

My System 761

Chapter 761: There's Nothing to Complain About!

Even this time, Cheng Guang had relied on the power of some Different Treasure.

But...

Thinking back.

What kind of Different Treasure could help Cheng Guang defeat four Sky-Men in one fell swoop?

What kind of Different Treasure had the strength, the capability???

Empress Wang didn't understand!

...

Empress Wang was bewildered!!!

Cheng Guang, at this moment, simply by observing Empress Wang's expression, didn't need to think to roughly guess what Empress Wang was pondering.

However, Cheng Guang didn't pay it any mind, after all, what Empress Wang thought had little to do with him.

Cheng Guang's visit this time was primarily to resolve the trouble Wu Ling faced.

According to the system prompt, Wu Ling's future strength could very likely be no less than that of the Great Tang Emperor, and might even be stronger by several degrees.

Helping Wu Ling out of this trouble now, aside from assisting Wu Ling and winning her over, there was another especially important reason.

That was, if he didn't help Wu Ling this time, the future of Great Zhou might not even be guaranteed, Wu Ling might not become the Empress of Great Zhou, which could potentially lead to more uncontrollable impacts on the future.

This was a scene Cheng Guang was unwilling to witness.

Cheng Guang thought of this, his gaze flicked to Wu Ling in the corner of the wall, he secretly smiled at her, then stepped out of the attic.

And arrived outside the attic.

The place where Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao had been lying just now.

These four people weren't dead.

Cheng Guang's strike, although it had left Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao and the four injured severely, did not kill all four of the Sky-Men including Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao.

As Cheng Guang entered the attic, shortly after Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao and the rest fell to the ground, they started struggling to leave towards a distance.

There were not many people around the attic used to confine the Royal Family and Relatives.

The only Sect disciples present, upon witnessing their own Sky-Mans being beaten into such a state by Cheng Guang, were almost scared to death.

They had been standing frozen in place.

Daring not to move an inch.

Only when Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao and the four Sky-Men crawled towards them, did the disciples involuntarily shudder and quickly came to their senses, running toward Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao and the four Sky-Men.

Just as they were about to help up Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao and the four Sky-Men.

A figure suddenly appeared in front of them.

The group of disciples stared at the person who had suddenly appeared before them, first stunned, then their eyes widened slightly, fixating on the person standing before them.

“This...”

“Isn’t this the very same person just now?”

The group of disciples exclaimed in surprise.

Then they looked at each other in silence.

After a brief silence.

“Run!!!”

With a cry of alarm.

The disciples who had intended to help Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao and the four Sky-Men instantly scattered.

Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao and the others were dumbfounded.

Damn it!

They just ran away???

They had already been severely injured by Cheng Guang, and walking was extremely difficult, now they could only crawl on the ground bit by bit.

They had just been preparing for the disciples to approach and help them leave the place!

Who would have thought that these disciples could just abandon them and run away!!

Keep in mind!!

This place was where the Royal Family and Relatives were guarded!

Ordinary disciples couldn't simply enter here.

The disciples who came here, regardless of which Sects they came from, were mostly the trusted core of their respective Sects, at the very least, they were at the level of true disciples.

But to have true disciples behave like this??

Disheartening!!

Truly disheartening!!!

The already miserable faces of Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao and the four Sky-Men instantly turned uglier.

Cheng Guang approached Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao, observing him and the others.

Cheng Guang didn't speak.

He simply watched them calmly.

After observing them for a while.

Cheng Guang still hadn't spoken yet, and Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao and the others were already finding it hard to keep composure.

"What on earth do you want to do?"

"Duke of the State's Heir, we haven't done much to the Royal Family, and even if we did, it has nothing to do with you, why must you be like this towards us."

"Duke of the State's Heir, we will not contest with you, we can leave now."

In an instant, Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao and the others recognized the situation, they didn't dare to say anything excessive to Cheng Guang, just being able to leave here safely and survive was already their biggest hope.

Cheng Guang, listening to Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao and the others, simply stroked his chin, then asked, "Do you have any other Sky-Men?"

Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao hurriedly replied, "No, there are only us four..."

Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao's words had barely fallen, he hadn't finished speaking, then he seemed to remember something, his gaze turning towards the only woman among the four.

The woman was significantly younger than Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao's other companions.

Only after a severe beating by Cheng Guang, her face was pretty much unrecognizable, how young she was seemed irrelevant.

Cheng Guang, curious about why Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao was looking at the only woman among them, waited for Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao's explanation.

Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao had just started to say something, the woman, however, lost her composure first.

She cursed without any grace.

"Old Xue! What are you looking at me for?"

"Are you blind!"

Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao's response to the woman was to not say much, just stating, "Your Heaven Mountain Palace has the most Sky-Men, and you're also the most arrogant. I've seen that you had other Sky-Men around you before."

Chapter 762: There is nothing to complain about! _2

"As the Princely Heir asked me if there were any other Sky-Men, I naturally had to answer truthfully."

When Sect Master Xue Yao of the Long Sword Sect uttered these words, it indeed piqued Cheng Guang's interest. He examined Sect Master Xue Yao with great interest, as well as the Sky-Man mentioned by Sect Master Xue Yao from the Heavenly Mountain Palace.

The woman shook her head, "Those are not from my Heavenly Mountain Palace, they are just the support we rely on."

As the woman said this, a trace of arrogance inadvertently appeared on her face, as if the support behind her made her particularly proud.

Even in front of her, even though her life was in Cheng Guang's hands, that arrogance was still unable to be concealed.

This made Cheng Guang curious.

...

What kind of power could make an old woman, a Sky-Man, feel so proud?

Was it the Great Tang?

Or some other force?

Cheng Guang only thought of the Great Tang or a force similar to the Great Tang, because in his view, it was just impossible for it to be the Heavenly Court or the Western Buddhas.

The reason was simple.

Whether it was the Celestial Gods of the Heavenly Court or the Western Buddhas, they stood too high.

They simply couldn't look down.

A Sky-Man like the Master of the Heavenly Mountain Palace wouldn't even catch the eye of the Heavenly Court.

Thinking this, Cheng Guang felt a bit certain that the power behind the Heavenly Mountain Palace was very likely the Great Tang.

If the power behind the Heavenly Mountain Palace was the Great Tang, then that was very strange.

If it were the Great Tang, why would it command the Heavenly Mountain Palace to ally with other sects and force the Great Zhou to send troops to attack Chang'an City?

Wasn't this just sending them to death?

At this moment, Cheng Guang still found it somewhat impossible to understand the intentions of the Great Tang.

Or rather.

Cheng Guang still couldn't quite comprehend the intentions of the Great Tang Emperor.

Sect Master Xue Yao sneered.

"You have so many Sky-Men backing you, and yet you forbid me from speaking?"

"The Princely Heir asked me to converse, and naturally, I must speak clearly."

As Sect Master Xue Yao said this, he bowed respectfully to Cheng Guang and said with a sycophantic smile, "Isn't that right, Princely Heir?"

Cheng Guang, long accustomed to the lack of integrity in Sect Master Xue Yao's demeanor, was hardly surprised.

The longer one lives, the more shameless one becomes.

That is the norm.

After all, Sect Master Xue Yao did not know how many years he practiced to reach his current level of cultivation, and if he were to lose his life over a trivial matter, now that would truly be unworthy.

For Sect Master Xue Yao.

Except for life.

Everything else was trivial.

What sect.

What major affairs of the world.

They were all of no concern.

Cheng Guang did not respond to Sect Master Xue Yao, but his gaze fell on the face of the Master of the Heavenly Mountain Palace.

“Do you have a way to call the Sky-Men around you?”

“Or rather, are they around here?”

Cheng Guang asked this mainly to clarify if there were any Sky-Men from the Great Tang around.

If there were Sky-Men from the Great Tang present, even if Cheng Guang took great effort, he wouldn't be able to make them leave.

If they knew that it was he who had moved against the four from the Heavenly Mountain Palace,

then the Great Tang Emperor would also know.

At present, Cheng Guang knew that the four from the Heavenly Mountain Palace were very likely a chess piece laid by the Great Tang Emperor, although he still did not know what the Great Tang Emperor's purpose was.

But clearly.

Cheng Guang had already disrupted the Great Tang Emperor's plans.

Regardless.

Cheng Guang was still not very keen on having a direct confrontation with the Great Tang Emperor; he would deal with it later.

At least until Guanyin Buddha and Cleansing Thought Buddha arrived here.

With this in mind, Cheng Guang was already preparing to call for reinforcements.

And at this moment.

The Master of the Heavenly Mountain Palace shook her head.

"There are none."

"My backers are not here."

After the Master of the Heavenly Mountain Palace finished speaking, Cheng Guang relaxed slightly.

Seeing Cheng Guang relax, the Master of the Heavenly Mountain Palace's heart tightened immediately, thinking that Cheng Guang was going to strike her down harshly, and she quickly spoke up: "Even though they are not here, they know of me."

"If something happens to me, Princely Heir, you won't benefit from it."

"They are not beings we can afford to offend!!"

The Master of the Heavenly Mountain Palace spoke his last words with utmost seriousness, his expression also tightening.

It seemed as if the support behind him was extraordinary.

Indeed, it was extraordinary.

That was Great Tang.

If there were no Celestial Gods, nor the Western Buddhas.

The emergence of Great Tang could very likely have dominated alone.

But at the moment.

It was not possible.

Cheng Guang was not particularly fearful of Great Tang.

The Master of the Heavenly Mountain Palace's words also slightly eased Cheng Guang's mood, which he had to admit.

Cheng Guang planned to immediately call over Guangyin Buddha and Cleansing Thought Buddha.

As for Dongfang Chiguo Tianwang, it would be better not to bother with that small fry.

If it were not for Cheng Guang fearing that Dongfang Chiguo Tianwang might escape while Guangyin Buddha and Cleansing Thought Buddha were away, Cheng Guang would not have wanted Guangyin Buddha and Cleansing Thought Buddha to bring Dongfang Chiguo Tianwang over.

After pondering for a while, Cheng Guang's gaze fell upon the four people of the Long Sword Sect Master Xue Yao.

"Do you want to live right now?"

After Cheng Guang spoke.

The Sect Master Xue Yao was the first to step forward.

He knelt directly on the ground.

Without any backbone.

"Please, Princely Heir, spare our lives."

Cheng Guang was taken aback when he saw Sect Master Xue Yao's spineless demeanor.

He thought that Sect Master Xue Yao had no shame.

But he hadn't expected that Sect Master Xue Yao could be so utterly shameless.

The other three, seeing Sect Master Xue Yao act in such a manner, were also momentarily stunned before hastily imitating him.

“Please, Princely Heir!”

“Spare our lives!”

Even the Master of the Heavenly Mountain Palace lowered her head.

Even the backing Great Tang gave her was of no use anymore.

Right now, the people of Great Tang were not by her side, and if she wanted to live, she could only depend on Cheng Guang’s will.

Before, Cheng Guang had simply waved his hand and had severely injured all four Sky-Men.

The Master of the Heavenly Mountain Palace did not doubt that if Cheng Guang wished, he could simply move his hand and eliminate them all right there.

Cheng Guang nodded slightly; he did not yet intend to kill them all directly.

“Maintain your current situation, do not trouble the royal family members, and wait for my notification.”

After finishing his words, Cheng Guang slowly walked away.

After secretly informing Wu Ling of his plans, he then returned to Duke Zhen’s Mansion.

Cheng Guang did not kill Sect Master Xue Yao and his group; mainly, he wanted to see what Great Tang was up to.

Now that he had notified Guangyin Buddha and Cleansing Thought Buddha, there was still some time before they would arrive, so he might as well use this time to see what the Great Tang Emperor planned to do.

Later, as long as Cheng Guang kept control of the situation.

If Great Zhou delayed in sending troops to attack Chang'an City, the Great Tang Emperor would eventually become restless.

At that time, the Great Tang Emperor's true intentions would be exposed.

Cheng Guang could also use this opportunity to see if he could persuade the Great Tang Emperor to join him.

Thinking this, Cheng Guang felt somewhat certain in his heart.

Meanwhile, as Cheng Guang pondered how to deal with the Great Tang Emperor, pondering what the purpose of having Great Zhou attack Chang'an City was, on another side.

Having just dealt with the four Sky-Men of Sect Master Xue Yao, holding the dangerous grip over the Great Zhou Imperial Palace.

Wu Ling's prestige rose once again.

Even if the various Court officials had not yet been able to enter the Imperial Palace.

But within the imperial family, including Empress Dowager Li, Empress Wang, and numerous princes and princesses, as well as the royal family and relatives.

Wu Ling was undoubtedly the best candidate for the next Emperor of Great Zhou.

They were already prepared to make Wu Ling the next Great Zhou Emperor.

Even Empress Wang had no objections.

Other princes, some were a bit reluctant, but they did not say much.

Because their previous performance was indeed not as good as Wu Ling's!

There was nothing to complain about!

Chapter 763: You, you actually know me?

Not long after Cheng Guang left the Great Zhou Imperial Palace, the commotion that had arisen due to him subsided, and the palace gradually regained its tranquility.

At the same time, even if the various ministers within the Court were not present, the Great Zhou Imperial Family had already decided that Wu Ling would become the new Emperor Zhou.

Inside the sleeping chamber of Empress Dowager Li.

Empress Dowager Li sat at the head.

At this moment, Cheng Guang had previously instructed sect master Xue Yao of the Long Sword Sect and others to maintain the status quo and not to let Great Tang or the Great Tang Emperor perceive anything unusual.

Thus, sect master Xue Yao of the Long Sword Sect and others had not left the Great Zhou Imperial Palace.

...

Empress Dowager Li looked around and, after glancing at the congregation of princes and princesses, and the royal family and relatives, she slowly began to speak, "This year, our Great Zhou Imperial Family has experienced such disgrace; fortunately, we received assistance from my grandson, alleviating the crisis."

Having said this, many among the royal family and relatives, princes and princesses, lowered their heads in shame, unable to meet Empress Dowager Li's gaze directly.

After all, they also understood that they had truly embarrassed themselves this time.

After Empress Dowager Li finished speaking, she paused for a while, then spoke again,

"This incident, although it has brought shame upon our Great Zhou Imperial Family, was not entirely without benefit; at least it has made it clear to this old woman the gap between all of you and Wu Ling."

"The Emperor's judgment was not wrong."

"In the Emperor's absence, this old woman will take charge. Let Wu Ling ascend to the Great Zhou throne today."

As soon as Empress Dowager Li's words fell, murmurs erupted among the royal family and relatives.

Although they had long suspected that Empress Dowager Li might allow Wu Ling to inherit the position of the Great Zhou Imperial Family, the realization of such a reality still instinctively made them uncomfortable.

After all, in their view, Wu Ling was an outsider, fundamentally unsuitable to continue the Great Zhou throne.

But now, even though they felt uncomfortable, no one stood up to oppose it at this time.

Even Empress Wang, who had always wanted her son Wu Ming to inherit the throne, kept her head down quietly, and did not speak out, let alone the rest of the princes, princesses, and the beauties of the palace.

Now that Wu Ling's position as the Empress of Great Zhou was almost certain, if they were to stubbornly oppose Wu Ling's ascension to the throne at this juncture, then once Wu Ling eventually inherited the throne, it would likely not bode well for these consorts.

Whomsoever Wu Ling wished to exact revenge on, she could.

It was as easy as child's play.

At this time.

Inside Empress Dowager Li's sleeping chamber, including Empress Wang, the assembly of palace concubines, princes, princesses, and the royal family and relatives, all remained silent, and the chamber fell into quietude.

After Empress Dowager Li looked around once more and saw that no one spoke again, she nodded slightly.

"Since everyone has no objections, then after this matter settles, let Wu Ling inherit the throne."

Empress Dowager Li said, turning her gaze to Wu Ling.

Not only was Empress Dowager Li looking at Wu Ling, but at that moment in the chamber, everyone's eyes were fixed on her.

Previously, Wu Ling, as the Crown Prince of the Eastern Palace, was unremarkable and overlooked by many; now, Wu Ling was truly the future heir of Great Zhou.

The difference was like night and day.

“Wu Ling, come,” beckoned Empress Dowager Li with a wave of her hand.

Wu Ling stepped forward slowly to Empress Dowager Li’s side and bowed slightly, “Empress Dowager.”

Empress Dowager Li gently patted Wu Ling’s shoulder and couldn’t help but sigh, “These days have been hard on you.”

Wu Ling shook her head.

Empress Dowager Li remembered something else and said, “Although I have already taken the decision to let you inherit the Great Zhou throne, it is not yet time; we must wait a while longer.”

“My grandson Guanger, I don’t know what he intends to do. He did not exterminate all the Sky-Men including sect master Xue Yao, nor did he annihilate all those audacious criminals who dared to cause chaos in the Great Zhou Imperial Palace.”

Empress Dowager Li furrowed her brows slightly as she spoke, clearly puzzled.

Not only was Empress Dowager Li somewhat baffled, Empress Wang felt the same.

“Indeed, Empress Dowager, the Princely Heir’s intentions are unclear,” said Empress Wang, her pretty brows knitted in confusion, but then, upon another thought, she began to reassure Empress Dowager Li and Wu Ling,

“Fortunately, after the Princely Heir’s involvement, people like sect master Xue Yao dare not do anything to our royal family. Aside from the presence of several people from the Martial World’s factions in our Imperial Palace, there’s no other difference.”

“You, Wu Ling, just wait peacefully to inherit the throne later. Nothing unexpected will happen.”

Wu Ling nodded slightly.

She was, in fact, not worried at all.

Wu Ling knew that Princely Heir Cheng Guang, with a single move, had nearly killed the four Sky-Men including sect master Xue Yao.

Now, intentionally leaving sect master Xue Yao and the others was also part of Princely Heir Cheng Guang's plan.

At this point, there was probably no danger to sect master Xue Yao and the four others.

Even if sect master Xue Yao and the four Sky-Men were given ten times or a hundred times more courage, it would not be of much use.

Princely Heir Cheng Guang would not give them the slightest chance.

Chapter 764: You, you actually recognize me? _2

While the Sect Master of the Long Sword Sect, Xue Yao, and his three companions could hardly stir up any significant trouble in front of Cheng Guang, the Duke's Princely Heir,

unless they were actively seeking death, no matter how fiercely powerful they were, they wouldn't dare lay a hand on their own Royal Family.

Wu Ling's gaze flickered towards the outside window, observing the distant clouds in the sky.

Although the air outside was exceptionally crisp, Wu Ling's heart felt as though it was shrouded in a layer of shadow.

Wu Ling could only feel that the gap between her and Cheng Guang, the Duke's Princely Heir, seemed to have widened even further.

At this rate, when would she ever catch up to Cheng Guang, the Duke's Princely Heir?

...

And how could she stand shoulder to shoulder with Cheng Guang, the Duke's Princely Heir?

At this point, Wu Ling had become somewhat bewildered.

Staring blankly at the scenery outside the window,

she no longer had the mood to listen to Empress Dowager Li, Empress Wang, and the host of Royal Family and Relatives discussing whatever it was they were talking about.

Her thoughts had already drifted far away, following the elusive figure of Cheng Guang.

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While Wu Ling was lost in her musings, Cheng Guang was quietly waiting for the arrival of Guanyin Buddha and Cleansing Thought Buddha at Duke Zhen's Mansion.

Cheng Guang had just summoned Guanyin Buddha and Cleansing Thought Buddha on short notice. With those two on his side, Cheng Guang felt that his chances of dealing with the Great Tang Emperor were significantly better.

Before the arrival of Guanyin Buddha and Cleansing Thought Buddha, Cheng Guang knew he had to act cautiously and avoid startling the snake.

Cheng Guang sat in the pavilion, looking up at the clouds in the sky, aware that it would take some time for Guanyin Buddha and Cleansing Thought Buddha to arrive.

During this interval, he planned to visit Great Tang Chang'an City first.

With a thought, Cheng Guang's body instantly vanished from the courtyard of Duke Zhen's Mansion and appeared in Great Tang Chang'an City.

Cheng Guang's figure suddenly emerged on the central street of Tang Chang'an City.

His robe of brilliant white hadn't changed, the only difference was that his face was now covered by a mask.

This mask, picked up by Cheng Guang from a roadside stall, bore the visage of a beast, not ferocious nor fierce, but rather wild-looking.

As soon as Cheng Guang appeared on the central street, a group of guards in the distance had already spotted his figure.

They hurriedly converged towards Cheng Guang, weapons drawn in confrontation.

Just as the leader was about to shout at Cheng Guang,

Cheng Guang happened to turn his head, his gaze sweeping over the crowd.

Merely making eye contact with the guards caused all of them to tremble violently, standing frozen in place as if struck by lightning.

"This...this oppressive feeling...this aura..."

"Is this the aura of Chang'an City??"

"Has Chang'an fallen under the control of this man? But this man isn't the Emperor..."

The guards looked towards Cheng Guang with faces filled with terror. Had it not been for the incredibly heavy aura of Chang'an City weighing on them, pinning their bodies as if in shackles, they might have already been unable to resist kneeling down.

Bowing their heads and acknowledging their allegiance to Cheng Guang.

Not for any other reason.

But simply because the aura of Chang'an City on Cheng Guang was so profound.

The guards, over the long passage of time, had already become one with Chang'an City.

They possessed an innate fear of it,

and could not muster a trace of resistance.

Cheng Guang looked at the distant guards, unsurprised by their reactions.

At the same time, Cheng Guang was amazed to discover that as his strength and Cultivation Realm had improved to a certain extent, his control over Great Tang Chang'an City increased significantly.

He could now indirectly influence and control the guards within Great Tang Chang'an City by harnessing the power of the city.

The deal Cheng Guang had made with the Great Tang Emperor was solely to stabilize the Emperor temporarily, buying time for Cheng Guang to consider how to bring all the guards within Tang Chang'an City under his control.

Now, it seems there was no need for further maneuvers.

Everything was falling into place naturally.

This was indeed quite satisfactory.

Moreover, Cheng Guang also knew that the reason the Great Tang Emperor had made the deal with him, allowing him to stabilize things for a while, was not because the Great Tang Emperor was naive or anything.

The Great Tang Emperor had his own purpose.

Firstly, the Great Tang Emperor was unable to ascertain Cheng Guang's identity and objectives at the time.

He had absolutely no bottom line concerning Cheng Guang.

It was, of course, impossible to directly confront Cheng Guang and risk a scenario where both parties are destroyed.

Secondly, the Great Tang Emperor was also looking to buy time with Cheng Guang, to see if there might be an opportunity to wrest control of Tang Chang'an City from Cheng Guang's grasp.

As Cheng Guang thought of this, something suddenly occurred to him, and he couldn't help but mutter to himself.

"The Great Tang Emperor, by covertly supporting Heaven Mountain Palace, let them hold the Great Zhou Imperial Family hostage and lead an attack on Tang Chang'an City. Could it be just for the control of Tang Chang'an City?"

"But..."

"How does attacking Tang Chang'an City affect the control of it?"

Cheng Guang's mind raced as he thought about the sects like Heaven Mountain Palace, how the Great Zhou Imperial Family was held hostage, and compelled to send troops to attack Tang Chang'an City. His thoughts were manifold and his brow furrowed once again.

Cheng Guang really couldn't understand how an attack on Tang Chang'an City would influence the control over it.

He knew the strength of the Great Zhou Army.

Even a Sky-Man, surrounded by tens of thousands of troops, would be consumed alive, unable to stir up much trouble.

But.

Although the Great Zhou Army was powerful, it wasn't of much use against Tang Chang'an City, against the Great Tang.

In Tang Chang'an City, there were also troops present.

Even though their number was not as great as the Great Zhou Army, their quality was far superior by countless measures.

"To have Great Zhou attack Tang Chang'an City, isn't that seeking death?"

As Cheng Guang pondered this, he again muttered to himself.

"Who goes there!?"

While Cheng Guang was deep in thought, a loud shout suddenly came from afar.

The shout grew louder, and with it came the sound of footsteps thundering like a storm.

Cheng Guang lifted his gaze toward the distance.

He saw a figure as large as a small mountain, striding like a tiger, marching forcefully toward Cheng Guang.

After only a few steps, the figure had already moved from the distance right up to Cheng Guang.

As soon as the man approached Cheng Guang, his body seemed to freeze, unable to move an inch.

With a fierce black face and tiger-like eyes, he stared intently at Cheng Guang.

“This...”

“This aura...?”

The man stared hard at Cheng Guang, momentarily almost unable to believe what he was sensing.

He was actually able to feel the aura of Chang’an City emanating from Cheng Guang.

When he got close to Cheng Guang, the man had already felt something was off, but he didn’t take it seriously, after all, apart from the Great Tang Emperor, no one else could control Tang Chang’an City.

In his own mind, only the Great Tang Emperor could control Tang Chang’an City.

Who would have thought that Tang Chang’an City was no longer under the control of the Great Tang Emperor.

Now that the man was close to Cheng Guang, it was too late for regrets or escape.

The aura of Tang Chang'an City, emanating from Cheng Guang, pressed down on the man like mountains upon mountains.

It rendered him incapable of moving at all.

"Damn it!!"

"What the hell is this!?"

"Who are you!?"

The black-faced man stared fiercely at Cheng Guang, and even though he no longer had any power to resist in front of Cheng Guang, his mouth was still defiant.

Cheng Guang looked at the black-faced man with interest, examined his appearance, and then his two axes carried behind, as if recalling something, he finally asked:

"Are you Cheng Yaojin?"

At Cheng Guang's words.

The black-faced man's expression suddenly changed, and he looked at Cheng Guang with surprise.

"You..."

"Who on earth are you!?"

"You, you actually recognize me?"

.....

Chapter 765: Wouldn't This Be Too Disrespectful to the Great Tang Emperor?

When Cheng Guang heard the dark-faced Great Han utter these words, he came to understand that this man was indeed Cheng Yaojin.

Cheng Guang truly hadn't expected that this world would also have Cheng Yaojin.

If the person before him was Cheng Yaojin, then it was very likely that the Great Tang Emperor was the Li Er that Cheng Guang remembered.

All this was far too fantastical.

So much so, that Cheng Guang himself felt as if he were dreaming.

"I really wonder what kind of world I've traveled to."

...

A sigh of such pondering couldn't help but escape from Cheng Guang's heart.

Following his reflection, Cheng Guang's gaze drifted towards the distance.

At this moment.

Shadows in the distance suddenly began to multiply.

Many guards from within Great Tang Chang'an City gathered around, encircling the spot where Cheng Guang was standing.

Among the throng of guards, Cheng Guang also noticed a few familiar faces.

Zhou Qingxu, Lu Qianjun, and even Li Chengqian were there.

Only...

The most important figure, the Great Tang Emperor, had yet to appear.

Cheng Guang couldn't help feeling a bit disappointed.

His high-profile appearance was primarily to meet with the Great Tang Emperor.

After all, the Great Tang Emperor was the former master of Great Tang Chang'an City, and he knew how to avoid the city's probes.

Even though Cheng Guang had control over Great Tang Chang'an City, as long as the Great Tang Emperor didn't want Cheng Guang to know his exact location, Cheng Guang was simply unable to find out.

In fact, at this moment, Cheng Guang didn't even know whether the Great Tang Emperor was still in Great Tang Chang'an City.

However.

Based on Cheng Guang's own conjectures, the Great Tang Emperor was definitely still within Great Tang Chang'an City.

Other than Great Tang Chang'an City, the Great Tang Emperor wouldn't go elsewhere.

Especially while Cheng Guang still held control over Great Tang Chang'an City.

Cheng Guang was very clear that his existence was like a thorn in the heart of the Great Tang Emperor.

As long as it wasn't removed, the Great Tang Emperor would never be at ease.

Cheng Guang's gaze briefly swept around, shifting from Zhou Qingxu, Lu Qianjun, Li Chengqian, and then looked off into the distance.

Calmly waiting for the appearance of the Great Tang Emperor.

Cheng Guang didn't regard Cheng Yaojin before him, nor Zhou Qingxu, Lu Qianjun, and the others in the distance.

Though Cheng Guang didn't pay much attention to the group in the distance, they, on the other hand, were very much focused on him.

Li Chengqian gave Cheng Guang just one look, his eyebrows knitting together tightly, and subconsciously felt an inexplicable sense of familiarity with him.

But this familiarity was entirely baseless.

Li Chengqian couldn't remember when or where he had ever seen Cheng Guang.

At the same time.

Zhou Qingxu, gazing at Cheng Guang standing quietly like a banished Immortal in the middle of the street, also frowned slightly in confusion.

At this moment, Cheng Guang wore a mask, making it impossible for Zhou Qingxu to know his identity.

However.

Zhou Qingxu could still sense the rich aura of Great Tang Chang'an City on Cheng Guang, which made Zhou Qingxu involuntarily squint his eyes.

He didn't experience the same distinct fear of Cheng Guang that Cheng Yaojin, Li Chengqian, and the other guards within Great Tang Chang'an City did.

Firstly, Zhou Qingxu himself wasn't a person who relied on the existence of Great Tang Chang'an City, so he didn't fear its aura as much, but he could instinctively sense a dangerous feeling from it nonetheless.

Moreover.

Aside from sensing the rich aura of Great Tang Chang'an City from Cheng Guang, Zhou Qingxu also felt a familiar sensation from him.

Just from looking at Cheng Guang's figure,

Zhou Qingxu felt it was extremely familiar.

"Strange..."

"Strange..."

Zhou Qingxu, while stroking his chin, cautiously looked towards the distant Cheng Guang, "Why do I feel like the person before me is someone I know?"

"Why does this person have the aura of Great Tang Chang'an City? Isn't that something only His Majesty should have?"

"Could it be that this person has some special relationship with His Majesty??"

For a moment, Zhou Qingxu was somewhat confused.

At the same time.

Zhou Qingxu's footsteps involuntarily retreated a few steps.

He had seen that Cheng Yaojin dared not move an inch before that gentleman.

And he himself could not even withstand a breath's time in front of Cheng Yaojin.

Comparing the two,

the disparity was simply huge.

At the same time, Zhou Qingxu also realized that the unknown gentleman, Cheng Guang, bore the aura of Great Tang Chang'an City, and even though the reason was unclear, he must be someone capable of contending with the Great Tang Emperor.

Otherwise.

As Zhou Qingxu saw it, there was no need for this unknown gentleman, Cheng Guang, to appear here at such a time. Wasn't this just openly seeking out the Great Tang Emperor?

Thinking this, Zhou Qingxu quietly moved back a few more steps.

Damn, this is a battleground for Immortals.

I dare not get involved.

At this time, Zhou Qingxu felt an overwhelming sense of weariness.

He had originally thought.

After ascending to Sky-Man, he had become quite powerful, and after advancing to Celestial Realm Level Two, he could be nearly invincible under heaven apart from the Great Tang Emperor.

But who could have imagined.

In the eyes of the Great Tang Emperor, he was only fit to receive the Hundred-Character Token.

At first, Zhou Qingxu had been somewhat reluctant to accept this.

Chapter 766: Wouldn't This Be Too Disrespectful to the Great Tang Emperor? _2

He felt that he was so formidable, so why did he only possess a Hundred Character Token?

Apart from the Great Tang Emperor, one could almost be invincible in this world.

But,

once Zhou Qingxu appeared in Great Tang Chang'an City, that kind of dissatisfaction in his heart never arose again.

Compared to the guards in Great Tang Chang'an City, compared to Li Chengqian and Cheng Yaojin, Zhou Qingxu realized that his own strength was nothing.

When he thought about this,

...

Zhou Qingxu almost cried out loudly.

Li Chengqian also took a deep breath, looked at Cheng Guang in front of him, and saw Cheng Yaojin, who was restrained and unable to move even slightly.

Li Chengqian felt somewhat embarrassed—his old face couldn't help but darken.

It was already palpable.

On Cheng Guang's body, there was an immensely strong aura of Great Tang Chang'an City.

How could Cheng Yaojin dare to charge straight at him?

Although Li Chengqian himself had no solution for dealing with Cheng Guang, at the very least, one shouldn't start by attacking; it was correct to distinguish between friend and foe first.

Li Chengqian saw that Cheng Guang had merely appeared here and hadn't attacked the surrounding guards or Cheng Yaojin; he had only restrained the people around him.

Li Chengqian thought to himself that perhaps Cheng Guang harbored no ill intentions from the beginning?

Upon thinking this, Li Chengqian took another step forward, emerged from the crowd, first bowed slightly to Cheng Guang, and then spoke with noticeable respect,

"May I inquire, noble sir, for what purpose have you come to our Great Tang Chang'an City?"

"Why does noble sir carry the aura of our Great Tang Chang'an City?"

After stepping forward, Li Chengqian threw out two questions directly.

Although Li Chengqian appeared very proper in his demeanor, he was, after all, the Crown Prince of Great Tang, and his inherent pride, though well-concealed, was still somewhat apparent.

Otherwise, Li Chengqian wouldn't have thrown out two questions directly without waiting for Cheng Guang's response.

Cheng Guang showed little interest in responding to Li Chengqian's questions and set his gaze upon Li Chengqian.

Without saying a word,

Cheng Guang remained silent, simply letting his gaze rest upon Li Chengqian.

Li Chengqian, feeling Cheng Guang's stare, felt an immense pressure.

His body involuntarily bent slightly,

and beads of sweat began to form on his forehead.

It wasn't so much the aura of Great Tang Chang'an City on Cheng Guang, or perhaps the cultivation strength of Cheng Guang, that made Li Chengqian feel such pressure,

but rather, Li Chengqian felt that Cheng Guang's current gaze was too reminiscent of the Great Tang Emperor.

That sense of authority, along with the guilt rising within Li Chengqian's heart, made him involuntarily lower his head.

On Li Chengqian's forehead, large beads of sweat rolled down his face and dripped onto the ground.

Just as he was about to say something,

Cheng Guang spoke.

After sizing up Li Chengqian for a few moments, Cheng Guang suddenly asked,

“Where is your father, the Emperor?”

Cheng Guang’s first words were to inquire about the location of the Great Tang Emperor.

Upon hearing Cheng Guang’s question, Li Chengqian was momentarily stunned, then thought to himself that Cheng Guang must be looking for the Great Tang Emperor and didn’t seem to have much intention of troubling them; perhaps he was even an old acquaintance of his father, the Emperor.

Upon thinking this,

Li Chengqian responded, “My father is in seclusion and hasn’t surfaced yet.”

“What is the purpose of noble sir seeking my father?”

Cheng Guang shook his head, ignoring Li Chengqian’s words once again, and looking into the distance, said, “Let’s go.”

“You lead the way, take me to see where your father is secluding himself.”

Hearing Cheng Guang’s words, Li Chengqian’s eyes narrowed slightly, and after pondering for a moment, just as he was about to say something, having lifted his gaze and caught Cheng Guang’s expression and complexion,

he hesitated and swallowed his words back.

Li Chengqian initially wanted to refuse Cheng Guang.

After all, his own father was still in seclusion, and now Cheng Guang wanted him to lead the way; Li Chengqian wasn't sure what Cheng Guang intended.

If Cheng Guang planned to take advantage of the Emperor being in seclusion to do something, that would be problematic.

Although,

Li Chengqian knew that since Cheng Guang had not attacked them yet, even upon meeting the Great Tang Emperor, who was still in seclusion, it wouldn't likely afford Cheng Guang much opportunity to succeed.

The chance of an attack was even slimmer.

But,

Li Chengqian still had to be cautious.

He had just thought to refuse, but upon seeing Cheng Guang's expression and complexion, Li Chengqian felt that if he had refused just now, he might not still be standing.

Li Chengqian bent slightly and said to Cheng Guang with a smile, "Please, noble sir, my father is always in the Yangxin Hall."

Cheng Guang nodded slightly.

Li Chengqian was just about to lead Cheng Guang towards the Yangxin Hall when he had just risen and hadn't yet moved.

Suddenly, Li Chengqian sensed that the pressure around him had vanished.

Li Chengqian suddenly turned his head and looked behind him.

Cheng Guang, who had just been standing behind him, had now disappeared.

"Your Excellency??"

"Your Excellency???"

Li Chengqian blankly called out a few times.

"Where is Your Excellency?"

"He left early."

Beside him, Cheng Yaojin breathed a sigh of relief, slumped on the ground, uncomfortably rubbing his shoulders, and said with a strange expression, "I don't know who that person was."

"He had such a strong aura of Great Tang Chang'an City, and it seemed like he could even control Great Tang Chang'an City."

"Hasn't Great Tang Chang'an City always been under the control of the Sage?"

"Why could that person also control Great Tang Chang'an City??"

Cheng Yaojin was baffled.

His mind wasn't very sharp, but he still understood the general principles.

Great Tang Chang'an City could only be controlled by one person.

Only the Great Tang Emperor, perhaps someone with the Imperial Bloodline, could control it.

There were no others who could control Great Tang Chang'an City.

That was the Great Tang Emperor and Li Chengqian.

But...

In Cheng Yaojin's view, Cheng Guang just now couldn't possibly be a member of the Imperial family—so why did he have the aura of Great Tang Chang'an City?

The more Cheng Yaojin thought, the more confused he became, feeling almost dizzy.

He could only cast a pleading look towards Li Chengqian.

Li Chengqian shook his head, "Uncle Cheng, I also don't know why that person had the aura of Great Tang Chang'an City."

"This matter, perhaps only Father Emperor can explain."

"By now, that person might have already reached the Yangxin Hall, let's follow and see."

Having said this, Li Chengqian then moved quickly towards the Imperial Nourishing Heart Hall.

In just a short while, they reached near the Yangxin Hall.

When Li Chengqian reached near the Yangxin Hall, he found that Cheng Guang was already standing in front of the Yangxin Hall.

He saw Cheng Guang standing in front of the Yangxin Hall's door, looking up at its plaque and not in a rush to enter.

Instead, he seemed to be patiently waiting.

Seeing Cheng Guang like this, Li Chengqian also felt relieved.

Thankfully, Cheng Guang hadn't gone straight inside.

Should he enter...

It would confirm the adversarial relationship with Cheng Guang.

The Great Tang Emperor would be furious.

Even if Li Chengqian had done nothing wrong.

But disturbing the Great Tang Emperor's seclusion was a fault in itself; even a passing eunuch might suffer a few harsh punishments from the Great Tang Emperor.

Just by thinking of that scene, Li Chengqian felt a chill.

Shortly after Li Chengqian arrived at the Yangxin Hall.

Cheng Yaojin and a group of guards also quickly arrived.

However, these guards from Great Tang Chang'an City didn't dare to get too close to Cheng Guang.

The aura of Great Tang Chang'an City on Cheng Guang was too strong.

Getting too close made them instinctively feel oppressed.

Even their breathing became difficult.

Though most of these guards didn't even need to breathe.

Even so.

Out of instinct, and the unclear identity of Cheng Guang, they still didn't want to get too close to him.

Cheng Guang, meanwhile, paid no attention to Li Chengqian, Cheng Yaojin, or any of the guards around him.

He glanced at the Yangxin Hall's plaque for a while, pondering.

Whether to barge in straight away.

Would that be too disrespectful to the Great Tang Emperor?

Chapter 767: Please come in, let's go inside and chat

Cheng Guang stood in front of the entrance to Yangxin Hall, pondering whether to burst in directly.

Barging in would definitely be considered a show of complete disrespect toward the Great Tang Emperor.

It would essentially be crashing the event.

However, Cheng Guang's visit this time was not solely to cause trouble for the Great Tang Emperor.

If he had intended to cause trouble for the Great Tang Emperor, Cheng Guang would not have come alone; he would have waited for both Guanyin Buddha and Cleansing Thought Buddha to arrive. Otherwise, if he upset the Great Tang Emperor, who might disregard the welfare of Great Tang Chang'an City to strike at him personally...

Then Cheng Guang truly would have no place to even weep.

...

For Cheng Guang, the primary reason for his visit to Great Tang Chang'an City to seek out the Great Tang Emperor was to discover the reason why the Emperor aimed to lead troops to attack Great Tang Chang'an City.

Of course,

Cheng Guang himself understood

that if he directly confronted the Great Tang Emperor, the Emperor would definitely not reveal anything to him.

Thus, Cheng Guang could only beat around the bush and see if he could extract an answer from the Great Tang Emperor.

Cheng Guang stood with his hands behind his back outside the hall's entrance, his gaze fixed on Yangxin Hall.

Without rushing,

he calmly waited.

When Li Chengqian observed that Cheng Guang was not immediately storming into Yangxin Hall but quietly waiting outside instead, he breathed a sigh of relief.

“Thank goodness, this gentleman did not rush in...”

Li Chengqian saw that although Cheng Guang sought the Great Tang Emperor, he had not charged into Yangxin Hall.

Though at this moment, Li Chengqian was still somewhat unclear about Cheng Guang’s specific intentions, he could at least be sure of one thing—that Cheng Guang most likely held no malice.

Respect towards the Great Tang Emperor was still present.

Realizing this alone put Li Chengqian’s mind at ease, significantly lightening his mood.

Otherwise,

this unidentified Cheng Guang, imbued with the aura of Great Tang Chang’an City and seemingly able to control it,

would be a disaster—friend or foe—and an impending catastrophe for both Li Chengqian and all the Tang Imperial Guards relying on Great Tang Chang’an City for survival.

Thinking about this, Li Chengqian’s dark pupils could not help but reflect a lingering fear.

“Father Emperor has not come out yet; once he appears, perhaps we will know who this gentleman really is and why he possesses the aura of Great Tang Chang’an City...”

Li Chengqian murmured to himself.

While Li Chengqian was contemplating, Cheng Yaojin had become utterly perplexed.

Scratching his head and standing to the side,

he felt the situation was incredibly complex.

After pondering for a bit, he quickly gave up thinking.

In Cheng Guang’s presence, he had no power to resist at all.

Cheng Yaojin felt that merely sensing the aura of Great Tang Chang’an City inherent in Cheng Guang left him stiff all over as if turned to stone, completely unable to move.

It was only because Cheng Guang presently held no ill will.

Otherwise,

Cheng Yaojin felt he wouldn’t last a moment in Cheng Guang’s presence.

No matter how powerful his Cultivation Realm, in front of the controller of Great Tang Chang’an City, he’d have little opportunity to struggle or resist.

“Who exactly is this person, and why does he carry such a strong aura of Great Tang Chang’an City?”

“I don’t understand.”

Cheng Yaojin's frown deepened.

Li Chengqian shook his head.

"I also do not know; right now only father Emperor can explain all this. This gentleman seems to be here for father Emperor, and at least for now, he seems to carry no ill intentions; let's just wait and see."

After Li Chengqian spoke, Cheng Yaojin also slightly nodded in agreement.

At this moment,

all around the outside of Yangxin Hall, there was complete silence.

Centered around Cheng Guang, the Tang Imperial Guards from within Great Tang Chang'an City formed rings.

These guards did not dare come too close to Cheng Guang.

Anyone who approached close enough to feel the Chang'an aura emanating from him would stiffen up as if turned to stone, completely immobilized.

This oppressive feeling was not due to levels of cultivation.

It stemmed deep from within the soul.

For those, like the guards, who had lived in Great Tang Chang'an City for ages, totally reliant on it and could be considered a part of the city itself...

At this moment, Cheng Guang induced greater fear in them than even the Great Tang Emperor did.

Moreover,

although they were reluctant to admit it, they couldn't deny that deep inside there arose an involuntary sense of admiration and respect for Cheng Guang.

Right then,

silence prevailed.

All guards, all individuals silently watched Cheng Guang.

While Cheng Guang silently watched the doors to Yangxin Hall,

waiting for the Great Tang Emperor to appear.

The world seemed to have sunk into a strangely quiet atmosphere.

Fortunately, this odd silence did not last long.

Creak—

The sound of the slightly harsh doors of the hall opening suddenly erupted in this silent milieu, resonating distinctly into everyone's ears, causing all to involuntarily tense.

Chapter 768: Please Come In, Let's Talk Inside (Subscription Requested)_2

"Your Majesty?"

“Father Emperor?”

“Sovereign?”

The surrounding guards, Cheng Yaojin and Li Chengqian, upon hearing the slow creak of the hall doors, all looked up towards the direction of Yangxin Hall.

The heavy, purple sandalwood doors of Yangxin Hall were pushed open.

The sunlight outside couldn't wait to rush in, while the space behind the hall seemed like a black hole, swallowing up all the surrounding light.

...

It was impossible to clearly see what was inside Yangxin Hall, what kind of scene it was.

And quite soon.

Under the watchful eye of Cheng Guang.

A shadow appeared at the doorway of Yangxin Hall. Due to the angle of the sunlight, it was impossible to make out the facial features, only a vague impression of the figure's build and clothing could be seen.

Cheng Guang narrowed his eyes. Even though he couldn't discern the facial features, he could recognize that this was the Great Tang Emperor.

The Great Tang Emperor stood in the doorway, glanced around, and then set his gaze upon Cheng Guang.

Upon spotting Cheng Guang,

His eyes opened slightly wider, then showed little surprise.

Perhaps the Great Tang Emperor had already sensed someone was outside while he was inside Yangxin Hall.

But the Great Tang Emperor couldn't be sure that the person outside the hall was Cheng Guang.

Now that Cheng Guang had appeared before the Great Tang Emperor, the emperor didn't seem particularly surprised.

"Sir, what brings you here?"

The Great Tang Emperor was momentarily startled, then a smile spread across his face as he quickly walked over and greeted Cheng Guang warmly.

With an affable demeanor.

Cheng Guang, upon seeing the Great Tang Emperor's expression, also curled the corners of his mouth slightly and replied with a light smile, "I came to see you and to have a casual chat about some matters."

The Great Tang Emperor was taken aback again, and his brow briefly furrowed secretly.

For some reason,

The Great Tang Emperor always had a premonition that Cheng Guang's visit and the 'casual chat' about some matters he mentioned surely wouldn't be anything trivial.

Before, when the Great Tang Emperor had seen Cheng Guang and realized that his Great Tang Chang'an City had fallen into Cheng Guang's hands, he had been thinking of ways to take back the city from Cheng Guang.

Moreover,

The Great Tang Emperor was also trying to figure out Cheng Guang's identity and methods.

After all, the Great Tang Emperor himself had never personally confronted Cheng Guang, so he had no knowledge of Cheng Guang's identity, nor of his methods and strength, if he were to take back Great Tang Chang'an City from Cheng Guang's hands.

There were only two possible approaches.

Either to seize it by force.

Or to outwit Cheng Guang.

The Great Tang Emperor had been planning to choose one of these strategies once he knew Cheng Guang's specific identity, but to his surprise, he could not uncover Cheng Guang's identity.

Even though Cheng Guang had only been before him for a few brief minutes, less than the time it takes to brew a pot of tea,

Cheng Guang still left a profound impression on the Great Tang Emperor.

Cheng Guang's distinguishing features, as well as details that common folk would overlook, were etched firmly into the emperor's mind.

All with the purpose of facilitating the discovery of Cheng Guang's true identity later on.

But the Great Tang Emperor had miscalculated.

Even though he had made some preparations and paid a certain price,

No matter how he searched, he couldn't find Cheng Guang's true identity.

It was as if Cheng Guang was not from the past.

Not at all someone the emperor was familiar with.

This was indeed strange.

If not someone the emperor knew, and not a deity or Buddha from his own era, how could anyone leave their mark on Great Tang Chang'an City, which only members of the Tang royal family could influence, without his notice?

It was even less likely to be someone from this era.

People of this era wouldn't even rank as mid-level cultivators in the era of the Great Tang Emperor.

He didn't bother to consider them.

Therefore, to the Great Tang Emperor, Cheng Guang must certainly be a great power unknown to him.

Just the thought of this.

Had already completely bewildered the Great Tang Emperor.

Unable to ascertain Cheng Guang's identity, they were unable to gauge his true strength.

As such, openly seizing power would be far too risky.

For now, although Cheng Guang controlled Great Tang Chang'an City, he had not used this as leverage against the Great Tang Emperor.

The Great Tang Emperor himself knew that without understanding Cheng Guang's identity, it was best to quietly wait for an opportunity before taking action.

Otherwise, if it turned out that he was completely unable to deal with Cheng Guang, it would be a classic case of "trying to steal a chicken only to end up losing the rice."

That would be disastrous indeed.

But.

The Great Tang Emperor need not completely disregard the fact that Cheng Guang controlled Datang's capital city of Chang'an.

The Great Tang Emperor could only abandon the idea of wresting control of Great Tang Chang'an City directly from Cheng Guang's hands and instead consider using clever strategies.

As for what these clever strategies might entail.

Certainly, they would not involve confronting Cheng Guang directly.

After all, attacking Cheng Guang was very difficult for the Great Tang Emperor: he did not know Cheng Guang's strength, nor his cultivation realm. Merely by the fact that Cheng Guang had such means to control Great Tang Chang'an City was enough to warrant extreme caution.

The clever strategy lay in the hidden defenses of Great Tang Chang'an City.

When Chang'an City had been built by the Great Tang Emperor himself, he had anticipated that it might one day fall into the hands of others.

Back then, the Great Tang Emperor had never imagined that this contingency plan would ever be activated.

After all, gaining control of Great Tang Chang'an City was no easy feat.

The first requirement was to have the bloodline of the Great Tang royal family, which already excluded the majority of those who might wish to take control of the city.

Even if someone managed to control the city indirectly through a member of the royal family, there were other restrictions waiting for them.

Like the controller of Great Tang Chang'an City must not be under anyone else's control, and certain cultivation requirements were also a must.

Thus, there was no need for concern.

The Great Tang Emperor had never thought that this contingency plan would one day prove useful.

The Great Tang Emperor sighed as he thought of Chang'an City's hidden defenses.

His thoughts flew chaotically like scattered fragments, but it was only a moment's consideration before he collected himself, his gaze falling upon Cheng Guang with a smile creeping onto his lips.

He turned to Cheng Guang and gestured for him to enter with a "please."

"Sir, please come in; let's talk inside."

Cheng Guang nodded slightly and stepped into the Yangxin Hall.

Following this, the Great Tang Emperor also turned and entered the hall, closing the door behind them.

The doors of the hall closed with a booming sound.

Outside the hall, the crowd looked at each other in bewilderment, unsure of what had just transpired.

Cheng Guang had mentioned wanting to talk.

Without another word, the Great Tang Emperor led Cheng Guang into the Yangxin Hall.

What were they going to talk about?

At this time.

Li Chengqian was truly perplexed.

He couldn't see through Cheng Guang's identity, nor did he understand why Cheng Guang still carried the aura of Tang Chang'an City.

Li Chengqian had wanted to ask the Great Tang Emperor just who Cheng Guang was.

But before Li Chengqian had the chance to speak up.

The Great Tang Emperor had already taken Cheng Guang into the Yangxin Hall.

This left Li Chengqian without the time to react or the chance to open his mouth to ask.

Li Chengqian sighed, looking at the tightly shut Yangxin Hall, and muttered to himself,

“I guess I’ll just wait for the Emperor to come out.”

“I wonder what the two of them are going to discuss.”

Cheng Yaojin, standing beside him with furrowed brows, scratched his head, pondering for a while but coming up with no answer, simply said,

“I noticed that when His Majesty first saw him, there was no hostility on his face, so the visitor might not be a bad person.”

Li Chengqian glanced at Cheng Yaojin and then shook his head, “Uncle Cheng, you don’t understand. Just because he doesn’t look like a bad person doesn’t mean he isn’t one.”

Cheng Yaojin heard this and did not say anything more.

He let go of all the distracting thoughts in his mind.

Chapter 769: Hey! There’s an Unexpected Gain!

Beside Zhou Qingxu, many Sky-Men of the Great Tang’s forces silently observed the scene.

Zhou Qingxu watched Cheng Guang follow the Great Tang Emperor into Yangxin Hall, then slowly looked away.

Yet, there was still an inexplicable throbbing in his heart,

making his eyebrows furrow from time to time.

“Why do I always feel like I’ve seen this person somewhere before?”

“Could it really be that I’ve seen him somewhere?”

...

Just as Zhou Qingxu was about to turn around, he looked back at Yangxin Hall again, puzzled about where he could have possibly seen the mysterious Cheng Guang.

Meanwhile,

Cheng Guang, this mysterious figure, was someone who sat on equal footing with the Great Tang Emperor.

Zhou Qingxu didn’t believe he actually knew this unknown Cheng Guang.

At the same time,

Zhou Qingxu wasn’t overly concerned about the safety of the Great Tang Emperor.

In this world, no one could harm the Great Tang Emperor.

With that thought, Zhou Qingxu led the people of the Great Tang away and guarded the surroundings.

...

None of the outside noise entered the hall.

Inside Yangxin Hall,

Cheng Guang and the Great Tang Emperor sat facing each other.

“Your Excellency, what brought you here this time?” the Great Tang Emperor asked directly without any circumvention.

The Great Tang Emperor was not foolish; he naturally knew that Cheng Guang had an agenda for coming here.

In the eyes of the Great Tang Emperor, Cheng Guang, the enigma, probably wanted to leverage his control over Great Tang Chang’an City to manipulate him.

His visit was likely motivated by advantages to be gained.

It certainly wasn’t because he had discovered the schemes the Emperor had secretly conducted.

After all, the backups for Great Tang Chang’an City were known only to himself.

Even Li Chengqian was unaware.

The Great Tang Emperor was confident in this.

Cheng Guang laughed, sitting back in his chair. The Great Tang Emperor hadn’t offered him tea, but Cheng Guang didn’t mind and poured himself a cup.

The clear tea cascaded into the teacup, releasing wafts of aroma.

The Great Tang Emperor watched Cheng Guang’s actions, his eyebrows slightly creased, but he said nothing more.

Instead, he silently waited.

After Cheng Guang sipped his tea, his gaze leisurely fell on the Great Tang Emperor, who then slightly perked up.

“I came here to tell you that your Great Tang Chang’an City might be in danger,” Cheng Guang began.

As he spoke, the smile gradually faded from his face, taking on a more serious expression, half-smiling.

The Great Tang Emperor was taken aback, “Great Tang Chang’an City is in danger?”

“What kind of danger?”

When the Great Tang Emperor heard Cheng Guang say that there was danger to Great Tang Chang’an City, his first reaction was that it was utterly absurd, thinking Cheng Guang must be joking.

What kind of danger could there be to Great Tang Chang’an City?

Even if there were danger, couldn’t he handle it himself?

Was it really worth Cheng Guang coming in person to inform him?

A few traces of confusion flitted through the Great Tang Emperor’s dark eyes as he intently watched Cheng Guang’s face, trying to discern his intentions from his expression.

Under the Great Tang Emperor’s gaze, Cheng Guang smiled faintly and then continued, “Great Zhou has been stirring recently.”

Upon hearing the words “Great Zhou” from Cheng Guang, the corners of the Great Tang Emperor’s mouth twitched subtly; he suddenly had a bad premonition.

Damn it.

Could it be that this unknown figure had uncovered his arrangements?

The Great Tang Emperor pondered where he might have erred, letting Cheng Guang detect his actions.

It wasn't necessarily so.

The Great Tang Emperor thought, but his facial expression was well-controlled, showing no sign of disturbance.

After a brief pause and suitably puzzled expression, the Great Tang Emperor asked, "Your Excellency, what does the recent activity in Great Zhou have to do with a threat to my Great Tang Chang'an City?"

Cheng Guang's eyebrows slightly raised, "Do you genuinely not know, or are you pretending not to know?"

The Great Tang Emperor gave a bitter smile and continued shaking his head, "Your Excellency, please don't speak in riddles; I truly have no idea."

The Great Tang Emperor did not refer to himself as 'We'.

For one,

the Tang Dynasty was no more.

Furthermore,

at a certain level of cultivation, like his and Cheng Guang's, using 'We' would not sound distinguished but rather foolish.

Under the heavens,

only the Jade Emperor could use 'We' and have everyone feel compelled to comply.

The Great Tang Emperor was somewhat self-aware about this and did not display any arrogance.

After taking another sip of the clear tea, Cheng Guang picked up where the Great Tang Emperor had left off, "Recently, the Great Zhou Imperial Family has been controlled by some Sects and Clans' Sky-Men."

"After all, the current Great Zhou Imperial Family lacks powerful Sky-Men, and Great Zhou is in a state of chaos; even if there are Sky-Men in Great Zhou, there are few who wish to protect the Imperial Family."

"The Duke Protector of Great Zhou cannot be involved."

"Thus, these Sects and Clans have taken control of the Great Zhou Imperial Family."

Cheng Guang paused briefly, then, observing the perplexed expression on the Great Tang Emperor, continued, "These Sects and Clans, having seized control of the Great Zhou Imperial Family, did not make demands for themselves but instead demanded that the Imperial Family deploy troops to attack Great Tang Chang'an City."

Chapter 770: Hey! There's an Unexpected Gain! _2

"Do you think this is very strange?"

The Great Tang Emperor, upon hearing this, revealed a trace of anger on his dignified face.

"What on earth is going on with these Sects and Clans?"

"How dare they attack my Great Tang Chang'an City?"

“Your Excellency need not worry about me. Let them come!”

“I will make sure they come without the possibility of return!”

...

The Great Tang Emperor’s voice was extremely loud, thunderous in its finality.

He appeared very angry.

Cheng Guang watched the Great Tang Emperor’s performance and couldn’t help silently giving him a thumbs up in his mind, then said,

“Since the Great Zhou Imperial Family has not yet submitted, the Great Zhou Army has not yet attacked.”

“It is better to have one less thing to worry about; do you want me to help you dispose of those Sects and Clans?”

“Anyone who dares to attack Great Tang Chang’an City cannot be spared.”

“After all, this is also my Great Tang Chang’an City.”

By the end, Cheng Guang had burst into laughter.

The anger on the Great Tang Emperor’s face suddenly paused, Cheng Guang laughed, but he could not.

The Great Tang Emperor coughed awkwardly, “With your status, Your Excellency, there is no need to bother with these worldly people.”

“We should be focusing on the grand reopening of the Great Dao and gathering the fortunes of the world.”

“Such trivial matters should be settled by myself, there’s no need to trouble Your Excellency.”

Cheng Guang observed the Great Tang Emperor’s expression.

No matter how well the Great Tang Emperor hid his feelings,

Yet, when Cheng Guang mentioned eliminating the Sects and Clans that controlled the Great Zhou Imperial Family, the Great Tang Emperor’s emotions still fluctuated.

If it weren’t for Cheng Guang’s keen senses and prior knowledge that most of the Sects and Clans controlling the Great Zhou Imperial Family were the Great Tang Emperor’s doing, he might have really been deceived by the Great Tang Emperor.

At this point, Cheng Guang had probably already figured out that the Great Tang Emperor likely intended to use the Great Zhou Army’s attack on the Great Tang Chang’an City to accomplish something.

What he wanted to do did not need guessing.

It was also related to Great Tang Chang’an City itself.

At this juncture, Cheng Guang still did not know what means the Great Tang Emperor used to snatch Great Tang Chang’an City from his hands.

After thinking for a while, Cheng Guang still could not understand.

But it was unrealistic to ask the Great Tang Emperor directly at this moment.

If he did directly ask the Great Tang Emperor now,

The Great Tang Emperor, who was not foolish, would certainly guess that Cheng Guang already knew his intentions.

The Great Tang Emperor would rather die than admit it, and perhaps, he would even become furious and attack Cheng Guang himself.

With neither Guangyin Buddha nor Cleansing Thought Buddha present, if Cheng Guang had a direct conflict with the Great Tang Emperor, it would be tantamount to seeking death.

Cheng Guang was not so foolish to that extent.

After a brief consideration,

He simply smiled.

“Since you want to resolve it yourself, then resolve it yourself. I won’t meddle any further.”

Hearing Cheng Guang say this, the Great Tang Emperor clearly breathed a sigh of relief.

“Really, Your Excellency.”

The Great Tang Emperor spoke, then seemed to have a sudden realization and looked at Cheng Guang with a bit of suspicion.

“You didn’t come here just to tell me that Great Tang Chang’an City is in danger, did you?”

“That’s hardly a danger at all.”

Cheng Guang shook his head and smiled, "Of course not."

"I came here because I want something from you."

"I've changed my mind about our last deal, and I want the cultivation resources you possess."

As Cheng Guang made this statement,

It seemed exceedingly greedy and untrustworthy, yet the Great Tang Emperor believed it.

Because, in the Great Tang Emperor's view, this was the reason for Cheng Guang's visit.

Otherwise,

Without any personal gain,

Why would Cheng Guang, a figure shrouded in mystery, deign to come and seek him out?

Compared to the minor loss of his cultivation resources, the Great Tang Emperor was somewhat pleased that Cheng Guang hadn't discovered his inner thoughts and the machinations behind his actions.

The Great Tang Emperor thought it might be because Cheng Guang, the unknown entity, had not yet realized that the person controlling the Great Zhou Imperial Family and leading the Great Zhou Army to attack Great Tang Chang'an City was actually him, pulling the strings from behind.

If we resolved that mystery,

For sure, there would be further complications.

Even though Cheng Guang, this unknown being, was not aware of the contingency plans of Great Tang Chang'an City, it did not prevent Cheng Guang from thinking on that level.

At this thought.

The Great Tang Emperor felt that he could no longer afford to delay.

Now that Cheng Guang had glimpsed a hint, a swift solution was necessary to avoid complications in the long run.

Otherwise.

If Cheng Guang discovered that it was he himself orchestrating everything from behind.

It would be too late.

The Great Tang Emperor, even feeling that his methods were sufficiently covert, knew that in this world, no one was a fool.

The Great Tang Emperor dared not gamble.

And could not gamble.

A flurry of thoughts swept through the Emperor's mind, and with a pained and conflicted expression, he said, "Your Excellency, didn't we just agree on this a few days ago? Why now..."

Although the Great Tang Emperor felt somewhat pleased that Cheng Guang had come merely for the cultivation resources in his possession,

He could not appear too happy.

Cheng Guang spoke impatiently, "Will you give them or not?"

"Do bear in mind the consequences if you don't."

Upon hearing Cheng Guang's words, the Great Tang Emperor's eyebrows twitched involuntarily, feeling a surge of frustration, thinking once he regained complete control over Chang'an City, he would never again tolerate such pressure from Cheng Guang.

With Great Tang Chang'an City at his aid.

Even without knowing Cheng Guang's true identity, the Emperor felt a renewed sense of confidence.

With that thought.

The Great Tang Emperor temporarily suppressed all his frustrations, showed a troubled face full of hesitation, and after pondering deeply, he finally gritted his teeth and nodded.

"Alright."

"Your Excellency desires cultivation resources, I can provide them."

"But after this time, you can no longer use Great Tang Chang'an City to threaten me."

"Otherwise, I would rather die than let you push me to the brink!"

The Great Tang Emperor declared this with poignant determination.

Cheng Guang appeared indifferent, sitting in his chair, he lifted his tea and took a gentle sip, showing a slight look of distaste as he said, "What's with that expression?"

“Do you really see me as so greedy?”

The Great Tang Emperor remained silent, though his breathing grew somewhat heavier.

He obviously thought of Cheng Guang in that way.

Cheng Guang was unconcerned, merely laughed and said, “Besides, I’m only asking for a small portion of your resources. Just leave some for yourself and hand over the rest to me.”

The Great Tang Emperor’s eyes widened a bit.

His fists clenched subconsciously.

The Emperor realized that Cheng Guang had significant intentions for this visit, but he did not expect Cheng Guang to make such a brazen demand.

Leave some for himself and give the rest to him?

The Great Tang Emperor’s brow furrowed, this time his concern was genuine.

Though Cheng Guang had said to leave some for him and then give the rest to Cheng Guang,

The question of how much to retain for himself.

Was not specified.

If Cheng Guang was unsatisfied with the amount at any point, would the Emperor have to give more or refuse?

After a moment of silence, the Great Tang Emperor decided it was best not to anger Cheng Guang further; after mentally weighing his options and setting aside a few resources of particular importance, he handed over the rest to Cheng Guang.

“Your Excellency, this is all I have on me. If you intend to take everything, there’s no need for further discussion.”

The Great Tang Emperor gave all that he could offer to Cheng Guang in one go.

The rest, he would not concede, not even under threat of death.

This was the Great Tang Emperor’s last stake in the world, his final gamble for the sake of Great Tang.

If given to Cheng Guang.

Then even the Emperor felt there was no longer any point in living.

Cheng Guang didn’t really care about the Emperor’s resources; he was only acting to not make his visit appear too abrupt.

To convince the Great Tang Emperor that it wasn’t because the Great Zhou Dynasty was about to send troops to attack Chang’an City.

But at that moment.

Seeing the Emperor’s agonized demeanor, Cheng Guang couldn’t help but feel a slight thrill.

“Heh!”

“An unexpected gain, indeed.”