

Overlord 761

Chapter 761: Deciding to Seek Help

Seeing Sun Chuanguo speak like this, Chu Shiguang didn't decline and looked towards Ning Shucheng, saying, "Last night, I discussed the current situation with Shucheng alone. We believe that continuing to hide is not a solution, as it might cause the lower and middle ranks to lose confidence in us, while also giving the Qin Family a chance to attack us.

The urgency of the matter compels us to change this situation, and the first step is to seek help from the Hidden Sect. As long as the Hidden Sect dispatches a few powerful individuals to preside over us, we won't have to hide anymore and can personally oversee many tasks. This way, those in the lower and middle ranks who support us will also be able to stabilize their morale."

Ning Shucheng nodded, "That's right. I discussed this matter with Brother Shiguang last night, and we think we should immediately send someone to seek help from the Hidden Sect."

Everyone nodded in agreement.

Those present were all intelligent people, aware that the key to breaking the situation was the Hidden Sect.

Over these days, however, they had all been passively waiting, waiting for powerful individuals from the Hidden Sect to come to their aid.

After all, the strong individuals of the Hidden Sect were also aware of the situation on the Great Divine Continent; if they could have come out, they probably would have done so already to stabilize the situation.

Since there had been no movement for so long, it implied that irreconcilable, significant conflicts had erupted internally within the Hidden Sect.

Therefore, everyone was thinking along the same lines, waiting for the internal strife within the Hidden Sect to end and stabilize, and then the powerful figures from the Zhuge family and the Duanmu Family could come out to support.

But now, those madmen in Japan had gone too far by detonating nuclear weapons, creating an incredibly tense global situation. With Japan neighboring Divine Continent, over a billion people across the nation were worried about the catastrophe of a century ago visiting Divine Continent again, thus calls for ending the fragmentation and advocating for unity sooner were getting louder, putting unprecedented pressure on them.

So now, they could not afford to wait passively, but needed to actively seek help.

Seeing everyone agreeing with the proposition, Chu Shiguang silently breathed a sigh of relief, nodded, and continued, "Another issue is the direction of public opinion today. You all have heard about it, right?"

Everyone had different expressions, but they all nodded indicating they were aware.

Chu Shiguang chuckled humorously, saying, "Our four families had thought that with the support of the Hidden Sect's influence, we could accomplish the task with the speed of lightning. However, the Zhuge family miscalculated, letting the two key personnel from the Qin Family escape, leading to our current situation."

As he spoke, everyone nodded again.

Everyone was indeed very frustrated that the Hidden Sect's forces from the Zhuge family and Duanmu Family had failed to capture Qin Yanyang and Qin Huai'an initially.

That sudden strike had truly been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

If the two key figures of the Qin Family had been controlled, the entire Divine Continent would have been under their command.

Unfortunately, man proposes, but God disposes.

Five Innate Realm experts teamed up to capture Qin Huai'an but allowed Qin Huai'an to escape.

At Yunwu Mountain's Base, Zhuge Cang personally tampered with Yunwu Mountain's Array, thinking that he could control everything with its power, but it also allowed Qin Yanyang and Yang Fei to strike back severely, and even took away most of the elite experts from the Military Department.

Considering this event now, everyone present felt regret.

Zhang Wenfeng couldn't help saying, "According to the original plan, it was indeed flawless. But no one could have imagined that Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang, despite their young age, would step into the Divine Travel Realm, and even Zhuge Cang controlling the Five Elements Thousand Mechanism Formation couldn't keep them."

"As for Qin Huai'an, he was the biggest variable. Unexpectedly, even he comprehended the Divine Soul Power and opened the Sea of Consciousness Space, becoming a strong person in the Divine Travel Realm."

"Now, what's the use of talking about these things? A single misstep has led to continuous errors," Sun Chuanguo lamented, tapping the table with his hand, looking remorseful.

Everyone else shared a similar sentiment, sighing with regret over the failure of that initial operation and feeling great remorse.

What a great opportunity it was.

Such a pity!

Chu Shiguang originally wanted to segue into the issue of his family being attacked in the media with that remark, but Zhang Wenfeng's interruption shifted the atmosphere entirely.

He hurriedly said, "Yes, missing such a good opportunity and then having the Hidden Sect's experts all suddenly withdraw led to one mistake after another, which has resulted in our current passive situation."

Everyone nodded in agreement.

But when it came to blaming the Hidden Sect, they all dared not speak recklessly for fear of retribution from the Hidden Sect later on.

Chu Shiguang also knew that such matters should not be discussed endlessly, so he said, "Originally, this operation was a joint decision made by our four families, but now, only my Chu family is being criticized online. I, Chu Shiguang, must say that my Chu family is not afraid of bearing these infamies, but I am worried that this public opinion may affect the unity within our four great families. You are all wise and can see that this is an open strategy used by the Qin family. They are trying to create an illusion among you three families that if you abandon us, you can be safe."

Upon hearing this, Duanmu Han chuckled and nodded, "Your concerns are indeed necessary. Currently, my granddaughter is indeed creating this atmosphere, trying to cause divisions within us."

Ning Zhongze, Ning Shucheng, Sun Chuanguo, Sun Youning, and Zhang Wenfeng were no fools. They understood Chu Shiguang's worries and also understood why Duanmu Han said this.

Indeed, Duanmu Han continued with a smile, "Rest assured, we would absolutely not abandon the Chu family. The more difficult the situation is now, the more we four families need to work together. Otherwise, if a split occurs within us, our enemies will definitely seize this opportunity to dissolve our alliance. Then, everything we have done will be in vain, and not only us here, but also our family members and friends behind us will face irreversible destruction."

Zhang Wenfeng also reminded, "That's right, what Brother Duanmu said is very true. Don't think that just by agreeing to end the division soon, you can obtain the forgiveness of our countrymen."

Throughout history, how many of the losers in dynasties had a good ending?

We've already taken that critical step and have been branded as criminals. Even if we bow our heads now, we will still face severe punishment later. Each of us present here, without exception, will have to pay with our lives, and many of our family members will lose their lives. As for the other family members, even if they avoid death, will they ever have a chance to turn things around?"

Upon hearing this, the meeting room fell into deep silence.

Clearly, both Zhang Wenfeng and Duanmu Han had noticed that some people were harboring thoughts of surrender or guessing that some wanted to play both sides.

It was not surprising for a legacy family to have such thoughts.

But now was a critical moment. The two did not allow internal divisions to occur because it would bring a fatal blow to their group.

Seeing that both Duanmu Han and Zhang Wenfeng had spoken this way, Chu Shiguang felt greatly relieved.

As the two were more deeply involved with the Hidden Sect's powers, having them support the Chu family meant that the Chu family would not be isolated or be pushed out to take the blame.

"So, the most urgent task is to seek help from the Hidden Sect," Chu Shiguang changed the topic and looked towards Zhang Wenfeng.

Zhang Wenfeng nodded and said, "This is my unavoidable responsibility, I have visited the Hidden Sect and am more familiar with them, I will go."

Duanmu Han's mind stirred, and he said, "Brother Zhang, let me join you. The Duanmu aristocratic family there would probably trust me more. Even if the internal situation of the Hidden Sect is severe, by explaining the situation outside together, we may still be able to invite a few experts to aid us."

Upon hearing this, Zhang Wenfeng's eyes flashed, and he chuckled and nodded, "That would be good."

Chapter 762: Turning Point

Everyone had no objections to Zhang Wenfeng and Duanmu Han leaving together to seek assistance from the Hidden Sect.

Initially, when they guessed that Qin Yanyang would carry out a decapitation strike against them, they were very nervous, thinking that having the two powerful figures of Zhang Wenfeng and Duanmu Han around would give them a greater sense of security.

Now, hiding in this military underground bunker, their safety was greatly ensured, so under these circumstances, they didn't see any problem with Zhang Wenfeng and Duanmu Han leaving together.

Moreover, they felt that it was safer for these two experts to seek help from the Hidden Sect together, as the world of the Hidden Sect was filled with strong individuals, and having two people making the approach together would be much safer.

The key now was to get the Hidden Sect experts to come and take charge as soon as possible.

Without delay, after the decision had been made, Zhang Wenfeng and Duanmu Han left the Northeast District.

The Ning Family sent a military helicopter to escort both men to Imperial City.

As the two departed, the temporary meeting continued for more than half an hour.

The attendees discussed how to deal with the current domestic media pressure.

They found that their ability to control the media was greatly inferior to that of the Qin Family.

What was worse, many of their own people were beginning to express dissatisfaction with them, some even defecting.

In recent days, there had been many reports of people fleeing to the south.

The situation was becoming increasingly grim for them.

After the meeting adjourned, everyone left.

Chu Shiguang returned to his office, lit a cigarette, and squinted his eyes.

Although the purpose of this meeting seemingly had been achieved on the surface, Chu Shiguang was becoming increasingly restless.

A man can only rely on himself.

Asking for help from the Hidden Sect was certainly important, but in the current situation, it was most critical for the Chu Family to stabilize the overall situation themselves.

Moreover, he felt that asking the Hidden Sect for help might not be so easy.

If the enemies hadn't held back those strong individuals from the Hidden Sect, wouldn't they have come out to take a look by now?

He thought about the report Chu Tianxing had given him about Meishan Mountain.

At that time, several super-powerful individuals had entered the world of the Hidden Sect.

Those super-powerful individuals were also from the Hidden Sect, and they recognized the Innate Realm masters of the Zhuge and Duanmu aristocratic families who were left behind, but they still killed them, showing that they were not on the same side as the Zhuge and Duanmu families.

The situation in the Hidden Sect was probably even more severe than in the Divine Continent.

After much deliberation, Chu Shiguang made a decision.

He dialed Ning Shucheng's number and said, "Shucheng, I've been hiding out here, and the Central Battle Zone might be unstable in their resolve. At this critical moment, I must go back and show my face."

Ning Shucheng said, "You make sense."

Chu Shiguang let out a sigh of relief.

He had come here reluctantly to take shelter; after all, Imperial City was slightly closer to this place.

He had originally thought that he only needed to hide for a few days until the Hidden Sect experts emerged, after which he could go out. However, the delay turned out to be much longer.

Always staying in the territory of the Ning Family, Chu Shiguang already felt uncomfortable. Now that the media pressure was all on the Chu Family, and he was unsure of what the other families were thinking, staying here only made him feel less secure.

Returning to the Central Battle Zone, that was where his greatest support lay.

"But your journey to the Central Battle Zone is far, and if you're targeted by the Qin Family, it will be very dangerous,"

Ning Shucheng said, with a note of concern, "Why don't you wait a bit longer? If there are no issues with the Hidden Sect, there should be strong reinforcements by tomorrow."

Previously, when Zhang Wenfeng and Duanmu Han left, everyone had discussed and told them to inform them immediately, whether or not they could bring reinforcements, so as not to wait in vain.

Chu Shiguang said firmly, "It would be best if we could get reinforcements, but what if there are also problems with the Hidden Sect and no experts come to take charge in the short term? I must hold the Central Battle Zone. Otherwise, even if Hidden Sect experts emerge later and we've lost too much ground, it will be difficult to contend with the Qin Family, especially since they are likely to be collaborating with Hidden Sect forces."

Upon hearing this, Ning Shucheng felt a heaviness in his heart.

Yes, originally their side, with the support of the Hidden Sect, could catch the Qin Family off guard and change the situation in Divine Continent in a swift and decisive manner.

But such an opportunity comes only once and had already been missed.

In the upcoming struggles, the enemy would also have the support of Hidden Sect forces, which would lead to a protracted war.

Ning Shucheng's face showed deep worry.

If they became entrenched in a drawn-out conflict, Divine Continent would surely be devastated.

However, with the current international situation being unstable, with Heaven in the west and Penglai in the east,

foreign ambitions would loom large, ready to attack Divine Continent at any moment. If internal division arose within Divine Continent, wouldn't it be just like the situation a hundred years ago?

At that time, whether it was the Qin Family or the series represented by the Ning and Chu Families, all would be considered historical sinners.

He then thought of Tang Shuwan.

The West initiating a dark war was a certainty.

But before that, Japan had already activated its nuclear weapons.

This was the most dangerous situation.

Divine Continent, must not repeat the tragedy of the last century, the descendants of Yanhuang could not withstand another ordeal.

Thoughts in his mind flashed like lightning, Ning Shucheng spoke gravely, "Brother Chu's concerns are indeed valid, but leaving the battle zone at this time, your safety..."

"There's no need to worry, for the time being, the territory from the Central Battle Zone to here is ours, there will be no issues," Chu Shiguang said with determination, "And my trip there won't take more than a few hours."

Ning Shucheng said, "Since Brother Chu has made up his mind, all I can do is wish you a safe journey."

"Thank you, please make the arrangements. I must leave at once," Chu Shiguang said, "Stabilizing the military's morale in the Central Battle Zone is of utmost importance."

"Alright."

Ning Shucheng agreed with a nod.

After hanging up the phone, a firm look flashed in Ning Shucheng's eyes.

He didn't delay, immediately calling to arrange a plane to take Chu Shiguang away.

Not long after, he received another call from below saying that the other members of the Chu Family hiding here also wanted to leave together, asking Ning Shucheng if they should be allowed to go.

Upon hearing this, Ning Shucheng felt a stir in his heart, but he said aloud, "Let them go."

After hanging up the phone again, there was a trace of melancholy and disappointment on Ning Shucheng's face.

People's hearts are not united!

It turns out, the human heart is indeed the most complicated thing in the world.

And human nature, it fails to withstand tests.

Lips might speak of unity and cooperation, but in actuality, everyone has their own agenda.

Ning Shucheng thought of the plan made by the elder in his family and couldn't help shaking his head in shame.

Compared with the elders of the Qin Family and the Tang Family, his own family's elder had a far too narrow view.

But it was not too late for everything.

The Ning Family could still turn back.

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Imperial City.

Tang Shuwan met Qin Yanyang in the underground chamber of the courtyard house.

As the daughter of Tang Zhenbang, Tang Shuwan had known Qin Yanyang from a very early age, though the two being over twenty years apart in age, had never interacted much in private.

When Qin Yanyang saw Tang Shuwan, she politely called her Aunt Tang.

Tang Shuwan looked at the young woman before her with mixed emotions.

From a woman's perspective, she admired the young lady.

But deep down, she felt that the current disintegration of Divine Continent was closely related to the young woman before her.

Qin Yanyang, with her exceptionally strong perception, sensed that Tang Shuwan seemed to have some complex feelings towards her and couldn't help asking, "Aunt Tang seems dissatisfied with me, do you think Divine Continent's current state has much to do with me, am I right?"

Tang Shuwan was startled, looking at her in surprise.

She saw Qin Yanyang's sincere and clear eyes, and then, she glimpsed the brief shadow of guilt that passed through the depths of those clear eyes.

Suddenly, Tang Shuwan felt a pang of pity.

So the girl herself thinks this way, too. How old is she, yet she has been bearing the immense pressure of Divine Continent's disintegration on her conscience?

Tang Shuwan quickly reached out to take Qin Yanyang's hand and said softly, "Not at all, don't overthink it. Divine Continent has become like this because of the Hidden Sect."

Qin Yanyang felt somewhat relaxed and said, "But in the eyes of many, if I had not run away from Yunwu Mountain's Base, if my grandfather had not died in Imperial City, if we did not rise to oppose, Divine Continent would not have split."

Tang Shuwan sighed internally.

Indeed, she had thought so in her heart.

But at this moment, she changed her mind.

She spoke with a firm tone, "Silly girl, things are not as simple as you say. The Hidden Sect's ambition has led to the present situation in Divine Continent, and even without your Qin Family, there would be others discontented with this, such conflict is unavoidable.

Western Heaven's entrance into the world is also at irremediable odds with the Western powers, this is a problem the entire world is facing.

Such a great responsibility, how can you shoulder it alone? The key now is to end this chaos as soon as possible.

I just received some information, take a look at this first, the turning point might just be here."

As she spoke, Tang Shuwan took out her phone, opened a message, and handed it to Qin Yanyang.

Qin Yanyang's pupils contracted, and two beams of sharp light burst from her eyes, "Aunt Tang, is this information accurate?"

Chapter 763: Sorry, Second Brother!

Tang Shuwan slowly shook her head, "I can't guarantee it's 100 percent true, but I'm about 80 percent sure."

Qin Yanyang nodded and said, "I understand."

Tang Shuwan couldn't help but say, "The Ning family, at least Ning Shucheng's stance should be fine."

Qin Yanyang gave her a look and silently nodded, "Aunt Tang, rest assured; compared to the threat from foreign tribes, such internal conflicts can be overlooked."

Tang Shuwan instantly sighed in relief.

Qin Yanyang said, "Aunt Tang, I need to make some arrangements now, and I cannot miss this opportunity."

Tang Shuwan nodded, "Mm, go handle your matters. If you need help, just ask."

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Northeast District.

As an airplane ascended into the sky, Ning Shucheng immediately dialed Ning Zhongze's phone, "Second Brother, we need to talk."

A moment later, Ning Zhongze arrived at Ning Shucheng's office.

Old Man Ning had three sons and two daughters, but now only two held the highest status in the Ning family, Ning Zhongze and Ning Shucheng.

Old Man Ning, like Qin Huai'an, had long since retired.

Of course, as long as these elders were alive, they still wielded great influence, like Qin Huai'an.

Although he had retired long ago, when this crisis arose, his call to arms was still met with a resounding response.

However, Old Man Ning was somewhat weaker compared to Qin Huai'an.

Firstly, he himself had never been able to step into the threshold of the Innate Realm, only possessing Unique Tier combat power.

Secondly, in terms of connections, Old Man Ning was also weaker than Qin Huai'an.

However, relative to the Divine Continent, the status of the Ning family was still very prominent—all thanks to Old Man Ning.

"Shucheng, do you need something?" Ning Zhongze looked at Ning Shucheng and straightforwardly asked.

Ning Shucheng nodded and said, "There is an important matter I need to discuss with Second Brother."

Ning Zhongze felt somewhat uneasy and asked, "What's the matter?"

"I remember Second Brother always taught us that our family's position today depends entirely on the support of the common people, and that the men of the Ning family must have the purest Yanhuang blood flowing through their veins, that we can only die in battle, not live on our knees," Ning Shucheng started.

Ning Zhongze furrowed his brows and became even more uneasy. His sharp gaze fixed on his younger brother, he asked sternly, "What are you trying to say?"

Ning Shucheng said, "Second Brother, are we now the sinners of the Divine Continent?"

Ning Zhongze scolded, "Nonsense. Our Ning family has never done anything to betray our country. How can we be sinners?"

"But now the Divine Continent is divided because of us," Ning Shucheng said.

Ning Zhongze furiously retorted, "Bullshit. Without our Ning family, the Divine Continent would still have ended up like this, or even worse. The state of the Divine Continent isn't something any worldly party

can decide. The root cause lies with the Hidden Sect. Shucheng, what's wrong with you? You are not the type to waver or be oversensitive, what's going on?"

Ning Shucheng slowly shook his head and counter-asked, "Second Brother, do you think it's too late for us to step forward now and call for the Divine Continent to reunite?"

Ning Zhongze's pupils shrank, and he stood up, ready to leave.

Ning Shucheng blocked his path.

Ning Zhongze angrily said, "Move aside. I think you've gone mad and are no longer fit to lead this war zone."

Ning Shucheng said, "My authority is granted by the state, and the people trust me to have it, not for you to decide."

Ning Zhongze snorted coldly, "Without a father, without the Ning family, could you wear these clothes?"

Ning Shucheng remained silent.

He couldn't argue with that, but he felt more strongly that he had ascended through his capabilities, at least he was very firm about that in his heart.

"Step aside," Ning Zhongze ordered.

Ning Shucheng stood his ground and looked at Ning Zhongze, saying, "Initially, when facing the threat from the Hidden Sect, the Ning family did not want to shed blood and suffer losses, so we could only choose to remain silent. But now, those people from the Hidden Sect have short-sighted views and are unreliable. Divine Continent has turned into this mess; we must make a choice ourselves now."

Ning Zhongze took a deep breath, looking at his younger brother, he said, "What have you done? Shucheng, answer me honestly, did you do something behind our backs?"

"I did it for the good of the Ning family," Ning Shucheng said with a determined gaze.

Ning Zhongze was shocked and pressed him, "What exactly did you do?"

Ning Shucheng replied, "Elder brother, you just need to know that I've already made a decision. I am asking you now, elder brother, will you support me, and will the Ning family support my decision?"

Ning Zhongze opened his mouth, pointed at Ning Shucheng several times in the air, and on several occasions, he retracted his words before speaking them.

Eventually, he sighed heavily and said, "Do you know, ever since the Hidden Sect entered our world and the Ning family chose to remain silent, there has been no turning back."

Ning Shucheng shook his head and said, "Paths are to be made by oneself, not forced by others. Initially, to avoid unnecessary bloodshed, I chose silence, but the people from the Hidden Sect were such a disappointment. They failed and instead led to the breakdown of Divine Continent, an outcome I never anticipated. Had I known that Divine Continent would fall apart, I would have died rather than agree to that initial choice."

Ning Zhongze sighed at his words.

Was he not the same?

Not just them, but even people like Chu Shiguang, no descendant of Yanhuang wanted to see Divine Continent in its current state.

Initially, they all thought the situation would soon be under control. It was just a power struggle among the top families, a reshuffling, and it wasn't supposed to affect the overall situation of Divine Continent.

But who could have predicted that things would turn out this way?

However, there is no medicine for regret in this world.

What's done is done, and the spilled water can't be collected.

"Little brother, there's no turning back now. For now, either we wait for the Hidden Sect's forces to enter the world sooner and reverse the situation to stabilize it, in which case our Ning family will still be on the winning side. Or, our family must go abroad and start anew—there will always be a place for us," Ning Zhongze said gravely.

"The team is not just the Ning family's, it belongs to Divine Continent," Ning Shucheng said with a determined gaze: "By doing so, our Ning family would be forever nailed to the pillar of shame in the history of Divine Continent."

Ning Zhongze knew this principle all too well, but the Ning family had no way back.

"Little brother, this is no child's play, we have no other choice. It's the same for the Sun Family, the Duanmu Family, and the Chu Family; none have a choice. In fact, our Ning family is somewhat better off having our own forces in this chaotic era, and that is our biggest assurance," Ning Zhongze said.

Ning Shucheng was silent for a while, then shook his head firmly, saying, "Divine Continent cannot endure another catastrophe."

Ning Zhongze was startled and was about to say something, but he felt a tremendous pressure emanating from his younger brother.

Though Ning Zhongze was involved in civil duties, he was still born into the Ning family and immediately burst forth with energy, attempting to resist this pressure, but then he saw Ning Shucheng step forward boldly, saying in a deep voice, "I'm sorry, elder brother!"

Ning Zhongze's pupils contracted as he exclaimed, "Innate Realm? When did you break through?"

"I have to thank Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang for that. It was their development of the Genetic Liquid Medicine that allowed me to take this critical step. It is also for this reason that I see a hope for the future of Divine Continent in them."

Ning Zhongze said in terror, "Even so, they can't contend with the Hidden Sect, little brother, do not repeat the mistake."

"The ones who are repeating the mistake are you all. Elder brother, if you still cannot see the truth, little brother will have to resort to force," Ning Shucheng urged.

Ning Zhongze, feeling his younger brother's increasingly strong aura, suddenly lost his courage to resist.

It was pointless now.

With the emergence of the first Innate Realm in the Ning family, even the Old Man Ning would lose his control over Ning Shucheng.

Chapter 764: Letter of Allegiance

In the office of Ning Shucheng, the two brothers confronted each other for a moment, and Ning Zhongze let go of his aggressive aura, abandoning the idea of resistance.

The younger brother had entered the Innate Realm and held a very high prestige in the combat zone. If the siblings fell out, no matter which side their father stood on, it would only lead to a split in the East Combat Zone.

This was definitely not good for the Ning Family.

When Ning Zhongze gave up on resisting, Ning Shucheng also breathed a sigh of relief.

Although he had no intention of brother killing brother, engaging in combat with his older brother was something he was unwilling to do.

"Knock, knock, knock."

The sound of knocking suddenly came from behind.

Ning Shucheng looked at Ning Zhongze, whose face had regained calmness, and seeing him look over, he nodded.

Ning Shucheng turned around to open the door, only to see Sun Chuanguo standing at the doorway.

"Mr. Sun." Ning Shucheng hurriedly invited him into the room.

Seeing Ning Zhongze was also there, Sun Chuanguo smiled and nodded, "Zhongze is here too, that's even better."

The heart of Ning Zhongze stirred, and he asked, "Mr. Sun, do you have something for us brothers?"

Sun Chuanguo nodded and said, "Yes, there is something very important I want to talk to you about. I was going to discuss it with your father initially, but I just went to him, and he said he no longer handles the affairs of the Ning Family and told me to come to you."

Both Ning Zhongze and Ning Shucheng were startled, not expecting that Sun Chuanguo had already visited their father before coming over.

After closing the room door, Ning Shucheng said, "Mr. Sun, please speak directly."

Sun Chuanguo nodded and looked at Ning Shucheng, saying, "Zhongze, Shucheng, our families have been allied through marriage for many years, and Shucheng is even my son-in-law. In front of you two, I won't hide anything."

The two men from the Ning Family nodded.

Sun Chuanguo said, "Now that Zhang Wenfeng and Duanmu Han have left, and Chu Shiguang has returned to the Central Battle Zone, I, the old man, think it's time to be frank with you."

Ning Zhongze was startled and asked in confusion, "Mr. Sun, why do you say that?"

Sun Chuanguo said, "Alas, to be honest, the Sun Family has already regretted. To make up for the past mistakes, the Sun Family has secretly contacted the Qin Family."

Ning Zhongze was shocked and stood up, disbelievingly looking at Sun Chuanguo.

Ning Shucheng was also a bit surprised, but more joyous, looked at Ning Zhongze and said, "See, elder brother, didn't I tell you that everyone's heart is still aligned with unification?"

Ning Zhongze felt a bit confused and looked at Sun Chuanguo, "No...no, such a big matter, the Sun Family just switches sides, and now they intend to humble themselves before the Qin Family, isn't Sun Jian afraid that the Qin Family will retract later? And aren't you afraid that now that you have mentioned it, our Ning Family won't agree?"

Sun Chuanguo nodded, "We did have such concerns before, but luckily, Zhang Wenfeng and Duanmu Han have left, Chu Shiguang and other members of the Chu Family have also left, and thinking that our families have been married for many years, essentially already one family, I just couldn't keep it from you."

Ning Zhongze took a deep breath and asked, "Does our family patriarch also know about this?"

Sun Chuanguo nodded, "I just mentioned it in front of your father, and he told me to come to you."

The light in Ning Shucheng's eyes flashed, and he laughed, "Father asked you to come to us brothers to discuss this matter?"

Sun Chuanguo nodded.

Ning Shucheng laughed heartily, "Father is truly patriotic indeed."

Saying this, he looked at Ning Zhongze.

Ning Zhongze's mouth twitched.

So only I am considered unpatriotic in our family, right?

But the problem is, how did such a serious and grave issue turn out like this?

Is it easy to be a fence-sitter during such a sensitive period?

After brooding for a long time, Ning Zhongze managed to say, "This...this is simply like child's play, kids playing house!"

Sun Chuanguo smiled bitterly upon hearing this and nodded, "Yes, if the situation weren't like this, why would my Sun Family need to be this fence-sitter? But now the global situation is critical, Japan has insanely launched nuclear weapons, making the entire world unsafe. At such a time, if Divine Continent cannot return to peace sooner, we would be the sinners of our nation.

If there is blame, it can only be directed towards the Hidden Sect, whose lack of professionalism and incompetence has led Divine Continent to this situation."

"Mr. Sun, have you considered that, in reality, our families can't turn back now, and someone must bear the responsibility for this split?" Ning Zhongze said in a deep voice.

Sun Chuanguo nodded and said, "Yes, someone must step forward to take responsibility for everything, but it will definitely not be the Ning Family nor the Sun Family."

Ning Zhongze felt a chill in his heart.

If not these two families, then it could only be the Duanmu Family and the Chu Family.

He looked towards his younger brother.

Ning Shucheng spoke with firm conviction, "That's right, all of this originated from the Chu Family's ambitions. If the Chu Family hadn't covertly supported the Hidden Sect to threaten us, we wouldn't have made the wrong first step. Now, it must be the Chu Family who bears the responsibility."

"Even if the Chu Family stands in front to take the responsibility, other families involved will not be able to walk away unscathed," Ning Zhongze reminded.

Sun Chuanguo nodded and said, "Yes, all the families involved must pay a price. But as long as we can retain some of our people and maintain a certain level of power and status, it's better than being pointed at by thousands, being nailed to the pillar of disgrace in the history of the Divine Continent, right?"

With the current global situation being so turbulent, even if we flee overseas, how many chances of winning do we have? The Hidden Sect presses down on us, not letting us breathe, and overseas, Heaven and Penglai are controlled by powerful beings. Will they give us a chance to grow and prosper?"

This statement touched Ning Zhongze's sore spot.

Perhaps, it was also this statement that caused the old man of the Ning family to give the decision-making power to his two sons.

The old man knew that leaving the Divine Continent, the Ning Family would not have a long future.

And bearing infamy was a certain fact.

The last struggle in Ning Zhongze's heart was also given up.

He looked towards his younger brother, suddenly realizing he was still far inferior to him.

The Ning Family indeed needed a decisive and righteous person like his younger brother to take over.

"Make a decision quickly, let's not let the history of the last century repeat itself," Sun Chuanguo said to the two brothers.

Ning Shucheng said, "Chu Shiguang, as well as all the people of the Chu Family, will not be sent to the Central Combat Zone, but to Jiangnan County Airport."

Sun Chuanguo's pupils suddenly shrank, and he stood up from his seat in shock, staring at Ning Shucheng in disbelief.

Ning Zhongze also felt the creeps.

Sun Chuanguo asked uncertainly, "Is... is what you said true?"

Ning Shucheng nodded.

Sun Chuanguo and Ning Zhongze both gasped sharply.

What a ruthless move!

No one expected Ning Shucheng to pull such a move.

This was simply sending the Chu Family straight to Hell.

"Together with them, there will be two large transport planes, loaded with important hostages who have been moved here, among them are Qin Zhengmin and his family, as well as all the relatives of the Qin Family," Ning Shucheng continued.

Qin Zhengmin was indeed the younger brother of Qin Zhengfang, and the youngest son of Qin Huai'an.

Sun Chuanguo looked deeply at Ning Shucheng, a trace of inexplicable awe arising in his heart.

This young man truly had the aura of a great general, acting efficiently and decisively.

Such a grand gift will certainly be remembered by the Qin family, reducing the responsibilities the Ning Family might bear in the future to a minimum.

What an act of allegiance!

Sun Chuanguo inwardly felt bitter.

He had always thought that Sun Family's covert operations on both sides were a clever strategy, but now it seemed too mediocre and conservative.

The future leader of the Ning Family was truly a person of decisive action; this move of his was far more brilliant than the clandestine operations of the Sun Family.

Most importantly, by doing this, the Ning Family established a staunch image of a patriotic military family, minimizing future impacts.

"What about the Duanmu Family?" Ning Zhongze gradually calmed down, accepting the shocking reality, and turned to ask Ning Shucheng about another family.

Sun Chuanguo also looked towards Ning Shucheng.

Clearly, deep inside, both men had started to see Ning Shucheng as the true backbone of the situation here.

Chapter 765: Action

Ning Shucheng listened to Ning Zhongze's inquiry and saw Sun Chuanguo also looking at him. A distinct firmness shone in his eyes as he said, "The people from the Duanmu Family still have their uses."

Ning Zhongze and Sun Chuanguo looked puzzled.

Sun Chuanguo said, "The Duanmu Family is related by marriage to the Qin Family, and dealing with them seems a bit tricky. It will put the Qin Family in a difficult position. If Qin Yanyang imposes severe punishments on the Duanmu Family, people will say she's heartless and ungrateful, not considering family ties. If she doesn't impose severe punishments, it will look unjustifiable, especially since the Duanmu Family has been more involved in this matter than the Sun and Ning Families. They are resolute in reconnecting and integrating with the Hidden Sect's Duanmu Family."

Stirred by these words, Ning Zhongze asked, "Does Mr. Sun mean that we should make this decision for the Qin Family?"

Sun Chuanguo coughed dryly and shook his head, saying, "I didn't say that."

Ning Zhongze cursed under his breath, calling him a crafty old fox.

You didn't say it, but all that you've said is clearly meant to remind us to do so.

Ning Shucheng said, "The Chu Family and those important hostages were sent to Jiangnan County; that's our declaration of allegiance. For the sake of the Divine Continent, we've made concessions, but the Ning and Sun Families, being major clans, also need assurances from the Qin Family about where to go from here."

Sun Chuanguo and Ning Zhongze looked at Ning Shucheng in surprise and alarm.

Ning Shucheng continued, "I need to talk to Qin Yanyang. Our sincerity has been conveyed; now it depends on the sincerity of the Qin Family."

Ning Zhongze exclaimed, "Shucheng, what are you planning to do?"

Ning Shucheng responded, "I need to meet Qin Yanyang and have her come to talk with us personally. It has not been easy for the Ning and Sun Families to get to where we are today. I want to secure as much as possible for both families."

Excited, Sun Chuanguo stood up and grabbed Ning Shucheng's hand, saying, "Shucheng, you... you are impressive."

Ning Zhongze, with a serious expression, cautiously reminded him, "Shucheng, could this approach backfire?"

Ning Shucheng shook his head and said, "No, don't worry, second brother, I know what I'm doing."

Ning Zhongze said, "What if Qin Yanyang doesn't come? Given the current unclear situation, who would have the courage to come here? If she doesn't show up, can you back out? After all, the people have already been sent away."

Ning Shucheng shook his head, "She will come; otherwise, I have misjudged her."

Ning Zhongze's lips twitched, unsure of what to say next.

But with things as they stood, he too hoped that Qin Yanyang would come for a discussion.

The future of the Ning Family should not be unduly affected by this incident.

The Ning Family could be patriotic, but it also needed recognition from the nation and its people.

In that moment, Ning Zhongze truly admired his younger brother. Ning Shucheng's actions, firstly considering the future grand scenario of the Divine Continent and secondly, not forgetting to fight for the Ning Family.

...

Night fell again, and as public opinion continued to ferment, the entire Divine Continent was discussing the international situation, denouncing the sins of the Chu Family.

Watching the increasingly exaggerated power of public opinion, Luo Yong and Wang Chengcuo became even more resolved in their previous decision.

"After rescuing the people, is the relocation site ready? Don't think about evacuating everyone from the Imperial City; it's not possible. The enemy has ample forces in the Imperial City, and with checkpoints everywhere, we can't leave," Hu Lizhong asked.

Wang Chengcuo nodded, "It's all set. Now, the biggest hassle is moving everyone to a safe location after the rescue. That will take at least twenty-five minutes."

Everyone fell silent.

Twenty-five minutes was far too long.

As soon as Deep Blue Prison was attacked, an alarm would definitely be triggered and the enemy would undoubtedly send troops to support.

The people present were confident in their ability to break out of the prison successfully, but safely leaving with a large number of rescues afterward was a challenge, and no one dared to guarantee that nothing would go wrong during that time.

For this reason, they discussed for several days and devised one plan after another, yet they hesitated to act.

After all, they were there to rescue people—if they couldn't ensure the hostages' safety, they would actually be causing more harm than good.

"Brother Wang, you once had extensive connections in Imperial City, can't you think of something?" Zhu Tianshou looked towards Wang Chengcuo.

Wang Chengcuo responded with a wry smile, "If it were before, I indeed would dare to boast so, but now the situation is unclear. The Chu Family and the Ning Family are very wary, and they don't trust people like us much. Moreover, once there's any disturbance in Deep Blue Prison, these two families will definitely be on high alert, and they won't trust anyone."

Luo Yong added, "That's right, the fewer people know about this, the better. We can only trust ourselves."

Zhu Tianshou pondered for a moment and said, "The international situation is getting tenser, and this standoff in Divine Continent must be broken sooner rather than later. We need to make a decision quickly."

Everyone nodded in agreement.

Whether it was out of patriotism or the recent direction of public opinion, everyone hoped that Divine Continent would end the standoff soon and return to its previous unity. Only in this way could they face the crisis from foreign races.

To those present, rescuing hostages might help the Qin Family alleviate pressure and be an opportunity to break the deadlock.

Most importantly, the Wang Family and the Luo Family wanted to demonstrate their decision to side with the Qin Family with this action.

"How about this, let's split into two groups, create a distraction, and attack from the opposite direction," Hu Lizhong suddenly suggested.

Everyone's eyes brightened, but soon after, Wang Chengcuo shook his head, "Deep Blue Prison's defense force is very strong now. If we split into two groups, the chance of success will be greatly reduced."

Hu Lizhong said, "For the rescue, we can send more people to create chaos and destruction. We only need one person for that."

Zhu Tianshou nodded, "Exactly, I support Hu Lizhong's approach. You go on the rescue, and as for causing destruction, I alone am enough. With Chu Tianxing stationed in Imperial City, I'll go and kill him. As long as he's dead, the Imperial Capital Forbidden Army System will definitely experience a momentary collapse. At that point, I might even draw a lot of fire their way when they chase after me. You seize the opportunity to act."

"That's too dangerous for you," Wang Chengcuo couldn't help but caution, "We are rescuing people here, we can't put ourselves at risk."

"Let's discuss this a bit more," added Luo Yong.

However, Zhu Tianshou decisively waved his hand, "Don't try to persuade me; this is settled. When has doing great things not involved risks? If we keep hesitating, the powers from Heaven and Penglai will have penetrated into Divine Continent."

Standing up, Hu Lizhong declared, "Exactly, hesitating won't accomplish great deeds. Let's do this!"

Seeing their resolute determination, Wang Chengcuo and Luo Yong looked at each other and nodded as well.

Both were martial artists and knew that doing this couldn't be safe. Now that Zhu Tianshou had decided to take the initiative to draw firepower to give them a chance, hesitating any longer would mean they lacked drive.

Thereupon, Wang Chengcuo handed a map to Zhu Tianshou, saying, "The Forbidden Army's headquarters is at this location. Normally, the commander controls everything from here."

Zhu Tianshou memorized these positions and nodded, "Okay, wait for my signal."

With that, he left alone.

Zhu Chengyou and his brother Zhu Chengpeng originally wanted to accompany him, but Zhu Tianshou stopped them.

For an assassination, the fewer people, the better, especially when it requires an extremely strong individual.

Now, as Zhu Tianshou had reached the Cultivation of the Divine Travel Realm, he was confident that he could strike down generals from amidst an army and attract a large amount of the Forbidden Army's firepower while escaping unscathed.

Chapter 766: Realizing Something is Wrong

Three hours ago, at 7:40 P.M.

Over Jiangnan County.

Chu Shiguang, along with some close relatives and friends of the Chu family, was on board an airplane. Having dozed off for a while, Chu Shiguang opened his eyes.

He turned his head to look out of the window and noticed that it was already night. He couldn't help but frown slightly, sensing that something was amiss.

He looked at his wristwatch.

7:40.

The departure from the East Combat Zone was after three in the afternoon. According to the schedule, they should have arrived in the Central Battle Zone by now if there were no delays.

He asked the person next to him, "Did the plane encounter any issues during the flight?"

"No, not at all," answered another member of the Chu family immediately.

A bad feeling began to rise in Chu Shiguang's heart.

Actually, his question was just an instinctive reaction, because as a martial arts master at the Unique Tier Realm, despite having taken a short nap, he knew the plane could not have stopped without him noticing.

Realizing something was wrong, Chu Shiguang stood up and swiftly walked toward the cockpit.

Two special soldiers from the East Combat Zone were guarding there. Seeing Chu Shiguang approach, they quickly stood up and gave a standard military salute, "Good evening, sir."

Chu Shiguang returned the salute and said, "Open the door. I need to talk to the pilot."

The two special soldiers guarding the flight exchanged glances. One of them said, "Please wait a moment, sir. I need to report this."

After saying that, he picked up a nearby phone and dialed the cockpit's internal number.

Inside the cockpit, besides two pilots, there was also a young man around his thirties.

When Chu Shiguang had opened his eyes and felt something was wrong, and started walking toward the cockpit, the young man and the pilots had been monitoring him through the cockpit's surveillance screen.

Now, hearing the phone ring, the young man smiled slightly. He didn't pick it up but said with a smile, "He's quite alert, indeed, he noticed."

One of the pilots said, "There was no helping it, we're vastly off the planned time."

The other pilot, clearly worried, said, "Should we open the door to meet him? He is a high-ranking officer from the Central Battle Zone, and a powerful figure of the Unique Tier Realm."

The young man took a deep breath, his expression solemn as he nodded, "Yes, uncle has entrusted me with such an important task; he really thinks highly of me."

While saying this, he straightened his clothes and opened the cabin door.

Chu Shiguang, waiting outside, saw the soldier dial the internal cockpit phone, but there was no answer from the other side which made him furrow his brows.

Just then, the cabin door suddenly opened, revealing a young face.

Chu Shiguang's pupils contracted slightly as the ominous feeling inside him grew stronger, "Feiyang? What are you doing here?"

Ning Feiyang gave a standard military salute and spoke respectfully, "Uncle asked me to personally escort Uncle Chu."

Suppressing the suspicion in his heart, Chu Shiguang smiled and said, "Your uncle is too polite. It's only a few hours' flight; with the situation being so tense, why bother to have you make the trip personally?"

Ning Feiyang smiled slightly, "I am simply following orders."

Chu Shiguang nodded, then changed the subject, "It's been four hours already. We should have arrived in the Central Battle Zone by now. Why are we still flying?"

Ning Feiyang said, "Because Uncle Chu and so many of the elderly and children of the Chu family are on board, I asked them to fly smoothly."

Smooth, my ass.

Aside from the turbulence when ascending and descending through the troposphere, the sensation of stability during the high-altitude flight phase wasn't greatly affected by the speed.

Chu Shiguang felt he was talking nonsense and looked towards the cockpit.

Through the glass in front of the cockpit, the outside was still pitch black, but far in the distance, a city cloaked in neon lights could vaguely be seen.

Chu Shiguang's gaze suddenly became extremely cold, and a powerful aura unique to his tier instantly burst forth as he stared at Ning Feiyang and demanded, "Where are we going?"

Ning Feiyang shuddered, a dreadful sense of oppression sweeping over him, instinctively triggering a rebellious sentiment within him, yet he was deterred by the terrifying aura from the other party and dared not make the slightest rash move.

He felt that if he dared to make a move, Chu Shiguang would kill him with a single slap.

The two pilots also felt the dreadful pressure of this aura, their bodies stiffened, and they dared not move an inch.

At this moment, the other members of the Chu family in the cabin also realized something was amiss. Several people flocked around and asked in confusion, "What's the matter?"

"Shiguang, what's wrong?"

"It seems we're overdue, why haven't we reached the Central Battle Zone yet?"

"Is there a problem?"

The babble of multiple voices only irritated Chu Shiguang further, and he coldly stared at Ning Feiyang and demanded, "Speak, what exactly is going on? How come you are here?"

As the foremost of the third generation of the Ning family, Ning Feiyang's very presence on this plane greatly unsettled Chu Shiguang.

Especially since they were overdue and hadn't yet arrived at the Central Battle Zone.

Ning Feiyang, already overpowered by Chu Shiguang's imposing aura, dared not make the slightest move, yet he had no choice but to rouse himself at this moment.

Struggling to maintain a calm tone, Ning Feiyang looked at Chu Shiguang and said, "Uncle Chu, please don't get so agitated. Getting worked up like this is bad for you, and for everyone in the Chu family."

A glint of cold light flashed in Chu Shiguang's eyes as he abruptly grasped Ning Feiyang's throat.

Ning Feiyang, also at the Energy Transformation Eighth Rank in cultivation, had the strength to resist Chu Shiguang's sudden strike, but he did not dodge or resist because he knew that despite his abilities, there was still a significant gap between him and this military giant, and resistance would be futile.

"Change course to the Central Battle Zone immediately, or I'll kill you," Chu Shiguang thundered.

The Chu family members who heard this were taken aback.

"What? Is the course not correct?"

"Did the Ning family betray us?"

"I knew it, why haven't we reached the Central Battle Zone yet? It turns out the Ning family was up to something, what are they trying to do?"

"That's extreme, we're allies. If the Ning family wanted to do something, they didn't have to go through all this trouble—they could've just acted in the East Combat Zone."

"Right, could there be some misunderstanding? Let's not damage the harmony between our families."

Inside the cabin, these prominent members of the Chu family voiced their opinions, some frantically accusing the Ning family, others suspecting a misunderstanding.

As the Chu family members heatedly debated, Ning Feiyang, with his throat clutched, flashed a smirk and said, "Uncle Chu, killing me is pointless unless you are willing to have every member of your Chu family buried with me."

At this assertion, those Chu family members who thought it was a misunderstanding were left dumbfounded.

After a brief silence, the Chu family members started hurling insults, calling the Ning family deceitful, treacherous, and spineless. The harsh words spilling from their mouths were no different from those of common street ruffians.

Unaffected by the Chu family's accusations, Chu Shiguang fixed a grave look on Ning Feiyang and reprimanded, "What exactly does your Ning family want to do? If my Chu family falls, it will be a cold day for you as well; you can't come out unscathed. At a time like this, standing together is the only way to overcome difficulties. Yet your Ning family commits such a despicable act of betrayal?"

Though his heart was gripped by extreme fear, Ning Feiyang had to struggle to keep up his bravado, maintaining a smile as he said, "Uncle Chu, calm down please. On this plane, the members of your Chu family don't even make up one-fifth of the passengers. Some other members of the Chu family are on another plane. If you won't consider your own safety, won't you at least consider the lives of the hundreds of Chu family members? Besides, even if you kill us now, it won't allow the plane to turn back. The course was set before we boarded, and any attempt to change it now would activate a self-destruct mechanism—we'd all die."

Chapter 767: Winners and Losers

"Pfft!"

No sooner had Ning Feiyang spoken than his expression drastically changed, revealing a look of terror, and soon afterwards, a mouthful of fresh blood spurted out.

He felt an incredibly strong force suddenly transmit from Chu Shiguang's hand around his throat, sweeping through his body in an instant and damaging his internal organs.

The moment Chu Shiguang let go of his hand, the surging blood and Qi within Ning Feiyang became uncontrollable, and a large mouthful of fresh blood spewed out.

The internal organs in his body were in severe pain, as if they were being torn apart.

However, compared to this pain, Ning Feiyang was more terrified of whether he would die; he did not know how much damage Chu Shiguang's strike had inflicted on his body.

At that moment, Ning Feiyang felt true fear of death.

"How could this happen?"

"Why would the Ning family do something to betray us?"

"Where are they sending us?"

"Is it really impossible to change the course?"

The Chu family members were panic-stricken, everyone plunged into endless terror.

Although they all held high positions in normal times, some even being masters of Martial Arts Mastery, facing such a sudden situation and enveloped by the fear of death, the mindset of these high-ranking Chu family members was no different from that of ordinary people.

"Tell me, where are you sending us?" Chu Shiguang, fighting back the urge to kill Ning Feiyang, glared fiercely and shouted loudly.

The blood and Qi surged within Ning Feiyang's body, and the pain in his internal organs was unbearable. Listening to Chu Shiguang's questioning, the fear in his heart gradually turned into anger, and he started laughing madly, "Hahaha... Even if you kill me, what of it? My Ning family still has many people; the Ning family will not be destroyed. But if you kill me, your Chu family will have no chance of surviving. Even if

many of the Chu family will not be punished, my Ning family will surely seek revenge, and the survivors of the Chu family will never be able to live out their days in peace. The Chu family will be completely exterminated, losing everything at your hands."

Upon hearing these words, the hearts of the Chu family members filled with even greater fear.

Some people can face death head-on, but they care more about their family and relatives and cannot let go.

For instance, Chu Shiguang, as the leader of this generation of the Chu family, might not attach so much importance to his own death, but he cared immensely about the life and death of the entire Chu family because it was the responsibility entrusted to him by his father when he passed away.

The Chu family's legacy must not end in his hands, otherwise, how could he face his deceased father underground?

"Uncle asked me to bring you a few words, I don't know if you want to hear them." Ning Feiyang saw that Chu Shiguang had calmed down and began to speak.

Chu Shiguang looked at him and said lightly, "Speak."

Ning Feiyang said, "Uncle told me to tell you, he said that you could not possibly achieve the final victory.

He also said that the Ning family does not regret doing this big thing with you, but regrets letting Divine Continent fall into its current state of division.

Uncle said it's fate. If we were to succeed, Qin Huai'an and Qin Yanyang wouldn't have been able to escape during the initial operation. If heaven were favoring our side, nothing could have gone wrong with the Hidden Sect."

Chu Shiguang's eyes suddenly dimmed.

Indeed, wasn't this what he had been thinking about lately?

These days, wasn't his heart undergoing enormous condemnation and torment?

The Chu family was patriotic too.

It was just that they saw an opportunity to climb higher and wanted to seize it.

It could be said that the Chu family, the Ning family, the Sun family, and the Duanmu Family all originally only wanted to progress further and climb up one more step in the world after the three major Cultivation centers came into being, sticking with the right people, and continuing the family's glory.

They never thought about betraying their nation and people.

Thus, when the division of Divine Continent occurred, they all felt remorse and guilt.

That's why the Sun family became the fence-sitters, placing bets on both sides.

And the Ning family, with Ning Shucheng making a decisive move, made this choice.

While it seemed like the Ning family's decision was influenced by Japan's activation of nuclear weapons, which exacerbated the global tense situation, in the hearts of Ning family members like Ning Shucheng, the idea of ending the division of Divine Continent had always been present.

"It's a case of the winner being the king and the loser the outlaw!"

The fierce aura around Chu Shiguang suddenly dissipated; he stepped back, sat down on the nearby seat, and appeared utterly dejected.

But he did not regret making such a choice.

The only thing that made him feel suffocated and disheartened was the absurdity and incompetence of the Hidden Sect's power.

If it weren't for those in the Hidden Sect being so ineffective, their last Thunder operation wouldn't have had any flaws and would have ended perfectly.

The Divine Continent would not have split.

The Chu Family would also have become one of the most powerful aristocratic families in the entire Divine Continent.

However, now, everything was like a fleeting cloud.

The Hidden Sect's power handled matters too childishly, they were too lacking.

True teammates from hell!

Chu Shiguang blamed all the failures on those people from the Hidden Sect.

He believed that were it not for those people from the Hidden Sect mishandling things, Qin Huai'an and Qin Yanyang could not have escaped, and the Divine Continent would not have split.

Even if Qin Huai'an and Qin Yanyang had escaped, forming a standoff in the Divine Continent, as long as those powerful figures from the Hidden Sect had acted again, they could still have ended everything quickly.

But just at that critical moment, all those guys from the Hidden Sect left the Divine Continent and returned to the Hidden Sect World.

Perhaps for those from the Hidden Sect, they felt that controlling the power of the Divine Continent was easy, and they could easily do it again next time.

But Chu Shiguang knew, once a good opportunity was missed, there would not be a next time.

Ning Feiyang saw that Chu Shiguang looked disheartened and felt a trace of sorrow in his heart as he continued, "Uncle also said, this matter isn't our fault, but the fault of the Hidden Sect, or to put it more mysteriously, it's due to fate.

But since it was a mistake, we have to admit it.

We families were once the meritorious aristocratic families of the Divine Continent, the heroes of the Yanhuang Nation, how can we now become the sinners of the Divine Continent?

The Divine Continent must restore its unified situation soon, the foreign tribes are our common enemy.

Uncle said, the people of the Chu Family will pay the price for this event, but it will only be limited to the higher-ups, the middle and lower ranks of the Chu Family can remain uninvolved, the Chu Family as a whole will still continue, just without its former glory and brilliance."

"Uncle Chu, bowing your head in the face of national and ethnic righteousness isn't shameful. To protect the vast majority of the innocent in the Chu Family, admitting guilt is taking responsibility, it's accountability."

"Ning Shucheng is ruthless—I, Chu Shiguang, do not feel wrongly defeated. Heh, but why is it specifically my Chu Family?" Chu Shiguang grimly chuckled, his face full of mockery as he looked at Ning Feiyang.

Ning Feiyang felt somewhat embarrassed.

He didn't know how to answer this question.

Indeed, why, in a joint action by four families, was it specifically the Chu Family that had to admit guilt?

After thinking for a while, Ning Feiyang slowly said, "Because from the very beginning, the Chu Family was in the leading position in all that was done; the Chu Family actively cooperated with the Hidden Sect, while our Ning Family and the Sun Family were more or less threatened by the powerful of the Hidden Sect into participating."

Chu Shiguang fell silent, then after a moment, he smirked self-deprecatingly, "Indeed, it's because the Chu Family's ambitions were too great. But I won't accept it if the Duanmu Family does not pay the price!"

Ning Feiyang said, "Uncle Chu, don't worry, my uncle said that the Duanmu Family can't shirk their responsibility either."

Chu Shiguang laughed heartily, seeming to feel less alone and less lonely if the Duanmu Family was with him in this.

He gave up resisting.

On this airplane, it was entirely possible for the Chu Family to resist.

But firstly, they were worried that what Ning Feiyang said was true, that the airplane had a set flight path which couldn't be changed, otherwise it would explode; secondly, the Chu Family had many more people on another airplane, they were unable to resist.

Since the overall situation was determined, why should the people of the Chu Family make an unnecessary sacrifice?

A winner is a king; a loser, a mere subject.

As long as the lineage of the Chu Family could truly be preserved, in this failed struggle, the Chu Family wouldn't be completely defeated.

A turbulence passed, and the airplane began to glide and land.

They had arrived at Jiangnan County.

Chapter 768: Waiting for the Opportunity

The plane landed at Jiangnan County Airport.

Perhaps because notice had been given in advance, the airport was very empty, with no planes taking off.

After the plane came to a stop, Ning Feiyang looked towards Chu Shiguang and the others.

Chu Shiguang waved his hand in a downcast manner, "You go ahead and disembark first."

Ning Feiyang pondered briefly, then nodded and walked out first.

Now that they were here, the Chu family wouldn't dare to make any further moves.

Unless they truly wished to die and didn't care about the wellbeing of the rest of the Chu family.

As the cabin door opened, Ning Feiyang stepped out of the plane and immediately saw Qin Zhengfang.

At Qin Zhengfang's side, two fully armed columns stood, brimming with murderous intent.

Besides, there were four military strongmen emanating fierce killing intent next to Qin Zhengfang. Ning Feiyang recognized two of them, both of whom held great prestige in the military and now belonged to the Military Department.

Clearly, the Qin Family took the Ning Family's arrangements very seriously.

Descending from the plane, Ning Feiyang strode toward Qin Zhengfang and voluntarily stopped three meters away from him, saluted, and said, "I have been ordered to hand over the people of the Chu family, along with countless innocent hostages, to you, Minister Qin, for reception."

Qin Zhengfang sized up Ning Feiyang, his brows furrowing slightly, "Injured?"

Ning Feiyang had already checked his condition secretly, and although he had been injured internally by Chu Shiguang's strike, it wasn't fatal, so he smiled and replied, "Thank you for your concern, Minister, I'm fine."

Qin Zhengfang probably guessed what had happened and nodded, "You've worked hard."

At this moment, Chu Shiguang appeared at the doorway of the cabin.

Qin Zhengfang looked up, their eyes meeting.

Both scions of powerful families, the two had known each other since childhood. They just never imagined their next meeting would be under such circumstances.

Qin Zhengfang took a deep breath and took large strides to welcome him, "Brother Shiguang."

Chu Shiguang, two years older than Qin Zhengfang, nodded upon hearing this and said, "In the end, it's the Qin family who has won."

Qin Zhengfang immediately shook his head, "Brother Shiguang is joking. In this affair, there is no winner; we are both losers. Both our families have caused great loss to the country."

Chu Shiguang looked at Qin Zhengfang and saw no deceit or affectation in his eyes, but instead a resolute concern for the country and its people.

He sighed silently in his heart, and couldn't help but think again of the young girl.

Her integrity and righteousness must have been inherited from Qin Zhengfang.

When it came to the education of patriotism and national righteousness, he truly had lost to the other party.

At this time, the other two planes also landed one after another.

One of the planes was a super-large passenger aircraft, carrying important hostages who had been transferred to the East Combat Zone.

The other plane was filled with relatives from the Chu family.

As soon as the Chu family disembarked, they were surrounded and controlled.

Cries of alarm, barking orders, and furious shouting continuously came from that direction, clearly indicating those from the Chu family had not yet fully grasped the situation and were stunned by what had suddenly befallen them.

Chu Shiguang, in agony, turned his gaze away and said to Qin Zhengfang, "My family..."

Qin Zhengfang didn't let him finish, nodding and saying, "Innocent people of the Chu family will not be implicated in any way. This matter only requires an explanation from those responsible. It is a great calamity for our nation, and my Qin family is also to blame."

Chu Shiguang felt a chill in his heart, not expecting Qin Zhengfang to say such words.

He took a deep breath and slowly nodded, "So be it."

He had completely given up.

Having been outmaneuvered by Ning Shucheng like this, the Chu family's power had waned, and there was no benefit in further talk.

Without needing an order from Qin Zhengfang, the people from the Chu family were taken away.

The important senior members of the Chu family, including Chu Shiguang, were even escorted away by the powerhouses of the Military Department.

As for the hostages from the Qin family group who had been released, they too were organized and returned to their families, ending their harrowing experience as hostages.

After everyone had been taken away, Qin Zhengfang got back into the car and dialed his father, Qin Huai'an's, number, saying, "I have received the people, and not a single high-level member of the Chu family was missing."

"Hmm, the Ning family has established great merit this time."

"One could say they've redeemed themselves. Ning Shucheng did well."

"Inform that girl, it's time to make a move in Imperial City."

"Okay."

Qin Zhengfang hung up the phone and immediately dialed Qin Yanyang's number.

After the father-daughter pair connected, Qin Zhengfang briefed her on the situation.

Qin Yanyang was overjoyed. She had originally thought that the news Tang Shuwan told her sounded like a fairy tale, but it turned out to be true.

The enemy had internal divisions, and Ning Shucheng from the Ning Family had decisively struck, sending the Chu Family down a path of no return with one move.

Truly, heaven blesses the Divine Continent!

The Great Divine Continent still has many heroes who lament its troubles.

After ending the call with her father, Qin Yanyang made her final decision.

Ning Shucheng had asked Tang Shuwan to relay a message to her, requesting a meeting.

The meeting place would be at the headquarters of the East Combat Zone.

The Military Department had debated internally for a long time, all opposing Qin Yanyang's visit, saying if Ning Shucheng wanted to meet, he should come to Imperial City or head to the south.

In short, they did not allow Qin Yanyang to go to the East Combat Zone alone.

However, now, Qin Yanyang had made up her mind.

She would meet Ning Shucheng to show the Qin Family's sincere attitude.

Although there was certainly risk in the journey, what was a little danger compared to the Divine Continent returning to peace sooner?

Moreover, Qin Yanyang had already stepped into the Divine Travel Realm. Although her spiritual power wasn't particularly strong, her confidence far surpassed what it had been before.

Apart from taking a blow in her romantic affairs, which led to temporary self-doubt, Qin Yanyang's inherent confidence had never wavered in other aspects.

"Minister, if you're determined to go to the East Combat Zone, I won't stop you, but I must accompany you," Xiang Yunfei said with a resolute face.

Several elite members of the Military Department also echoed his sentiment.

After following Qin Yanyang to Imperial City, they had planned to carry out an operation to decapitate the enemy, but those guys all went into hiding, leaving them no opportunity to act during this period, essentially just hiding in the underground of this courtyard house.

Now that Qin Yanyang was going to the East Combat Zone, they wanted to follow.

Qin Yanyang shook her head and said, "Don't worry. If Ning Shucheng really wanted to harm me, he wouldn't have sent Chu Family people to Jiangnan County. If you all accompany me, it will only increase the pressure on the Ning Family.

Right now, Japan is acting recklessly, ready to start a war at any moment. The Divine Continent must return to calm immediately. The Ning Family asking me to go is just a matter of wanting my stance, nothing will happen."

"But..."

Xiang Yunfei tried to speak again but was interrupted by Qin Yanyang's icy gaze.

"This is an order," Qin Yanyang's icy gaze swept over the Military Department personnel. "After I leave, you must ensure the security here. Also, if anyone from the Imperial City Chu Family makes any rash moves, you must deal with it promptly. We must not let Chu Tianxing ruin the crucial moment."

Xiang Yunfei and the others felt the sternness of the minister and did not dare defy her command, all responding in unison, "Yes!"

Subsequently, Qin Yanyang secretly left Imperial City, traveling alone toward the East Combat Zone.

As Qin Yanyang left Imperial City, Zhu Tianshou lurked alone in a dark corner outside the Forbidden Army Guard Commander Building for more than ten minutes.

The security here was incredibly tight, with nearly every patrol team interspersed with a few martial arts experts at the Energy Transformation Level.

Clearly, Chu Tianxing, who was stationed here, was afraid of death. He had strengthened the defense measures of the commander building.

Zhu Tianshou, who had previously stormed the headquarters in Korea with Yang Fei during an operation to take out Jin Riwen and Luo Bin, realized that they would have been unable to deal with the enemy if not for Yang Fei's dominant True Qi.

Now, Zhu Tianshou felt that the defense here was even stronger than that of the military headquarters in the Korean capital.

Attempting to break into the building alone might make killing Chu Tianxing unfeasible.

Zhu Tianshou had his pride. He believed that since he had taken action himself, he must succeed in decapitation, so he kept waiting for an opportunity.

Suddenly, Zhu Tianshou's eyes lit up.

A stir arose from the previously silent building, with faint sounds of angry roars.

Soon, a team rushed out from inside the building.

Zhu Tianshou's heart stirred slightly.

Chu Tianxing might be coming out; his opportunity had arrived.

Chapter 769: The Situation is Hopeless, Direct Surrender

Chu Tianxing angrily smashed a cherished jade ornament that had been on his desk for many years, his mouth releasing an angry roar.

He was truly furious.

Not from the direct lineage, so you think I'm a fool?

If it weren't for Chu Que and Chu Tianshu being killed by Yang Fei at Yunwu Mountain's Base, could I, Chu Tianxing, have risen to power, to the position I hold now?

For decades, I, Chu Tianxing, diligently served the Chu family, striving faithfully, and finally an opportunity arrived, yet before I could enjoy ten days of power and glory, the Chu family had fallen.

Let it be defeated then.

Since ancient times, those who orchestrated great affairs have made sacrifices, and I, Chu Tianxing, had long been prepared for this, always ready for the day of failure to arrive, for the day of judgment, and I, Chu Tianxing, would not frown.

However, now that the high-ranking members of the Chu family's direct lineage have all been arrested, they expect me to secure more benefits for the Chu family, to do that which is condemned by thousands.

Why should I?

Three minutes ago, Chu Tianxing received a text message that shocked him into speechlessness.

The Chu family had fallen silently like this?

The despicable Ning family betrayed the Chu family, delivering all its members into the hands of the Qin family, reducing them to prisoners.

This news truly shocked Chu Tianxing into speechlessness.

He hardly dared believe it was true.

But the source of the message was absolutely reliable, it was the Chu family's own intelligence system, and moreover, the person who sent the message was a trustworthy member of the Chu family.

The content of the message not only informed him of the Chu family's current plight but also issued him an order.

To control all leaders in Imperial City, holding imperial authority to direct the nobles, so as to negotiate with the Qin family to reduce the Chu family's crimes, and to minimize the costs the Chu family had to pay.

Chu Tianxing first laughed out of anger, then furiously smashed his beloved jade ornament.

Really, do you think I, Chu Tianxing, am a fool?

You are arrested, yet you want me to jump into a pit of fire for the future of the family?

The key is, when the family was glorious, I saw no support from you, and now that disaster strikes, why should I be the villain?

Suppressing his rage, Chu Tianxing knew the situation was beyond salvage, and to continue defending Imperial City, to stubbornly resist, would be meaningless.

He decided to leave Imperial City.

Because he was very aware that many of the recent actions he had taken were unforgivable, and to take the fall for the Chu family, his charges could even be greater than those of Chu Shiguang.

Leaving Imperial City, leaving Divine Continent, that was his only way out.

Sitting and waiting for death was not in the nature of Chu Tianxing.

At that moment, Chu Tianxing issued his command, leading his team to leave the headquarters building.

Just taking the team that was loyal to him and fleeing was not enough; having left Divine Continent, he needed enough funds to sustain these people, so he had to take a large amount of gold and jewels with him.

In times of chaos, these were the most reliable assets.

Many experts in the Imperial Guard, upon learning the reason from Chu Tianxing, also knew that only by leaving Divine Continent would they have a chance at survival, and they supported Chu Tianxing's decision to escape without hesitation.

The group left the headquarters building, surrounding Chu Tianxing as they rushed toward the helicopter.

Just then, a terrifying aura swept in.

"Run!"

Sensing the crisis, Chu Tianxing ordered the escape without hesitation, even thinking that the attacker might be Qin Yanyang, his heart filled with extreme fear.

"You can't escape!" a cold voice sounded, like a low chant from a hellish demon, echoing beside his ear.

Chu Tianxing was terrified, he looked up only to see a shadow flash before him like a ghost, and two Imperial Guard experts lunged at the figure but were thrown out before they could even take a fighting stance.

The newcomer was incredibly fast!

Chu Tianxing moved quickly too, he drew his pistol and continuously pulled the trigger at the incoming figure.

"Bang, bang, bang..."

The gunshots shattered the peace of the night, yet they hit nothing but darkness, missing the target.

The next instant, a hand clutched Chu Tianxing's throat.

A cold voice entered Chu Tianxing's ears, "Have them stand down."

As sweat rolled down Chu Tianxing's forehead and he teetered on the brink of terror, feeling the fingers that could crush his throat at any moment, he blurted out without hesitation, "Stand down... All of you, stand down, no shooting!"

Around them, many experts of the Imperial Guard drew their weapons, aiming at Zhu Tianshou, who was holding Chu Tianxing hostage.

Yet Zhu Tianshou remained fearless.

On the contrary, it was Chu Tianxing himself who was terrified, his complexion pale. Should a weapon discharge accidentally, he might be the one to die, while the strong man holding him hostage would likely remain unharmed by such light weaponry.

The personnel of the Imperial Guard dared not fire, yet they couldn't simply abandon Chu Tianxing, resulting in a deadlock.

However, from afar, the alarm sounded frantically, and the surrounding Imperial Guard rushed towards the area. Additionally, some were making calls, mobilizing troops from afar to come and support.

For the vast majority of the Imperial Guard, they didn't know that Chu Tianxing had decided to flee, yet as their highest commander, now being held hostage, how could they simply stand by and watch?

Thus, massive numbers of the Imperial Guard troops started moving towards the headquarters.

Even many police forces were alerted and quickly assembled to rush to the scene.

Zhu Tianshou hadn't expected things to go so smoothly.

He had Chu Tianxing under his control but did not see any expert from the Hidden Sect of the Innate Realm appearing. And among the Imperial Guard, even the strongest were merely in the Mid-stage Energy Transformation Realm.

Not to mention that he had already advanced to the Divine Travel Realm, even if he had stayed in the Innate Realm, he was more than capable of handling such a situation.

Originally, he had come to kill Chu Tianxing, but seeing the troops continuously gathering around, he gave up the idea of killing Chu Tianxing instantly and decided to buy more time for Deep Blue Prison.

"Predecessor... Did Qin Yanyang send you to kill me? Actually... Actually, you really didn't need to do this. The Chu family is finished, and I, Chu Tianxing, was just about to surrender."

Seeing that Zhu Tianshou hadn't killed him immediately, Chu Tianxing suppressed his fear and boldly spoke.

Zhu Tianshou was taken aback and puzzled, "What are you talking about? The Chu family is finished?"

Chu Tianxing also paused, "Don't you know, Predecessor?"

Zhu Tianshou asked, "Know what?"

"The Ning family has betrayed us, the entirety of the Chu family, including Chu Shiguang and other big names, has been turned over to the Qin Family in Jiangnan County. The stand-off and division are about to end." Chu Tianxing spoke immediately.

He was somewhat speechless.

He had thought that Zhu Tianshou knew about this, but it seemed Zhu was oblivious.

He almost died for nothing.

He quickly added, "The Chu family has lost. I... I can't continue making mistakes, I was just about to go to the Central South Sea to let those leaders make a statement, declaring the Divine Continent returning to unification."

Zhu Tianshou was indeed a bit stunned.

He hadn't expected to hear such crucial information from Chu Tianxing and couldn't help but ask, "Is the Chu family really finished? Did the Ning family betray your alliance and sell out the Chu family?"

"Yes. I just got the news. You might have been hiding in Imperial City and not received the message yet," Chu Tianxing said immediately.

This significant event also stirred excitement in Zhu Tianshou, who scolded, "Are you lying to me?"

"At this point, where would I dare to lie?" Chu Tianxing said.

Zhu Tianshou was about to say more, but nearby, a communicator from the Imperial Guard carried by a communication officer began to blare with pleas for help, "Deep Blue Prison is under attack, requesting reinforcements, requesting reinforcements."

Chu Tianxing's mind raced, and he asked, "Predecessor, is it also your people in action at Deep Blue Prison?"

Zhu Tianshou did not answer.

Chu Tianxing urgently said, "Predecessor, take me with you; it can reduce unnecessary casualties, I can make them release the hostages."

Zhu Tianshou was delighted and asked, "Can you do it?"

"All military powers of Imperial City are under my control, I would naturally be useful there," Chu Tianxing said anxiously.

In reality, he had no control over the situation at Deep Blue Prison, but now he had no choice but to boast.

Since he couldn't escape, he had to think of a way to remedy the situation, trying to minimize his culpability.

"Since you have such authority, why ask to go there personally? Contact Deep Blue Prison right now and tell them to release the hostages," Zhu Tianshou said bluntly.

Chu Tianxing did not hesitate and immediately said to the communicator, "Connect me to Deep Blue Prison; I need to speak with Duanmu Chao."

Duanmu Chao, a member of the Duanmu family, was not originally assigned to Deep Blue Prison, but now, due to the particular nature of the hostages held there, he was leading a team stationed at Deep Blue Prison.

Chapter 770: Secured

Emperor's Suburb, Deep Blue Prison.

Duanmu Chao was fast asleep when a phone call abruptly awakened him, and he felt extremely irritated. He squinted to see the caller ID, and promptly became much more alert.

"Hello, Tianxing, what's the matter so late at night?" Duanmu Chao suppressed his irritation and asked.

The military power in Imperial City was now under Chu Tianxing's control. Duanmu Chao, holding a low position within the Duanmu Family, was naturally very polite to the newly risen Chu Family.

"Duanmu Chao, is everything quiet on your end?" Chu Tianxing inquired.

Duanmu Chao paused and listened carefully for a moment before shaking his head, "No, what happened?"

"Better there's nothing. Listen, the Ning Family has betrayed us, we've lost. We must now find a way to save ourselves," Chu Tianxing spoke promptly.

Duanmu Chao was completely dumbfounded, "We lost... lost?"

He was a bit confused. How could they have lost just like that?

Although the public opinion had not been favorable for them lately, the situation had not escalated to the point of outright failure, right?

Wait, what did he just say? The Ning Family betrayed us?

Duanmu Chao began to tremble all over, a great sense of fear emerging, cold sweat streaming, and his palm clutching the phone was sweating profusely.

"You... you're not lying to me, am I... how come I haven't heard such major news?" Duanmu Chao voiced in panic, but he tried to maintain a certain level of clarity, analyzing whether Chu Tianxing was deceiving him.

"Why would I lie to you about something so big. Duanmu Chao, we were left to stay behind in Imperial City, seemingly trusted by our family but in reality just pawns. Anticipating that the Qin Family might carry out a decapitation strike, they fled to a military base for shelter, leaving us behind in Imperial City to handle affairs. Now that the situation is completely out of control, the Chu Family's upper echelons are all caught in a single sweep, and the Central Battle Zone will definitely be taken over by the other side. With the Ning Family betraying us too, we've completely lost," Chu Tianxing explained urgently.

Duanmu Chao's mind was in chaos. He did not know whether what Chu Tianxing said was true; he needed to verify it.

Just then, gunfire sounded from outside, followed swiftly by screams.

Duanmu Chao was shocked and remembered the question Chu Tianxing had asked at the beginning. It seemed as if Chu Tianxing knew something was going to happen here. He immediately asked, "Brother Tianxing, it seems I'm being attacked. Did you... did you know something in advance?"

"Have they made their move? Duanmu Chao, I've warned you. If you still want to save yourself, release the hostages immediately. Do not clash with those coming to their rescue. This will only needlessly sacrifice the lives of innocent citizens. You haven't been deeply involved; you can still redeem your crimes with merit," Chu Tianxing said loudly, urgency and agitation in his tone.

Duanmu Chao responded, "Right... right, I... I was just in charge of Deep Blue Prison. Suddenly, so many people were shoved in here. I... my duty is to guard these people. I don't know anything about other matters. If I release the hostages now, I shouldn't be held accountable afterwards, right?"

"That's right, release them, now!" Chu Tianxing's voice urged.

At that moment, Duanmu Chao had lost his own judgement and believed in Chu Tianxing's words without any doubt.

Hanging up the phone, he immediately issued orders through the prison's internal communication system: "Everyone listen, lay down your weapons and do not resist. Let them take away those hostages."

Inside the prison, both the guards and the members of the Imperial Guard dispatched from above received the order and ceased their resistance.

In fact, when the enemy launched a surprise attack on the prison, these individuals were caught off-guard, with many unfortunate souls killed in the assault.

Compared to the prison defense forces, the attackers had significantly stronger overall strength, with several mysterious and untraceable experts among them. Wherever they passed, none survived. The assault was a dimensional strike for these ordinary soldiers and prison guards.

Even if they fought to the death, they wouldn't be able to hold.

Now that they received instructions from above, they couldn't wait to surrender sooner, all stopping their resistance, squatting with their hands on their heads, and even some prison personnel led the way, helping to open the cell doors of the detained hostages.

Thus, Hu Lizhong, Wang Chengcuo, Luo Yong, Luo Ping, and the experts from the Luo and Wang clans were completely baffled.

What was going on?

We were here to stage a prison break, and you're not resisting?

"Chu Tianxing must have been coerced by Zhu Tianshou, and Chu Tianxing ordered no resistance here," Hu Lizhong immediately figured out the reason and couldn't help but praise, "Zhu Tianshou is highly efficient at getting things done."

Wang Chengcuo and Luo Yong also silently nodded, believing that was the only possibility.

This was a huge stroke of luck for everyone involved, but they still remained cautious, worried about possible deceit. They had their subordinates lead the hostages out while they, the strong experts, kept an eye on the Imperial Guard and prison guard forces, wary of any sudden moves from them.

Before long, all the hostages detained here were taken away, and the operation went surprisingly smoothly.

There were no casualties on their side, while more than a dozen prison guards and members of the Imperial Guard lay dead.

It was Duanmu Chao's timely command that prevented a disaster; otherwise, the jailbreak team's strength was more than enough to sweep through the entire prison's defenses.

Three Innate Realm experts led the team, accompanied by the elite forces of the Luo and Wang Families. Such a lineup was already a formidable presence for any secular department.

After the hostages had been moved, Hu Lizhong and his group also left the prison.

Once in the car, Hu Lizhong frowned and said, "Something isn't right."

"It's not right, too smooth," Wang Chengcuo also furrowed his brows.

Both men had served in the military and knew well that the combat prowess of Divine Continent's regular forces couldn't be this weak, and their efficiency in handling matters was extremely high.

Although they couldn't stop the attack of these Innate Realm experts head-on, disrupting their rescue of the hostages should have been easy.

But the opponents did nothing.

Could Zhu Tianshou holding Chu Tianxing hostage truly wield such great power?

Could Chu Tianxing, now commanding the Imperial Guard of Imperial City, yield so easily?

Even Luo Yong started to feel today's operation was a bit too dreamlike.

After pondering for a while with a frown, Hu Lizhong murmured, "There must be some other reason; otherwise, Chu Tianxing wouldn't bow so easily. I still remember how he ordered the fire on Meishan Mountain. That man is definitely the type who dares to fight tough battles. He isn't afraid of dying like this."

Luo Ping nodded slowly upon hearing this and said, "I know Chu Tianxing, aware of his character; indeed, he is not so weak. His position in the Chu Family isn't very high, and given an opportunity like this, he would certainly cherish it."

In the midst of their conversation, Hu Lizhong's phone rang.

It was Zhu Tianshou on the call.

As the call connected, before Hu Lizhong could speak, he heard Zhu Tianshou say, "Important intelligence. According to Chu Tianxing, the Ning Family betrayed them, sending all the top echelons of the Chu Family hidden in the East Combat Zone to the south. The Chu Family is probably finished."

"What?"

Hu Lizhong was stunned.

Wang Chengcuo, Luo Yong, and Luo Ping were all dumbfounded as well.

The Ning Family backstabbed and delivered the Chu Family wrapped up as a gift to the Qin Family?

The Chu Family was just gone like that?

This news was too explosive.

Wang Chengcuo and Luo Yong couldn't help but exchange glances.

If the news was true, then they were indeed very lucky.

Luckily, they had listened to Zhu Tianshou earlier, and took action today. Otherwise, they wouldn't even have had the chance to demonstrate their loyalty before the Qin Family claimed their final victory, leaving their own families in an incredibly awkward position.

Now it was good, with Hu Lizhong and Zhu Tianshou as witnesses, plus their recent participation in the operation and rescue of so many hostages, the Luo and Wang Families could be said to have redeemed themselves and made their intentions clear, right?

After a moment of shock, a sharp light flickered in Hu Lizhong's eyes as he asked decisively, "Brother Zhu, is the news accurate?"

"It should be no mistake," Zhu Tianshou replied.

"And Chu Tianxing?" inquired Hu Lizhong.

"Still in my hands."

"Good, keep an eye on him. We'll come over immediately. We must now stabilize the situation in Imperial City to prevent the Chu Family, Sun Family, Duanmu Family, and others from making desperate moves," Hu Lizhong stated resolutely.

Luo Yong and Wang Chengcuo both nodded vigorously, filled with determination.

They had another chance to prove themselves well.

As long as they assisted Hu Lizhong in stabilizing the situation in Imperial City, their decision to side with the Qin Family this time was sealed.