs would not infest just anyone.

Initially, the Mysterious Bugs kept their focus on the Sky-Men, either Yuan Wuxie or Empress Wei.

If they had been interested in the powerful individuals outside the shrine, they would have likely acted much sooner.

If it hadn't been for him approaching Empress Wei, these Worms wouldn't have been driven out by him.

These people were injured, and to a certain extent, it was partly his fault.

He figured that once he left, these Mysterious Bugs, which had hidden in the bodies of the strong due to fear, might come out on their own.

However, whether they would harm people again or if they carried any poison was unknown.

If they were indeed poisonous, even his departure would not save them.

Thinking to himself, Cheng Guang swung his hand, releasing a swath of Qi that enveloped the powerful group, and he said with a smile, "I have already applied a technique. If you rest here for a while, your injuries should heal soon, and those things will not harm you again."

Upon hearing Cheng Guang's words, those around him were first stunned, then they frantically bowed respectfully to Cheng Guang, thanking him incessantly.

"Thank you, Princely Heir! Thank you, Princely Heir!! We are immensely grateful for your great kindness!!"

"Princely Heir is truly a good person, really a good person!!"

"If we manage to leave the Secret Realm alive, whatever command the Princely Heir has in the future, just give the order!!"

The crowd was filled with gratitude, bowing down en masse.

Empress Wei, upon hearing these words, clearly appeared astonished.

She looked at Cheng Guang with a touch of disbelief.

She had been observing Cheng Guang continuously before.

The moment Cheng Guang made his move, she had watched intently, trying to understand what means he possessed that made the Worms incapable of approaching him and even made them fear him.

But after witnessing Cheng Guang's actions,

Empress Wei was completely flabbergasted.

In her view, Cheng Guang had merely waved his hand, conjuring a gust of Heavenly and Earthly Qi, after which there were no other actions taken.

That's it??

That's it??

This was enough to drive all the Worms away??

Empress Wei couldn't believe it!

Meanwhile, Cheng Guang paid little attention to Empress Wei.

He gestured to Cheng Zhihai and Qin Beifeng, who were standing nearby with dumbstruck expressions,

and slowly led them away along with Empress Wei.

They hadn't walked for long,

when Empress Wei clearly overheard a succession of cheers coming from behind.

"The Princely Heir is truly miraculous!! The Worms have really left!!"

"Amazing!! What exactly is the method used by the Princely Heir!"

Hearing such voices, Empress Wei's hand tensed slightly, and her expression wavered. After pondering for a moment, she instinctively moved closer to Cheng Guang.

It seemed to give her a greater sense of security.

At this time, if Empress Wei had turned around for a glance,

she would have seen

quite a few strong warriors with swollen lumps on their bodies as countless Worms eagerly burrowed out from within them following Cheng Guang's departure; the creatures seemed to have eaten something distasteful, causing them to vomit incessantly.

Their fierce eyes locked onto the nearby individuals, eager to approach and feed, yet they seemed reluctant. After hesitating for a moment, most of the Worms sniffed around as if catching a pleasant scent, suddenly fixated, and flew off towards the mountains.

...

Cheng Guang and his company followed the mountain road steadily upward.

Empress Wei clung tightly to Cheng Guang's back as if fearing another encounter with Worm-like beings.

Her unwavering pursuit of Cheng Guang drew great attention from many.

Empress Wei, a Sky-Man, was now following closely behind Cheng Guang.

It seemed not as if Empress Wei was protecting Cheng Guang,

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But it was Cheng Guang who was protecting Empress Wei, the Sky-Man.

It was utterly absurd.

Such that all those who witnessed this scene, their faces briefly stiffened, shocked into silence.

And so, under the watchful eyes of the crowd,

Cheng Guang reached the mountaintop.

At the summit, the world before him suddenly opened up.

A delicate residence made of blue stone and wood sat at the top of the mountain.

Above it, a signboard bore three large characters.

Around Immortal Residence.

The Around Immortal Residence was surrounded by yellow maple trees, their golden leaves picturesque like a poem, fluttering in the autumn breeze, causing a splendid rain of falling leaves.

In a corner of the temple, there sat a large wine jar, a rough and simple piece of pottery.

It seemed to be a wine vat.

A fragrance wafted from it, so intoxicating that one's cultivation level would increase upon smelling it.

Approaching it, even with Cheng Guang's not so sharp senses, inhaling the fragrance caused his complexion to flush red, and his Qi and Blood surged, a blush rising to his head.

His cultivation level had clearly advanced a great deal!

He was almost at the brink of a breakthrough!

Just a whiff of it, and there was such a significant effect.

This thing.

Perhaps it was what had caused so many Sky-Men to gather here!

This opportunity lay before him, where were the other Sky-Men?

Cheng Guang's gaze swept around and suddenly turned towards the nearby Around Immortal Residence.

There was another wine vat there, but it had been shattered.

It was probably due to the struggle among the many Sky-Men, which resulted in the vat's breakage.

The surrounding ground and yellow leaves seemed a bit disorderly, and Qi was agitated, indicating that a battle had just taken place here.

The commotion was not small.

The Sky-Man that had just died might have met his end right here.

Cheng Guang narrowed his eyes slightly, ready to approach and inspect the contents of the wine vat when a dark shadow fell from the distant sky, landing directly on the roof of the Around Immortal Residence.

As it landed, a dense aura of authority spread in all directions.

For those of lower strength, it was exceedingly difficult even to approach this area!

Cheng Guang found his breathing had become much more difficult!

Fortunately, he had Empress Wei by his side, which afforded him some relief.

"Drink the wine of today in today's mirth, and let not the concerns of the world trouble thee at thy gate."

The dark shadow suddenly raised its head and poured liquor into its mouth.

"Ill fortune, ill fortune, all just trifles trying to cause trouble. How many years has it been since anyone other than those calamities that persecute our clan has dared to treat me so?"

"To task me with protecting them here is truly vexing! Mind you, one of these days I'll drink myself senseless and smash them to bits!"

After muttering to himself, the shadow once again became swallowed by silence.

One hand drooped slightly.

Streaks of fresh blood dripped down from its body.

That blood was clearly not its own, but rather... seemed to be...

Sky-Men...

Suddenly, Cheng Guang turned his head, glancing towards where the shadow had come from.

In that direction, without knowing when, the sky had been enveloped in blood.

The skies had drastically changed!

No one knew how many Sky-Men had fallen!

Given the scope of this onslaught, at least three or four Sky-Men must have died at the hands of the shadow!!

Cheng Guang looked up at the shadow.

When he saw the full appearance of the shadow,

Cheng Guang's pupils shrank, utterly shocked.

The shadow was none other than a humanoid scorpion clad in armor, its body displaying a deep brown color, with a pair of massive pincers for hands, one of which was broken.

"How could such a being have suffered such heavy injuries??"

"Who did this?"

"And in such a wounded state, he can still repel a host of Sky-Men? Just how powerful was he at his peak?"

Cheng Guang murmured to himself while simultaneously thinking.

Furthermore...

Listening to the words of that creature,

Could it be that this scorpion, unlike the Monkey Devil that was infested by parasites...

Is still alive????

At this thought, Cheng Guang's scalp tingled!

He suddenly looked up.

And just in time to lock eyes with a pair of profound scorpion pupils.

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The scorpion's pupils stared deeply at Cheng Guang.

Merely caught under the scorpion's gaze, Cheng Guang instantly felt as if a tremendously heavy mountain was pressing down on his head, making his breathing become incredibly labored.

Standing beside Cheng Guang, Cheng Zihai and Qin Beifeng, even as Ninth Grade Martial Emperors, seemed to have little ability to resist in the face of this scorpion-like creature, whose name they did not know.

Their bodies became slightly stiff.

Wanting to intervene and shield Cheng Guang from the scorpion's oppressive might, they found at that moment, even moving their bodies proved incredibly difficult.

Empress Wei of Great Wei took light, lotus-like steps and moved in front of Cheng Guang, which made things considerably easier for him.

Empress Wei's beautiful eyes watched the scorpion on the roof, her fair face briefly froze in surprise, and her eyebrows slowly furrowed.

This scorpion was much stronger than the chicken demon they had just encountered in the shrine.

Its strength was not to be underestimated.

If it really came down to fighting this scorpion, even she wasn't sure she could ensure victory.

While Empress Wei was warily observing the scorpion,

the scorpion did not continue its gaze on Cheng Guang, instead sitting atop the roof as if it had no desire to bother with them, nor to pay them any heed, only saying,

"I don't know where this little thing came from; I don't want to bother with you, leave quickly."

After speaking, it continued to sit on the roof and drink its wine in solitude.

At this time,

from afar, several presences arose.

A few Sky-Men arrived from a distance in a beleaguered state, covered in wounds with white faces and expressions filled with barely concealed terror looking at the scorpion on the roof.

They stood in the distance and did not approach.

Clearly, these Sky-Men had just clashed with the scorpion, nearly being unilaterally crushed.

No matter how many Sky-Men there were, they were no match for the scorpion.

Li Longhu glanced at the scorpion, then looked at Cheng Guang and his group standing in front of Around Immortal Residence.

Li Longhu couldn't understand why Cheng Guang and the others were still so close to the scorpion; weren't they afraid of being attacked?

Similarly puzzled was Emperor Zhou, who stood beside Li Longhu.

They had followed the scent that could enhance their cultivation all the way to Around Immortal Residence, initially not noticing the giant scorpion on the roof, and immediately started to fight over the liquid contained within the earthen jars.

While they were busy with their struggle, the strange scorpion suddenly appeared.

The strange scorpion, with a single strike, bisected a Sky-Man before he could react, tearing him into a mist of blood.

No longer concerning themselves with the earthen jars, they began to fight the scorpion.

After some fighting, with the scorpion killing a few of them, it finally left slightly appeased.

Otherwise, Emperor Zhou was beginning to doubt whether he could survive an encounter with this strange scorpion.

Emperor Zhou now didn't dare to approach Around Immortal Residence and could only watch from a considerable distance.

As he watched Cheng Guang and the others stand before Around Immortal Residence unharmed by the scorpion, confusion set in.

Under Emperor Zhou's watchful eye, he suddenly saw Cheng Guang start to move.

Cheng Guang stepped towards Around Immortal Residence.

Emperor Zhou and the group of Sky-Men narrowed their eyes upon seeing this, immediately anticipating that the scorpion might act next, tearing the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, Cheng Guang, who was unaware of his imminent danger, into a mist of blood.

Cheng Zihai and Qin Beifeng were also shocked, but having grown accustomed to Cheng Guang's startling actions, they did not immediately intervene.

Empress Wei, who had closely followed behind Cheng Guang, paused for a moment, half a beat too slow to react.

The strange scorpion had not attacked them so far; shouldn't they be leaving first?

Why did the Town-Nation Duke's Heir still want to explore Around Immortal Residence?

Was he choosing opportunity over life?

Empress Wei was ridden with doubts, but then she recalled the method Cheng Guang had used earlier to deal with the worms, and a feeling arose in her that perhaps Cheng Guang also had some means to deal with this strange scorpion.

After some hesitation, Empress Wei followed Cheng Guang's footsteps, heading toward Around Immortal Residence.

Cheng Guang walked slowly toward Around Immortal Residence.

The strange scorpion on the roof drank its gloomy wine and, sensing Cheng Guang's motion, glanced at him with its deep brown pupils. Seeing him cross the threshold and enter the large gate of Around Immortal Residence, not disturbing the earthen jar placed in front of the residence, it looked away.

As Cheng Guang passed the threshold of Around Immortal Residence and entered inside, he briefly scanned his surroundings, noticing a few gold-plated wooden boxes in the corner.

Cheng Guang's eyes lightened, and he hurried over, opening the gold-plated wooden box, which released a cloud of dust. The contents were sparse.

There was nothing more than a few tea sets and some garments that looked very much like the Daoist robes worn by the Monkey Devil outside the mountain gate, though seemingly of a finer quality.

After opening all the gold-plated wooden boxes, Cheng Guang found that besides garments, there were also some scriptures with weathered covers, turned pitch-black.

Without opening them, merely by holding them in his hands,

he could sense voices whispering in his ears.

It seemed like imparting teachings, like leaving messages.

Cheng Guang listened carefully.

"The Great Dao is boundless; it can be left or right. All things depend on it for life and do not depart; the work is completed without a name. It nourishes all things without claiming dominance, its constancy is without desire, which can be termed 'small.'"

"All things return to it, yet it does not claim dominion; it can be termed 'great.' Because it never acts great by itself, thus it can achieve greatness..."

Most were cryptic scriptures, catching only fragments, Cheng Guang felt a slight headache, his mind in a daze, as if seeing himself in front of an old Taoist clad in decaying robes, earnestly conveying teachings to him.

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As he listened, Cheng Guang found himself spellbound.

At that moment, the Proving Dao Map in Cheng Guang's mind seemed to suddenly open its eyes upon hearing these scriptures. A radiance burst forth from the eyes of the divine entity, shining brilliantly with golden light.

A trace of clarity swept through Cheng Guang's mind.

Cheng Guang suddenly returned to his senses, his heart pounding with shock. Just a mere touch had almost ensnared him in an illusion, nearly rendering him unable to break free!

This thing is very strange indeed!

Cheng Guang quickly set down the scroll and stored it in his storage ring together with the rest.

At that moment, Empress Wei followed Cheng Guang's path, walking through the Secret Realm.

Empress Wei watched Cheng Guang as if trying to see through all the secrets he held.

When Cheng Guang noticed Empress Wei's gaze, he turned to look at her, then ignored her and went on to gather everything from the gilt wooden box into his storage ring.

The current state between him and Empress Wei maintained a delicate balance; she dared not harm him, nor could he harm her.

Therefore, Cheng Guang naturally didn't extend unnecessary courtesies to Empress Wei. First come, first served. By taking all these items, they became his possessions.

After Cheng Guang put everything from the gilt wooden box into his storage ring, Empress Wei didn't say much more.

After all, it was Cheng Guang who entered the Around Immortal Residence first.

If it hadn't been for Cheng Guang entering first, even with a hundred times the courage, Empress Wei wouldn't have dared to enter Around Immortal Residence under the watchful eyes of the mysterious scorpion to seek fortune.

Empress Wei followed him in, and besides the sense of security she felt behind Cheng Guang, she was more interested in seeing what Cheng Guang was planning to do in Around Immortal Residence.

She always felt that Cheng Guang knew far more than she did.

It was as if Cheng Guang had been to this Secret Realm long ago, his every move, the ease and carefreeness of his manner, and his indifferent expression filled him with confidence.

After observing Cheng Guang, Empress Wei didn't say much more and silently followed behind him, carefully scouring the interior of Around Immortal Residence.

Cheng Guang had taken all the things of value, scouring them clean.

At the same time, Cheng Guang also noticed that since Empress Wei had come to his side, she hadn't shown much interest in the things within Around Immortal Residence. Rather, she showed an unusual amount of interest in him.

It seemed he was the one who interested Empress Wei more.

Cheng Guang shook his head with a wry smile, not saying much. He stayed a while longer in Around Immortal Residence and then slowly walked out.

He exited the doors of Around Immortal Residence.

He then looked at the wine vessel near the doors of Around Immortal Residence.

The wine within the vessel offered great benefits to Cultivators.

For a Sky-Man, a single gulp might even result in an immediate breakthrough.

But with the scorpion there.

Getting the wine from this vessel wasn't going to be easy.

Cheng Guang looked at the wine vessel and then at the giant scorpion on the roof, feeling helpless, he decided to give up.

If he became more powerful in the future and had the chance to return to this Secret Realm, perhaps he could defeat the Scorpion Demon and enjoy this fine wine.

Just as Cheng Guang was about to call Cheng Zihai and Qin Beifeng to leave,

at this moment,

the Sky-Man who saw Cheng Guang enter and leave Around Immortal Residence safe and sound simply couldn't sit still anymore.

They found it incredible and were utterly shocked.

Why could Cheng Guang, the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, be ignored by that weird scorpion and enter Around Immortal Residence, only to come out unscathed?

At the same time, many of them realized:

If the wine vessel lying casually outside Around Immortal Residence held such opportunities that even the Sky-Man coveted, wouldn't the items inside be of even greater value?

With this thought,

many Sky-Man converged towards the peak in tacit agreement.

Approaching Around Immortal Residence, even as they saw the giant scorpion did not turn its gaze upon them but continued drinking, they still slowed their steps in cautious unison.

The air was thick with the rich aroma of the wine.

Just a whiff,

made many Sky-Man surge with Qi and Blood, their faces flushing as if they had taken a Great Replenishment Pill.

Cheng Guang noticed several Sky-Man, including Li Longhu and Emperor Zhou, approaching him.

No sooner than these Sky-Man got near, Cheng Guang could feel a searing heat emanating from them. These were Cultivators of Martial Cultivation with Qi and Blood bubbling within them, like blazing furnaces, uncomfortably hot, making him quite uncomfortable.

With a heart ready for the Sky-Man coming his way, Cheng Guang was not panicked and calmly regarded the group of people approaching.

Li Longhu approached Cheng Guang, his aged eyes observing him, a look of admiration and surprise intermingling. After watching Cheng Guang for a moment, he asked, "Town-Nation Duke's Heir, what did you find when you entered Around Immortal Residence just now?"

Cheng Guang smiled and shook his head, "I didn't find much of anything. There wasn't much inside Around Immortal Residence."

Li Longhu, upon hearing Cheng Guang's response, didn't believe him at all.

The mere wine in the vessel at the entrance to Around Immortal Residence was not simple, let alone the items hidden within it.

Li Longhu couldn't understand why that odd scorpion on the roof hadn't attacked Cheng Guang when he entered Around Immortal Residence.

Thinking this, Li Longhu glanced again at the curious scorpion on the distant roof, only to see it still gulping down wine, paying them no heed at all.

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In the eyes of that bizarre scorpion, we might as well have been mere ants.

Thinking this, Li Longhu's expression became rather unpleasant.

At this moment, Emperor Zhou, standing nearby, spoke with a smile, "Guanger, what exactly did you see when you entered the Around Immortal Residence? What did you take? Feel free to show us."

Emperor Zhou was quite curious about what treasures Cheng Guang may have acquired from the Around Immortal Residence.

Cheng Guang heard Emperor Zhou's words but showed little reaction.

Upon hearing Emperor Zhou's words, Cheng Zihai beside Cheng Guang revealed a look of surprise.

At any other time, Emperor Zhou, at least superficially, always displayed a doting affection towards Cheng Guang.

Could it be that he didn't even want to pretend this time?

Or was it that he was also coveting the items that Guanger might have obtained?

Cheng Zihai didn't quite understand.

He wanted to say something, but surrounded by the watchful eyes of the Sky-Men, Cheng Zihai felt a weighty pressure bearing down on him.

Just as he was about to step forward, approaching Cheng Guang, Cheng Guang himself spoke with a smile.

"Uncle, why say such things? If you want to see what I've obtained, I'll be happy to show you," Cheng Guang said.

Saying this, Cheng Guang didn't hesitate to remove the storage ring he was wearing on his finger and flung it straight to Emperor Zhou.

Emperor Zhou caught the storage ring reflexively and was momentarily taken aback.

He hadn't anticipated that Cheng Guang would so readily hand over everything he had gotten from the Secret Realm.

At the same time, Emperor Zhou could clearly sense that Cheng Guang had indeed handed over all his possessions to him.

Through his perception, there remained not a single Storage Treasure on Cheng Guang's person.

Apart from Emperor Zhou, the other Sky-Men also realized this and shifted their gaze from Cheng Guang to Emperor Zhou.

Emperor Zhou said with a smile, "Guanger is indeed a generous child, truly unsparing to his own uncle. These are probably just some trinkets."

As he spoke, Emperor Zhou's Primordial Spirit stirred slightly, and his thoughts reached out to open the storage ring for a quick look.

But after a mere glance, Emperor Zhou's expression shifted to one of shock, and no sooner had his words ended than he promptly rose and dashed off into the distance.

He didn't seem to want to linger at the spot for even a moment longer.

After Emperor Zhou vanished, Li Longhu and the other Sky-Men were momentarily stunned, then their expressions turned to anger.

They had all come together, and now was Emperor Zhou really intending to keep all the spoils for himself?

They quickly followed Emperor Zhou's lead, their Qi swirling as they broke through the air to keep up with his pace.

At the same time, although the group of Sky-Men still harbored a certain fear of the bizarre scorpion guarding the Around Immortal Residence — even though the creature had not attacked them — caution dictated they maintain a comfortable distance from it.

The strength of that bizarre scorpion was by far beyond what one or two Sky-Men could compare to.

Its true power was likely far beyond their imagination.

Under its vigilant watch, the chance to reap gains from the wine jars within that could enhance their cultivation realms was probably lost.

The opportunity to acquire treasures from the Around Immortal Residence was equally lost.

And that was considered fortunate.

It was for this reason that they furiously stirred their Qi, chasing after Emperor Zhou.

Emperor Zhou, as expected of a practitioner of the Spirit Dao, possessed great strength and a high Cultivation Realm. He was much stronger than most who followed the path of Martial Cultivation to reach the Heavenly Human Realm.

In just a moment, he had vanished from sight.

For Li Longhu and the others to catch up with Emperor Zhou would probably take some more time.

Stroking his chin, Cheng Guang thought that although the Secret Realm was quite vast, space was still limited. No matter how well Emperor Zhou could hide, he couldn't stay hidden for very long.

At this moment, Cheng Guang was not saddened by the fact that he had given all his belongings to Emperor Zhou.

Under the watchful eyes of so many Sky-Men, he had little room to resist. Even with Empress Wei by his side, a single Empress Wei could not withstand so many Sky-Men.

Now Cheng Guang was somewhat curious about what Emperor Zhou had discovered in his storage ring that could make him so eager to leave behind the other Sky-Men, risking being pursued, just to take away his storage ring.

Cheng Guang didn't understand.

There were indeed some nice items in his storage ring.

But most of them he couldn't recognize.

Seeing Emperor Zhou's urgency just now, it was evident that he recognized something within the storage ring.

Regardless, not everything inside his storage ring was of value; there were some unpleasant items as well.

Cheng Guang wondered if Emperor Zhou would be able to discover the 'gift' he had left him.

Cheng Guang pondered this as his gaze fell on the bizarre scorpion atop the Around Immortal Residence.

"Duke of the State's Heir, did you just hand over the opportunity you worked so hard to obtain to Emperor Zhou?"

At that moment, Empress Wei, with her beautiful eyes fixed on Cheng Guang and her lips slightly parted, began to speak slowly.

Empress Wei was somewhat puzzled.

The opportunity that Cheng Guang had secured included items she coveted, yet Cheng Guang gave them away so carelessly to Emperor Zhou.

Despite having her protection, why did the Duke of the State's Heir choose to do this?

Empress Wei couldn't understand.

Cheng Guang simply smiled and said, "It's okay; he's just holding onto them for me for now. In that situation, if I hadn't handed them over, those Sky-Men would be targeting me right now instead of Emperor Zhou."