

## **My System 491**

### Chapter 491 - Mom Really Wants to Watch You Grow Up \_6

The constable glanced around the medical hall before quickly locking his gaze on Li Tongzhen.

Seeing Li Tongzhen dressed like a beggar,

a group of constables were momentarily stunned.

The deceased Zhu Xicheng, whom they were aware of, was a well-known merchant in the nearby markets, corpulent and rather skilled. How could he be beaten to death by such a small beggar?

Could this be a misunderstanding?

Filled with doubt, the constables didn't think much further and stepped forward, intending to take Li Tongzhen to the Office for questioning.

With the current emperor missing and the court in turmoil, they did not wish to face any incidents at this juncture.

Otherwise, if they attracted the attention of someone with ulterior motives, they would not come out better off.

The constables promptly advanced, about to arrest Li Tongzhen.

But Li Tongzhen took a step back, warily eyeing the constables approaching him. His hand slowly tightened into a fist, his little face tense, already appearing ready to fight back.

Mr. Zhao, the head constable, upon seeing Li Tongzhen's demeanor, chuckled and shook his head:

"What are you so nervous about, kid? If you did it, you can't escape."

"If you didn't do it, we won't wrong you."

"Just come with us for an investigation first."

Li Tongzhen, hearing the other's words, didn't respond, but his eyes were frosty as he stared at the constables before him.

Even Li Tongzhen himself may not have realized it.

His still youthful face was now filled with murderous intent.

A hint of red appeared in his eyes.

Around the rims of his eyes, some dark patterns also emerged.

"I killed him."

Li Tongzhen slowly stated.

Mr. Zhao was briefly stunned when he heard Li Tongzhen's words, then he chuckled and shook his head, "In handling cases, we rely on evidence. Whether you killed him or not, we have ways to find out."

"As a little kid, you can't just say anything you want. Remember, trouble starts with a careless word."

Li Tongzhen merely listened to Mr. Zhao's words, and his brows furrowed. He continued to stare coldly at the people surrounding him.

It seemed as if he would attack if anyone nearby dared to step closer.

The noblewoman, seeing that the constables spoke to Li Tongzhen with a somewhat softer tone, hurriedly spoke up, "Sir, it's this beggar. He offended me earlier, and my husband disciplined him. Then he bore a grudge. I don't know by what means he killed my husband."

"It just goes to show how people's hearts have changed and the world has grown cold."

As the noblewoman spoke, she began wailing sorrowfully again.

Upon hearing the noblewoman beside him, Mr. Zhao's lips involuntarily twitched, and he automatically tuned out her wailing. Looking at Li Tongzhen, he asked again:

"Do you have anything to say?"

Li Tongzhen laughed softly, his voice low. Looking at Qingqing, who lay unconscious and of unknown fate on the bed, he felt an extreme sadness in his heart.

"I have nothing to say."

"Although I didn't intend to kill him, he indeed deserved to die."

"Now that he's dead, it's for the better."

Li Tongzhen said, smiling.

At that moment, even Li Tongzhen himself hadn't realized that his tone of voice and demeanor, compared to his youthful appearance, contrasted greatly.

It chilled those who took one look at him.

Or who heard even a single word he uttered.

At that point, Mr. Zhao also felt that there was something unusual about the beggar in front of him.

Just then, a constable looked towards Mr. Zhao and asked, "Boss, what do we do now? This Zhu fellow wasn't exactly a saint."

Another constable chimed in, "Earlier this morning, this Zhu guy did indeed beat this beggar severely, before taking him back to his mansion."

"Who knows what he did."

"Regardless, that Zhu Xicheng had it coming."

The constables spoke out, without any regard for the relatives of Zhu Xicheng nearby.

Constable Zhao, looking at the small figure of Li Tongzhen before him, could not help but feel a chill rise from the bottom of his heart, and the words he heard by his side gave him pause.

"In that case, go and investigate thoroughly again."

"I will stay here to keep an eye on this beggar, and if the evidence turns out to be conclusive, then we'll call upon the authorities from the Bureau of the Lamp to take action."

A constable by Constable Zhao's side couldn't help but lift his eyes to Zhao and said subconsciously, "But, sir, this beggar has already confessed that it was he who killed Zhu Xicheng."

Constable Zhao's old face flushed red, a bit annoyed and somewhat angry, he said, "Do I need your reminder? Go now! Stop wasting words!"

As Constable Zhao finished speaking.

The other constables by his side quickly departed and hurried to investigate.

Only Constable Zhao was left standing there alone.

He smiled kindly at Li Tongzhen, indicating that he had no ill intentions.

Seeing that most of the people around him had left, and that Constable Zhao indeed had no ill intentions, Li Tongzhen breathed a sigh of relief and stood quietly by the bed.

The previously murderous aura completely vanished.

Now, Li Tongzhen looked like a helpless teenager, not yet fully grown.

"Sir, how is Qingqing doing?"

Upon hearing Li Tongzhen's question, Wang Ruoguan came back to his senses from the commotion Constable Zhao had caused and said, "Her constitution is too weak, and she's often ill. To add to that, she lost too much blood this time."

"That wound was poisoned with a forbidden drug, for which the antidote is closely guarded and only available at the Bureau of the Lamp, but the Bureau is not a place just anyone can access."

"Ordinary constables of the Bureau of the Lamp have no authority to inquire about such forbidden drugs."

"Unless Director Cheng or perhaps the Town-Nation Duke's Heir intervenes..."

"Unless something unexpected happens..."

"We should prepare for the worst."

After Wang Ruoguan finished speaking.

Li Tongzhen suddenly stood up and bowed to Wang Ruoguan.

"Please take care of her, sir."

"I'm going to Duke Zhen's Mansion to find the Town-Nation Duke's Heir."

Upon hearing this, Wang Ruoguan was stunned, "Hey, you..."

Before he could finish speaking.

Li Tongzhen turned and ran out the door.



Heading in the direction of Duke Zhen's Mansion.

Wang Ruoguan watched dumbfounded as Li Tongzhen disappeared, his aged face showing a hint of helplessness.

He sighed.

"Trying to reach the Town-Nation Duke's Heir is even harder than getting access to the Bureau of the Lamp!"

"How could we ordinary people ever catch the eye of the Town-Nation Duke's Heir."

"Silly child, silly child."

Wang Ruoguan shook his head.

Constable Zhao was also taken aback; he had stayed behind to keep watch over Li Tongzhen.

But Li Tongzhen ran off in the blink of an eye.

Even as Li Tongzhen was already gone.

He still hadn't reacted.

How could the beggar move so quickly?

And there were no clear signs on his body of having undergone extensive training.

It was truly strange.

Constable Zhao didn't quite understand, but he didn't dare ruminate on it. Given that this murder case could indeed have been committed by Li Tongzhen, he might still be a criminal who couldn't be allowed to escape.

Constable Zhao didn't hesitate any further, immediately grabbed his sword, bounded through the door,

and chased after the figure of Li Tongzhen.

Heading in the direction of Duke Zhen's Mansion.

Chapter 492 - Divine Illusion, You Are Not Me!

Li Tongzhen ran to the front of Duke Zhen's Mansion.

Today, there was a grand wedding at Duke Zhen's Mansion, and even though the banquet was over and the servants had cleaned up the streets on both sides, there were still some remnants of red paper in front of the Duke's Mansion.

The celebratory atmosphere in the air had not completely dissipated.

Li Tongzhen looked up at the Entrance Hall of Duke Zhen's Mansion.

Then he noticed the guards at the front of the mansion, their eyes landing on him.

Li Tongzhen hurried forward.

"Um..."

Li Tongzhen quickly approached, walking up to the guard in front of Duke Zhen's Mansion, ready to ask if he could meet the Princely Heir.

However.

Before Li Tongzhen could get close to the guard, he was shouted at to stop.

"Halt!"

Li Tongzhen's brow unconsciously furrowed in response to the guard's shout, not understanding why, but feeling a surge of irritation within his heart.

Yet he still suppressed the emotions inside him, stood straight and respectfully, and then said to the guard:

"I would like to meet the Crown Prince, please inform him if you could, brothers."

The several guards in front of Duke Zhen's Mansion, upon hearing Li Tongzhen's words, made strange faces and exchanged glances.

Then they waved their hands dismissively.

"You, a beggar, don't make a fool of yourself. How could the Princely Heir meet with you? Go play elsewhere."

Upon hearing their reply, Li Tongzhen slowly clenched his hand and slightly opened his mouth, intending to plead more, but those guards were unlikely to listen to him.

With his current status and identity, the gap between him and the Princely Heir was wider than the heavens and earth.

Just as Li Tongzhen was about to say something else, he heard a rush of footsteps from behind.

Mr. Zhao, panting, ran up to Li Tongzhen's side.

First, he was careful and somewhat respectful as he nodded to the guards at the entrance of Duke Zhen's Mansion, before turning his attention to Li Tongzhen.

Even the guards in front of the mansion were not something a small local Office constable like him could compare to.

The respect that was due could not be omitted; otherwise, it would seem very offensive.

Mr. Zhao looked at Li Tongzhen with slightly furrowed brows, then stepped forward, intending to pull Li Tongzhen away.

"Listen to my advice; the Princely Heir will not meet you. If you want to save that girl, you'd better think of another way."

"You don't even know how to settle the trouble you've gotten into now; do you really need more problems?"

Mr. Zhao spoke earnestly.

Truth be told, Mr. Zhao had no need to treat Li Tongzhen, a mere beggar, this way.

But.

Li Tongzhen, the beggar, indeed gave him a different feeling. Facing Li Tongzhen, a vague fear arose in his heart.

It was laughable.

He actually felt fear towards Li Tongzhen, a child who hadn't even fully grown his hair.

But even so, Mr. Zhao's attitude towards Li Tongzhen was somewhat gentler.

He advocated persuasion first.

Li Tongzhen was being pulled by Mr. Zhao to go back.

However, after just a few steps, Li Tongzhen stopped in his tracks.

At this moment, no matter how much Mr. Zhao pulled, Li Tongzhen wouldn't budge an inch.

Mr. Zhao's heart stirred, he observed Li Tongzhen silently for a moment, then lowered his gaze to look at his own palm.

He began to doubt his life.

Had he frequented Flower River too much, weakening himself?

Or was Li Tongzhen simply stronger than him?

Li Tongzhen looked at Mr. Zhao, his tone calm, "What other way could there be?"

"If I go with you and you can save Qingqing, no matter what you ask of me, I'm willing."

Mr. Zhao, at a loss for words, opened his mouth but said nothing.

A moment later.

He spoke dejectedly:

"That's a forbidden medicine. What's forbidden medicine? It's something that basically has no antidote, used for dynastic wars, fights of life and death. Only a few antidotes exist with the Bureau of the Lamp."

"A normal Gold Lantern Catcher doesn't even have the authority to inquire, let alone someone above that rank."

"Such important figures, let alone you, even I don't have the right to look up to them."

"Now come back to the Office with me. Once the matter is investigated clearly, if you're found not at fault, you won't be punished, and then you can think of other ways."

Mr. Zhao said this, pausing slightly in his speech.

"If, however, you don't listen to me and try to flee now, I'll have to ask someone from the Bureau of the Lamp to take action."



Li Tongzhen glanced at Mr. Zhao, his young face showing an incongruent maturity,

"I'm not running."

Mr. Zhao shook his head, "I know, or it wouldn't just be me following you."

"You've also seen now that the Duke's Mansion is not a place you can enter."

"So even if you stay here, it won't be of much use."

Upon hearing this, Li Tongzhen lowered his gaze, lifted his hand, and slightly tightened his fingers into a fist.

"You're saying..."

"Can I force my way in?"

As the words left Li Tongzhen's lips, Mr. Zhao was momentarily stunned, seemingly baffled, and then his eyes widened, staring intensely at Li Tongzhen.

"Are you crazy?"

"Is the Duke's Mansion somewhere anyone can just barge into? Do you not know that when an anomaly appeared in the sky above the Duke's Mansion last night, how many powerful individuals tried to enter but couldn't stir so much as a ripple?"

"What do you, a mere child, think you are?"

At this point, beads of sweat were falling from Mr. Zhao's forehead. He held no particular benefit or malice towards Li Tongzhen.

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He simply didn't want to see Li Tongzhen, so young, sending himself to his death.

He grabbed Li Tongzhen's arm and dragged him away.

"Stop courting death, I, Old Zhao, admit that you, kid, are a bit eerie, stronger than I am, and yet show no signs of having trained, truly bizarre."

"But even so, do you see? Any random guard in front of Duke Zhen's Mansion could snuff you out with just a flick of their finger."

Mr. Zhao pulled Li Tongzhen along, walking backward.

This time, unlike before, Li Tongzhen did not stand firm in place; however hard he tried, he couldn't be moved.

This time, he could be moved.

Mr. Zhao sighed with relief.

He walked ahead, and Li Tongzhen walked behind.

On the bustling streets, Mr. Zhao's large hand tightly grasped the young man's hand, like an old ox dragging a stubborn donkey.

"You can rest assured, that Zhu Xicheng himself isn't any good either; he's done plenty of evil deeds. If it weren't for his collusion with the officials and his connections above, we wouldn't dare touch him, and he would have died who knows how many times over."

"Now that you've killed Zhu Xicheng, you can be considered as having eliminated harm for the people, so it's not a big deal, at most you'll squat in jail for a few years..."

Before Mr. Zhao could finish speaking, suddenly, he felt a tremendous force on his arm, and in his palm, it was as if he was holding a wild elephant that broke free from his grasp.

Mr. Zhao swiftly turned around, his face trembling, and his eyes looked back in horror.

His burly figure seemed to suddenly become a lot younger, frightened into submission.

"You little devil! Don't go! Don't do something foolish!"

Mr. Zhao shouted loudly.

However, Li Tongzhen ignored him.

Under the cloak of night, Li Tongzhen was like a wild wolf; he suddenly hugged himself, breaking free from Mr. Zhao's hand, and dashed toward Duke Zhen's Mansion like an arrow.

His figure weaved through the crowd like undulating waves.

Though Mr. Zhao was tall and sturdy, he couldn't catch up for a moment.

The great doors of Duke Zhen's Mansion stood imposingly tall, with massive, majestic stone lions serene and solemn.

Li Tongzhen rushed towards that door, disregarding all else.

The four guards in front of Duke Zhen's Mansion reacted instantly the moment Li Tongzhen appeared, their eyes focusing on him with a hint of surprise.

"Why is this little beggar back again?"

"Quite fast he is, with no Qi fluctuations around him; doesn't look like he's trained, yet he can burst out with such speed, quite rare indeed."

"Not right, he's not slowing down at all, is he going to force his way through!?"

The four guards' faces changed slightly, quickly blocking the front of Duke Zhen's Mansion, not wanting to hurt the beggar, they loudly berated.

"How bold! Desist your impudence!"

"To crash into Duke Zhen's Mansion, do you no longer value your life!?"

Li Tongzhen, facing the guards, acted as if deaf to their words, his gaze was resolute and decisive as he charged directly toward the four guards.

In the moment he neared the opposition.

Just as the four guards were about to strike.

Li Tongzhen fiercely stomped his foot, leaping over the heads of the guards.

"Hmm?" The four guards were taken aback, lifting their eyes to follow Li Tongzhen's figure.

Immediately afterward, Qi gathered in their palms, reaching out.

Four massive hands, as if descended from the heavens, aimed for Li Tongzhen's body.

Li Tongzhen felt the almost suffocating aura surrounding him.

The strength of the four Duke Zhen's Mansion gatekeeping guards was not something he could aspire to; even so, they were still holding back.

If they hadn't held back their strikes.

Li Tongzhen suspected that he might have already been smashed to death with a single palm strike.

Li Tongzhen's eyes showed despair, but even as the encroaching Qi hands got closer, he did not alter his course.

Eyes closed, he twisted his body and crashed towards Duke Zhen's Mansion's great doors with reckless abandon.

"He's made it through!"

A guard shouted angrily, fear striking him, and he increased the force in his hand, slamming it down hard toward Li Tongzhen.

The four great Qi hands touched Li Tongzhen's body nearly at the same time.

Bang!

A thundering boom echoed.

Li Tongzhen's body hadn't even neared the great doors of Duke Zhen's Mansion before he was forcefully slapped away.

His body flung out like a broken kite, crashing to the ground.

"Cough cough!"

Li Tongzhen's face instantly turned pale, coughing up fresh blood, clearly having sustained serious injuries.

"Don't be too presumptuous! Today is the Princely Heir's grand wedding; we do not wish to ruin the festivity, having already shown much restraint!"

"If you continue this ruckus, we have the right to cut you down!"

The guard's face showed a chill, and he spoke coldly.

At that moment.

Mr. Zhao hurriedly caught up behind Li Tongzhen, arriving at his side, his heart couldn't help but feel a wave of pity looking at the determination of the young boy.

He whispered to Li Tongzhen, advising him.



"Kid, don't be impulsive, you can't change anything."

"The gap in status in these times is even larger than you or I could imagine, even if you do get to see the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, could you make him speak up, to get you the antidote you seek?"

Mr. Zhao's words made sense in every sentence, and he spoke with sincerity.

However, Li Tongzhen seemed as if he hadn't heard at all, as he coughed up blood while forcibly propping his body up.

He wiped his mouth, the blood spreading evenly, staining a layer of crimson on his youthful face.

Subsequently.

Li Tongzhen time and again charged toward the great doors of Duke Zhen's Mansion, as if using his own actions as a response.

Even with little hope.

He had to try his utmost.

By trying, there was still hope for Qingqing, she could still live.

If he didn't try, who knew how much more blood could flow inside Qingqing's body.

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He could bear any consequence, could wait, and could also die.

But Qingqing couldn't wait.

The guards of Duke Zhen's Mansion watched as Li Tongzhen charged at them again and were angered to the point of rage.

No one had ever dared to be so bold.

Their strikes became heavier and heavier.

They had indeed harbored the intent to kill.

However, they immediately discovered that, although their strikes grew heavier, Li Tongzhen kept being violently knocked back.

Yet it seemed as if he couldn't die no matter what.

On the contrary, their attacks only seemed to rouse some sort of fighting spirit in the little beggar, as if he had gone mad and was determined to burst into Duke Zhen's Mansion.

After several back and forths,

Li Tongzhen's body trembled with pain, there was barely a piece of intact skin on him, his face was bloodied, and he was so ferocious that he looked like a vicious deity.

The four guards looked at Li Tongzhen in such state and couldn't help but feel a chill in their hearts.

"This beggar is very strange. Normally, after one blow from us, he would be dead or nearly so, but..."

"He can actually still stand up."

The guards exchanged looks and conversed in hushed tones.

"What do we do? Should we let him in?"

"Are you crazy? Letting a beggar into the mansion, if we were to be blamed, we wouldn't have a good ending."

"We should still go in and report this. The Princely Heir decides whether to see him or not, it's out of our hands."

After the guards had discussed among themselves, one of them turned around, pushed open the gate, and quickly went inside to report.

And when he came out again and laid eyes on Li Tongzhen, who was still rushing towards the gate of Duke Zhen's Mansion, he couldn't help but say,

he had developed some respect for this nearly grown beggar.

"Stop for now, I have already reported inside, and once the Princely Heir gets the message, if he wants to see you, you will be able to go in. If he doesn't want to see you, there's no use going inside the mansion, so you might as well leave directly."

"With the injuries you have now, if you delay any longer, even gods will find it difficult to save you."

The guard finished speaking indifferently and then stood in front of the gate like a statue, cold and motionless.

At this moment,

Li Tongzhen heard what the guard said, hesitating for a brief moment, then silently looked at the four guards for a while, and, covering his chest, he coughed and sat down under a nearby tree.

Blood flowed from his mouth, and within a short time, it dripped down his arm onto the ground, pooling into a small puddle.

Mr. Zhao had not stopped Li Tongzhen since the beginning, and watching Li Tongzhen's figure, he felt more complicated than he had imagined.

Although Li Tongzhen might not change anything, by persisting like this, he might really be able to bring back a glimmer of life for that little girl.

Only...

Mr. Zhao walked over to Li Tongzhen, reached out gently to check his pulse, and his Qi flowed along his fingertips, circulating inside Li Tongzhen's body for a round.

Just a brief sensation.

Mr. Zhao's face couldn't help but twitch, his expression complex as he looked at Li Tongzhen.

"Do you realize that your injuries are even more serious than the girl's you're trying to save?"

"Even if you do meet the Crown Prince in the end, even if you manage to save her..."

"You probably..."

Upon hearing this, Li Tongzhen coughed a few times, coughing up some more fresh blood, and he shook the blood off his hands.

"You, as an officer, should mind your own business. I killed someone; all you need to do is take me back later, judge me, and punish me. Whether I live or die is none of your concern," said Li Tongzhen, his youthful face twitching slightly as he gave Mr. Zhao a smile that seemed to radiate sunshine.

Mr. Zhao, looking at Li Tongzhen in such a state, felt an uneasiness in his heart.

Li Tongzhen's body was now shattered, his internal organs tossed into disarray, and he was almost indistinguishable from being dead.

That he could still breathe and speak.

To describe it as the return of light was still an understatement.

Mr. Zhao sighed and sat down next to Li Tongzhen, accompanying him in waiting silently in the same spot.

The four guards of Duke Zhen's Mansion glanced at Mr. Zhao and Li Tongzhen, but said nothing more.

Time slipped by.

After a while,

The heavy entrance hall door of Duke Zhen's Mansion slowly opened.

Li Tongzhen lifted his eyelids weakly, looking towards the gate of Duke Zhen's Mansion.

Li Tongzhen didn't see any figures at the gate.

Just as he was about to get up and take a closer look,

"Princely Heir."

Then, Li Tongzhen heard the exceedingly respectful voices of the four guards at the gate of Duke Zhen's Mansion.

Li Tongzhen, supporting his body with effort, directed his gaze towards the arrival.

He saw,

at the gate of Duke Zhen's Mansion, the person was clad in a red robe, with hair as black as jade tied up with a silk ribbon, the hem of his garment fluttering.

He had a jade-like appearance and a world-shocking elegance,

which caused everything around him to stand in awe.

Although Li Tongzhen had never met the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, at first glance, he recognized the identity of the person.

Li Tongzhen hadn't expected,



That the Town-Nation Duke's Heir would actually come out.

He had originally thought that even if the Town-Nation Duke's Heir wanted to see him, he would likely only allow him into the mansion.

Now, to come out of the mansion to meet him personally was beyond his belief.

Li Tongzhen was in disbelief, staring blankly at the Town-Nation Duke's Heir.

He could see, in the Town-Nation Duke's Heir's black and profound eyes, a clear and tranquil gaze with a hint of a smile.

"Princely Heir," said Li Tongzhen, his youthful face slightly lowered, addressing the Town-Nation Duke's Heir respectfully, his voice hoarse.

Cheng Guang observed Li Tongzhen.

When he heard a report from the servants that a beggar was continuously attempting to break through the gate, wishing to enter the mansion and see him,

The first name that came to his mind was Li Tongzhen, the target of his system mission.

#### Chapter 495 - Divine Illusion, You Are Not Me! \_4

He had originally planned to look for Li Tongzhen after the wedding ceremony was over.

After all, there were quite a few beggars throughout the city, and finding one would take some effort and inevitably distract him. He didn't want to fuss over these matters during his wedding.

So Cheng Guang was surprised when his servant reported that a beggar had come to seek him out on his own.

Instinctively, he was stunned, then there was a wave of joy.

Could it be that Li Tongzhen had come looking for him?

When Cheng Guang stepped out and saw Li Tongzhen for the first time, he had a vague feeling that this tender youth was likely the person he was seeking.

Cheng Guang had not expected that before he even started searching, Li Tongzhen had already come knocking on his door.

Could this be the fabled serendipity?

Cheng Guang felt joy in his heart, but his face remained impassive as his gaze rested on Li Tongzhen.

After looking at Li Tongzhen for a while, Cheng Guang spoke slowly, "Are you looking for me?"

Li Tongzhen seemed to feel quite ashamed in front of Cheng Guang, his head constantly lowered.

Only after hearing Cheng Guang's question did he slowly lift his head again, his eyes filled with pleading.

"Princely Heir! I beg you! Please save Qingqing!"

When Cheng Guang heard Li Tongzhen's words, his eyes momentarily registered surprise.

Qingqing?

Who was Qingqing?

Li Tongzhen seemed to notice Cheng Guang's confusion and quickly explained, "Qingqing is my only kin."

Listening to Li Tongzhen's words, Cheng Guang nodded slightly, gradually clarifying the situation in his mind.

He was initially puzzled as to why Li Tongzhen had suddenly sought him out.

It turned out, someone he cared about was injured.

Listening, Cheng Guang silently nodded again, his eyes then returned to Li Tongzhen, assessing the extent of his injuries.

He frowned.

"I thought you wanted my help to save yourself."

"How did you end up like this?"

Upon hearing Cheng Guang's words, Li Tongzhen's voice faltered, and he seemed at a loss for what to say.

The guard by Cheng Guang's side quickly came forward and whispered an explanation to Cheng Guang.

After understanding the circumstances, Cheng Guang looked at the abject figure of Li Tongzhen and found it hard to associate him with the strong and mysterious expert mentioned in the system task notification.

"Steward Wang."

Cheng Guang turned his head, shifting his gaze from Li Tongzhen to an attendant, and gently called out.

Steward Wang promptly stepped forward, respectfully replying.

"Princely Heir."

Cheng Guang nodded slightly, pointing at Li Tongzhen, "Help him, save her if you can."

As he spoke, Cheng Guang suddenly thought of something and asked Li Tongzhen, "Now tell me, what injury has Qingqing suffered, or what illness does she have? Tell Steward Wang, so he can make the arrangements."

Upon hearing Cheng Guang's words, Li Tongzhen felt as if he was floating off the ground as though he was in a dream, almost disbelieving.

He had not expected that the Duke of the State's Heir would agree to help save Qingqing without asking too many questions.

Li Tongzhen's voice was hoarse as he described how Qingqing had been cut by a dagger smeared with a forbidden medicine.

Steward Wang listened and looked surprised.

"Princely Heir, this antidote... it's of great importance, shall we give it to him?"

Cheng Guang nodded slightly without further comment.

Steward Wang, understanding, agreed.

Then, without asking further, he nodded and ordered someone to fetch the antidote.

It didn't take long.

Soon, a servant carefully brought over the antidote.

Cheng Guang took it and handed it to Li Tongzhen.

Li Tongzhen's hand trembled as he received the antidote from Cheng Guang. Without hesitation, he respectfully knelt on the ground and bowed several times toward Cheng Guang.

His quivering voice uttered:

"Thank you, Princely Heir!"

"Thank you, Princely Heir!"

Li Tongzhen picked up the antidote and hurriedly handed it to Mr. Zhao who was nearby, "Officer, please take this antidote to the doctor at the medical hall, and have him apply it to Qingqing."

Mr. Zhao instinctively took it.

He then suddenly realized something, his eyes slightly lifting to fall on Li Tongzhen.

Seeing Li Tongzhen's pale face, as white as paper, and the way Li Tongzhen's energy seemed to flood out uncontrollably upon seeing the Duke of the State's Heir, as though he couldn't hold it back anymore.

Were it not for the single breath still sustaining him,

Li Tongzhen would probably find speaking extremely difficult right now.

Mr. Zhao felt a slight tightness in his chest and an unusual look on his face.

After grinding his teeth for a moment,

he grabbed Li Tongzhen, intending to carry him on his back.

"Aren't you going to see her?"

"You've gone through so much trouble to save her, and now you plan to just die?"

Li Tongzhen shook his head, forcefully freeing himself from Mr. Zhao and slumping to the ground,  
"Hurry, go."

"I don't want her to see me like this."

Mr. Zhao stood rigidly in place, staring at Li Tongzhen, then ultimately didn't say anything.



After sighing slightly, he gave a slight bow to the Duke of the State's Heir, Cheng Guang, and ran off with the antidote toward the distance.

Cheng Guang didn't care about Qingqing, whom Li Tongzhen was so concerned about.

Instead, he was now concerned about Li Tongzhen at this moment.

With his Spirit Dao cultivation, even without touching Li Tongzhen or infusing Qi into his body for examination,

he could still see through Li Tongzhen's condition with a glance.

Li Tongzhen's body was riddled with injuries, big and small; his organs were almost completely damaged.

Inside, it was a mess.

The fact that he was still alive at this moment was nothing short of a miracle.

Cheng Guang didn't know whether Li Tongzhen had suffered such severe injuries in the timeline where the system task was issued.

But it seems likely.

Perhaps in that timeline, Li Tongzhen would have also sought out the Town-Nation Duke's Heir; otherwise, the real Princely Heir from that timeline wouldn't remember a beggar.

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Given the personality of the Princely Heir, perhaps he never even considered Li Tongzhen, a beggar, worth his attention, and it would be out of the question for him to give the antidote to Li Tongzhen for no reason at all.

Therefore, the Qingqing mentioned by Li Tongzhen might well have been dead in that future timeline.

But.

Li Tongzhen did not die.

Which means, even with such severe injuries, Li Tongzhen would not die in the future.

Cheng Guang observed Li Tongzhen and felt things were starting to get interesting.

Now that Li Tongzhen's condition was like this, it was essentially a dead end.

Unless he possessed Everlasting Bloodline Divine Powers like himself, survival would be difficult.

Cheng Guang was genuinely curious about how Li Tongzhen would survive under these circumstances.

Under Cheng Guang's gaze, Li Tongzhen propped himself up with difficulty, leaning against a nearby tree, and gasped for air.

His breathing visibly weakened.

"Princely Heir, let's go back,"

Steward Wang whispered next to Cheng Guang.

Noticing that Li Tongzhen's breathing was becoming fainter to the point of being barely audible, he sighed and seemed ready to wave his hand to have the servants remove Li Tongzhen's body.

Cheng Guang slightly lifted his hand, stopping Steward Wang's actions.

"No hurry, let's watch a bit more,"

Steward Wang hesitated at those words.

What was there to see?

Why did the Princely Heir want to keep watching?

What was there to see in the body of a beggar?

Steward Wang could not understand, but out of respect for Cheng Guang, he did not ask further questions and quietly stood by, silently waiting.

At the same time.

Steward Wang's gaze also followed Cheng Guang's line of sight, falling upon Li Tongzhen.

Li Tongzhen's body was already starting to grow cold, vivacity visibly fading away.

It could be said he was already dead.

But.

It was as if he had not died.

Steward Wang could see the breaths coming from Li Tongzhen's mouth and nose, still there.

Albeit very weak.

But still present.

"Hmm? What is this..."

After noticing this, Steward Wang's eyes filled with surprised uncertainty.

He quietly looked at the Princely Heir beside him.

Seeing that Cheng Guang, the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, had no change in expression on his face in the face of the strange changes to Li Tongzhen's body, he showed not the slightest sign of shock.

It seemed as if everything was within his expectations.

Could it be that their own Princely Heir had already known that Li Tongzhen was no ordinary person?

Steward Wang felt a slight shock in his heart.

Cheng Guang paid no mind to Steward Wang's thoughts beside him and focused his attention on observing Li Tongzhen's body.

Under Cheng Guang's watchful eyes, Li Tongzhen's body suddenly shivered slightly, and then it emitted a strong white light.

A white pillar of light, somewhat abruptly, rose from Li Tongzhen's body.

Shooting straight into the sky.

Dispelling all the dark clouds of the night sky.

The moon showed its face.

The sky was clear and bright.

This sudden commotion completely woke the silent Capital city.

It was like a calm pond that had been struck by a huge boulder, creating thousands of ripples.

"What's this commotion??"

"That pillar of light, it seems to come from the direction of Duke Zhen's Mansion??"

"What's the situation, just recently the Town-Nation Duke's Heir caused such a big stir, and today there's this as well?"

"It might not necessarily be the work of the Town-Nation Duke's Heir."

"Let's go, take a look!"

The spectacle caused by Li Tongzhen instantly attracted the attention of countless gazes within the Capital city.

When their eyes settled on Duke Zhen's Mansion and saw Li Tongzhen engulfed in the white pillar of light.

They were all stupefied.

"Who is this??"

"The person inside this pillar of light seems to be a beggar."

"You're telling me that a spectacle as imposing as this was caused by a beggar?"

The mighty warriors were astonished when they saw Li Tongzhen.

Just when they wanted to say something else, they heard someone pointing in a direction and shouting:

"Look, the Town-Nation Duke's Heir is also standing over there."

All the strong gazes shifted downward, and soon they also saw the figure standing not far from Li Tongzhen.

If it weren't for that person's reminder.



They probably wouldn't have noticed the Town-Nation Duke's Heir's figure near Li Tongzhen.

Could it be that this spectacle emanating from Li Tongzhen was also the handiwork of the Town-Nation Duke's Heir?

Many warriors started to speculate.

Their gazes fixed tightly on Li Tongzhen's body, which was suspended in mid-air.

Looking at Li Tongzhen, assessing his body.

After only a careful glance.

Some of the warriors couldn't help but inhale sharply.

"What in the world?"

"He barely has a pulse; he's practically a dead man??"

"The injuries on this beggar, they seem to be caused by the guards of Duke Zhen's Mansion."

Some warriors couldn't help but exclaim aloud.

While under the watchful eyes of the crowd.

Li Tongzhen's body suddenly underwent a change; the air around him inexplicably ignited.

The flames were a reddish gold color.

Their entire essence seemed to be burning within an illusion.

But upon drawing near, one could still feel an incomparably scorching aura.

Some warriors with eight or nine levels of strength, the heads of noble families, upon feeling this aura, couldn't help but take a few steps back.

Not daring to come closer.

And so did they.

They subconsciously thought.

This body of Li Tongzhen could probably hardly last for a moment, and would soon be burned to ashes.

However, the reality was the complete opposite of what they had anticipated.

Li Tongzhen's body remained unchanged.

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Within those burning flames, he lay there calmly.

To the naked eye, it seemed no different from lying in tranquil waters.

Surprisingly, one could sense a serene peace from Li Tongzhen's blood-stained face.

Cheng Guang stood at a closer distance to Li Tongzhen, the heat wave hitting him full on.

Cheng Guang watched Li Tongzhen, the orange-red flames dancing in his eyes.

Under Cheng Guang's gaze, he could see that Li Tongzhen's body was healing visibly within the fire's blaze.

During the process of Li Tongzhen's gradual healing,

In the midst of obscurity,

Cheng Guang seemed to hear the sound of chains breaking.

The sound of "click click" was incessant in his ears.

It wasn't just Cheng Guang; everyone who was watching Li Tongzhen could hear this sound.

When everyone heard this sound, they seemed to be stupified,

Not knowing what the sound signified,

Yet they could feel a sense of fear and chill from behind the sound.

The air seemed to quiet down for a moment.

In the instant Li Tongzhen's body healed,

Suddenly,

The body that was tranquil in the flames vanished without a trace.

At the same time,

Boom!!!

Like thunderous drums,

And like the blazing sun.

A brilliant sunlight suddenly burst forth in the skies.

That sunlight made many powerful beings feel a sting in their eyes.

"What is this??"

"This aura, even though it's not specifically aimed at us, actually makes it hard for us to breathe!"

A chorus of shocked voices erupted among the crowd.

Cheng Guang, however, looked up calmly at the sky,

Gazing at the blazing sun.

With his current Spirit Dao cultivation, he could see the blazing sun clearly.

That wasn't any blazing sun.

It was clearly a deity radiating with a dazzling brilliance.

His demeanor was spirited, and he exuded a vigorous presence.

His long dark hair shimmered with a faint purple light, he was dressed in opulent armor, and behind him was a cape like cloud brocade, fluttering in the wind.

Although his face was not very clear,

One could still sense his mysterious and powerful aura.

What rushed towards them was an indescribable ferocity.

It seemed more like a demon lord,

Than a deity.

Cheng Guang's eyes moved down to the small dark shadow within the deity's apparition.

The shadow was Li Tongzhen.

At this moment, Li Tongzhen's eyes were tightly closed, his brows deeply furrowed, and his hands clutched his head, appearing to be in great pain.

And struggling intensely.

"Who are you!?"

"You are not me!!"

"I am Li Tongzhen, not Nezha!!"

"My fate is in my hands, not Heaven's; to defy that fate is Nezha's fate!!"

Li Tongzhen's lips moved slightly, black lines unknowingly spread around his eyes, and a red apparition lightly danced at his hand.

"No, no."

Li Tongzhen suddenly let out a great yell to the heavens.

His eyes suddenly flashed open, gleaming sharply, with twin fires seeming to soar to the skies.

With a roar,



The earth trembled.

Many powerful beings felt a booming in their ears, causing them to cover their ears involuntarily, experiencing extreme pain.

"Princely Heir."

Steward Wang, seeing the eerie changes in Li Tongzhen's body, quickly moved to protect Cheng Guang.

With one hand, Cheng Guang pushed him aside.

Steward Wang's intentions were good, but he'd better not get involved just yet.

Such a weakling.

He was trying to protect him, Cheng Guang.

At this time,

Within Duke Zhen's Mansion, several gazes were also rising toward the brilliant sunlight in the sky.

Simultaneously, several figures appeared beside Cheng Guang.

"What's happening?"

Cheng Zhihai stared blankly at the brilliant sun in the sky.

He asked Cheng Guang with a querying voice.

Since the beginning, when Li Tongzhen's body underwent a transformation, he had noticed.

Yet he had not spoken until now.

His initiative in coming forward was not only due to his worry that Cheng Guang might be in danger, but also his desire to get closer to the brilliant sun and take a good look to understand what exactly was going on.

Ning Liang and Granny Qianhua also looked toward Li Tongzhen.

But it was just a glance.

After that single look, Ning Liang felt his vision sting, yet he could still bear it.

Being a Ninth-order Martial Emperor Realm cultivator himself, he felt a stabbing pain when he looked at the radiant sun.

Others probably wouldn't dare to gaze at it directly.

"What on earth is that thing??"

Ning Liang's tone was one of shock.

Granny Qianhua watched the brilliant sun closely; in her aged eyes, there was no sign of much pain, as she calmly regarded it. After a while, a hint of shock finally emerged in her eyes.

Just as she was about to retract her gaze and say something, she suddenly noticed.

Cheng Guang, the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, had been observing the brilliant sun from the beginning as well.

It seemed as though Cheng Guang could see something.

He kept his focus in that direction.

Right when Granny Qianhua was about to remark on that,

Cheng Zhihai's hand blocked Cheng Guang's view, "Guanger, don't look."

"That's the presence of some unknown powerful being. With insufficient cultivation, staring too long could blind you."

Cheng Guang did not explain that he could see clearly; he simply smiled, drawing his gaze back.

He had already seen everything clearly.

Li Tongzhen was likely the reincarnation of some mysterious strong entity.

Yet, saying it was reincarnation wasn't quite right.

If it were reincarnation, then what were the circumstances of the divine shadow behind Li Tongzhen?

Clearly, it was how Li Tongzhen would look when he grew up.

And at the moment Cheng Guang's gaze retracted,

The brilliant sun in the firmament slowly began to descend.

"That thing is coming down!"

Someone cried out in alarm.

Under the watchful eyes of everyone,

The dazzling brilliance of the brilliant sun began to subside slowly.

In just a moment,

It became clear enough for most to see.

The Capital city, originally illuminated by the brilliant sun as if it were daylight, returned to its former state.

Nightfall descended once again.

Li Tongzhen's toes touched the ground lightly.

All the anomalies on his body vanished like a gentle breeze, leaving no trace.

Cheng Guang looked towards Li Tongzhen,

Observing the changes in him at this moment.

He noticed that Li Tongzhen's appearance did not too greatly from before,

But his bearing and aura had become different.

They had become more mature.

On his youthful face, there was a sense of age that did not match his years.

His eyes, it seemed, still bore some hidden agony.

He stood silently in his place, composing himself. After a good while,

He finally raised his eyes, looking toward Cheng Guang.

"Thank you, Princely Heir. I, Li Tongzhen, will remember this favor," he said.

After Li Tongzhen spoke,

He again raised his gaze toward the sky.

"The struggle for the Heavenly Destiny is approaching, isn't it? No, that's not right. I've undone my self-imposed seal too soon. Something unexpected must've happened."

"Is it a coincidence, or..."

Li Tongzhen murmured to himself.

With a single step,

His body vanished from the spot.

Aside from the bright moon in the sky, there remained not a trace of Li Tongzhen's existence.

The blood that Li Tongzhen had shed,

For reasons unknown, also disappeared without a trace.

And in that moment,

The air grew a few degrees quieter.

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Li Tongzhen's figure suddenly vanished.

The oppressive heaviness in the air disappeared without a trace.

All the powerful beings around Duke Zhen's Mansion breathed a sigh of relief.



When they faced Li Tongzhen, they all inevitably felt uncomfortable, not because Li Tongzhen was too strong, and not because he was deliberately targeting them.

It was that temperament.

It clashed with theirs.

It was as though Li Tongzhen were a true Immortal, while they were still mere ordinary mortals.

Upon reflection, it seemed quite inconceivable.

One must know.

Li Tongzhen was nothing more than a child!

Previously, he was just a beggar.

How could Li Tongzhen undergo such a dramatic change so suddenly?

Many powerful beings, when Li Tongzhen's figure descended, saw Li Tongzhen's appearance clearly.

Seeing Li Tongzhen in the garb of a beggar, they all harbored certain thoughts to greater or lesser degrees.

The powerful beings lurking around vanished quickly after Li Tongzhen's figure disappeared.

Most knew Li Tongzhen was no simple matter.

They wouldn't dare provoke him.

But a very few powerful beings, still harboring the idea of striking it rich, followed Li Tongzhen's aura in pursuit.

In just a short while.

The environment around Duke Zhen's Mansion returned to tranquility.

The restlessness was gone, the ambiance peaceful.

At the entrance to Duke Zhen's Mansion.

Cheng Guang stood in front of the mansion, quietly remaining in place, not hurrying back into the mansion; instead, he slightly narrowed his eyes, gazing into the sky.

In that patch of the firmament.

The air was clear, the weather fine.

Faint remnants of the anomaly caused by Li Tongzhen lingered, with wisps of red among the drifting clouds.

"Li Tongzhen..."

"The competition for the Fate of the Heavenly Dao, unsealed ahead of time..."

"What does this mean?"

Cheng Guang was still pondering the words Li Tongzhen had spoken just before he left.

Li Tongzhen might have spoken without thinking, but the information revealed in his words was not trivial.

The struggle for the Fate of the Heavenly Dao.

Can the Fate of the Heavenly Dao even be contested?

The current Heavenly Dao has long been so fragmented that no one knows what it's become.

Could it be that the Heavenly Dao is about to be restored, and the Fate returns to the human world?

Are these ancient beings awakening here to lay the groundwork for a new cycle of the cosmic struggle for Fate?

After carefully thinking it over, Cheng Guang realized that Zhang Shunlong was one, Jiang Luoqing was another, and now there was Li Tongzhen.

One after another, these individuals all have extraordinary origins.

Despite having little to no cultivation and never having cultivated before, as soon as they awoken, they possessed extraordinary auras, and describing their cultivation advancement as sky-high would not be an exaggeration.

Such individuals have been few and far between over hundreds of thousands of years.

But now, they seemed to be emerging in rapid succession.

As Cheng Guang mulled over this, he furrowed his brows.

The impending chaos in the world was already enough to make him anxious, as he prepared for how to fight for a position of his own in the tumultuous times.

But now.

Within the turmoil, there lay the competition for the Fate of the Heavenly Dao, apparently involving many forces far stronger than the world can imagine.

It had been untold millennia since the ancient period had passed.

Beings capable of enduring countless millennia, however you think about it, were not existences someone like the current Cheng Guang could match wits with.

Just thinking about it gave Cheng Guang a headache.

"Li Tongzhen said that regarding the struggle for the Fate of the Heavenly Dao, what should we do? Fate is intangible and insubstantial; what methods might there be to obtain it?"

"Is it faith or something akin to virtue?"

Question after question bubbled up in Cheng Guang's mind, making him feel all the more perplexed.

Cheng Guang gently massaged his forehead and sighed, "This is really troublesome."

Cheng Zhihai, who was beside Cheng Guang, heard his words and turned to look at him, chuckling and shaking his head before lightly patting Cheng Guang's shoulder.

Cheng Zhihai thought Cheng Guang was feeling somewhat down because of Li Tongzhen.

"Guanger, you're young; why be so brooding and sentimental all the time? Don't think too much. This Li Tongzhen might seem young on the surface, but in reality, he might be a strange old creature who has lived for who knows how many years."

"His aura is even stronger than an ordinary Sky-Man."

"Don't compare yourself to him."

Cheng Zhihai continued, comforting as he patted Cheng Guang's shoulder again.

Upon hearing Cheng Zhihai's words, Cheng Guang was initially taken aback, not comprehending at first.

When he did, he felt somewhat dumbfounded.

So Cheng Zhihai thought that he was sighing with self-pity because the apparently young Li Tongzhen had such exceptional cultivation strength??

Am I that fragile??

Cheng Guang wanted to retort, but he refrained from speaking out loud.

Cheng Zhihai simply knew too little.

If he knew that the Li Tongzhen he referred to as an old creature who had lived for many years was truly an ancient being.

And moreover.

That many more such ancient beings would emerge in this world in the future.

At that time.

Perhaps it would indeed be a world where Martial Emperors were as common as dogs, and Sky-Men roamed everywhere.

Cheng Guang wondered if Cheng Zhihai's faith would collapse then.

With a smile at the corner of his mouth, Cheng Guang responded to Cheng Zhihai, "It's nothing."

After speaking, Cheng Guang proceeded towards Duke Zhen's Mansion.

He had already decided to return to the mansion.

Just as Cheng Guang reached the gate of Duke Zhen's Mansion.



Suddenly.

A cold, emotionless voice reached his ears.

[Mission accomplished.]

[Would you like to claim your reward?]

Upon hearing this voice, Cheng Guang paused in his step, and then couldn't help but show a burst of joy on his face.

Cheng Guang knew, this was probably indicating that Li Tongzhen's system mission was completed.

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This system task can be said to have been the easiest one to complete yet.

Cheng Guang hadn't even set out to search when Li Tongzhen came to him on his own initiative.

Moreover, Li Tongzhen was facing difficulties and was seeking Cheng Guang's help.

If it weren't for Cheng Guang having experienced it himself and having heard the system telling him in his own ears that his mission was completed,

Cheng Guang might even think he was dreaming.

Cheng Guang pondered, his primordial spirit rose, floating towards the Million Specie Garden.

As Cheng Guang entered Duke Zhen's Mansion, walking towards the Million Specie Garden,

...

Inside one of the physician's clinics in the inner city,

Wang Ruoguan sat by the bed, applying medicine to the girl lying there.

The girl's arm was wrapped in a bandage soaked with blood, turning the entire bandage red.

Drop by drop, her bright red blood was slowly dripping down her arm, forearm, and fingertips.

With the ticking of the blood, the girl's life seemed to be on the countdown as well.

Her pale eyes shimmered with deep sadness.

"Where is Tongzhen?"

"How is he doing?"

Qingqing looked at Wang Ruoguan by her side.

Wang Ruoguan, a bit surprised at Qingqing's words, looked at her.

A normal person who had lost so much blood wouldn't be able to talk, let alone wake up.

How could this girl manage to wake up and even speak?

This wasn't normal.

Wang Ruoguan was momentarily stunned, then quickly came to his senses, realizing that the Tongzhen this girl referred to must be the beggar who had just left.

He intended to tell Qingqing that Li Tongzhen went to the Duke's Mansion to demand the forbidden medicine antidote.

But then,

thinking that with Li Tongzhen's identity, it was impossible for him to enter the Duke's Mansion, much less meet the Duke's Heir,

Wang Ruoguan swallowed back the words he was about to say.

He didn't want to give Qingqing false hope only to watch it shatter before her eyes.

After thinking for a moment, he said,

"He should be back soon."

The weak and pale Qingqing showed a hint of red on her face when she heard Wang Ruoguan's words, obviously happy to hear that Li Tongzhen would be back soon.

But in just a short moment,

the hint of red on her face faded away again.

Her breath grew even weaker.

Wang Ruoguan watched Qingqing's condition with a moved expression on his aged face, sighed, and thought that without the antidote, with the blood flowing out of Qingqing like this,

it was feared that she wouldn't last even a quarter of an hour.

He sighed, somewhat unwillingly lowered the curtain at the head of the bed,

creating a quieter space for Qingqing.

Just as he was about to push the door open to step outside for some air,

suddenly, from the darkness of the night, he saw a burly Great Han charging towards him.

Under the shroud of night,

Mr. Zhao sprinted like the wind, his figure blurring with vague shadows, his footsteps strong yet not heavy.

He ran up to Wang Ruoguan and came to an abrupt stop.

"Where is that girl?"

Mr. Zhao asked urgently.

Wang Ruoguan, puzzled, looked at Mr. Zhao, "She's still all right for now, but won't be for much longer."

"And that beggar you were with?"

As he spoke, Wang Ruoguan peered behind Mr. Zhao.

However, he did not see the frail beggar with resolute eyes anywhere near Mr. Zhao.

Mr. Zhao, when asked in such a manner by Wang Ruoguan, said nothing, merely silently taking out the antidote from his chest.

The antidote shimmered under the moonlight, resembling a lustrous pearl.

Mr. Zhao handed the antidote to Wang Ruoguan.

Wang Ruoguan, utterly astonished and confused at the sight of the antidote, took it and looked bewilderingly at Mr. Zhao.

"Mr. Zhao, how did you come by this antidote?"

Mr. Zhao shook his head, "It wasn't me who got it, it was that child."

"Don't ask now, go save her."

Seeing that Mr. Zhao was not in the mood to explain further, Wang Ruoguan didn't hesitate and hurried back to Qingqing's bedside, flinging the curtains open.

Wang Ruoguan unhesitatingly removed the bandage from Qingqing's arm and poured the antidote onto her wound.

The moment the antidote touched Qingqing's wound, her body immediately began to change.

The wound that had failed to heal for so long visibly started to recover.

The continuous outpouring of blood, too, stopped.

Gradually,

Qingqing's complexion turned rosy, and her breathing stabilized.

Wang Ruoguan, seeing Qingqing like this, let out a breath of relief.

Qingqing looked at Wang Ruoguan with gratitude.

She opened her mouth slightly,

"Thank you, sir."

But Wang Ruoguan shook his head, pointing to Mr. Zhao at his side, "You should thank him."

"He's the one who brought back the antidote."



Qingqing turned her gaze to Mr. Zhao.

When Mr. Zhao heard this, he had a bitter smile on his face and shook his head, signalling her not to talk.

However, Qingqing couldn't stay still, and once she regained some strength, she sat up and looked at Mr. Zhao to ask,

"Where is Tongzhen?"

Qingqing knew.

Li Tongzhen should be with Mr. Zhao.

Mr. Zhao, seeing that Qingqing was recovering well, prepared to leave without intending to answer Qingqing's question.

But just as he reached the door,

Mr. Zhao paused for a moment, then without turning his head, said to Qingqing, "He's probably gone..."

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"Rest up well and heal. I'll cover your medical expenses this time,"

Perhaps because of Li Tongzhen, or maybe due to the acquiescence to Qingqing, Mr. Zhao did not choose to keep things hidden from her any longer.

He rather vaguely and implicitly informed Qingqing about Li Tongzhen's current condition.

"He's gone."

"What do you mean, gone?"

Qingqing's face froze, staring blankly at Mr. Zhao's retreating figure.

Just as Qingqing was puzzled,

she suddenly heard a thunderous boom in the distant sky.

Immediately afterwards,

a column of white light shot up into the sky from near Duke Zhen's Mansion.

"What is that?"

Mr. Zhao, who was about to leave, saw the white light and involuntarily stopped in his tracks.

He watched the white light intensely.

Mr. Zhao looked toward where the white light was rising and immediately understood; that was the location of Duke Zhen's Mansion.

This disturbance.

Could it be the doing of the Town-Nation Duke's Heir?

Or...

Li Tongzhen's doing?

Mr. Zhao had no idea.

Though he was perplexed and curious, he did not choose to head in that direction.

Right now, who knows how many figures and how many eyes were seeking out the location where the white pillar of light ascended.

As merely a lowly head constable, even if he hurried over to join the commotion, it wouldn't mean much.

Better not to go.

Mr. Zhao was already prepared to leave.

But for some reason,

his gaze kept being drawn back to that column of white light.

Not just Mr. Zhao.

Wang Ruoguan as well as Qingqing were now closely watching the white column of light.

Wang Ruoguan stroked his beard with one hand while muttering to himself in astonishment.

"Such a phenomenon is truly extraordinary; wonder what happened near Duke Zhen's Mansion."

As Wang Ruoguan spoke,

he suddenly heard Qingqing start to speak.

"That's Tongzhen."

Wang Ruoguan was relatively close to Qingqing, standing by the window next to her bed.

He heard the murmurs Qingqing uttered.

Wang Ruoguan was stunned for a moment.

"Girl, what did you say?"

Qingqing repeated her words, "That's Li Tongzhen!"

She spoke with conviction and certainty.

Qingqing had initially turned pale upon Mr. Zhao's words, but after seeing that white column of light, her complexion became rosy again.

And her eyes were shining with vitality.

"That's Li Tongzhen?"

Mr. Zhao also heard what Qingqing said and couldn't help but turn his head, taking a few more glances at her.

His gaze alternated between the distant white light and Qingqing.

Mr. Zhao couldn't believe that this white light, this extraordinary phenomenon, could be related to Li Tongzhen.

Qingqing nodded firmly, asserting, "It is Tongzhen!"

"When I found him, his face emitted such white light, though it was far fainter than today's..."

"Regardless, I believe it's him!"

Qingqing said, a slight smile on her face.

For Qingqing, at this moment, perhaps she did not know what the white light signified.

Nor did she know why Li Tongzhen's body could emit such white light.

But Qingqing knew.

Li Tongzhen was not yet dead.

Not as Mr. Zhao had said, that Li Tongzhen was no more.

Under Qingqing's watchful gaze,

a cluster of flames arose from the place where the white column of light had been.

Then, a resplendent sun hung in the sky.

Qingqing looked only briefly before she felt a stabbing pain in her eyes.

She hurriedly lowered her head, not daring to look any longer.

Some time passed.

Only when she perceived that the blinding brightness of the distant sun had dissipated did Qingqing dare to raise her eyes and look afar again.

With her current state of mind,

she obviously couldn't understand.

Why Li Tongzhen could cause such a great disturbance.

But Mr. Zhao and Wang Ruoguan knew that such upheavals could not be caused by ordinary people.



They did not quite believe what Qingqing had said about the person causing the white column of light being Li Tongzhen.

Wang Ruoguan withdrew his gaze and said to Qingqing, "You rest now, don't think too much about the rest..."

Wang Ruoguan only got halfway through his words

when he suddenly felt a gentle breeze sweep by.

Immediately after,

Wang Ruoguan saw a lean young man with an exceptionally upright posture standing before him.

His expression was detached, but from the trembling of his eyes, one could feel a trace of emotion.

Li Tongzhen looked at Qingqing and gently lifted his hand, wanting to touch a strand of her hair, but before he could, he drew his hand back.

Taking a deep breath,

Li Tongzhen nodded slightly to Wang Ruoguan, expressing his gratitude, then prepared to leave.

Although Qingqing's back was towards Li Tongzhen,

she felt something stir within her.

She suddenly turned her head.

"Li Tongzhen?"

She looked behind her.

She had assumed that Li Tongzhen would be standing there as he always had, shielding her from the elements and acting as her protective 'little adult.'

But at that moment,

there was no one there.

Qingqing thought she had seen wrongly and looked to Wang Ruoguan with an apologetic smile.

Then she slowly turned her head back.

Wang Ruoguan, however, could only helplessly look up at the wooden beam above.

He had no idea how Li Tongzhen had jumped up there.

He also did not understand why Li Tongzhen still chose to avoid Qingqing, the young girl.

Li Tongzhen shook his head at Wang Ruoguan, placed his finger to his lips, and gently "shushed" him to keep silent.

Wang Ruoguan smiled and shook his head in resignation.

Li Tongzhen nodded gratefully once more, glanced at the door where Mr. Zhao was silently watching, said nothing further, and in an instant, vanished from the beam.