

My System 591

Chapter 591: Has Chang'an Already Been Claimed by Someone Else?!

Li Chengqian first looked towards Li Yuanba, then turned his gaze to the Crown Prince of Great Tang.

When he saw Li Yuanba, Li Chengqian didn't feel anything out of the ordinary. He was instinctively glad and was then ready to take Li Yuanba out to try a few things.

He himself couldn't leave Great Tang Chang'an City.

Li Yuanba's strength was far superior to his own, even though he didn't know how many years had gone by, he was still stronger than himself.

After all, he was the Champion General.

Below the King-tier, he was known as the strongest.

However,

When Li Chengqian's gaze shifted slightly and fell upon the Great Tang Emperor, he was stunned for a moment.

He looked towards the Great Tang Emperor.

Although the Great Tang Emperor was wearing a mask, and although he looked very different from the dignified and stern figure he remembered,

However,

The moment Li Chengqian saw the Great Tang Emperor, he recognized that he could be his father, the Emperor.

The figure etched in Li Chengqian's memory.

And the figure before him.

Gradually began to overlap.

The two figures soon merged, becoming one.

"Father...?"

The brisk steps of Li Chengqian, who had been walking forward, suddenly halted, coming to a standstill.

His entire figure stiffened, staring blankly at the silhouette of the Great Tang Emperor.

His eyes trembled uncontrollably.

There seemed to be an endless shock, endless fear, endless longing.

Li Chengqian's lips quivered faintly, muttering to himself in a volume only he could hear, unbelievably taking a step forward,

"Father, is it you?"

As Li Chengqian stared at the Great Tang Emperor,

The Great Tang Emperor, who was being chased everywhere by Li Yuanba, also quickly noticed Li Chengqian's presence.

When he saw Li Chengqian, the Great Tang Emperor was first taken aback, then his originally deep and tranquil eyes suddenly began to flicker.

The Great Tang Emperor had originally planned to dash directly into the depths of the Imperial Palace.

But the moment he saw Li Chengqian,

The Great Tang Emperor found himself unable to move his feet any further.

His figure shifted slightly, changing direction, sprinting towards Li Chengqian.

And behind the Great Tang Emperor, Li Yuanba, who was utterly annoyed with this person daring to barge into the Imperial Palace, was naturally seething with rage.

Only thinking about how to catch him soon.

However, the Great Tang Emperor's evasive movements and agility vastly exceeded his expectations. Just when he felt increasingly powerless in his pursuit of the Great Tang Emperor, the appearance of Li Chengqian gave him a glimmer of hope.

Li Yuanba called out to Li Chengqian for help with a cry, thinking that Li Chengqian would immediately come to his aid.

But, as it turned out,

He never expected that Li Chengqian would remain completely motionless.

He was originally still walking.

But after hearing his own voice, he came to a complete stop.

What on earth is happening??

Was Crown Prince startled by his own words??

At this moment, Li Yuanba felt as if his brain wasn't quite functioning.

What alarmed Li Yuanba even more was that after the Great Tang Emperor heard his voice, his gaze settled on the Crown Prince.

Following that,

He actually rushed straight towards the Crown Prince.

Was the Great Tang Emperor so daring??

Did he intend to harm the Crown Prince and then use him to threaten himself??

The more he thought about it, the more Li Yuanba's eyebrows twitched involuntarily.

Even though he was somewhat confident in Li Chengqian's strength,

His heart couldn't help but pound fiercely several times.

"Audacious!! Damned!!"

With a furious shout from Li Yuanba, he stepped out, moving towards where the Great Tang Emperor was.

But as Li Yuanba flickered and was about to chase after the Great Tang Emperor, he discovered,

That after reaching Li Chengqian, the Great Tang Emperor showed no signs of making a move.

On the contrary, he was very calm.

And Li Chengqian, the Crown Prince, was also very strange.

The two just silently faced each other.

Li Yuanba emerged directly behind the Great Tang Emperor and was about to cover him with one hand, and suppress the whole of the Great Tang underneath, when,

He heard Li Chengqian slowly speaking.

“Father?”

Hearing this voice, Li Yuanba abruptly stopped his attack and turned his gaze sharply towards Li Chengqian.

Li Chengqian’s eyes at this moment were incredibly complex, thoroughly shocked, and seemingly in disbelief as he looked at the Great Tang Emperor.

This scene only made Li Yuanba feel panic.

And what shocked Li Yuanba even more,

On the Great Tang Emperor’s body, Li Yuanba felt inexplicably the same feeling he had had countless years ago when facing the King of Tang.

Li Yuanba felt an ominous premonition.

With a flicker,

He leapt out hundreds of steps away,

Standing at a distance with a puzzled face, gazing towards the Great Tang Emperor and then at Li Chengqian with strangeness.

“Father?”

“Why does the Crown Prince call that man father?”

“Could it be that Your Majesty has returned?”

“But it shouldn’t be...”

Li Yuanba murmured to himself in shock. Now looking back, whether it was the Great Tang Emperor’s behavior when he faced him for the first time, or when he called out his childhood nickname “Han-er,”

Li Yuanba couldn’t help but become extremely cautious.

His massive body became the biggest nuisance for Li Yuanba.

Unable to perfectly conceal himself.

After the Great Tang Emperor heard Li Chengqian’s voice, his dark, profound eyes softened tremendously as he looked tenderly at Li Chengqian.

His lips moved slightly,

Wanting to say something.

But as words were about to come out, he said nothing in the end.

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He simply nodded slightly.

“Mm.”

After he finished speaking,

Li Chengqian's body suddenly trembled a few times, and tears quickly filled his eyes.

“You've had it tough all these years.”

The Great Tang Emperor added another sentence.

At this time, the Great Tang Emperor, since Li Yuanba had retreated and stopped making moves against him, did not pay more attention to Li Yuanba.

Because the Great Tang Emperor knew that even if Li Yuanba were more foolish, under such circumstances, it was impossible for him to strike at the Emperor again.

Simultaneously,

The Great Tang Emperor also felt a bit fortunate.

Fortunately, Li Chengqian had arrived just in time.

If Li Chengqian had been slower to appear, or had come even later,

Even if his own power was not weak, in the face of Li Yuanba, there was still that slight gap, and in the end, he would surely have been caught up to by Li Yuanba.

If he couldn't enter the depths of the Imperial Palace this time, to control the entire Great Tang Chang'an City,

Such a vast Chang'an City, appearing in this world, yet he was unable to control it,

Who knew how many interested people would take notice.

If the Immortal Buddhas and Divine Generals turned their attention to the Great Tang, and planned to make their move against it, without the protection of Chang'an City, even the Great Tang Emperor himself wasn't completely confident that he could face those lofty Immortal Buddhas.

The Great Tang Emperor thought this, and took a deep breath.

"Chengqian, we can talk about the past later. Where is my Jade Seal?"

Li Chengqian heard the Great Tang Emperor's words, was stunned for a moment, and then hastily replied, "Father-Emperor, the Jade Seal has always been in your palace. No one has ever touched it."

Upon hearing this, the Great Tang Emperor glanced at Li Chengqian a few times more, then nodded slightly, "Take me to see it."

Li Chengqian nodded hastily.

At this time, Li Chengqian could not afford to find someone to test whether he could leave Chang'an City or not.

Now, with Father-Emperor's return, that was a major event for Li Chengqian.

Li Chengqian knew his Father-Emperor was not dead.

But to avoid the Immortal Buddhas, he had hidden himself away.

After so many years, this was what Li Chengqian had always firmly believed.

But as time grew long,

The firm belief in Li Chengqian's heart had begun to waver.

Was the Emperor of the Great Tang truly still alive?

If he was still alive,

Why would he abandon his subjects in the Great Tang?

Why, when the Great Tang was falling apart, was Father-Emperor not there?

Why had so many years passed without Father-Emperor coming to save himself and the others?

Li Chengqian did not understand.

Yet, when the Great Tang Emperor appeared before Li Chengqian's very eyes, all the doubts and emotions in Li Chengqian's heart dissipated like smoke.

What remained

Were shock and bewilderment.

Facing the words of the Great Tang Emperor, Li Chengqian subconsciously followed his command,

Leading the Great Tang Emperor towards the inner depths of the Imperial Palace.

As Li Chengqian was leading the Great Tang Emperor deeper into the Imperial Palace,

Li Yuanba, who had been cautious and hesitant on the side, quickly walked over.

Li Yuanba's eyes stayed fixated on the Great Tang Emperor.

Then he quickly walked up beside Li Chengqian, anxious and bending over, came close to Li Chengqian's ear, and whispered:

"Crown Prince, is this person really His Majesty?"

"Could there be a mistake?"

Upon hearing Li Yuanba's words, Li Chengqian simply glanced at him with a flat gaze and then said no more.

He couldn't possibly mistake his own Father-Emperor.

The usually dim-witted Li Yuanba, at this time, seemed to become clever all at once.

He understood Li Chengqian's meaning in an instant.

After shrinking his neck, he didn't dare to look at the Great Tang Emperor again and silently followed behind Li Chengqian for a while.

As Li Chengqian and the Great Tang Emperor were about to enter the inner city of the Imperial Palace, Li Yuanba slowly stopped and intended to leave quietly without attracting much attention from the Great Tang Emperor.

Just as Li Yuanba decided to turn around and leave, the voice of the Great Tang Emperor suddenly echoed in Li Yuanba's ear.

"Li Yuanba, all these years, your strength has not diminished much."

Li Yuanba, upon hearing the Great Tang Emperor's voice, knew that the Emperor was hinting he couldn't just leave like that.

Although he didn't know how many years had passed, the majesty of the Great Tang Emperor was always etched in Li Yuanba's heart.

Since Li Yuanba previously did not recognize the Great Tang Emperor, he hadn't taken Him seriously.

Now that he had recognized the Great Tang Emperor, Li Yuanba could no longer face Him as calmly as before.

After awkwardly laughing a few times, "Your Majesty, my strength has indeed regressed a bit."

"Having sealed my primordial spirit, this body is now bound with Chang'an City, unable to advance my cultivation even a step further, only able to grow together with Chang'an City."

"After Your Majesty retakes Chang'an City, there will be hope for my strength to make progress."

Upon saying this, Li Yuanba's eyes couldn't help but light up.

It was as if,

For Li Yuanba, advancing in strength was the most important thing.

The Great Tang Emperor heard Li Yuanba's words, his eyes shifted slightly, looked at Li Yuanba a few times, nodded gently, and then walked slowly towards the inner hall of the palace.

Only when the figures of the Great Tang Emperor and Li Chengqian had disappeared from Li Yuanba's line of sight, did Li Yuanba finally withdraw his gaze.

It was only then,

That Li Yuanba still felt as if he were living in a dream, touched his head, then let out a heavy sigh.

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Like a survivor after a catastrophe.

"Who could have imagined that he was Your Majesty?"

Your Majesty had been missing for so many years and now has appeared..."

"Strange... so strange..."

"I couldn't recognize Your Majesty, and I can't fully blame myself for it..."

“I think Your Majesty must have forgiven my earlier offense...”

While pondering, Li Yuanba murmured to himself.

After muttering a few sentences, Li Yuanba walked slowly towards the gates of the Imperial City.

As he walked, he shook his head, seemingly lost in thought and unable to find an answer.

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When Li Yuanba left,

Elsewhere,

The Great Tang Emperor and Li Chengqian had already entered the inner hall of the Imperial Palace.

They arrived at the sleeping chamber of the Great Tang Emperor.

The sleeping chamber of the Great Tang Emperor, despite the unknown number of years, still looked as pristine as ever.

All the jade stones, all the decorations, seemed to cleanse themselves, enduring through countless years to remain as lustrous as new.

The Great Tang Emperor entered his sleeping chamber, glanced around, and lowered his gaze with a flood of nostalgia and sorrow that began to spread from the depths of his eyes.

“Father, the Jade Seal is placed on that desk. Over so many years, no one but me has touched it,” said Li Chengqian to the Great Tang Emperor.

The Great Tang Emperor, hearing Li Chengqian's words, turned his head slightly to look at him, "What did you do with the Jade Seal?"

Li Chengqian was silent for a moment, then a frank smile appeared on his face.

"Father, after all, I am the Crown Prince. All these years, I too wanted to be Emperor."

"When you were gone, I was the Emperor."

"But..."

"Without the Great Tang, what use was there in being the Emperor?"

Li Chengqian gazed at the golden-yellow wooden box on the desk, the warm white jade inside, his eyes revealing an indescribable meaning.

The Great Tang Emperor simply nodded slightly and said nothing more. After a moment of silence, he added, "These years must have been hard on you."

"You will be the future Emperor of the Great Tang."

After saying this, the Great Tang Emperor walked up to the desk, picked up the golden-yellow wooden box, and took out the Jade Seal inside.

The Jade Seal, made from warm jade about the size of a human head, bore dragon patterns and many intricate characters.

The most eye-catching text read:

Great Tang Flourishes Forever.

“Great Tang Flourishes Forever,” murmured the Great Tang Emperor while looking at the inscription on the Jade Seal, “Can the Great Tang truly flourish forever?”

The Great Tang Emperor held the Jade Seal in the palm of his hand, gently pressing it against his forehead.

From the center of the Great Tang Emperor’s brow, a series of fantastical white lights blossomed.

Connecting with the Jade Seal,

they released a radiance of a thousand hues.

In just a short time, the entire chamber of the Great Tang Emperor was filled with the light of the Jade Seal.

Li Chengqian stood aside, quietly observing the Great Tang Emperor claiming ownership of the Jade Seal in order to control Chang’an City, without making any move.

There was only one Emperor of the Great Tang, and that was the Great Tang Emperor himself.

Li Chengqian himself had not been endowed with the mandate of heaven, and Chang’an City was not something he could claim as his own.

Now watching the Great Tang Emperor claim Chang’an City, Li Chengqian knew in his heart that only the Great Tang Emperor could claim it.

Yet, upon witnessing this scene,

waves of emotion stirred in Li Chengqian’s heart.

A hint of envy surfaced in the depths of his eyes.

Chang'an City could look upon some Immortal Buddhas with disdain and compete with them.

Even if it were not a symbol of the Emperor of the Tang Dynasty, just as a means of defense, Chang'an City was a treasure of the highest grade.

Li Chengqian watched the Great Tang Emperor claiming the Jade Seal for a while, then thought to leave.

He stood at the door,

trying not to disturb the Great Tang Emperor.

Even though this Imperial Palace and even the Great Tang Chang'an City no longer had many people left.

Just as Li Chengqian prepared to leave the sleeping chamber of the Great Tang Emperor, he suddenly sensed something, paused his steps, and slightly turned his head to look at the Great Tang Emperor.

He saw the Great Tang Emperor, in the midst of claiming the Jade Seal to control the entire Chang'an City, had suddenly, without warning, begun to sweat profusely, as droplets the size of beans slid down his face.

The sweat quickly drenched the Great Tang Emperor's robes.

Furthermore, Li Chengqian noticed that the complexion of the Great Tang Emperor had suddenly darkened.

Suddenly,

a roar like that of a fierce tiger burst forth from the mouth of the Great Tang Emperor.

“Who is it?!”

“Who is it?!!”

“Who has taken control of Chang’an!?”

“Show yourself!!!”

The Great Tang Emperor’s face contorted in rage, as if someone had touched upon a taboo, and at this moment, he seemed to verge on a hysterical madness.

“What is this...?”

Li Chengqian, witnessing the Great Tang Emperor’s unseemly behavior, and hearing the words from his mouth, couldn’t help but widen his eyes.

“What?”

“Chang’an City has been controlled by someone??”

“That’s impossible!!”

“You’ve been gone for so many years, Father, and besides me, no one else has touched the Jade Seal. How could Chang’an City be controlled by someone else??”

Li Chengqian had initially planned to leave, but at this moment, seeing the Great Tang Emperor in such a state and hearing the words from his mouth, he could no longer step out of the chamber.

He just stood there, silently watching the Great Tang Emperor.

The Great Tang Emperor felt extremely uncomfortable at this moment.

His Primordial Spirit, through the Jade Seal, beheld the entire Chang'an.

With the Jade Seal, he imprinted his own power bit by bit upon Chang'an City.

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When he had branded the entire Chang'an City with his Primordial Spirit, the recognition process would be complete.

The Great Tang Emperor was extremely adept at this step.

However, this time, recognizing Chang'an City was beyond the Great Tang Emperor's expectations.

His Power of the Primordial Spirit had just passed through the Jade Seal and seen Chang'an City.

He had not yet approached Chang'an City.

When he felt an incredibly heavy sense of rejection.

With every bit closer his Primordial Spirit got to Chang'an City, he felt suffocated like being oppressed by a mountain of ten thousand li.

The Great Tang Emperor, withstanding pressure as vast as the sea, pushed his Primordial Spirit closer to Chang'an City.

At first, he did not find the immense pressure or the intense stifling sensation particularly unusual.

He did not sense anything amiss either.

But as the Great Tang Emperor withstood the ocean-like pressure and reached the skies above Chang'an City, lightly touching the city wall with his hand, the situation was stark.

The Great Tang Emperor could feel that it was not a welcome from Chang'an City, nor was it an unconscious rejection.

It was rather the panicky feeling of having mistakenly intruded into the master's home.

An overwhelming, insurmountable force of oppression poured down on the Great Tang Emperor.

"Scram!!!"

"Scram!!!"

"Scram!!!"

A voice of reprimand exploded within the Great Tang Emperor's mind!

Simply being scolded made the Great Tang Emperor's Primordial Spirit tremble, and he couldn't help but shiver all over.

"This voice..."

"Has Chang'an City already been claimed by another???"

Upon hearing this voice, the Great Tang Emperor was completely dumbfounded, appearing even more bewildered.

“How is this possible??”

“Why would someone else have claimed Chang’an City???”

“This is impossible!!”

“Impossible!!!!”

The Great Tang Emperor roared hysterically, at first his voice was very low, but as his emotions fluctuated, he began to lose control of both his volume and his emotions.

As the ultimate refuge in the heart of the Great Tang Emperor, Chang’an City.

At this moment.

It had been claimed by someone else while the Great Tang Emperor was unaware!!

This aura!!

This voice!!

Was all from a presence unfamiliar to the Great Tang Emperor!!!

It did not seem like Li Chengqian’s, nor did it resemble anyone else whom the Great Tang Emperor knew.

“Who is it, just who is it!?!?”

The Great Tang Emperor shouted angrily, at a loss to understand who could have claimed Great Tang Chang’an City without his knowledge.

At the same time.

The Great Tang Emperor also began to attempt to forcefully imprint his Power of the Primordial Spirit upon Great Tang Chang'an City.

However.

As the Great Tang Emperor started to press his Power of the Primordial Spirit into Great Tang Chang'an City, attempting to expel the already-dominant Primordial Spirit within, he discovered.

Around that Primordial Spirit.

There were circles of golden chains.

Protecting that Primordial Spirit.

Although the Great Tang Emperor was confident he could erase that Primordial Spirit, which he felt was extremely weak and negligible,

he felt somewhat powerless against the golden chains surrounding it.

The Great Tang Emperor attacked the golden chains with his Power of the Primordial Spirit.

Turning into spears, swords, and knives.

Striking at the golden chains with force.

For an average Sky-Man, the Great Tang Emperor needed only a thought to obliterate them.

But at this moment.

Using almost all his strength, power beyond ordinary comprehension, the Great Tang Emperor attacked the golden chains.

The golden chains, under the assault of the Great Tang Emperor, were utterly unmoved, not even trembling in the slightest.

Just one glance at those golden chains.

Intensified the sense of powerlessness within the Great Tang Emperor's heart.

At the same time, the Great Tang Emperor also felt an intense sense of humiliation.

"Who is this person??"

"Could it be that they used such means to humiliate me??"

"Despite having such powerful methods at your disposal, you only utilized a strand of the Primordial Spirit so insignificant it's not worth mentioning, only left behind this one insignificant strand!!!!"

"You knew I couldn't possibly break through your method!!!!"

"Is it impossible to reclaim Chang'an City!?!?"

The Great Tang Emperor roared lowly, like a wild beast pushed into a corner, letting out furious roars.

At this moment, the Great Tang Emperor's expression was slightly crazed.

Even though at this time, he was already under immense pressure.

Even though at this time, he had already given his all.

But he still didn't relax, nor did he slacken.

He continued to attack the golden chains with all his might.

The full force of the Great Tang Emperor's attack didn't cause the golden chains to tremble in the slightest.

This fact alone proved that even if the Great Tang Emperor attacked the golden chain for a hundred years, a thousand years, or even ten thousand years, it would be impossible to break it.

The frenzied attacks of the Great Tang Emperor, if sustained for a short duration, might still be bearable, but if they continued for a long time, the emperor felt utterly drained.

As if his entire being had been sucked dry.

His eyes grew dim, his steps faltered, and his breath became feeble.

In the end.

The Great Tang Emperor simply couldn't withstand the repulsion from Chang'an City any longer.

"Pu!!"

The Great Tang Emperor coughed up a mouthful of blood, stumbled, retreated, and fell to the ground.

The Imperial Jade Seal he held in his hands also fell powerlessly onto him.

Clutching the Imperial Jade Seal tightly, the Great Tang Emperor's eyes showed bewilderment.

Looking at the beams of the sleeping quarters, his entire person fell into confusion, as if he was starting to doubt his own life.

“Who is the master of that Primordial Spirit?”

“What is the realm of the master of those golden chains? Have they stepped onto the Path of Immortal, or have they become a Saint?”

“How can someone else lay claim to Chang'an City without the Jade Seal, how can they lay claim to Chang'an?”

The Great Tang Emperor muttered to himself, gazing at the Jade Seal in his hand, lost to the extreme for a moment.

Li Chengqian, who was at the side, hadn't yet reacted; by the time he came to his senses, he saw the Great Tang Emperor lying on the ground.

The usually majestic and composed demeanor of the Great Tang Emperor could no longer be maintained.

The entire person was lost and despondent.

At this moment, Li Chengqian, seeing the Great Tang Emperor in such a state, also became utterly at a loss.

“Father Emperor...”

“What has happened?”

“Did something go wrong with Chang’an City?”

Li Chengqian quickly went forward to help the Great Tang Emperor up, and at the same time, he asked anxiously.

After hearing Li Chengqian’s words, the Great Tang Emperor nodded slightly, then said, “Chang’an has already been claimed by someone.”

The words of the Great Tang Emperor were spoken.

Even though Li Chengqian had guessed as much from the emperor’s previous mutterings,

the shock of hearing the confirmation directly from the Great Tang Emperor was something else entirely, incomparable to the mumblings he had heard before.

Li Chengqian’s body suddenly shivered violently.

“How could it be?”

“How could this happen?”

“Chang’an has already been claimed by someone else?”

After murmuring to himself for a moment, Li Chengqian then realized something, his entire body enveloped in a chill.

He couldn’t help but shudder several times.

Seeing Li Chengqian in such a state, the Great Tang Emperor frowned slightly, seemingly feeling that Li Chengqian ought to know something.

Just as the Great Tang Emperor was about to inquire if anyone had touched the Imperial Jade Seal,

he heard Li Chengqian speaking out anxiously:

“Father Emperor, something terrible has happened.”

“This is really bad!!”

“I’ve discovered that I simply cannot leave Chang’an, and it’s very likely that everyone alive in Great Tang Chang’an now cannot leave the city. The moment they leave the range of Chang’an City, they will instantly decay and die.”

“Originally, as long as Chang’an was under our control, staying in Chang’an City wasn’t an issue.”

“But now...”

“Chang’an City is no longer under our control, you cannot control Chang’an City either, Father Emperor.”

“Chang’an City has become the key to our very lives and livelihoods, yet it is not in our hands. Now, the tens of millions of soldiers within this city are under the threat of others...”

Li Chengqian spoke anxiously, the words at the beginning coming out hastily, in a loud voice and with great speed.

But then.

As Li Chengqian saw the Great Tang Emperor’s face grow increasingly ugly after hearing his words,

Li Chengqian’s voice also involuntarily lowered.

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The Great Tang Emperor's expression became increasingly gloomy as he looked at Li Chengqian's face and asked with an ugly expression:

"What did you say?"

"You can't leave Chang'an City?"

The Great Tang Emperor's tone was very suppressed, showing great shock, and at the same time, he was suppressing the rage in his heart.

Li Chengqian was just frightened by the Emperor's words and the surging anger in his suppressed tone.

Even though many years had passed.

And he had not seen the Great Tang Emperor for countless years.

But when Li Chengqian faced the Great Tang Emperor again, that sense of respect and fear for the Emperor descended upon him just as it had in the past.

After shrinking back his neck, Li Chengqian then looked at the Great Tang Emperor and slowly nodded.

"Yes, Father Emperor."

"I just tried, and I absolutely cannot leave Chang'an City. As soon as I leave the envelope of Chang'an City, my cultivation and life will rapidly wither away."

"But as long as I return to the covered area of Chang'an City, I can recover as before."

“When I left Chang’an City just now, the severe changes left me at a loss and I was unable to react. If it weren’t for Lu Qianjun and the others on the city walls by chance, I might have already...”

Li Chengqian’s eyes tightened as he spoke, revealing a timely sense of fear.

What chilled Li Chengqian’s heart the most wasn’t the powerlessness to leave Chang’an City.

What chilled his heart the most was that being unable to leave Chang’an City meant he could not recreate the flourishing era of the Great Tang of old.

After hearing what Li Chengqian said, the Great Tang Emperor’s brows tightly furrowed, and the principal reason for his ugly expression was exactly this.

Li Chengqian could not leave Chang’an City.

It was very likely that it meant all the soldiers from the days of Great Tang within Chang’an City couldn’t leave either.

If all the soldiers within Chang’an City could leave, not to mention the people like Zhou Qingxu whom the Great Tang Emperor had been cultivating in secret over the years.

Just by relying on the people from Great Tang within Chang’an City alone, they could sweep across the entire world.

Claiming the Heavenly Destiny would also be much more certain.

Upon witnessing the emergence of Great Tang Chang’an City in that instant, the Great Tang Emperor had already foreseen the future, full of confidence in what was to come.

But now.

At this moment.

The Great Tang Emperor felt that his thoughts were overly naive, utterly laughable.

First, he was unable to make Chang'an City acknowledge him as its master, and then he heard that Li Chengqian and the others couldn't leave Chang'an City.

These two major blows made the always tranquil and composed Great Tang Emperor's face inevitably darken.

The Great Tang Emperor's eyes, usually as unrippled as an ancient well, were now showing ripples and surging with waves at this time.

After a moment of silence, the Great Tang Emperor slightly raised his eyes and looked at Li Chengqian, asking:

"Chengqian, I ask you, besides yourself, has anyone else tried to leave this Chang'an City, or is it already confirmed that no one can leave?"

After the Great Tang Emperor's words were spoken.

Li Chengqian also quickly responded, "Father Emperor, only I have tried to leave Chang'an City; the others have not yet attempted it."

"With my strength, once I leave Chang'an City, I immediately decline without any means to resist, my Qi and Blood depleted. I imagine those weaker than me would fare even worse."

"They will probably rot into a pool of blood the moment they leave Chang'an City."

"I had just returned from outside the Imperial Palace, mainly intending to request the help of ten thousand generals, even a king, to give it a try..."

“Little did I expect, on the way back, to run into you, Father Emperor...”

Li Chengqian spoke slowly, his tone steady and much calmer than before.

Yet at the end of his words, Li Chengqian couldn't help but raise his eyes to look at the Great Tang Emperor again.

It seemed at this time.

Li Chengqian was still somewhat shocked, as if he could not believe he was seeing the Great Tang Emperor again.

So many years, so many seasons had passed, the Great Tang Emperor had been without news, the Great Tang was no more, leaving only the lone Chang'an City and the company of soldiers within, guarding the last remnants of Chang'an's glory of the Great Tang.

Initially, Li Chengqian had persisted in the hope that the Great Tang Emperor was still alive.

But later on.

He had come to believe that the Great Tang Emperor was no longer alive.

If he were alive, how could the Great Tang Emperor not come to find him?

How could he watch Chang'an City fall into temporal chaos and not care?

Seeing the Great Tang Emperor again now.

Li Chengqian felt as if he was dreaming.

Even though reality was right in front of him, Li Chengqian was unable to fully accept it for a while.

The Great Tang Emperor furrowed his brows again, pondering why Li Chengqian was unable to sustain his power once he left Chang'an City, even unable to preserve his life?

Was it related to their current state?

The Great Tang Emperor took several looks at Li Chengqian, understanding that he, and likely most of the soldiers within Chang'an City, had become one with the city.

Or to say.

They had already become a part of Chang'an City.

Was it because they had merged with Chang'an City that they could not survive apart from it??

Without pondering for long in his heart, the Great Tang Emperor swiftly comprehended the reason behind it in a very short time.

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Having realized the crux of the matter, the Great Tang Emperor felt a headache coming on.

The deeper Li Chengqian and all the soldiers within Chang'an City were bound to it, the more troublesome it seemed to the Emperor at this moment.

After all, Chang'an City was no longer under his control.

Even more so.

At this time, the Emperor didn't even know who controlled Chang'an City; the fates of the city and all its soldiers were not in his hands.

Powerlessness.

Helplessness.

The Emperor had few options left regarding the current situation.

He glanced down at the Jade Seal in his hand, pondered for a moment, and was just about to look up at Li Chengqian and say something.

But he ended up saying nothing at all.

The Emperor silently sent his Primordial Spirit into the Jade Seal again, intending to see what the person who secretly controlled the entire Chang'an City from behind the scenes aimed to achieve.

Just as the Emperor's Primordial Spirit entered the Jade Seal and felt the vast pressure like that of an ocean, before he had a chance to touch the construct of Chang'an City hidden within the seal.

The Jade Seal suddenly burst into a brilliant radiance.

Streaks of light converged in the eyes of the Emperor.

The Emperor wasn't panicked by this sudden change, but simply narrowed his eyes, observing the source of the dazzling light.

In a daze,

It seemed to the Emperor as if he saw

a figure emerging within that dazzling light.

Seeing the appearance of this figure,

The Emperor quickly realized that this silhouette might well be the person who had taken control of Chang'an City before him.

He quietly watched as the figure in the light slowly took on a distinct form and became more solid.

Just as the figure solidified to a certain extent, and the Emperor was about to see the person's face, to identify who had snatched Chang'an City from his grasp,

He discovered

that the person's face was still a blur, not yet revealed.

Enveloped by a golden mysterious aura, the Emperor could neither see through nor comprehend it.

The Emperor just glanced at the newcomer, a hint of disappointment in his eyes.

However,

the Emperor did not shift his gaze away.

After all, he was the Great Tang Emperor, once a renowned monarch among mortals; not even an Immortal Buddha could make him bow his head.

Therefore,

even though the Emperor felt that the person who seized Chang'an City from him was not simple, even terrifying, there wasn't much fear in his heart.

Or rather, one could say

that anger filled the entirety of the Emperor's heart.

But the Emperor concealed his emotions extremely well, with only his palm slowly clenching.

If one did not observe carefully, it would be nearly impossible to detect the Emperor's movements at this moment,

let alone to see through his actions to his emotions.

The two silently faced each other for a few moments.

After a pause, the Emperor could not contain his curiosity any longer and spoke slowly,

"Would you be willing to return Chang'an City to me? Whatever you desire, as long as it is a price I can afford, I am willing to accept it," the Emperor said slowly.

His voice was deep, laced with a hint of hoarseness.

To the Emperor, the importance of Chang'an City was not only in its strength but also tied to the glory of his Great Tang and, more urgently, the lives of all his Tang soldiers and Li Chengqian.

At this moment, the Emperor had no way to deal with this unknown entity; all he could do was to see if a trade could be negotiated to exchange Great Tang's Chang'an City back from its grasp.

After speaking, the Emperor concentrated on the silhouette within the light, signaling that he had conceded by saying such words.

To make such a proud man as the Emperor bend was something not even the Immortal Buddha had achieved.

But now,

The person who controlled Chang'an City had done it.

At this moment, the Emperor was prepared for the unknown entity to make outrageous demands.

As long as he could afford it, no matter how great the cost, he was willing to accept it.

Meanwhile,

As the Emperor watched the unknown figure in the light, Cheng Guang was also watching the Emperor.

He had appeared and met with the Emperor merely to negotiate a deal.

Chang'an City was under his control.

But,

He could not command the soldiers within the city.

Even so, he could still use Chang'an City to leverage the Emperor.

Cheng Guang had not expected that without saying a word,

Just by appearing before the Emperor,

The Emperor himself was already eager to strike a deal.

After observing the Emperor for a while, Cheng Guang finally opened his mouth slowly and asked, "What price can you pay?"

Upon hearing this, the Emperor's brows furrowed slightly, then he said, "Your Excellency possesses such abilities that transcend the heavens. Having only been present in Chang'an City for a moment before me, you were able to claim it as your own. Surely your ambitions are not small."

"With such capabilities as yours, there are not many in this world at this time," the Emperor continued.

"State plainly what you desire, and as long as it is within my power, I will strive to satisfy Your Excellency."

Chapter 597: There are too many inexplicable things in this world _3

The Great Tang Emperor looked at Cheng Guang with a sinister face, his gaze deep and solemn.

Even though the Great Tang Emperor's tone was very calm at this moment.

But Cheng Guang could still feel the humiliation and anger beneath the Great Tang Emperor's composed tone.

Cheng Guang hadn't expected the Great Tang Emperor to kick the ball back to his court.

Cheng Guang pondered for a moment. Although he planned to take advantage of the Great Tang Emperor and Chang'an City, he never truly intended to give Chang'an City back to the Great Tang Emperor.

With the strength of the Great Tang Emperor already formidable, if he had Chang'an City and the assistance of countless soldiers within it,

What's more,

If the soldiers within Great Tang Chang'an City could leave the city, wouldn't the entire world fall into the hands of Great Tang??

By then, what business would Cheng Guang have left of his own?

After some thought, Cheng Guang shook his head in refusal. His voice was pressed extremely low, like a sound from ancient times, mysterious and unpredictable.

"Impossible."

"Chang'an City cannot be given to you."

Upon hearing this, the Great Tang Emperor's brows furrowed deeply again. His emotions, no longer containable, and his tightly clenched fists, began to tremble slightly.

"Impossible to give to me?"

"What on earth do you intend to do??"

The Great Tang Emperor's eyes were fixed on Cheng Guang.

It seemed he wanted to see through the golden glow that shrouded Cheng Guang's body and discern Cheng Guang's true face.

Cheng Guang appeared indifferent to the Great Tang Emperor's scrutiny, "I know what you're worried about. I can't give you Chang'an City, but I can ensure that nothing will be done to the people within Chang'an City."

Upon hearing Cheng Guang's words, the Great Tang Emperor felt a sense of relief, but then his brows creased again, as he could not see through Cheng Guang's motives.

Cheng Guang wouldn't return Chang'an City to him, yet he promised not to do anything to the people within Chang'an City.

This could be said to have alleviated the Great Tang Emperor's greatest concern.

As long as Cheng Guang didn't do anything to the people inside the Great Tang Chang'an City, then the Great Tang Emperor himself could plan what to do next; taking back Great Tang Chang'an City from Cheng Guang's hands might not be impossible.

The Great Tang Emperor pondered for a while, then stared at Cheng Guang and asked, "Can you really keep the promise you've made?"

Cheng Guang nodded confidently in response to the Great Tang Emperor's question.

"Naturally."

Actually, even if Cheng Guang were to do something to the people inside the Great Tang Chang'an City at this moment, he wouldn't be able to do much.

He could use some of Chang'an City's power, but not much.

Furthermore,

Even if Cheng Guang could annihilate everyone in the Great Tang Chang'an City,

He wouldn't do so.

After all, Chang'an City was already his; thus, the people within the Great Tang Chang'an City should also be his.

Once his strength increased, it might be possible to turn all the soldiers within the Great Tang Chang'an City into his own use from the hands of the Great Tang Emperor.

Cheng Guang nodded decisively, causing the Great Tang Emperor to be startled, but he quickly regained his composure.

"Then what do you want?"

"Your strength is obviously much greater than mine; it's unlikely you would be interested in what I have to offer..."

As the Great Tang Emperor spoke, he seemed to have thought of something and said to Cheng Guang: "Could you be a member of the Heavenly Court? Or perhaps one of the Buddhas from the West?"

Cheng Guang shook his head noncommittally, not responding, but simply said, "There are only two things I want."

The Great Tang Emperor watched Cheng Guang, not interrupting him as he spoke.

Cheng Guang continued, "First, I hope you will protect Chang'an City well."

When the Great Tang Emperor heard Cheng Guang say this, his eyes slightly widened, looking at Cheng Guang as if he didn't quite understand why Cheng Guang would make such a statement.

"Even if you didn't say this, I would still protect Chang'an City."

The Great Tang Emperor said.

Cheng Guang wasn't particularly surprised.

But he still chose to say it.

Mainly for two reasons.

Firstly, although the Great Tang Chang'an City was under his control, he couldn't stay there all the time.

When he wasn't in Great Tang Chang'an City, he had no way to control it.

His cultivation and power were far from allowing him to control the Great Tang Chang'an City remotely.

Using the Great Tang Emperor to deal with the Sky-Men attracted by the city seemed like a good solution.

Cheng Guang had no control over the soldiers of Chang'an City; he could only consider them for the future.

Whether they would take action and how much strength they had, Cheng Guang was not yet clear, so he couldn't place all his hopes on the myriad soldiers within Great Tang Chang'an City.

Secondly, by making such a statement, Cheng Guang could also gain the Great Tang Emperor's trust.

Later, when Cheng Guang brought up his second demand, even if the Great Tang Emperor had doubts, he was less likely to question it.

Cheng Guang observed the Great Tang Emperor's expressions, seeing him go from puzzled to a relaxed brow, and knew he had achieved his objective.

Without hesitation, Cheng Guang then stated his second demand.

“I fell into slumber years ago and am unaware of the events that took place then. I need you to tell me what happened, what caused such drastic changes in the world.”

After speaking, Cheng Guang’s gaze was tightly fixed on the changes in the Great Tang Emperor’s expressions.

The second request, or rather, the question that Cheng Guang was asking at this moment, was his primary goal.

To understand the events of the past through the Great Tang Emperor.

To unravel the mysteries of bygone days.

Nowadays, with ancient figures awakening one after another, secret realms appearing one after the other, Cheng Guang’s worldview had been greatly shaken.

Where did these secret realms come from?

Where did the Different Treasures originate?

Where did the royal bloodlines of the World Royal Family come from?

There were too many inexplicable things in this world.

Cheng Guang, finally having access to such an ancient figure as the Great Tang Emperor, who knew more, was ready to uncover more...

Chapter 598: This Grand Buddha, You've Seen It!!

Previously, Li Tongzhen and Zhang Shunlong.

Cheng Guang could also be asked.

But he had no reason to ask this question.

Li Tongzhen and Zhang Shunlong might not tell him either.

Now, making a deal with the Great Tang Emperor, he could legitimately bring up the doubts in his heart.

After Cheng Guang spoke,

the Great Tang Emperor was taken aback.

His eyes filled with shock.

This wasn't because he thought the question Cheng Guang asked, or the request he made was too much, but simply because he thought the request was too simple.

The first request was for him to protect Chang'an City well.

After making this request, it was as if it hadn't been made at all.

Because even if Cheng Guang had not mentioned it, the Great Tang Emperor would have protected Chang'an City regardless.

He cared about Chang'an even more than Cheng Guang did.

Chang'an was not only the capital of Great Tang but also where the Great Tang Emperor's heart resided, and it was where soldiers of the Great Tang, as well as the Crown Prince Li Chengqian existed.

How could the Great Tang Emperor not care?

As for the second request Cheng Guang mentioned,

it was to inquire about the events of the past and the reasons for the cataclysmic changes between heaven and earth.

To those who had survived from the Dark Age, this was not a secret at all.

The Great Tang Emperor looked at Cheng Guang with a hint of suspicion in his eyes, somewhat disbelieving that this person, who in his view, had also survived from that Dark Age, did not know what had happened in the past.

Though the Great Tang Emperor somewhat doubted this, he still decided to answer Cheng Guang.

After all, the requests were very simple.

The Great Tang Emperor, even if there was only one in ten thousand chance, would bet that Cheng Guang wouldn't make a move against Chang'an City.

At the moment, the Great Tang Emperor had no other options.

He had no way of dealing with Cheng Guang and could only comply with him.

He would act according to Cheng Guang's wishes.

The Great Tang Emperor pondered for a moment then, after slightly organizing his thoughts, he began to speak to Cheng Guang,

“Back then, the Heavenly Dao fell, and the path of cultivation was corrupted.”

“I do not know how many Immortal Buddhas, overnight, degenerated into Demon Beasts.”

“The path to sainthood was cut off, and many who sought eternal life, in order to survive, had to find a new path in the strange way of cultivation.”

“Some succeeded, and some failed, turning completely into Devil Beasts.”

“Then came the Great War.”

“The war tore apart the four continents, ravaged the realms of heaven and earth, and sank the world into complete decline. This period is what we call the Dark Age, when almost all the strong perished, only a few sealing themselves away, waiting for the world to reset and awaken once more.”

“Whether the world would reset or the Dao would return to normal, no one knew.”

“This sleep could also be eternal.”

“Fortunately, there are now signs of the world resetting and the Dao starting to heal.”

The Great Tang Emperor, upon saying this, couldn't help but slowly exhale, feeling much lighter from head to toe.

Even if Chang'an City was not in his control.

But remembering up to this point, hope once again filled the eyes of the Great Tang Emperor.

It is hard to imagine what the Great Tang Emperor had gone through back then to now, seeing a world that was still somewhat normal, being so hopeful, to the extent that even Chang'an City was momentarily forgotten.

Having heard this, Cheng Guang then asked, "Were you one of those who self-sealed back then?"

The Great Tang Emperor shook his head. "I wasn't self-sealed; I was sealed by others."

"The Saint Monk, for the sake of the citizens of Great Tang, willingly eroded his Buddha nature. But the Buddha turned a blind eye to the mortal world's suffering and suppressed me."

As the Great Tang Emperor spoke, his tone grew heavy.

"That sealing lasted for countless ages, but throughout that infinite time, my consciousness remained vividly clear."

"I carried the burden of those many lonely years all by myself."

"Now, all I think about is leading an army against those high-and-mighty Immortal Buddhas from the past, crushing them underfoot!"

As the Great Tang Emperor spoke, his tone became resolute and a coldness crept over his features.

Meanwhile,

the Great Tang Emperor was also observing Cheng Guang,

waiting to see what his reaction would be to these words of hatred towards the Immortal Buddhas.

In the Great Tang Emperor's eyes, this unknown entity that was Cheng Guang might be one of those Immortal Buddhas from the past.

Otherwise,

how could he have the means to control Chang'an City before him?

But then again,

the Great Tang Emperor had a sliver of doubt,

because he noticed that when he spoke those words of hatred, wishing to trample all Immortals and Buddhas underfoot, Cheng Guang's emotions did not fluctuate in the slightest.

The Great Tang Emperor felt that if the person who had controlled Chang'an City before him was one of those Immortal Buddhas, he definitely would not be as calm as he seemed right now.

Then who was he?

Who was he?

Unable to understand or see through, the Great Tang Emperor stared fixedly at Cheng Guang's figure, frantically sifting through every god, Devil Beast he knew of in his mind, trying to match them with Cheng Guang's image.

Yet, the Great Tang Emperor found

that no matter how he compared, he could not match Cheng Guang's figure with any from his memories.

After only a moment of contemplation,

the Great Tang Emperor felt a splitting headache coming on and, a bit discouraged, stopped his train of thought.

Chapter 599: This Grand Buddha, You've Seen It!! _2

Even though the Great Tang Emperor was a bit disappointed, his appearance, his face, remained unchanged.

Having heard the Great Tang Emperor's words, Cheng Guang did not pay attention to the emperor's facial expression or emotional changes at that time.

He merely appeared deep in thought.

The Great Dao shattered, the path of cultivation troubled, the Dark Age...

These inexplicable terms flashed through Cheng Guang's mind.

They gave him a sense of chaos, feeling extremely difficult to untangle.

But at the same time,

they filled Cheng Guang with countless emotions.

No wonder...

No wonder...

No wonder I felt that Zhou Qingxu and their methods, the beings within Five Daos Mountain, and the state of the Red Robe Daoist...

All seemed extremely bizarre.

They gave off a foreboding sense.

So it turned out, the path of cultivation had issues.

Indeed.

The demons in this world, they are all those who strayed from the path of cultivation, utterly fallen.

However,

not knowing how many years had passed, or experiencing what, the heavens and earth had regained some stability, allowing even the demons to recover some Spiritual Wisdom.

Although they were still dark-natured and violent, they were entities that could still communicate.

At this moment, Cheng Guang also understood that apart from the Four Directions Mortal World, the Eighth Layer Devil Region, and the Tenth Circle Demon Sea, they are probably fragments of the ancient world as well.

Cheng Guang stood in place, pondering for a moment, then took a deep breath and looked up at the Great Tang Emperor.

In the end, he did not say anything to the Great Tang Emperor.

With a single step,

his silhouette vanished from the sight of the Great Tang Emperor.

The Great Tang Emperor had planned to listen to what else Cheng Guang might ask, to speculate on his identity.

He had not expected Cheng Guang to simply disappear.

The Great Tang Emperor's eyes involuntarily widened.

In front of Cheng Guang, he found that he could not maintain his composure or demeanor.

Staring blankly at the place where Cheng Guang disappeared, the Great Tang Emperor slowly clenched his hand, his fist tightened, and then relaxed again.

He sighed powerlessly.

He couldn't help muttering to himself.

"Let it be, let it be."

"Although I don't understand who that person is, it seems to me that he bears no ill will towards me or towards Chang'an of Great Tang."

"Otherwise, with that person's means, not only I, but Li Yuanba, and even Old Cheng in the city, would not be a match for him."

Thinking of this, the Great Tang Emperor felt a headache coming on.

The eyes beneath the ferocious mask became conflicted.

After a moment,

the Great Tang Emperor took a deep breath, reining in all his emotions in his eyes, and exited the Yuxi Space.

Chang'an City was in Cheng Guang's hands; the Great Tang Emperor himself couldn't take it back.

Being able to obtain Cheng Guang's promise that he wouldn't do anything to Chang'an City or the people inside,

was already the greatest gain the Great Tang Emperor considered he had made.

Besides...

he hadn't paid any price...

Talking about this, even the Great Tang Emperor found it incredible.

Even more so, he couldn't guess or see through the unknown existence that was Cheng Guang.

Once again, he couldn't help but silently gaze at the spot where Cheng Guang disappeared for a while.

.....

While the Great Tang Emperor was going through emotional turmoil and complexity, Cheng Guang had already left Chang'an City.

With a thought, he appeared outside Chang'an.

Cheng Guang stood on the wilderness outside of Chang'an City, looking at the skies above the city, where Zhou Qingxu and others from Great Tang were encircling the city.

In front of Zhou Qingxu and other Tang People, there were also several Sky-Men.

Most of these Sky-Men were attracted by Chang'an.

But they were kept outside by Zhou Qingxu and the others.

With Zhou Qingxu and other Tang People there, there probably weren't many people in this world who could do anything about them.

Having the Great Tang Emperor and Zhou Qingxu and others guarding Chang'an City for him was excellent.

Cheng Guang took one glance and then brought out the Flying Boat, soaring towards the Great Zhou Capital.

In no time, Cheng Guang's figure turned into a streak of light and disappeared into the vastness of heaven and earth.

As Cheng Guang's silhouette vanished,

Zhou Qingxu, standing in the sky above Chang'an, looking at a group of Sky-Men trying to enter the city, seemed to sense something, shifting his gaze.

He turned his attention to where Cheng Guang had disappeared.

"Strange..."

"Why do I feel like the Princely Heir was here?"

Zhou Qingxu muttered to himself, somewhat puzzled.

Cheng Guang's presence suddenly appeared and then quickly left.

After Zhou Qingxu sensed it, he turned his gaze and could feel the presence, but saw no one.

This made Zhou Qingxu doubt whether his senses were mistaken.

"Never mind, even if the Princely Heir did come, he probably just came to watch the excitement,"

"After all, this place is quite close to the Great Zhou Capital, and it's normal for the Princely Heir to sense something odd here."

Zhou Qingxu shook his head and turned his attention back to the Sky-Men in front, casually pointing out a white line in the void with his hand.

Then he spoke out loud.

"If you step forward, the consequences are your own to bear."

The words of Zhou Qingxu made the surrounding Sky-Men look displeased.

Now that many Sky-Men have disappeared,

the surviving Sky-Men felt as if they could do as they pleased in the world.

Some Sky-Men didn't even take the Court into account anymore.

Chapter 600: This Grand Buddha, You've Seen It!! _3

Felt that the sect they had established, or belonged to,

could tread the court underfoot and ride roughshod over its face.

But these inflated Sky-Men could hardly imagine that, in this world, although a cohort of Heavenly Humans had just vanished, even the emperors of the four great dynasties had disappeared without a trace.

However.

A large number of new Heavenly Humans had emerged.

Zhou Qingxu alone gave the surrounding Heavenly Humans a suffocating feeling.

They merely felt Zhou Qingxu was not easy to deal with.

Despite already being Heavenly Humans, they were still trampled underfoot, with a white line drawn, declaring those who crossed it would be responsible for the consequences.

This sense of humiliation was something none of the Heavenly Humans, even before their ascension, had ever experienced.

Now that they had become Heavenly Humans.

They had gone through it all over again.

It was utterly absurd.

The Heavenly Humans, after hearing Zhou Qingxu's words, had varying expressions and complexions.

However, surprisingly,

none of them expressed anger, nor did any try to take action by force.

These Sky-Men were quite proud, but they were not foolish.

They knew very well that if they attacked Zhou Qingxu at this time, the consequences could indeed be too much for them to bear.

Fearing that their end would be particularly tragic,

They thought of this.

The group of Heavenly Humans standing in front of Zhou Qingxu exchanged glances and then silently took a step back in unison.

The scene was harmoniously bizarre.

.....

Now to speak of Cheng Guang.

At this time,

Cheng Guang had already returned to Duke Zhen's Mansion on board the Flying Boat.

When he got back to Duke Zhen's Mansion, it was already the middle of the night.

Cheng Guang looked at the sky, then checked the time, knowing that it was almost time for the next system mission to be issued.

After returning to Duke Zhen's Mansion, Cheng Guang didn't cause much commotion, nor did he wake Qing Luan to tend to his washing and grooming.

He went back to his bedroom on his own.

In the bedroom,

Ning Qianxue was already asleep.

Hearing the sound of the door opening, her eyelashes trembled slightly, and she slowly opened her bright eyes to look at Cheng Guang.

As soon as Ning Qianxue saw Cheng Guang enter the room, she was startled, and all her sleepiness vanished; she rubbed her eyes and immediately thought to get up.

"Princely Heir, you've come back."

Cheng Guang pressed Ning Qianxue down, smiling, "You go back to sleep, don't mind me."

"I'll sleep after I wash up in a bit."

Ning Qianxue chuckled, "Don't you need me to take care of you?"

Cheng Guang shook his head, "There's no need. I have both hands and feet. You just lie down."

Upon hearing Cheng Guang's words, Ning Qianxue's eyebrows curved slightly, then she looked at Cheng Guang with a smile, her eyes brimming with laughter.

“Such a princely heir like you is indeed a rare sight,” he remarked.

“To think you don’t need any servants.”

Upon hearing these words from Ning Qianxue, Cheng Guang couldn’t help but give her a slightly annoyed look before replying helplessly,

“What, in your eyes, am I someone who can’t take care of himself without being waited on?”

Ning Qianxue pouted, then shook her head, “Not really, it’s just that, for someone of your status, sir, isn’t it normal to be looked after?”

“For someone like the princely heir not to need looking after is quite uncommon.”

Hearing Ning Qianxue’s words, Cheng Guang shook his head with a wry smile, at a loss for how to respond to her. While he could accept Qing Luan’s service, it wasn’t necessary; there was no need to specifically call for Qing Luan, who was already asleep, to come and wait on him.

Having Qing Luan wait on him was one thing.

If he allowed someone else to wait on him.

Cheng Guang would find it even more unacceptable.

Cheng Guang didn’t continue the conversation with Ning Qianxue; he just walked over to the bedside, gently patted her shoulder, and said, “You rest first, I’ll keep you company in a bit.”

As soon as Ning Qianxue heard Cheng Guang’s words, her face blushed brightly.

She buried her face quietly into the quilt,

only revealing a pair of bright eyes watching Cheng Guang with charming vivacity.

She also pursed her lips quietly.

Seeing Ning Qianxue's adorable expression, Cheng Guang chuckled without being able to help it.

After straightening the covers for Ning Qianxue, he fetched a basin of warm water, freshened up simply, and then sat down at the desk.

Waiting for the system task to be assigned.

This time,

Cheng Guang didn't have to wait too long; very shortly, a cold and emotionless voice rose up beside his ear.

[On the thirty-first day of December in the thirty-fourth year of Zhensheng, the one hundred and fifty-eighth day since you joined the Heavenly Human Realm, a natural phenomenon occurred: an ancient Buddha burst forth from underground.]

[This Buddha triggered celestial phenomena and even drew the attention of the mysterious Heavenly Court.]

[On this day, you finally saw the legendary Heavenly Court. Its existence was unknown even to a Sky-Man like yourself. Had you not fortuitously come into contact with Great Tang, you might not have ever had the chance to connect with the Heavenly Court.]

[A Divine General from the Heavenly Court arrived, surrounding the Buddha. Your first mission after joining Great Tang was to stealthily extract the Buddha.]

[Later, you learned that this Buddha was the form of an ancient being who had sealed himself in slumber. Controlling this Buddha was a particularly important matter for the Heavenly Court, and for Great Tang to snatch from the maw of the Heavenly Court was highly risky and extremely difficult.]

[Still, you joined Great Tang's men in their endeavor.]

[The operation exceeded your expectations, progressing quite smoothly, but soon, you made a miscalculation.]

[While moving the Buddha, it suddenly awoke, its eyes opened, emanating a golden radiance that cleaved the sky, altering the color of heaven and earth.]

[It was then that you realized that the Buddha was not, in fact, asleep, or rather, it had awoken long ago!]

[Creating this disturbance was only to gain the attention of the Heavenly Court, but the Buddha hadn't expected that although it had indeed caught the Court's notice, it would end up in Great Tang's possession.]

[The Buddha was enraged that its plan had been thwarted, resulting in death and injury among Great Tang's people; you barely managed to escape with your life.]

[Looking at the Buddha's form, you suddenly remembered that this Buddha had appeared before!]

[You have seen it!]

[Inside the Ten Thousand Mile Dragon Cave, there was also such a Buddha. Was it possible that this Buddha had awoken there in years past?]

[Thinking this over, you couldn't help but feel a twinge of regret. If only you had discovered it before it awoke back then, and controlled it, by now you might have become the chess player of this world, not an insignificant chess piece.]

[Even so, the Buddha gave you an idea: to find and control an unawakened, self-sealed ancient Buddha!]

[Five-Star Mission: Find a self-sealed, sleeping Buddha and gain control over it.]

[Mission Reward: Seven-Star Lotus Platform.]

.....