

Seller 611

Chapter 611: A false challenge and its consequences

A brief silence filled the room as everyone digested Prime Minister Yuan's words.

But, it didn't last long as opinions from various individuals poured in, one after another.

"I understand what you are saying, but I don't see any benefits in rejoining the Empire. Like it or not, Shi Dynasty is doomed, sooner or later. If it is only the autonomy we were receiving, then, I might as well directly surrender to Lu Zhen and gain autonomy from him."

"Yeah, I too heard that all vassal States of Genesis Federation were given full autonomy. Moreover, he was pretty much generous in protecting his allies and he had several demigods and demigod realm beasts under his command."

"Yeah" "Yeah, he is right."

"Okay, but where do we come in, here? Prime Minister Yuan, why were we invited?"

"We came here because it is a direct invitation sent by Emperor Tang, but I don't see any benefit in helping Emperor Shi either by giving an order to our guild members to protect the lands. No matter who rules, it

won't change, right? I apologize for such remarks but I think I'm speaking on behalf of all the guild leaders here."

Guild Leaders: *silent nod in unison*

Shi Chong: "..."

"No, this is where you are wrong, Guild Leader Tian. Did you forget how Lu Zhen's occupation of Bloodhill Forest made thousands of adventurers from the Leon Empire, as well as from the southern kingdoms, lose their source of income? It is a direct attack on the guilds. The adventures who should be hunting down wild beasts were now taking mining jobs and farming the land."

"Sect Leader Bai is absolutely correct. Moreover, in his newly formed country, neither did he allow to build any sect nor did he allow any guild. Heck, even the churches weren't allowed to spread their faith in his land."

"Because of him, thousands of people have migrated from their homes through boats and come to the Leon Empire to settle, only to suffer because of the war. He is a devil spawn that needs to be erased."

"Ho! Sect Leader Xu seems to hate Lu Zhen very much. Hmm... but then again, your Xu Sect has been against the Shang Dynasty for a long time and you owe it to Late Emperor Shi. When your sect was operating in the Phoenix Empire, your sect disciples moved in shadows. But, ever since its partition and you moved your sect to this land with Late Emperor Shi's help, not only you were able to operate openly but your sect also gained hundreds of new disciples in a short time."

"Do not misinterpret my words, Clan leader Fang. Evil thought sow evil fruit. Though Buddha guides all, the wicked must still face punishment. Death is the salvation. Amitabha."

"Regardless, our former Patriarch shed his blood to defend the Late Emperor against the demon invasion. If he falls down, Late Patriarch Yu's sacrifice would go to waste. Hence, our Scarlet Lotus Sect would stand on the side of Emperor Shi. Our Grand Elder (demigod) would personally come out of his cultivation to protect Emperor Shi if Lu Zhen or his demigods were involved."

"Thank you, Patriarch Xi. I appreciate your help."

And at last, the Blood Moon Sect leader, a Supreme Being but a 23-year-old young man named Liu Feng, opened his mouth, "You invited all of us here but started talking about your reasonings, justifying yourself of taking actions against Lu Zhen or his allies. Just get to the matter already." His tone looked all lazy and his expressions clearly indicate that he was bored.

With a quick glance at Shi Chong, Liu Feng continued, "If you ask me, there is a simple solution to stop King Qi's conquest. All Emperor Shi has to do is challenge him for a one-on-one fight. The winner lives and the loser dies."

"What?" Shi Chong couldn't help but raise his tone urgently, "There is no way I can battle with him. King Qi was not only a legendary realm warrior but a veteran who had spent in wars for years. It is akin to a suicide."

"Well, we can ask for a fair battle, ask King Qi to suppress his realm to 6-circle as Emperor Shi," suggested the king of Jade Phoenix. He was also the first one to point out that merging with a declining empire doesn't have any benefits.

While his words appeared like a suggestion, his tone indicates mocking.

"What if Emperor Shi doesn't even go and we send someone else?"

"You can't fool him that easily."

"Yes, but the imposter only needed to go to the said location while we ambush King Qi on the way itself."

"Please explain."

"We need to vacate a village that would be on their way, and our sect would put a spell there but stay dormant until they reach the village and rest for a while. We blow up the entire village. King Qi and his troops would die altogether. Even if Lu Zhen gets angry, we can be a bit thickskinned and say that the spell was put beforehand in several villages out of fear for the conquest. And it is King Qi's misfortune to be caught up in it."

"Wouldn't such an act go against your Buddha's principles, Patriarch Xu?"

"Buddha's light shines on all, granting peace to the virtuous, but those consumed by evil will bring about their own destruction. Despite the fact that his wife was respectfully returned to him, King Qi couldn't subside his anger. He was willing to sacrifice thousands of his soldiers over his conquest, paving his path with the blood of innocents. Exterminating evil, even using foul methods, is still righteousness. Amitabha."

"Wait a second, what is the guarantee that King Qi would even accept the proposal?"

"As long as we collectively announce our support to the Leon Empire, King Qi would consider a one-on-one battle over meaningless war as he cannot win on his own unless Lu Zhen or his demigods personally step in."

"That's right. If Lu Zhen wanted to be involved in this war, he would have done so already. King Qi is a precious ally and the strongest of his vassal lords. Lu Zhen would also want King Qi to get his revenge."

"Hmm, that seems like a feasible idea..."

"I don't know. I feel like this could go wrong," Shi Chong mumbled in worry.

"Then, let's have Plan B and Plan C in case it goes wrong too."

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Soon, Emperor Shi's allies' plan was put into motion and it also worked out.

King Qi, who was brimming with vengeance, accepted it readily. The village of Baihe was agreed as the location. It lies at one of the current borders between the Leon Empire and the Golden Eagle kingdom.

However, the battle was set to be at 6 in the morning. Hence, King Qi and his troops would have no choice but to set up their camp in its neighboring village, Huanghua, fearing that open space would be easier for the ambush.

Three days after the issue of challenge, King Qi and his 10,000 troops reached the village by dusk and rested there as the enemies wanted.

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In another village near the designated location, a fake Shi Chong with 5000 troops was resting alongside Xu Sect elites and their Patriarch. All of the monks were waiting for the early morning to arrive.

The time was around 3 o'clock in the morning, the time when those who usually sleep at night and wake up in the morning wouldn't have the strength to stay awake or at least have a minimum alert.

Meanwhile, in the other village, the elite monks of Xu Sect were well awake. They gathered in the same house. With a signal from their Patriarch, all of them joined their hands as they sat in a circle, muttering the incantation in unison.

It went on for a whole minute, and Patriarch Xu Guowei developed a frown on his face as his eyes were opened, "This... I can't connect to the spell formation. It was removed." He gasped, "We have been found out. Oh Buddha"

It was then a voice heard from the corner of the same room, "Yes, you were caught. Now, you should pay for the consequences as a result. "

Xu Guowei turned his head to look at the source. "You..."

Alina slowly materialized and came out of the shadows, taking everyone by surprise.

"An Assassin?"

"Who is she?"

"Ah... she is so beautiful." "Hey, don't be seduced by her beauty." "Ah! I apologize. Oh, Buddha! Please forgive me. I repent with 108 bows after I return."

Xu Sect elites became alert and prepared to attack her.

"I can't sense any cultivation from her. Wait a second, I can't even sense the life aura from her either. A high-class puppet?" Xu Guowei's frown deepened, "Who are you?"

Alina responded with a chuckle, "Sorry, it is not my style to give my name to the people I kill."

"Amitabha!"

Xu Guowei shot the Buddhist mala in his hand. The thread was burned away and 108 rosary beads were shot toward Alina at once, turning golden and glowing.

Alina mumbled, "Death knight, I call upon you."

A dark mass of energy materialized in front of her, blocking the beads and sending them away in different directions.

Soon, a black armored, knight-looking warrior appeared in front of her, taking out two swords from his back and facing the enemies.

"Kill them all."

"Golden Immortal Physique."

Ether energy surged from Xu Guowei, forming a golden avatar over his body, and he stood there as if he were throwing a challenge at the enemy.

But then, the death knight charged forward at blurring speeds and in a fraction of a second, his body was cut off into a dozen pieces, causing panic among the disciples.

"Master..."

Chapter 612: The might of colossal robotic division

Early in the morning around 4, Leon Empie's imperial palace;

Emperor Shi was peacefully sleeping after a long time, knowing powerful allies were residing in the palace to protect him. For the first time in four months, he didn't have any worries about assassination or something.

He isn't even worried about the temporary alliance's plan to assassinate King Qi, and neither does he have his guard up in front of his own soldiers, who plan to guard him all over the night as usual. He just wanted to have a night of quality sleep. That is indeed more precious for any Emperor than anything when their Empire is not stable.

However, his peaceful sleep was disturbed by the sudden bang of the door, which burst open and alerted the soldiers guarding by, pointing their weapons at the intruder. It turned out to be Shi En, yet, loyal as they are, they haven't put down their weapons in wariness.

"Uncle..." "Uncle.."

Shi En had to shout as he was blocked when he tried to approach Shi Chong. Shi En didn't attack them as he is now the Supreme Pontiff of the Church of Nuwa, which prohibits him from causing any unnecessary harm to the weaker individuals unless they are harming the believers or mocking the church. Hence, he had to use his voice to wake his uncle.

Shi Chong got up from his sleep, and saw his nephew, his most trusted person on the planet looking all worried and panicking, "What happened?"

Shi En replied, "Our entire troops sent with the imposter were massacred." "What?" Emperor Shi Chong's drowsiness disappeared in an instant. Shi En continued, "There is something else I need to show you. Come to the Throne Hall, right now. I told the guards to bring others as well."

After a while, some with drowsiness and some looking active, all those important guests that participated in the meeting three days ago and were currently still staying at the palace as royal guests gathered at the throne hall, wondering what else to know apart from their failure. Only the Assassin Guild Leader isn't present as he opted out of this alliance, two days ago.

Amidst their gazes, Shi En then went on unleashing some kind of spell and created a projection, a large energy sphere floating in mid-air, displaying a video of some sort.

They saw giant robots in the village. They weren't aware of how big they were, but the houses could only reach their ankles and each step forward from them crushed the houses to dust. Shi En broke their curiosity and silent gazes filled with many questions by controlling his technique, shifting the scene to Alina and King Qi standing side by side on the top of one of these giant robots.

He pointed at the woman and said, "I believe you recognize her, Uncle."

Shi Chong's hand shook as he pointed his finger at her, "She's that messenger. Lu Zhen's messenger."

"How many of them?" Asked the Lt. Supreme General of the Tang Dynasty.

"Not sure, but atleast more than ten," replied Shi En with a grim face. He further added, "The point is not just the fact that she had such puppets, which she would use against us very soon. The point is about how she summoned them out of nowhere. Such giant puppets couldn't be brought along all the way from Genesis Federation without any notice. What if those things were unleashed into the city?"

"Don't worry, we won't let them come to these borders at all."

"Yeah, they might look all imposing but the big creatures have the disadvantage of speed and are vulnerable to attacks."

"But, the problem isn't them. It's their summoner. We have to ensure that she won't survive. As long as she is dead, they can be taken care of."

"However, we have to confirm that she is the puppet master for that. What if she isn't?"

"If only Assassin Guild stood with us, we could have launched a preemptive strike. We could have assassinated King Qi and this woman in the night."

As various opinions flew out, Shi En shook his head, "No, I have been tracking them ever since they approached the borders. She is the only one who joined them much later on. In fact, I didn't even sense her presence until I saw it with my Sage eye. For a fact, I also knew that she was a master assassin but didn't

know that she could evade my senses too. Unless master assassins come up, it would be difficult to take her out. We had several backup plans, but I think we have to reinforce our defenses."

The atmosphere turned tense.

Roughly two hours later, Shi Chong received the reports from the scouts that King Qi's army of ten thousand troops had started moving toward the imperial City, accompanied by 15 humongous black puppets (robots). No villages or towns were touched on the way, but whoever tried resisting was crushed to death. The troops stationed on the borders were massacred without any chance of escape. Hundreds of soldiers left their posts and escaped for their lives. The adventurers of the five guilds who take up the missions to resist the incoming force either end up dead or hide in the towns and cities. The powerful mages and archers who tried to attack the army from far away were dead before they could even launch their skills. They were taken care of by a warrior dressed in black armor and carrying twin swords but reeks of death.

These robots were not only big, but each of them had special abilities. Some control gravity, some have spatial abilities, some can burn, some can freeze, and some can bring lightning strikes... They were so overpowering that even supreme realm cultivators who tried challenging them were destroyed. Three dead so far, forcing two formidable sects that weren't called to the meeting, but due to the recklessness of their Patriarchs, they ended up closing up their mountains.

Without facing battles on the way, King Qi's troops were all energetic and didn't have to rest much, except when it was night. In two days, his entire army reached the outskirts of the imperial city while Leon Empire forces were all forced to back off to the city.

Yuan De, with the help of his Lt. Supreme General, summoned 6500 troops of the Dragon Empire's Silver Legion, the third strongest legion in their Empire, through a teleportation formation. Each of them might not

be strong, and the strongest could only be at 7-circle, but they were known to have a formidable formation to summon a dragon spirit for the attack and a shield for the defense.

More than eighty thousand adventurers from all over Kun, Leon, and Qilin Empire also gathered in the city on the urgent call of their guild leaders. Out of nearly a million citizens of the imperial city still living there, roughly hundred and fifty thousand of them came out of their homes to defend their city and fight for their survival as five-hundred-foot giant robots formed an eclipse over their hearts.

Not just those five powerful sects, various small and medium-sized sects from the Leon Empire also sent their elites to join them, all to fight one common enemy. The former patriarch and currently a grand elder of the Blood Moon sect, a demigod arrived there in time to launch a domain over the entire city.

The fifteen giant robots didn't enter the city or tried destroying the barrier yet. They were merely on standby even though it was broad daylight. King Qi sets up a camp on the outskirts of the city, and Alina alone enters the city, easily bypassing a demigod's domain like a ghost.

She walked in the streets amid hundreds of thousands of gazes upon her and was escorted by thousands of soldiers to the imperial palace. As a messenger, she had diplomatic immunity and wasn't attacked on the way.

She confidently walked into the palace with a scroll in her hands; the Throne hall, where all those powerful Supreme Beings including a demigod gathered in the audience of Shi Chong.

The throne hall was absolutely silent, and yet, each step of hers didn't even make the slightest of noise. Shi Chong was nervous, and Shi En was even more nervous about her unknown abilities. After all, he knew her from that sorcerer and planned his clone's death for the sake of freedom, but back then, she didn't have the power to summon those giant puppets, either. However, he was aware that she had the powers of some corrupted energy that could kill even a Supreme Being if they were struck lethally.

Stopping in the center of the hall, Alina looked at the Emperor and let out a smile, "Greetings, Emperor Shi. Today, I have come here as the messenger of Genesis Federation as well as King Qi. Let me first pass the message from King Qi."

"Ple... Please proceed..." Shi Chong stuttered a little bit.

Alina opened the scroll and read out loud, "Emperor Shi Chong..."

Chapter 613: Spatial imprisonment

"Emperor Shi Chong, your actions are unforgivable. When you were Crown Prince, you abducted my wife, Queen Li, and not only dishonored me but also your own ancestors by lusting over your own vassal lord's wife. Though the Late Emperor returned her, the wound never healed. Now, as Emperor, you shall pay for your betrayal.

Surrender your throne and offer your head, or I will raze your city and wipe your dynasty's name from history. This is your only chance to spar your people and your dynasty. Choose wisely, for my legions stand ready to bring you to ruin.

King Qi, Genesis Federation."

After reading out the letter loud and clear, Alina handed it to an official standing nearby to hand it over to Shi Chong, indicating that she didn't misread the contents of the letter.

As the scroll was taken to Shi Chong, he crushed it without even reading it, clenching his teeth and fists in anger and frustration, feeling humiliated in front of everyone. Stay updated with NovelBin.Côm

However, before anyone responded to the letter, Alina spoke, "Now, this is a message from the Chancellor of Genesis Federation. Do note that these are the exact words of Chancellor Lu Zhen."

The guests exchanging their glances earlier now returned their attention back to Alina as she spoke, "Shi Chong, you challenged King Qi for a fair battle, and yet, not only did you send an imposter in your place but also sent Xu Sect to ambush my subordinate with such cheap tricks. Adding on top of that, you have forced the neutral guilds and foreign forces, such as the Dragon Empire, to be involved. Hence, now, this is no longer between the Golden Eagle kingdom and the Leon Empire. This is now between Genesis Federation and Leon Empire. You have a final opportunity to amend your mistakes.

Come to Huangying City and fight King Qi in a one-on-one battle. For fairness, none of you would have access to your ether energy. No weapons, no armor, no artifacts. It would be nothing more than a pure brawl between two men.

You win, your life will be spared, and neither Genesis Federation nor Golden Eagle Kingdom will advance further to the north. We would forget the matter. But if you lose, you will attend our public trial, where your punishment will be decided. Meanwhile, we will continue our conquest, leaving the Leon Empire no choice but to either surrender and annex or get destroyed and annexed.

Reject this message of mine, and I wouldn't hesitate to raze down everything that my 15 robots see. In case you manage to survive, I will make a personal visit to see this to an end. The lives of your people lie in your decision."

Alina then shifted his gaze to Yuan De and continued, "Dragon Empire representatives, I believe I have already given you a warning not to poke your nose in this matter. Since you have dared to cross the line, be prepared for the consequences. You and your soldiers might have arrived at Leon Empire at your behest, but you won't be able to leave without my will. I give you 60 minutes to escape. After that, you and your troops would be at our mercy."

Alina wasn't done yet. Her attention fell to the right, where the guild leaders were sitting, "Leaders of Swordsman, Archery, and Mage guilds, you were supposed to be neutral and should never be involved in political affairs. Yet, your greed couldn't stop you from doing that. Many of your guild personnel tried attacking our forces, and I see 81422 adventurers were gathered in this city, waiting to fight us. However, everyone deserves a second chance.

From the moment my messenger completes her duty, you are also left with 60 minutes. After 60 minutes, if any adventurer belonging to your guilds but doesn't belong to Leon Empire's imperial city stays in the city premises, or if any of you still stay there, I would treat it as that you have drawn the clear line of enmity against Genesis Federation and you would be dealt as such. I would make sure that your guilds won't be able to find any single town or city anywhere in the world as your home. If you think I'm bluffing, you are free to take my words lightly. But, once the time is up, there would be no going back, and neither should you expect any kind of change of heart in me. Whatever choice you make is up to you."

Mark didn't have any special message for the sects because they are sects either way. They might fight a war on the grounds of righteousness but they still don't belong to the secular world. Once the war is over and peace is established, they would go back to their mountains.

Alina, who was done delivering all the messages, once again looked back at Shi Chong, "Now, if you excuse me, I will return."

"Wai..."

Shi Chong was about to speak but Alina turned into specks of light, disappearing from their sight.

Demigod Long Jin commented, "She left my domain. I can't defeat her."

"Even you can't defeat her?" Shi Chong's eyes widened to the point that his eyeballs appeared to have come out.

The Blood Moon Sect's grand elder's comment even stunned his own successor. "How powerful is she?" He couldn't help but ask.

With everyone's eyes on him, he answered with a grim expression, "The moment she entered the domain I cast over the city, I realized that she didn't have any soul. Once she entered the hall, it became obvious that she was a high-class puppet."

"A puppet?" Shi Chong and others looked surprised.

These bunch of Supreme realm experts have the power to realize that she is not a human, but Alina's words were so powerful that they didn't pay attention to such detail.

Long Jin continued, "Earlier, she was able to enter my domain because she lacked soul. However, when I realized her identity, I secretly changed the laws of my domain, restricting puppets, too. And when she teleported and was blocked by my domain's barrier, she made a hole out of it in a fraction of a second and left. Her strength is at least equal to mine, and because she is not a human, her attacks won't have any hesitation for her surroundings or have any distraction, which would favor her. Most importantly, a battle puppet's physique is always higher than a Spirit warrior's unless one was cultivating a superior physique."

And when realization dawned upon them, it appeared even more frightening, cuz who could create such a puppet...

Suddenly, they don't feel like offending Mark anymore.

After intense arguments during the next 30 minutes, Guild Leaders of Archery and Mage walked out, passing the orders to their guilds to leave the city in another 30 minutes.

A significant portion stayed behind but the majority followed the order and left the city through the west or north, which were far away from King Qi's army or those giant robots. This resulted in the reduction of nearly forty thousand from the city, increasing the tension among the citizens and soldiers.

The Swordsman guild stuck to their decision. Three of the five Sect Leaders also stayed behind, but they secretly passed their orders to their disciples to go and hide for now. They were asked not to be involved in the war. As there were only dozens in number and thousands of adventurers were out there, no one saw much difference. Only Blood Moon Sect and Scarlet Lotus Sect, the two most powerful sects currently in the imperial city, had their elites and elders deployed for the upcoming battle.

As for Shi Chong, he had yet to make the decision as he could only see death in either situation. His confidence plummeted by the demigod's comment and the departure of two powerful guilds.

Roughly 12 minutes left till the 60-minute time limit is about to be completed.

At the camp, King Qi was all ready to launch an attack. His ten thousand troops finished their break and went into their formations.

King Qi started giving his final speech to them in order to motivate them.

As one of the robots, Ark Omega put down its hand, let King Qi stand on its palm, and slowly raised him so that he would be able to see everyone from higher ground, King Qi raised the sword and pointed at the sky, "Today, we gathered here to finish what we started a year ago. Sure, many of our comrades fell, and many troops were left behind as I naively thought that I could end this war without further bloodshed, but we are here, just one step away from returning home. As I mentioned a year ago, we aren't fighting this war to gain more lands or something. We are fighting against oppression. We are fighting against evil.

I'm ashamed to say this through my own mouth, but I was the Lord of the second biggest vassal state of the Leon Empire; my ancestors shed blood for this empire, and my very own queen isn't safe under the rule of the Shi Dynasty. It's because I'm King Qi, they eventually returned my wife, but what about a commoner? Would he be able to fight against the system?

We are fighting for millions of commoners. Think about your own family, your wives, sisters, and daughters. Do you want to let that arrogant son of a b*tch touch our ladies and think we will let it slide?"

"No..." Everyone shouted in unison; rage built up in their bodies by King Qi's words, and they wanted to go out there and massacre their enemies.

"Do you want to let the imperial family trample on our pride?"

"No..."

"Today, I'm going to destroy the Shi Dynasty from its roots. Who is with me?"

"Me..."

"All Hail Chancellor Lu."

Soldiers: "All Hail Chancellor Lu."

"Oraaa..."

Letting out a battle roar, King Qi jumped onto a Fire drake, his contracted pet, as he flew past the robot's hand. The fire drake flew toward the city, and the soldiers started running.

Alina, who was standing on top of Ark Beta and had her eyes shut, opened her eyes to look at the city and mumbled, "Time is up."

"Ark Beta, Ark Lambda, activate Spatial Prison."

Two of the fifteen colossal robots raised their hands toward the city, unleashing a joint spell together.

Meanwhile, in the palace, Long Jin, the demigod who was standing on the balcony alongside the Emperor, let out a gasp, "It's the Spatial imprisonment."

"What did you say, Saint Long?"

Long Jin looked at Shi Chong and answered, "The entire Leon City has been cut off from the rest of the world."

At the same time, an enormous black dome was seen from the outside that covered the city. Nothing could be seen from the outside.

Chapter 614: The end of Leon Empire

With a single but power-packed punch to the domain's barrier, Ark Gamma broke it, making way for King Qi and his army to enter the city.

As soon as the barrier is broken, thousands of adventurers and soldiers rush at them. King Qi's fire drake flew forward and he raised the sword above his head, conjuring flames around the sword's blade.

"Flames of... what?"

As Alina jumped from one of the robots and landed on another, it rushed forward, lowering its body and slamming onto the ground.

"Ark Nu, Absolute Freezing."

In a matter of seconds, the entire city... that's right. The entire imperial city, all the structures, buildings, people, plants, ponds, lakes, everything that was attached to the ground was frozen in ice, transforming the surroundings into a frozen land, except for the people.

On the frozen battlefield, both King Qi's troops and the city defenders trouble had their footing but the former was burning for battle while the latter was intimidated by the colossal robots.

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"Ark Epsilon, Use Icy Mist."

An icy mist was unleashed by another robot's hands simultaneously. This one froze thousands of people at once.

King Qi: "..."

And then, a couple of them followed up by pouncing on the frozen spirit warrior with powerful punches, exterminating thousands in a second.

One after another, Alina led the 15 colossal robots to the imperial palace, destroying everything on her path.

Every skill attack from the robot, atleast five to six thousand deaths occurred.

Whatever survived, King Qi's army finished them off. Despite all that heavy motivational speech, he and his army found out to be nothing more than support characters. However, not even one casualty this time. And Alina automatically became the commander of the army, representing Genesis Federation instead of the Golden Eagle kingdom.

Under her orders, those who resisted were killed but those who tried running away from their path were left off. Most of those who ran away were citizens who put up a brave front earlier. One can't even call a battle for a detailed description.

It's just a pure massacre of the robots.

In a matter of mere 25 minutes, after 78000 casualties, King Qi's army has already reached the palace gates. Twenty thousand more soldiers stood there in a formation. The Dragon Empire's silver legion was also waiting there. Surprisingly, Shi Chong was there as well. In fact, he was standing on the front of the whole army. The demigod and Shi En were standing by his side, but the Sect leaders and vassal lords were seen standing far away from him as if they didn't want to be associated with him. As for the leader of the Swordsman guild, he wasn't seen anywhere.

As the robots surrounded the palace, Alina and King Qi confidently walked forward; none attacked from both sides and let those two approach Emperor Shi, who had his head down and clenching his fists.

"So, you decided to surrender after causing thousands of casualties, you bas*ard?" King Qi tightened his grip on the sword's handle as he pointed it at Shi Chong.

Shi Chong stayed silent, and Shi En spoke on his behalf, "Yes, and uhh... I would like to talk to Chancellor Lu Zhen's representative over here about whether it is still possible for the solution you provided us, you know that one-on-one fight?"

"You must be joking," King Qi scoffed at his proposal. He poured his ether energy into the sword, and the flames enveloped its blade, "do you think you even have the right to negotiate the terms now?"

"Wait..." Alina tapped his arm and stopped him from proceeding further. She asked Shi En, "Do you make decisions on behalf of Leon Empire?"

Shi En gave a glance at his uncle and nodded, "Yes, I was given the authority to represent the Emperor."

Alina then said, "My master had a good impression of you, Shi En, mainly due to your bloodline connection with the elves. I believe you also agreed to his arrangement to take over one of the vassal states to work under him. We don't have any qualms about you supporting Shi Chong because he is your uncle. But, if you represent Leon Empire, it would change many things. Like for example, the Church of Nuwa would pay for the promise you have broken. So, please do think twice before answering my question once again. Do you make decisions on behalf of Leon Empire?"

Shi En fell silent for a few seconds and turned his head to the side, "I'm sorry, Uncle. I can't be your negotiator." Shi Chong's eyes widened in surprise. He looked at him. Meanwhile, Shi En turned to the front to face Alina and said, "No, I won't make the decision. But I have sworn to protect my uncle. So, I won't step aside."

Alina nodded with a smile. "That's fine for us," She said, taking a glance at Shi Chong.

"So, why are you even here if you don't intend to talk, Shi Chong?" She asked.

Shi Chong let out a deep breath and finally faced her before momentarily shifting his attention to King Qi, "Qi Tianchen, you may have won the war, but I know that this city fell because of those things, Lu Zhen's army, not yours. I surrendered because I realized that I was not a match for them. I'm not afraid of you. If you want to cut off my head, go on, but the victory would never be yours. If you want the history books to record that King Qi Tianchen of Golden Eagle Kingdom took his revenge with his own hands, then I dare you to accept my challenge. No need to restrict your cultivation or whatever. It will be just us, right now, and right here.

You win, the entire Leon Empire will surrender to you. All of my soldiers will be your prisoners. And if I win, your soldiers and those giant things will back away."

Shi Chong's voice turned louder and louder as he spoke further, trying to provoke King Qi even more, "If you think you can't win against someone who is two realms lower than you, you can refuse the challenge, and we can resume the war. I'll die fighting trying. I will lose thousands of soldiers more. I don't know how history remembers me, but you will surely be remembered as the Butcher for trying to choose violence even after I put forth a proposal that could evade countless deaths. And by the way, I didn't abduct your wife. We loved each other and she willingly came with me. Why? Because her husband is an impotent."

"You... dare..." The flames around King's Qi intensified with rage built up in his body. But just then...

Clap Clap* Clap*

Alina started clapping with an amusing smile on her face in response to Shi Chong's challenge, taking King Qi by surprise. She couldn't help but comment, "That was a great speech, except that the onus has been shifted from King Qi's head to ours the moment you defied our proposal, and I'm the commanding officer at the moment. So, he doesn't have the right to decide your fate."

"But..." King Qi was about to protest and say something, but Alina didn't let him speak as she said, "Let me finish. King Qi, why are you so in a hurry to judge things when I talk? This was the second time you did it today. You have been a pretty good listener when he talked."

"Uhhh..." King Qi had no idea how to respond to it. He was aware that she was a puppet but her behavior was more human-ish than a human. And as a wise king, he knew that he could not win an argument against a friendly woman. Moreover, after witnessing the might of Alina and her army, he doesn't have the courage to offend her. He could only apologize to her and let her continue, "Sorry. Please go on."

"Good... now where are we? Okay... Shi Chong, first things first, you lost the war, and that makes you our prisoner. If you aren't convinced, my little friends are more than ready to convince you..." Alina let out a smile as the others shuddered. "Hence, there is no question of moving our army back away. However, because you think King Qi hasn't got a fair chance of revenge, we would give you a choice. The same offer. You and your army would follow us to Huangying City, where you shall battle King Qi using the same terms we mentioned earlier. It won't be a death match. So, no need to worry unless you lose. You win, your mistakes will be forgiven, and you will be set free. You lose, and your fate will be decided by our Chancellor.

Since you are so adamant about giving us a choice of peace when you lost significant lives, this is our counter-proposal. Accept it, or else every single resident will die here. Until now, our focus was only trampling on the ones who resist us on our path as we reach you. Our Chancellor won't believe in unnecessary killing. But, if you refuse, well..."

Snap

With a snap of his finger, the fifteen robots turned around, and all raised their hands, pointing them at the rest of the city at the same time, and energy was being conjured in front of their palms.

"I don't think I need to say the rest, do I?"

Alina's face was all smiles but her words shook the core of every listener. Even King Qi couldn't help but look at her back in a daze, wondering, "How could she say those things with such an expression?"

Chapter 615: It's Judgment time (part-1)

Soon enough, Shi Chong and his 23122 loyal troops followed their way to the city of Huangying under the escort of the colossal robots while the remaining forces, such as surviving adventurers, disciples of various sects, and even Dragon Empire's silver legion were left behind in the frozen imperial city, trapped in a spatial prison along with the citizens of the city.

While the demigod brought the state of the city to normal and then went on trying everything to remove the spatial imprisonment that cut off the city from the rest of the world, the entire world trembled at the news.

Even the Dragon Empire received the news, but the Tang Dynasty founder didn't accept the young Emperor's request to free them. The Emperor of the so-called strongest empire in the world for the past millennium couldn't do anything in the situation and waited as he was instructed.

Three days later, King Qi's army returned to the capital city; almost all the citizens came out of their homes to cheer for their King, who had finished his conquest.

The soldiers of the Leon Empire were thrown into prisons while Shi Chong was under house arrest, following the millennium-old customs of the Leon Empire. Shi Chong was a former emperor, and until he was sentenced, he had to be treated as a guest, although without any freedom.

A day after his arrival, Mark made his visit. While he was welcomed greatly, he didn't bother wasting time on unnecessary hospitality and went directly to the throne hall. Mark sat on the throne that usually King Qi sits

and the latter sat on the throne of a minister, alongside the ministers and generals. Alina just stood beside the throne like an attendant.

Shi Chong soon arrived at the throne hall and stood in the center of the hall with his hands joined to the front and his gaze on the floor. Poor guy didn't even have proper sleep or food for the past three days over nervousness and he could feel a murderous aura emitting from everywhere. What else could he do other than try to stand straight in his place...

Mark looked down at him from the higher spot on the throne and only said, "So, I heard that you mentioned that you actually didn't abduct Queen Consort Bai but she willingly eloped with you."

"Huh?" Shi Chong couldn't help but raise his head to look at Mark in surprise. "Your Majesty..." King Qi also rose to his feet with his eyes widened. He couldn't help but raise his voice, knowing where this would go. The ministers and generals followed the suits.

Mark gestured for them to sit down, and as they did, he looked at Shi Chong, "well? Is that true?"

Shi Chong glanced at King Qi and took a deep breath before giving a firm nod, "Yes. That is true."

"Lies... How dare you try to smear my queen's reputation with your filthy mouth..." King Qi flared up, taking out his sword.

"Qi Tianchen..." Mark's deep voice then rose higher, with a hint of displeasure. King Qi shivered for a moment, "Your Majesty..."

"I'm going to say one last time. Sit down." Mark ordered. King Qi clenched his open arm, sheathed his sword, and sat down.

Mark shifted his attention back to the prisoner, "Shi Chong, if what you say is true, you won't be entirely at fault; regardless of the results of your upcoming battle, you will receive a lesser punishment than I originally thought. However, if you are lying, then, I will not only kill you but I will exterminate your soul too. You would cease to exist without any opportunity to reincarnate again. Keep this in mind and answer my question once again as I activate my truth eye. Are your claims true or false?"

"What truth eye, big brother? You don't have such a thing," Alina squinted her eyes as she glanced at her big brother.

Mark felt her gaze but he shrugged his shoulders and had his attention entirely on the prisoner, "Answer me. Are your claims true or false?"

Shi Chong spoke loud and clear as he replied, "I swear on the heavens that whatever I said is true. May the heavens punish me to eternal damnation if I lie."

"Oh, don't worry. The Heavens won't get the chance to judge you if you are lying," commented Mark in a calm tone. Meanwhile, the artificial intelligence sent him the notification.

*Ding! There's a 98.6% probability that he is telling the truth, Master.

"I see," Mark nodded in understanding and then turned his gaze toward his vassal lord, "Qi Tianchen, summon your wife right now."

"Your Majesty..." King Qi's feet were rooted in his spot. His gaze was on the floor, and he clenched his fist tightly, intending not to follow the order this time. "Do you have to do this?" He questioned.

In response, Mark nodded and replied, "You must have spent too long on the battlefield that you might have forgotten to learn about our policies. In our land, a woman is given an equal status to a man. A woman isn't just there for a father to forge an alliance or for a husband to rear his children. Almost thirty-nine percent in my country are taken by women. So, what I'm summoning isn't a woman but an individual who is in a higher position and indirectly the prime reason for more than a hundred thousand casualties and displacement of more than a million innocent citizens. Hence, she is answerable to the court of justice.

This is your kingdom; your ancestors shed their blood to build it. I don't want to override your authority by mine in order to bring your wife to the court. That's why I'm asking you once again. Summon your wife here."

"I... I..." taking a deep breath, King Qi bowed, "I understand..." He gave the orders to the soldiers to send his order to the harem, summoning his Queen.

Very soon, Queen Consort Bai Lianhua, the most beautiful wife of King Qi and the principal queen, who can be described as fine-aged wine at the age of 39 despite weak cultivation, entered the throne hall/court of justice and walked forward into steady steps, maintaining the demeanor of a queen while controlling her panicking heart. Meanwhile, Shi Chong was taken to the side. His gaze was fixed on her, and he wasn't even hiding his emotions. He definitely looked like a lover who got reunited with his lover after a long time. She, however, didn't spare any glance at him. Everyone in the hall maintained silence as Mark spoke to her.

"Are you aware why were you called here, Queen Consort Bai?" He asked.

Bai Lianhua didn't meet her eyes with Mark either. She just looked at the front and answered confidently, "I have assumptions, Your Majesty."

Mark then said, "I would say the same thing I told Shi Chong earlier. I would ask you the question, and you must answer it honestly and truthfully. If you lie, your body and your soul will be removed from existence, and I'm serious. Understood?"

Bai Lianhua nodded slowly. Her fingers twisted together into each other in nervousness.

"Shi Chong claimed that you left this palace with him and went to Leon Empire's imperial city voluntarily. Is that claim true or false? No explanation. Only answer. True or False..."

At once, all eyes fell upon the Queen Consort, including King Qi's.

She slowly nodded, "It is true, Your Majesty."

"Bai Lianhua..." King Qi's hand reached the handle and grabbed it but he didn't pull it out of the sheath. He might have controlled his actions but the emotions of betrayal were clearly evident on his face.

Meanwhile, Shi Chong couldn't help but clench his fist and he smiled. He looked as if he was victorious.

"Understood," Mark gave a nod and then asked, "Now, for my next question. Why? You were the principal queen of once the second-largest vassal state of Leon Empire. You were aware that your actions would bring nothing but chaos, yet you risked it. Were you mistreated by your husband? If so, then speak. There is no place for domestic abuse on my land."

"Huh?" Perhaps Bai Lianhua was taken aback by Mark's words. She raised her head to look at the young and handsome but mighty figure sitting on the throne her husband usually sits on, feeling as if she were staring at a deity.

She lowered her gaze once again and answered, "I was the daughter of the late General Bai Minghwan, Your Majesty. I was engaged to my husband when I was very young, and I loved him ever since. In our twenty years of marriage, neither has ever spent as much as an hour with me nor did he give me a child. Assuming that I was infertile, not only was I treated harshly by the Late Queen Mother for more than a decade, but she also married him a couple of more times and even assigned concubines. However, none have become mothers so far. No one dared to point their finger at my husband for his impotency or possible homosexuality, for he is the mighty King Qi, and instead, they just either say that we are all infertile or King Qi is too busy on the battlefield.

Your Majesty, I was sick of him. I don't understand why I even existed. I can't become a mother. I can't get the love of a husband or my in-laws. As a queen, I was prohibited from cultivating or practicing the martial arts that my father taught me. I'm not even a bridge that connects a great noble house to the royal family. When I was at my lowest, Prince Shi Chong was the only one who gave attention to me, listened to me, encouraged me, and gave me a purpose to live.

If it was anyone else, I wouldn't dare to accept the feelings of a man other than my husband. But he was the Crown Prince of the Shi Dynasty. If anyone could save me from this hellish marriage of mine, it was him. That is why I risked everything to leave with him.

Blame my fate, even the Emperor feared my husband's retaliation and sent me back. I thought I would be able to escape my crimes by acting as a victim. It seems one has to face their karma. In the end, I'm here, standing in the middle of two dozen men on the charges of infidelity. Now that Your Majesty knows everything, I await your judgment. I'm ready to face public execution but I won't admit that I'm guilty. I believe I broke the law but didn't do the sin."

Everyone still maintained silence. They heard her loud and clear; all digested the whole truth. Some sympathized with her situation, some sympathized with Shi Chong, who was probably used by her, some thought that she deserved death regardless, some mocked King Qi in their hearts, and some didn't have a particular opinion and were waiting for what their Chancellor would think.

Surprising them, Mark turned his attention to King Qi, "Qi Tianchen, my eyes of truth see that you are not impotent. Then, why didn't you father children?"

"Eh?"

Chapter 616: It's Judgment time (part-2)

So far, it was Queen Bai Lianhua who attracted the attention but Mark's sudden question made King Qi, the center of attention.

As she pointed out earlier, none dared to point their finger at King Qi, but secretly, everyone believed that he was impotent. King Qi cannot father his children and that is why he was preparing his nephew as the successor of the kingdom. This was an unsaid fact, not only in the eyes of officials but also the people of the kingdom.

And when Mark suddenly shattered their belief with a simple statement, everyone now stared at King Qi, asking for an explanation with their eyes.

King Qi, feeling enormous pressure on his shoulders, walked forward a couple of steps and knelt down, cupping his fists with a bow, "Your Majesty, it was due to a prophecy from our Retired Royal Diviner, Master Chen."

"Prophecy?"

King Qi explained, "If I ever fathered a child, that child would bring doom to the kingdom. He will be the reincarnation of death who will not only end our dynasty but cause millions of deaths in the future. For the sake of my people, I had to remain childless. I would rather let people think that I'm impotent, sterile, or even homosexual than let such a dreadful future happen." He glanced to his left at the Queen, "I... I... *sigh* I love my wife, Your Majesty. It is not that I wanted to ignore her. It is just that I loved her so much that I had to stay away from her. Until she said it with her own mouth, even though everyone was talking about it, I never once believed that she betrayed me. To protect her dignity and prove that she is innocent, I waged a war. I

went on for a year of conquest. Even after all this, I won't be ashamed to announce that I love her, Your Majesty. Yes, I'm sad, disappointed, and angered by her betrayal, but my love will be there for her, always."

"Dear..." Bai Lianhua looked at him, her eyes filled with tears, and she couldn't help but feel guilty about her actions, quite in contrast to her earlier announcement.

His words also generated pity from many officials and fellow generals. They never expected that their King was sacrificing himself for the sake of the people, although some still thought that he was a p*s*y to forgive his wife. But, no one doubted his words because of Mark's presence.

*Ding! There's a 99.7% probability that he is telling the truth, Master.

As the notification was heard in his ears, Mark nodded in understanding but then questioned why he had never revealed it to his wife, if that was the case.

To which King Qi replied that he was afraid of Late General Bai's potential rebellion out of anger. There is also a high possibility of a coup from noble lords if the truth was ever out back then. Later on, so much time has passed that he just put away the matter altogether.

Mark digested all the information. King Qi was right in his eyes; Queen Bai, to some extent, was also correct in her eyes if one sees from a modern life point of view, and Shi Chong was the great scapegoat in all of this.

Mark was slightly troubled by his judgment. It's not that he doesn't know what to do. It is just that the clash of the current era's culture and the modern era's life from his past life gave him trouble. He was aware that he should tread this matter very carefully. If mishandled, a wrong message would be sent to the citizens.

After much thought, Mark called up the prisoner and gave his judgment, "Shi Chong, regardless of whether Queen Bai was willing to come with you voluntarily, it is a fact that you loved a married woman. She is troubled by her marriage life and might have taken a drastic step. What about you? Where was your intelligence gone? If you truly loved her, you should have waged a war against King Qi like a man or had him assassinated by any other means if you were not brave. Of course, those crimes will have their own set of consequences, but to save her, you should have killed her so-called heartless husband who ignored her, freed her from the marriage, and married her officially, giving her a new life.

But, No. You chose the stupidest way to solve it. Look at the consequences. You made King Qi as your enemy. You brought war to your doorstep. You even tried to ambush him using cowardly means even after issuing a challenge in the name of the Shi Dynasty. Your ancestors should be ashamed of you. Other than this, I myself sent my representative to give you an opportunity to save your city. But no, your stupid confidence in the outsiders caused thousands of casualties.

You truly deserve death, but I promised that I wouldn't let you die. I give you three days. Rest well, eat well, and train well. After 3 days, you will have a battle with King Qi without any cultivation or weapons. You win and you will be exiled from this continent. You lose and you will be crippled, not just your cultivation. I meant literally."

Shi Chong's pale turned by the sentence.

Mark didn't care about it anymore and shifted his attention to the woman, "Queen Consort Bai, as a human being, my sympathy is with you. But as the Chancellor, I have to point out that you made a mistake. If you

want to leave the hellish marriage, you could use your late father's influence in the army and your position as the principal queen to escape from the palace on your own during your husband's absence. You could just come down to the south or take up a boat to travel to the Baize Empire to start a fresh life. The ornaments on your body are worth enough for you to live your life comfortably, too. Then, you can find someone, fall in love, and live with your own family. Why did you think that you needed a man's help in escaping you?"

"Eh?"

"Earlier, you also mentioned that if it was anyone else, you wouldn't dare. Do you know why? Because you can't live as a commoner. You couldn't give up the luxury of the palace for the sake of freedom. In fact, you want both of them. Quite greedy, don't you think?"

"This... Your Majesty..."

"I'm not done yet, Queen Consort Bai. Whatever path you chose was indeed wrong, but it is not a crime of law or anything. Your crime is the fact that you broke the sacred pact of marriage and indirectly became the fuel for the war. At the same time, we can't ignore the fact that your actions stemmed from your husband's ignorance and not being truthful to you. Combining every fact, I sentence you that from now onwards, you are no longer a noble. I revoke your status as a principal Queen and order King Qi to appoint another.

Now, as a human being who sympathizes with your situation, using my status as a demigod, I offer you asylum in Vienna City. You cannot marry anyone else as long as King Qi lives and your fertility will also be taken away from you. However, you can start a fresh life with a new identity and live in any way you want.

This is not an order but a way out for you. If you don't want to accept my offer, you can continue to remain in this palace as a commoner, and I leave your fate in the hands of your husband. King Qi will give you any punishment he deems fit. You have 3 days to think. Until then, Alina would ensure your safety in this palace."

"This is too biased..." such thought occurred in the minds of every official around.

"And King Qi..." Mark was quite calm as he carried out sentences, giving the reason and pointing out their faults, but when he faced King Qi, the main source of the entire issue (excluding himself), Mark's gaze turned colder, "What kind of an idiot are you?" He shouted, making everyone shudder collectively for a moment.

King Qi, who was already surprised by Mark's light sentence, was further stunned by Mark's shout. "Your... Your Majesty? Wha... What do you mean?"

Mark continued, "The future is ever-changing, Qi Tianchen. And the prophecy only indicates the likelihood of the future. If the future is determined by prophecies, then no matter what you do, it will happen, won't it?"

Even if you stayed childless and ignored your wives, the victories in battles might be called for celebrations, and you might get drunk so much that you would probably father a child with some servant or a stranger. Or you might be entangled in a situation where you might be trapped and exposed to aphrodisiac with some woman. If we think that way, I can see even more than a hundred possibilities. With such possibilities, will you stop drinking then? Will you stop going into wars? Will you stop going on and lock yourself, then? Or will you just commit suicide and think that this will end?"

Qi Tianchen: "..."

Chapter 617: It's Judgment time (part-3)

King Qi had no answer to Mark's question. He started having second thoughts about his own choices and felt a heavy pain in his chest.

Mark continued nevertheless, "I can understand if an unlearned person takes prophecy too seriously, but you, a member of the royal family and went to a prestigious academy and studied under great scholars, how could you not think properly?"

"I... I did, Your Majesty," King Qi tried defending himself, "But, I couldn't take risks..."

"Alright, fine..." Mark let out a sigh, feeling annoyed by his behavior and thinking. The more he thought about it, the more he felt annoyed and angry. Controlling his anger, he explained, "Fine, you didn't want to take risks. But, did you ever think about the far future then? The prophecy said that your child would bring doom to the kingdom and cause millions of deaths. But, did you see why he did it? What if the deaths of those millions and the sacrifice of your dynasty would save the entire world?"

Or what if your descendants from the far future might save the entire world, saving billions instead of a great curse or something? Have you ever thought if you destroy your bloodline for the sake of the immediate future, it could potentially destroy every other possibility of some great things, too? Did your prophecy see it?

How could the fear of an unknown future force a legendary realm Spirit warrior and the King of the Qi Dynasty that has a millennium of history like you to abandon your duty to the present?"

"I..." King Qi fell silent. He knelt down and stared at the floor in silence.

Mark's eyes wandered all over the hall for a couple of seconds before he said, "Fine. since you don't seem completely convinced, summon that diviner who gave you such a ridiculous half-baked prophecy. And, Bai Lianhu and Shi Chong, you two are dismissed. Someone escort them to their rooms."

While waiting for the diviner, Mark meditated to calm down his emotions; he was fine at first. He was very calm in digesting all the information from the three of them and gave appropriate sentences for each of them.

However, as he spoke and spoke, he could only get frustrated, annoyed, angry, and felt the urge to just pass down the sentences without any proper explanations like a true dictator.

But, just earlier, in a way, he massacred 70000 Spirit warriors and commoners out of compulsion and if he creates the image of a dictator who takes action on a whim, people will revolt against him and he will be left with no choice but to rule them with an iron fist.

Actually, he could do that too. But, it will become incredibly difficult for Shen Li to rule after he is gone. It was her dowry who actually ended this war in a jiffy. How could the same war create problems for her in the future?

Hence, Mark tried his best to act like a Monarch who could justify his sentences with proper reasoning.

As he meditated in silence, the tense atmosphere made everyone trouble to even breathe.

They see that their Chancellor is quite angry, and at such a moment, they will only face his wrath if they try to cause any disturbance. Forget about talking, they didn't even murmur on the topic. All maintained silence as if they were mourning for the dead.

20 minutes passed away like a year in silence, which was finally broken by the sounds of the footsteps of the entry of an old man whose beard almost touched the floor.

He wasn't just simply old. He was super old. Freckles could be seen all over his face, and his skeleton could be seen through his thin-muscle-less skin. Even his life force aura is very low. If one has to point it out briefly, one could say that he looks like he could die at any moment.

Such a person slowly made his way to the center of the room, standing in the place where Bai Lianhu stood around half an hour ago.

"Your Majesty," The man bowed. Unlike his appearance, his bow was quite smooth, indicating his good health status. Most importantly, Mark could also sense that this fellow is in Supreme realm.

"Arise."

"Your name?"

"Qi Feng, Your Majesty."

"Oh, how are you related to the royal family?"

"My brother was the 61st King of the Qi Dynasty, Your Majesty."

"And Qi Tianchen is..."

"He is the 67th King, Your Majesty."

"Oh, I see."

Once the brief introduction was over, Mark opened up the topic, pointing at King Qi, "I heard that you prophesized about the doom of the Qi Dynasty."

Qi Feng glanced at King Qi and bowed, "It is correct, Your Majesty. It was my last divination as the Royal Diviner. The Heavens showed me that King Qi's child would become the doom of this kingdom. He would be responsible for millions of deaths."

"How he would cause such disaster?" Mark asked, leaning forward while placing one of his arms on his knee. Qi Feng shook his head while looking down at the floor, "Divinations and prophecies are the secrets of Heaven, Your Majesty. We diviners can only peek at those secrets for a moment, not see the entire event."

"So, what you have seen is nothing but a portion of the future," commented Mark. As Qi Feng nodded, Mark further said, "Then, let me ask you how sure the event you see is likely to occur."

Qi Feng slowly replied, "Hundred percent sure. A prophecy is called a prophecy because it is a destined event to occur in one way or another, Your Majesty. The greater one has proficiency in divination, the more one can see the details of the event."

"Earlier, you mentioned that you were shown by the heavens. Can you describe what you have seen? Don't tell me the outcome. Then, what scenes you have seen."

Qi Feng closed his eyes at Mark's request, going down memory lane to remember the scenes he saw 18 years ago.

With his eyes shut, he described the scene, "I saw a teenage boy standing at the top of this very palace, looking down at the city with a glowing dagger in his hand that has five-pointed star insignia engraved on it, which is Chaos Lord's insignia. Then I saw streets were filled with countless bodies. You can say everyone in this city was massacred. Then I saw King Qi floating in front of the boy. He seemed to be filled with rage. The child calls him father, and King Qi growls at him that if only he knew beforehand, he would have killed him when he was born during the most inauspicious time and murdered his wife. King Qi blames himself for being his father. He blames himself for falling into the ruse of attachment."

"Hmm... interesting. Then, let me ask you one last question. How are you so sure that this prophecy you have seen is something of a bad omen?" Mark questioned him the same he did to King Qi earlier. Pointing at King Qi, "How are you so sure that his child is the villain here and not Qi Tianchen himself? How are you so sure that Qi Tianchen was not blaming his son because the latter killed everyone, but it is because he was not willing to side with him and instead went against him?"

Qi Feng was taking a step back per each question put on him. Each question from Mark generated an illusion of an explosion in his heart, his heartbeat was rising at crazy speeds, his ether energy was running amok in his body, and he could only try to find proper logic to explain, which he couldn't.

Taking a long pause, Mark ended with, "How are you so sure that Qi Tianchen didn't misunderstand the situation then? If his son were the killer, your vision should show that Qi Tianchen was confronting him somewhere on the ground, not when his son was on top of the palace to look at the ruined city. Moreover, if he is a teenager, it is unlikely he would be the main perpetrator. So, he becomes a medium for the true villain, and if you take away that medium, do you think the true villain won't assign another medium for his plans?"

"Uhhh... Well..."

"Answer me," Mark hollered at once, displaying his anger and leaving the throne for the first time.

Qi Feng at once fell to his knees and kowtowed, "Please show mercy upon me, Your Majesty. I was unable to comprehend the entire event."

King Qi stared at him with a sharp gaze. The hatred was evident on his face, blaming his stupid prophecy for every bit of problem he was facing. If looks could kill, Qi Feng, who was facing such looks of hatred from several individuals in the room, would die a dozen times now.

Mark went back to sit on the throne and looked at King Qi, "Qi Tianchen..."

"Your Majesty." He came forward and cupped his fists with a bow. Experience more content on NovelBin.Côm

Mark said, "Now, you understand why I gave such a lighter sentence to your wife?"

King Qi knelt and cupped his fists, "Your Majesty is wise and divine; every decision demonstrates unparalleled foresight and insight!"

Mark then said, "Your blatant belief in an incomplete divination has strained your relationship with your spouse, which in return, became the reason for her betrayal, eventually leading it to the war."

"I deserve death, Your Majesty. Please punish me..."

Mark took another deep breath and spoke, "Alina, record my decree..."

As soon as they heard those words, every single official in the room went down to their knees, following the customs of the Leon Empire.

Chapter 618: Mark's decree; Birth of Shen Yi

"Since ancient times, the concubinage system was established so that a ruling lord could use his formal wives as a bridge to power and his concubines for the sake of relieving his emotional or physical stress.

Because of such a system, a ruling lord couldn't give the time his wives need and the love they should be given, and neither would they start expecting

Henceforth, I, Lu Zhen, as the Chancellor of Genesis Federation, hereby ban the system of concubinage on my land. If a ruling lord has existing concubines, he must marry all of them in an official ceremony and give them the status of a consort. They must be given all the rights that a formal wife should be given, including the right to bear his child and inheritance rights for their children.

Apart from the principal consort, all the remaining consorts would have an equal ranking regardless of their background and their time of marriage.

Love is something that cannot be forced. You can have a favorite woman in your life, but that doesn't give you the right to ignore your duties as a husband for your other spouses—providing for the family, maintaining harmony within the household, protecting the family, respecting your wife, ensuring the continuation of the family line through every wife, and providing support for your children's education.

Within 45 days of time frame, I want every noble lord to fulfill this decree. Those who fail to accomplish it would be subjected to punishment. And those who dare to send away or hurt their existing concubines in order to escape this decree would face appropriate charges and punishment."

As the decree was announced, with mixed feelings, everyone got up slowly, and when King Qi was about to do the same, Mark called him out, "Not you, Qi Tianchen. I have another decree for you."

King Qi went back to kneeling, and Mark announced, "I might have given you ample support on your conquest and took care of the final battle of the war, but it is your valiant efforts that conquer the entire south of Leon Empire. Keeping its geographical location into consideration, I declare you, Qi Tianchen, King Qi of Golden Eagle Kingdom, as the King of the Northern Plains (Bei Yuan Zhi Wang). And this title would be inherited by your successors for as long as your Qi Dynasty stands."

"King of the Northern Plains..." "King of the Northern Plains" "King of the Northern Plains."

Cheers erupted from behind, the officials hailed him with his title.

As the cheers died, King kowtowed and thanked Mark. The latter continued, "Whatever region you occupied in your conquest before my 15 robots joined you and paved the way for you to the imperial palace, that would be yours to claim. You have full autonomy over the new territories, but do remember that they are your people now, not the people of Leon Empire. Their well-being is upon your shoulders. As for the war prisoners, once your battle with Shi Chong is over, release them and let them return to their homes in peace, but their equipment is the spoils of war. You can keep them and use them how you deem fit."

"This humble servant is profoundly grateful for Your Majesty's boundless grace." King Qi's loyalty toward Mark grew by the title given to him and his descendants.

But then again, why wouldn't it?

Because of Mark, King Qi had taken his vengeance; his blind belief in the prophecy was gone, and he could now try to father a child, not just with Bai Lianhua but with others, too. Adding on top of that, it is a title given to his bloodline. Of course, the end of the concubinage system sure brought him a headache he couldn't resolve in a year or two, but what he got in return, he was more than satisfied with it. It goes without saying that of all the emperors and vassal lords he met or heard in his life, he found Mark to be very different. He never saw an Emperor who actively tried to empower women.

In the coming days, this historic decree caused waves, not just simple waves, but waves similar to a tsunami everywhere in the world.

A decision taken by a strong often impacts the rest of the world, too. And Mark is one of the strongest beings on the planet. Obviously, the end of the concubinage system in Genesis Federation has also seen similar demands from scholars in other Empires.

As for Shi Chong's battle, it wasn't worth discussing. He lost badly against King Qi and his limbs were crippled after destroying his cultivation. He was then released free and no one heard from him since then. Rumor passed around that he committed suicide and died.

Meanwhile, four of the five vassal states, the Jade Phoenix, Crimson Horizon, Lotus Moon, and Black Sun Kingdoms, agreed to be a part of the Genesis Federation. Only the Pearl River kingdom didn't agree to it, and instead, they formed a pact with the Qilin Empire.

The Kun Empire, too, bent its knee before Mark's hegemony, agreeing to merge with Genesis Federation and losing its Empire status. However, by agreeing to his proposal instead of going to war, they retained full autonomy in return. As they have friendly relations, to begin with, Mark didn't face much trouble in swallowing their territory.

Even Dwarves agreed to join on the condition of full autonomy and the promise that the land would forever belong to Dwarves, meaning there wouldn't be any human settlements. Mark didn't have any problem with it. He agreed to it.

Nine weeks from the battle for justice, except for the Qilin Empire and Pearl River kingdom, the entire continent of Vermillion Bird became Genesis Federation. As for the governance of the former Leon Empire, the four vassal states retained partial autonomy and their land. The rest of the Leon Empire was broken into two regions, The Eastern Leon kingdom, and the Western Leon kingdom.

Mark gave away the Eastern Leon kingdom to Shi En and his Church of Nuwa as promised. And the Western Leon kingdom was given to Shang Bo, his half-brother and the head of NET, the greatest intelligence operative agency in the world.

As for the sixth prince and the former Emperor's grandson, he was found by the space station scanner and was killed by Alina in secret during a meeting he had with his loyal retainers to plan for the revival of the dynasty. His retainers were also assassinated at the same time. The sixth prince was killed, not because he was a prince of the Shi Dynasty or something. but it is because he was the one who advised Allen/Xie Tianyu to attack his factory.

The event served as a reminder for any forces that have ill intentions.

In the meantime, the official envoy returned to Vienna City to release the Silver Legion from their imprisonment. Mark released them too but after taking 10 million gold coins as compensation. After that, he didn't bother them.

Emperor Tang didn't see any aggression from Mark, who was on vacation at Lunaris City of Western Moon Kingdom, and he took it as if everything was settled between them, not properly understanding Mark's character. Mark always settles his grudges, however late they may be.

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Eventually, the day when Shen Ling goes into labor arrives. Mark, Song Yue, and their 15-month-old son were all staying as guests at the palace.

As the time of the hour arrived, Song Yue accompanied Shen Ling with other women relatives of the family and maids, except for Shen Ling's own mother who was exiled a couple of years ago.

Her screams started getting louder and Mark couldn't help but pace back and forth, outside the door in the hallway in worry. Little Lu Shan was just watching his dad. His eyes moved left and right.

As a piercing loud scream, followed by the baby's cries, erupted from the room, Mark halted his footsteps and rushed to the door but stopped himself from opening it and stood outside in patience until Song Yue walked outside with the crying baby wrapped in robes.

As he took over the baby girl in his arms, her crying stopped, and curiously observed him as if she was acting earlier, exhibiting similar behavior as her brother, "ungyaa..." She waved her hands with all smiles, trying to reach his face.

Mark couldn't help but giggle as he neared his face to her. As she grabbed one of his cheeks and widened her mouth even more, Mark felt something tugging his pants. He glanced down at his son, who was looking at him. "Baba... I want to see sister." He raised his little hands, asking his dad.

"My little pumpkin..." Song Yue lifted him and let him see her face. "Oh... she is so tiny." His eyes lit up and his hands stretched toward her.

The baby girl also turned her attention to the baby boy on the left. As she looked at him, Lu Shan poked her cheek and giggled. The others around laughed together at the adorable scene. But just then, her expression changed to a look of surprise, and sparks of electricity emitted from her body, releasing a torrent of electric current into the surroundings.

"Aahhh..." Lu Shan yelped in surprise, involuntarily retracting his little hand with a bruise on the top of his index finger while the baby girl started crying for some reason, zapping her own father who was carrying her.

"Xiao Lu..." Song Yue also took a step away from Mark and looked at her son's finger in worry.

"Oh, look at my little thunderstorm! Did you just give Daddy a zap? Are you trying to teach me a lesson? Shh, shh, it's okay, my tiny lightning bolt, no need to cry..." Bathing in the torrent of electricity the little baby was continuously releasing her for the first time, Mark cooed her, patting her body and trying to calm her, "Baba's here; no one's mad. We're all safe. You're my powerful princess, but let's save those zaps for when you're older, okay? Shh... shh..."

Song Yue: "..."

Everyone: "..."

Chapter 619: Family, promises, and dreams

Everyone was just appalled by Mark's playful tone and speaking to the baby. King Shen couldn't help but become happier as he watched the scene. Even Song Yue was taken aback as she didn't see him talking in the same way to Lu Shan, ever. Well, he did show his love and use his playful tone from time to time, but not to this level. The current scenario was a little bit too for even her.

Mark, meanwhile, forgot his surroundings for a moment and continued to calm her down. Once she calmed down and fell asleep due to exhaustion, he finally paid attention to the boy in the arms of Song Yue. He reached out to his hand and looked at the bruise, "You're hurt, son?" As Lu Shan shook his head and said, "She didn't like me?" Mark shook his head, "It's just the chaos energy. Your sister was just afraid."

"Chaos energy, what is it?" Lu Shan tilted his head in wonder. Mark didn't say it but gazed at Song Yue as if he was asking for an explanation.

Song Yue hurriedly changed the topic, "Nothing, you stay here with Dad. Your sister needs sleep."

She kept him down and took the baby girl from Mark's hands in a hurry, returning to the room to put her beside an exhausted Shen Ling.

Mark handed him to King Shen, who missed his opportunity to hold his only granddaughter, and before he voiced it out, he was given the baby boy and Mark followed her into the room. There's blood all over the mattress and some on the floor. Her life force looked quite weak.

"Lord Lu, please wait for a while."

"Markie... why are you here? Go outside..."

"We need to talk," Mark said to her.

"We will talk later. You go," Song Yue proceeded to sit beside Shen Ling. Mark stared at her for a few seconds before the maids once again requested him to leave and he could only turn around to leave the room.

After a while, Song Yue was seen searching for Mark all over the palace while the rest were waiting in the dining hall.

In the end, she found him in Shen Ling's room, sitting before the crib and watching the baby while Shen Ling was sleeping. The maids pretty much stood outside like guards but as silent as a robot, not even moving from their spot.

"Markie..." As she called him out, Mark put his finger on his lips, "Shhh... don't shout. Emilia's sleeping." He spoke in a hushed tone, going back to watching her with all smiles.

Song Yue approached him and whispered, "You are now really been acting creepy, now."

Mark blinked twice in surprise, looking at her, "What do you mean by creepy? I was just watching my lovely daughter, you know." His face became sadder as he turned to look at the baby, "soon, I would be leaving her. If she is anything like Xiao Shan, I will miss her first walk, her first words, well... sigh... who knows how long it will be. A month, two months, or even a year?" Stay tuned to NovelBin.Côm

Song Yue's expression also dimmed upon hearing those words, feeling bad to call it creepy earlier. She hugged his arm and spoke in a hushed tone, too, in order not to make noise, "Why don't you forget it and just settle down? You even found your brother."

Mark shook his head, "No, I can't. Anan is also our family. I have to go and bring him back. And I made a promise to Grand-uncle. I would have to take him too."

"But, Anan has gone to his real family. Yes, we faced a loss, but if you go to that place and fight a war, I'm afraid there would be consequences. And isn't your dream to actually have a peaceful life without intending to fight for your survival or revenge or anything? Well, you are almost there." As Song Yue worried about the outcome of his intentions to soon start his war against Golden Demon Cat, the self-proclaimed goddess of felines, Mark sighed again, softly caressing the baby girl's cheek, "I guess my dream keeps changing. Sure, we have peace at the moment, and as long as I stay here, I can keep trouble away from the rest of our lives, but we have to do what's right. Remember 3 years ago when I saved you from your house arrest? I was weak back then and certainly didn't have the strength to go against the imperial family. But I did it because it was the right thing to do, and of course, it was a request from Lin Xue, but that's another thing to worry about. Anyway, if I hadn't done that back then, we wouldn't have been together, and I would be still burning in revenge against my birth parents."

"Yeah, I guess a lot of our lives because of that one decision," Song Yue tightly hugged his arm with a smile, reminiscing about the past, before something clicked in her head and asked, "By the way, I wonder why do you call her Emilia? I think her naming ceremony will happen on the 3rd day of the birth, according to Shen Dynasty traditions. You can't call her by her official name as it would be considered a bad omen."

Mark replied, "Well, Shen Ling and I talked, and we decided that she would take after her maternal surname, and I can give her a pet name if I want. And you know, Emilia is my late mother's name from my previous life."

"Oh, great... Now I can't scold her if she ever done mischief, cuz I would be scolding my mother-in-law. You found a perfect way to pamper your little princess, Markie." "C'mon, my Schatz, she's only 6 hours old, and you are already thinking about her mischiefs already?"

"Well... you know... how kids are... And they grow up as the princes of the strongest empire in the world, and you know... she... she is also going to be the crown princess... and I don't think you will ever bring yourself to be tough with your little lightning princess... well... you see... where it goes..." Song Yue was trying hard to defend her comment with all logic she could find and Mark stared at her in sudden realization. "What?" She asked when he saw him looking at her strangely...

"Schatz, don't tell me you are jealous of Emilia?" Mark knew her more than anyone in the world and he doesn't need the support of an AI to figure that out either.

"Wha... What do you mean by jealous? Why would I be jealous of a little baby? She's also my daughter, you know... I... I... I..." Song Yue saw the constant stare on her face from Mark, and in the end, she looked away and said. "I guess I'm a little bit jealous." She was blushing in embarrassment for accepting the truth. "You always say that you love me the most, more than even our son, but I feel like I'm number 2 now. I don't know it's just... I know I'm crazy..."

"Well, I guess daughters are built differently for fathers, but hey..." Mark grabbed her face and said, as he looked into her eyes, "You will always be my number one priority, my Schatz." He went on kissing her lips. Song Yue closed her eyes and as they started kissing, they heard a groan and immediately separated.

Shen Ling's voice followed up, "You guys go and get a room. It's disgusting if you start making out in the same room while I and my baby are sleeping." Her eyes were still closed though.

"Oh my god... she is awake..." Song Yue whispered aloud.

"Yes, I am," replied Shen Ling with a groan, not moving an inch from the spot. "And Honey..."

"Yes?"

"You told me that our daughter won't have any unexpected powers like Lu Shan. She has lightning powers; her electric current burst is at least on the same level as a peak stage 3-circle. We will talk about that tomorrow. Now, both of them shoo off and let me sleep."

"Sorry" "Sorry"

Two days later, on the third day, the baby girl was formally named Shen Yi.

And one month later, in the same city of Lunaris, the grand banquet was arranged.

The Banquet was arranged by King Shen Niu, probably the most expensive banquet that ever happened in the Western Moon Kingdom, costing as much as 1,500,000 gold coins, which put quite a dent in the treasury.

And, it saw the appearances of all members of the Shang family except for the former second prince, Mark's immortal younger brother from past life and wife, all the vassal lords of the Federation, including Shi En, all super wealthy merchants from the continent, and even Lan Ju left his place as the guardian of Beast Continent and traveled halfway over the world for the banquet. However, there was just one person that was missing.

It's Sylvandria, who was supposedly also the godmother of Shen Yi.

All the adult guests arrived at the banquet one after another, although separated by their genders because of the kingdom's ancient customs, which Mark had to accept because they were family. Mark couldn't find her through the space station's third eye either because of her divinity, although he briefly knew that she was within a 100 km range only.

But, the time was running out and she didn't arrive as Mark expected.

Instead, an uninvited person suddenly made an entrance and Mark disappeared from the Banquet, making others wonder where he was.

He was with a hooded mysterious figure in the former mansion of Mark's, sitting in front of her. "So, what did you come for, Xin Rui, and what is it so urgent that you couldn't wait until the end of this Banquet?"

The hooded figure lowered it down to reveal her face, "Two things. One is to ask for a personal favor, which I will tell you about later. And second, I'm here to give you a warning." Turning grim-faced, she spoke, "The Behemoth is coming for you."

"Uhh... Who?"

Chapter 620: Threat of Behemoth

Before the creation, there was nothing but a formless and undifferentiated void that existed. No gods, no worlds, no time, it's literally nothing. Then, a cosmic egg appeared out of nowhere. When the egg hatched, Pangu and the Primal were born as twins.

Pangu and Primal worked together to then create the undivided universe of reality.

In the process, both of them perished together, and from Pangu, the material universe and countless souls were created.

And through Primal, two cosmic eggs, and the cosmic orb is generated.

The cosmic orb was later separated into the Orb of Chaos, the Orb of Creation, the Orb of Elementals, the Orb of Time, the Orb of Malevolence, the Orb of Cosmos, and the Orb of Divinity, scattered across the virgin universe.

And the two cosmic eggs gave birth to the Primordial Divine Beast and Primordial Demonic Beast, which only existed for a moment before the primordial divine beast separated itself into the divine mass of energies, which later transformed into various divine beasts such as the Celestial Dragon Yuanlong, Immortal Fire Phoenix, Blizzard Pegasus, Ouroboros, and many more over time.

On the other hand, the demonic mass of energies transformed into Leviathan, Behemoth, Tiamat, The Abyssal Krakken, Hellhound, etc....

For your problem, Leviathan and Behemoth were often considered twins because they were originally the same demonic mass of energy, but for some reason, instead of one like others, they were born as two. And both of them weren't born with equal strength either.

While Leviathan was born with true god realm strength, Behemoth was born with Elder God strength. It wasn't just that. Behemoth was so big that no world could accommodate it.

For endless of time, Behemoth travels all over the universe, swallowing worlds and suns to feed its hunger, without any match to challenge its strength.

Because of the threat it possessed, the gods had to separate their celestial realm, stacking it upon the other one where Behemoth would roam. Eventually, as situations arrived, other planes of existence were also built up one after another.

The mortal plane of existence is the largest plane of the universe, and it was so vast that not even Behemoth could consume a fraction of it even after all this time.

As it can cross through planes of existence too, it became the job of every guardian of their plane to intercept its path and send it back to the mortal plane in case of a cross over and Lord Yujiang would escort it to the worlds without any lives to fill its hunger.

As long as it is filled, it is happy. However, according to our lord, Behemot changed its direction a while ago and is currently coming straight to this place.

I heard that you slew Leviathan, although I still don't dare to believe that you played a major role. either way, it is likely that it is coming for you. You have roughly 10 years to protect your world. You might have defeated Leviathan with some help but not even deities dare to offend Behemoth.

Usually, it doesn't care because you know those beasts don't have any true death and would only go into hibernation to recover strength over time, but this time, it appeared to be different. Unless you reach the god realm during this time, which obviously is impossible, you and your world will be destroyed. The easiest way out of this trouble is to come with me to meet our Diety. Lord Ouroborus is really interested in you. If you become his apostle, your safety will be guaranteed.

"Hmm... I see why you think this is an urgent matter." Mark turned serious.

He was fully aware of his capabilities. The moment he heard that Behemoth could eat stars and was in the elder god realm, the very deities these major churches were all built for, Mark knew this was serious trouble. Now that he had a family and even two children to protect, Mark wouldn't overestimate himself either.

He thought it through, and then, suddenly, something clicked in his head, "You said cosmic orbs, and these beasts had the same origin. Do you think they could work against Behemoth?"

"Absolutely," Xin Rui firmly nodded in confidence. She explained, "As far as we know, you have Orb of Time in your hands. But, it won't be helpful in dealing with an existence like Behemoth. You need to have at least two of them and at least be in the Saint realm so that you won't die of life force depletion.

The best bet is The Orb of Elementals, which has been fused with the founder of the Tang Dynasty's body. If you kill him and take it for yourself, you could have a possibility, but it is next to impossible to kill him. Defeating him is another thing, but killing him... even Lord Yujiang couldn't do it back then.

The Orb of Chaos should have been here, but it disappeared. However, we sensed Chaos energy in your son and traces of it in your wife. I guess Lady Song would have been the previous host. Surprisingly, she was still alive even after extraction.

Anyway, the Orb of divinity is in the hands of the Jade Emperor. The Orb of Creation has been missing for eons. The Orb of Malevolence was sealed in the netherworld. As for the Orb of Cosmos, it has been in the hands of the Ancient Xie Clan for thousands of years and they won't lend it to you either.

Now, this is where my personal favor comes in. You need the Orb of Elementals to deal with Behemoth, and I need to enact my vengeance upon the Tang Clan. You know, as the new Priestess of Void Temple appointed to attend the affairs of the Tang Clan's court, I can help you from the inside."

"Hmm... that's an interesting proposition," Mark replied. He leaned to the front and then said, "However, you underestimate my abilities, lady. I was aware of the existence of the Orb of Elementals and I could also defeat him and take it if I want but do you know why I didn't do it yet?"

"Let me guess, you need competition or a rival or something?" Xin Rui raised her eyebrow. She couldn't help but feel that Mark was going to reject her proposal.

And then, Mark explained, increasing her worry even more, "It is because I don't have any enmity with him. And whatever issue he caused me in the past, I forgave him. I forgave the Dragon Empire for trying to abduct my wife to extract the Orb of Chaos because she wanted it that way. Now, if I kill him for the sake of obtaining the cosmic Orb, that would not make me greedy, but it would also give me all the reason for just committing atrocities against anyone I wish without needing any justification. I don't need to prove to the world but I need to justify my actions to my own heart."

Xin Rui got up right away in disappointment. She didn't get what she wanted by coming here, making a visit, and revealing to him the secret that her diety told her.

But then again, if Mark was too overconfident about his abilities, she couldn't do anything. After swallowing the advanced stat pill he gave it to her a long time ago, her realm was also pushed to the advanced stage of the 9-circle realm. If anything, he only helped her.

"In that case, I'll be leaving."

Xin Rui was prepared to leave, but Mark stopped her, "Wait. I'm not finished yet." "Hmm?" As she turned around, Mark raised his head to look at her and said, "Putting that all aside, a while ago, I gave a warning to Dragon Empire's envoy not to be involved in Leon Empire's business or else they would pay for the consequences."

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Xin Rui sat once again, suddenly getting the feeling of hope from his words, "But I heard Emperor Tang paid you compensation." She doesn't want to disappoint herself with a clear rejection in the end. Hence, she brought up the topic.

Mark shrugged his shoulders, "that was for releasing the prisoners. It had nothing to do with my warning. If I didn't do anything, some other emperor would intentionally offend me due to his overconfidence and upon realizing his mistake, he would offer me money to cool me down. Now, we can't have that, do we?"

Both of them smiled, understanding his meaning. She got up and gave a ninety-degree bow, "In that case, I thank you for the help."

Soon, Mark returned to the banquet while Xin Rui covered her head with a hood and went on her way.

Three days later, at the Dragon Palace;

Amidst the greetings of the officials of the court, Xin Rui, wearing elegantly-looking robes with the crest of what seemed like a serpent coiled itself and eating its own tail, engraved with threads of Mythril that made them glow, walked into the assembly and greeted the young Emperor with a bow, letting out an enchanted smile that made him fall into a daze for a moment.

"Xin Rui of Void Temple greets Your Majesty."

"Welcome," smiled Emperor Tang.