

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 601 The Bai Clan Gathers Its Forces[1,681 words]

Inside the secluded cultivation chamber, qi surged endlessly like a vast ocean.

Dense streams of qi revolved around Bai Zihan's body before gradually being absorbed into his meridians.

Ever since returning to the Bai Clan, there had been very few matters capable of truly disturbing him.

As for the Imperial Family, Bai Zihan merely had Kong Zhanhong keep an eye on the situation from the shadows.

Even after hearing the news regarding the Second Prince's conviction for murdering the Eleventh Prince and Thirteenth Princess before ultimately committing suicide within the Imperial Prison, Bai Zihan did not think much of it.

To him, the imperial throne struggle had little to do with the Bai Clan for now.

Knock! Knock!

The sound echoed from outside the chamber.

Bai Zihan slowly opened his eyes.

A faint ripple spread through the surrounding qi before the entire room gradually calmed down.

His brows furrowed slightly.

He had already given strict orders long ago.

Unless something truly important occurred, no one was allowed to disturb his cultivation.

Not even the clan elders were allowed to disturb him unless it was an extremely important matter.

Which meant something must have happened.

Bai Zihan slowly stood up before opening the chamber door.

Outside, a servant immediately bowed respectfully.

"Clan Leader!"

Bai Zihan nodded slightly.

"What is it?"

The servant quickly replied.

"Miss Bai Xueqing wishes to see you."

Bai Zihan raised an eyebrow slightly.

(What does she want now?)

Considering it was Bai Xueqing, it was no wonder the servant dared disturb him without explaining the reason.

Within the Bai Clan, Bai Xueqing's words carried almost as much weight as his own.

Not to mention, since she was his sister, if she said she wished to see her younger brother, who could truly stop her?

Even if it was for no reason, no one could.

Bai Zihan did not ask anything further.

He simply nodded before heading directly toward the Clan Leader's study room where Bai Xueqing was waiting.

A short while later, he pushed open the doors.

Inside, Bai Xueqing was already seated calmly.

Beside her stood a familiar figure.

Fei Ling!

The moment Bai Zihan saw her, his eyes narrowed slightly.

Her complexion looked extremely poor.

Her expression was tense and uneasy, as though she had rushed here in great haste and emotional distress.

Clearly, something serious had happened.

Bai Zihan walked inside calmly.

Then he looked toward Bai Xueqing.

"What happened?"

Bai Xueqing's expression immediately turned serious.

"Yu Longxuan attacked the Fei Clan. He brought experts, including Grand Elders from the Crimson Thunder Palace, and forcefully pressured the Fei Clan into submission."

Fei Ling clenched her hands tightly as Bai Xueqing reiterated what had happened to her clan.

"The Fei Clan already joined the Neutral Alliance..."

Her voice sounded slightly shaky.

"We never intended to participate in the struggle for the throne."

Her fingers tightened further.

"But I didn't expect Yu Longxuan to still make a move against us..."

Fei Ling bit her lower lip lightly before finally looking directly toward Bai Zihan.

For the first time since meeting him, her usual pride and confidence were nowhere to be seen. Only anxiousness remained.

"Junior Brother..."

Her voice softened unconsciously.

"Can you help us?"

The pleading tone in her voice caused Bai Zihan to pause briefly.

Looking at Fei Ling's current appearance, he almost wanted to tease her instinctively.

Unfortunately, this was neither the time nor place for such things.

The situation was already serious enough.

Bai Zihan's expression gradually turned calm once more.

Then he spoke plainly.

"Since the Fei Clan joined the Neutral Alliance, it is natural that the other members of the Neutral Alliance help."

"Otherwise, the alliance would become nothing more than a joke."

His tone was calm, yet it carried unquestionable certainty.

The moment those words fell, Fei Ling's tense expression visibly relaxed slightly.

Meanwhile, Bai Zihan slowly stood up.

A faint pressure immediately spread throughout the room.

"Pass down my orders. Gather all disciples, Elders, and Grand Elders who are not in seclusion."

Bai Zihan slowly clasped his hands behind his back. A terrifying aura faintly emanated from his body.

"I shall show them..."

His voice echoed calmly throughout the study room.

"What it means to go against me."

The moment those words fell, even the surrounding qi seemed to tremble faintly.

Fei Ling looked at Bai Zihan blankly.

Previously, if someone had spoken such words before her, she would have found them arrogant and unbearably pretentious.

But now, knowing Bai Zihan was saying it for the sake of protecting her clan, she suddenly found herself unable to feel that way at all.

Instead, her eyes unconsciously brightened slightly as she looked toward him.

For some reason, the uneasiness within her heart seemed to lessen greatly the moment Bai Zihan decided to move personally.

Fei Ling immediately cupped her hands toward him seriously.

"Thank you, Junior Brother."

However, Bai Zihan merely shook his head calmly.

"There is no need to thank me."

His expression remained indifferent.

"This is what I should do."

Meanwhile, Bai Xueqing had already begun passing down orders directly.

And very quickly, the entire Bai Clan began moving.

One after another, summons spread throughout the clan grounds.

All disciples, elders, and grand elders not in seclusion were ordered to gather immediately.

The moment the news spread, the atmosphere within the Bai Clan instantly became lively.

However, contrary to what one might expect, there was almost no nervousness.

Instead, excitement spread everywhere.

"Hahaha! Finally!"

"I was wondering when the Clan Leader would make a move."

"So who are we teaching a lesson this time?"

...

Many clan members looked eager rather than worried.

The clan's overall strength had undergone an enormous transformation recently.

Heaven-Grade Cultivation Technique!

High-grade pills!

High-grade artifacts!

The benefits Bai Zihan brought back had elevated the Bai Clan's foundation to an entirely new level.

Many elders and grand elders who had long stagnated had recently broken through one after another.

Even the younger generation improved at astonishing speeds.

Compared to the past, the current Bai Clan was far stronger than before.

The only problem was...

They had never truly tested that strength yet.

After all, very few forces within the empire dared provoke the Bai Clan nowadays.

And the few that did were either too cautious or backed away quickly after seeing the Bai Clan's momentum.

But now, the Clan Leader himself had personally ordered such a massive gathering.

Clearly, this was not some small matter, and their opponent should be quite formidable, which only made them more excited.

Very quickly, the Bai Clan entered a state of complete mobilization.

Streams of figures rushed across the clan grounds one after another as countless auras rose into the skies.

Within less than an hour, the Bai Clan's central plaza was already filled with experts.

Nearly everyone available within the clan had gathered.

At the very front stood nine Immortal Ascension Realm experts.

Nine!

Even among peak factions, such a number was already enough to shock countless forces.

And that was not all.

Among them were also several Earth Immortal experts whose pressure alone caused the surrounding space to distort faintly.

Compared to before, the Bai Clan's upper combat power had clearly risen enormously.

Although only two Immortal Ascension Realm grand elders had successfully broken through to the Earth Immortal Realm recently with the help of pills refined by the Mu Clan, it was still a lot considering that happened within a few months.

It is already very rare for such breakthroughs to happen even within 10 years.

The ones to break through to Earth Immortal were Bai Qingshan and Bai Yue.

Both had previously participated in the great war against the Demonic Forces.

With their addition, the Bai Clan now possessed a total of five Earth Immortal experts participating in this operation.

Bai Ren and Bai Chu were in seclusion. And there were two other Grand Elders who couldn't make it.

But they needed to be in the Clan to protect it, not to mention, the force gathered was already overkill.

Five Earth Immortals!

Nine Immortal Ascension experts!

Such a terrifying force...

Even if they intended to invade a powerful empire directly, success would still be highly possible.

Not to mention, their target this time was merely the Seventh Prince and his faction.

At this moment, Bai Zihan slowly stepped forward.

The originally noisy plaza instantly became silent.

Countless gazes gathered upon him simultaneously.

Bai Zihan's expression remained calm as usual.

Then he spoke briefly.

"The Seventh Prince attacked the Fei Clan. The Fei Clan is part of the Neutral Alliance."

"Yet he still dared pressure them into submission."

His eyes gradually turned cold.

"This is no longer merely a matter concerning the Fei Clan."

"It is a challenge against the entire Neutral Alliance and ultimately against us!"

The surrounding Bai Clan members immediately understood.

And after understanding, many of them instantly sneered coldly.

"The Crimson Thunder Palace? And the Seventh Prince?"

"Hah! Looks like they truly don't wish to live anymore."

"Daring to touch a clan under our protection..."

"Tsk! Tsk! I truly admire his courage."

Others looked even more eager.

Recently, everyone within the Bai Clan had improved tremendously.

But because no one dared provoke them, they had no opportunity to properly display their strength.

And now, someone had finally delivered themselves directly to their doorstep.

How could they not feel excited?

At the front, Bai Qingshan laughed loudly while releasing his newly stabilized Earth Immortal aura without restraint.

"Hahaha! Perfect timing!"

"This old man was just wondering who I should test my breakthrough on!"

Beside him, Bai Yue also revealed a cold smile.

"Hopefully the Crimson Thunder Palace experts won't disappoint us too badly."

Even the younger generation looked eager and battle-hungry.

The current atmosphere within the Bai Clan no longer resembled preparation for war.

Instead, it felt more like a grand hunting expedition.

Meanwhile, Bai Zihan calmly swept his gaze across the gathered experts.

Then he spoke one final sentence.

"Let's not waste our time then. Advance on the Crimson Thunder Palace!"

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 602 The Crimson Thunder Palace Trembles[1,804 words]

Inside the Crimson Thunder Palace, the atmosphere was completely different from the tense mood spreading throughout the empire.

The grand hall was filled with laughter and relaxed conversation.

At the very center, Yu Longxuan sat calmly with a faint sneer upon his face while several elders and grand elders of the Crimson Thunder Palace surrounded him.

Compared to before, his mood had improved greatly.

After all, the Fei Clan had already been successfully suppressed.

Although they had not completely submitted yet, the pressure placed upon them was enormous, and sooner or later they would have no choice but to submit.

One elder laughed coldly.

"Hmph! This Neutral Alliance truly thinks too highly of itself."

Another elder nodded in agreement.

"In the end, they are merely a group of clans trying to stay out of the throne struggle while still enjoying its benefits."

"They want neutrality?"

The elder sneered disdainfully.

"In a battle for the throne, how could neutrality truly exist?"

Several people in the hall laughed lightly.

Yu Longxuan also revealed a cold smile.

"Exactly!"

His fingers tapped lightly against the armrest of his chair.

"When great powers struggle for supremacy, those without strength do not have the right to remain neutral."

"If they refuse to choose a side, then they should prepare to be devoured."

His voice carried open disdain.

In his eyes, the Neutral Alliance's existence itself was ridiculous.

There had been many throughout history that attempted the same thing, but against the Imperial Family and the top factions supporting various princes and princesses, they were nothing more than symbolic resistance.

This time, only because of the Bai Clan did many princes and princesses not dare make a move against them, with the Seventh Prince being the sole exception.

Now, after successfully pressuring the Fei Clan, they felt there was little left to fear.

Yu Longxuan slowly narrowed his eyes.

The success against the Fei Clan had indeed emboldened him greatly.

Originally, he still feared the Bai Clan's possible reaction.

But now, several days had already passed without any movement from the Bai Clan.

They received neither warnings nor threats, which Yu Longxuan interpreted as exactly what he had expected.

The Bai Clan truly did not wish to openly clash with the Crimson Thunder Palace over a mere First-Rate Clan.

And to him, his choice has been correct.

Otherwise, if he remained passive while the others continued expanding their influence, he would eventually be devoured first.

Thinking about this, Yu Longxuan's confidence grew even further.

"If things continue smoothly..."

He spoke slowly.

"Then after the Fei Clan, we can continue pressuring the other clans we initially targeted."

A cold smile appeared on his face.

"By then, hmph! My brothers and sisters who hesitated to act will regret it immensely."

Several elders immediately nodded.

Once enough clans submitted to them, Yu Longxuan's power would inevitably expand greatly once more.

On the other hand, the other princes and princesses were still wary of provoking the Neutral Alliance directly.

If they continued remaining passive while Yu Longxuan expanded aggressively, then eventually his force would be much greater than theirs.

Thinking this way, many within the Crimson Thunder Palace actually believed the Bai Clan joining the Neutral Alliance had become advantageous for them.

After all, it caused the other imperial contenders to hesitate while Yu Longxuan alone continued moving proactively.

However, just as the joyous atmosphere continued—

BOOM!!!

A terrifying pressure suddenly descended from the heavens.

The entire Crimson Thunder Palace shook violently.

Countless disciples' expressions changed drastically.

Several teacups inside the hall shattered instantly.

The smiles on the elders' faces froze immediately.

Then their expressions abruptly changed.

"Earth Immortal aura?!"

"And not just one!"

The grand elders of the Crimson Thunder Palace instantly stood up.

Their expressions turned grave because they could clearly sense several terrifying auras pressing down upon the sect from above.

Without hesitation, the Crimson Thunder Palace experts immediately rushed outside.

Yu Longxuan's expression also changed slightly before he quickly followed behind them.

The moment they stepped outside—

Everyone froze.

The skies above the Crimson Thunder Palace were already filled with figures.

An enormous army hovered in the air like dark clouds covering the heavens.

Countless Bai Clan experts stood proudly in formation.

Their auras surged endlessly.

At the very front stood five Earth Immortal experts.

Behind them were nine Immortal Ascension Realm cultivators.

And further back, thousands upon thousands of Bai Clan disciples and elders filled the skies completely.

The terrifying pressure alone caused the Crimson Thunder Palace's protective formation to tremble faintly.

The expressions of the Crimson Thunder Palace elders instantly changed drastically.

Even Yu Longxuan's pupils contracted violently.

Because this lineup was far more terrifying than anything they had anticipated.

At the very front of the army, Bai Zihan stood calmly with his hands behind his back.

His gaze overlooked the Crimson Thunder Palace indifferently.

As though he were merely looking at insignificant ants.

The moment Yu Longxuan saw the overwhelming lineup before him, his heart instantly sank.

Although he could not sense the Earth Immortals' aura clearly himself, he still understood one terrifying fact.

There were simply too many Immortal Realm experts present.

Not to mention the Great Ascension and Void Refinement cultivators filling the skies so densely that he could barely count them.

And behind them stood an enormous force of Bai Clan elites radiating terrifying pressure.

Such a lineup...

This was no mere show of force.

The Bai Clan had truly come prepared for war.

For a brief moment, genuine fear flashed across Yu Longxuan's eyes.

However, in front of so many elders and disciples of the Crimson Thunder Palace, how could he possibly reveal weakness?

His expression immediately darkened as lightning crackled violently around his body.

Then he stepped forward furiously.

"Bai Zihan!"

His roar echoed throughout the skies.

"What are you trying to do?!"

His eyes burned with anger and humiliation.

"Do you truly wish to start a war against the Crimson Thunder Palace?!"

The surrounding Crimson Thunder Palace disciples also became tense instantly.

Meanwhile, Bai Zihan merely looked at him indifferently.

His expression did not change in the slightest.

Then he finally spoke calmly.

"A war?"

A faint cold smile appeared on his face.

"You make it sound as though the Bai Clan was the one seeking trouble first."

His gaze gradually sharpened.

"Was it not you who attacked the Fei Clan? Was it not you who pressured a member of the Neutral Alliance into submission?"

Bai Zihan's voice remained calm, yet every word carried immense pressure.

"Now you ask what we are trying to do?"

He slowly took a step forward.

BOOM!

A terrifying aura instantly swept across the heavens, causing countless Crimson Thunder Palace disciples to pale.

"Do you truly not know what you have done? Or are you merely feigning ignorance?"

Yu Longxuan's expression stiffened slightly.

However, very quickly, the coldness within his eyes intensified once more.

Even now, he still could not fully suppress the pride ingrained within him since birth.

No matter how powerful the Bai Clan had become, he was still a prince of the empire and one of the contenders for the imperial throne.

Lightning crackled wildly around his body as he stepped forward again.

"Bai Zihan!"

His voice echoed across the skies.

"Do not forget who you are speaking to!"

"I am the Seventh Prince of the Yu Imperial Family!"

"You dare surround the Crimson Thunder Palace like this and threaten me openly?"

Yu Longxuan's eyes turned increasingly fierce.

"Do you truly wish to become enemies with the entire Imperial Family?!"

The moment those words fell, many Crimson Thunder Palace disciples regained some confidence.

That was right.

No matter how powerful the Bai Clan was, the Yu Imperial Family still ruled the empire.

Provoking the Imperial Family openly was practically equivalent to rebellion.

However, the next moment, Bai Zihan suddenly laughed.

"Hahaha..."

Then Bai Zihan slowly raised his gaze toward Yu Longxuan.

"A prince?"

His lips curved faintly. The tone in his voice almost sounded dismissive.

Then his expression gradually turned cold.

"Even if every force within the Yu Clan came here today, there is still nothing they could do to stop my Bai Clan."

The moment those words fell, the entire Crimson Thunder Palace became deathly silent.

Countless expressions changed drastically.

The fact that Bai Zihan referred to them as the "Yu Clan" rather than the "Imperial Family" instantly caused countless hearts to tremble.

Because everyone understood clearly what Bai Zihan was implying.

He no longer viewed the Yu Imperial Family as some untouchable supreme ruler.

In his eyes, the Yu Clan was merely another faction.

And perhaps...

Not even a stronger one anymore.

Such words could practically already be considered open rebellion against the empire.

Yet Bai Zihan showed no intention of retracting them.

Instead, he calmly continued.

"Yu Longxuan."

His eyes looked directly into the Seventh Prince's.

"Do you truly believe your status as Seventh Prince amounts to anything before me?"

Yu Longxuan looked at Bai Zihan, whose expression was completely devoid of emotion.

There truly seemed to be no difference in Bai Zihan's eyes between him and any ordinary cultivator.

Before Yu Longxuan could speak again, Bai Zihan's eyes turned completely cold.

"Either way, today, you will pay the price."

The atmosphere instantly froze.

The expressions of the Crimson Thunder Palace experts changed drastically.

Because everyone could hear the undisguised killing intent within Bai Zihan's voice.

At this moment, a middle-aged man in purple robes suddenly stepped forward.

The Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader.

Unlike Yu Longxuan, his expression remained relatively calm, though deep shock still lingered within his eyes as he looked at the Bai Clan's terrifying lineup.

Especially the five Earth Immortals.

Even now, he still found it difficult to believe the Bai Clan had developed to such a terrifying extent in such a short period of time.

The Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader immediately cupped his hands politely.

"Young Master Bai."

His tone was much gentler than before.

"I believe there may be some misunderstanding here."

The moment those words fell, Yu Longxuan's expression changed slightly.

However, the Sect Leader ignored him completely.

Because unlike the Seventh Prince, he could already clearly see the reality before him.

If the Bai Clan truly attacked today...

The Crimson Thunder Palace might genuinely suffer devastating losses.

Perhaps even destruction.

Just looking at the overwhelming force gathered above them was already enough to make one's scalp numb.

The Sect Leader continued calmly.

"The matter regarding the Fei Clan can still be discussed. There is no need for both sides to escalate things to this extent."

His attitude was extremely cautious.

Because he understood one thing very clearly now.

The current Bai Clan was no longer a force the Crimson Thunder Palace could casually offend anymore.

'Just when did they become so scary?'

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan!

Chapter 603 Amusement for the Strong, Despair for the Weak[1,865 words]

Fei Ling silently watched everything unfold beside Bai Xueqing.

Even now, her emotions still felt somewhat unreal.

Just a few days ago, the Crimson Thunder Palace had descended upon the Fei Clan with overwhelming pressure.

At that time, the Seventh Prince and the Crimson Thunder Palace had acted incomparably arrogantly.

Completely dismissive of the Fei Clan.

In their eyes, the Fei Clan seemed no different from prey waiting to be devoured.

Even her father, the Fei Clan Leader, had been forced into an extremely passive position beneath their pressure.

Yet now, those same people who once looked down upon the Fei Clan with disdain no longer possessed that arrogance.

The Crimson Thunder Palace elders' expressions were stiff and uneasy.

Even the Sect Leader himself was lowering his posture and attempting to negotiate carefully.

As for Yu Longxuan, although he still tried maintaining a fierce appearance, anyone could see the fear hidden beneath his expression.

Seeing this scene, Fei Ling suddenly felt a deep sense of satisfaction rise within her heart.

Especially when she recalled how oppressive and arrogant the Crimson Thunder Palace had acted within the Fei Clan.

Now that same pressure was being returned to them several times over.

Beside her, Bai Xueqing merely smiled faintly.

At this moment, Bai Zihan looked indifferently toward the Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader.

Then he scoffed.

"A misunderstanding?"

The Sect Leader's expression stiffened slightly.

Bai Zihan's eyes gradually turned colder.

"You should have already thought about that before attacking the Fei Clan."

His voice echoed calmly across the skies.

"The moment you laid your hands upon a member of the Neutral Alliance, you had already made your choice."

Previously, Bai Zihan would not have cared much about conflicts between clans and sects.

However, he had intentionally joined the Neutral Alliance precisely to prevent those clans that wished to avoid the throne struggle from being forcefully dragged into it.

After all, if the entire empire descended into civil war, outside forces would inevitably benefit from the chaos.

That was something Bai Zihan wished to avoid.

Yet these people had clearly not taken him seriously and still dared to make such a move.

Not only were they disregarding him openly, they were also interfering with his plans.

If he failed to teach them a proper lesson today, then the other princes and princesses would likely begin doing the same thing soon enough.

BOOM!

The pressure surrounding the Bai Clan instantly intensified once more.

Many Crimson Thunder Palace disciples immediately turned pale.

Then Bai Zihan slowly continued.

"It is time for you to face the consequences of that choice."

Bai Zihan stood calmly in the skies with his hands behind his back.

His indifferent gaze slowly swept across the faces of the Crimson Thunder Palace experts.

Fear!

Regret!

Their earlier confidence had already vanished completely.

Unfortunately for them, there was no medicine for regret in this world.

Then Bai Zihan finally raised his hand slightly.

That simple gesture immediately caused the Bai Clan experts' eyes to brighten sharply.

Because they had already waited long enough.

"Attack!"

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Terrifying auras erupted throughout the heavens instantly.

The Bai Clan moved almost simultaneously.

Streams of light shot across the skies as countless attacks descended toward the Crimson Thunder Palace like a heavenly catastrophe.

The expressions of the Crimson Thunder Palace experts changed drastically.

"Activate the formation immediately!"

The Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader roared furiously.

RUMBLE!

A massive defensive formation instantly rose from the sect grounds.

Countless runes illuminated the skies as a gigantic barrier enveloped the entire Crimson Thunder Palace.

A Grade-6 Defensive Formation!

Even Immortal Realm experts would find it difficult to break through quickly.

The Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader's expression remained extremely grave.

Although he knew the formation could not withstand the Bai Clan forever, it should at least buy them several hours.

That would be enough time.

Enough time to think of a solution.

Enough time to contact reinforcements.

And perhaps, enough time for the Li-Zhao Alliance to make their move.

After all, the Bai Clan had mobilized nearly all their high-level experts here—or so he believed.

If the Li and Zhao Clans seized this opportunity to attack the Bai Clan estate directly, the Bai Clan might be forced to retreat.

The Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader's mind rapidly calculated various possibilities.

However—

CRACK!

A sharp cracking sound suddenly echoed throughout the heavens.

The Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader's expression froze instantly.

"What?!"

Before anyone could react—

SHATTER!!!

The entire defensive barrier trembled violently.

Massive cracks spread across it at terrifying speed.

Then, under the horrified gazes of countless Crimson Thunder Palace disciples, the Grade-6 Formation exploded apart completely.

It shattered after only a few attacks.

The terrifying shockwaves swept across the skies as fragments of spiritual light scattered everywhere.

At the very front, several Bai Clan Grand Elders slowly lowered their hands calmly.

Their expressions looked almost disappointed.

"That's it?"

"I thought a Grade-6 Formation would at least last a little longer."

"Tsk! Tsk! It seems this is going to be another boring fight."

...

Meanwhile, the Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader stood completely stunned.

His mind nearly went blank.

This was a Grade-6 Formation!

A formation capable of resisting Immortal Realm experts!

Yet it had only endured a few attacks before collapsing completely?!

At this moment, countless Crimson Thunder Palace disciples finally began feeling true despair.

"Don't panic! Fight back!"

The Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader gritted his teeth as he gave out the command.

The Crimson Thunder Palace disciples also knew they had no choice but to clash with the Bai Clan.

And clash they did.

The instant the formation shattered, the Bai Clan descended like a raging tide.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Explosions erupted throughout the Crimson Thunder Palace as streams of spiritual light collided violently across the skies.

Cries of battle echoed everywhere.

However, this was not a battle fought on equal footing.

It was complete one-sided suppression.

The gap between the two sides was simply too enormous.

The Bai Clan disciples were stronger.

Their cultivation realms were much higher.

Their cultivation techniques were vastly superior.

Even the artifacts in their hands far surpassed those of the Crimson Thunder Palace.

Many Crimson Thunder Palace disciples quickly discovered a horrifying reality.

Their attacks could barely penetrate the Bai Clan disciples' defenses.

Meanwhile, every strike from the Bai Clan carried terrifying destructive force.

THUD!

A Crimson Thunder Palace elder was blasted backward by a single punch from a Bai Clan elder.

His protective artifact shattered instantly as blood sprayed from his mouth.

Before he could stabilize himself—

SWOOSH!

A Bai Clan disciple suddenly appeared before him while holding a High Profound Grade spear artifact.

The disciple grinned coldly.

"Is this all the Crimson Thunder Palace amounts to?"

BOOM!

The spear slammed down mercilessly, sending the elder crashing into the ground below.

Elsewhere, several Crimson Thunder Palace disciples joined forces to attack a Bai Clan young expert.

Lightning techniques exploded wildly.

Yet the Bai Clan disciple merely sneered before raising the sword in his hand.

A dazzling sword light swept across the skies instantly.

RIPPPP!

All of the incoming attacks were destroyed immediately.

The Crimson Thunder Palace disciples' expressions changed drastically.

"What?!"

Before they could retreat—

BOOM!

The sword qi exploded through their defenses and sent all of them flying while coughing blood.

The Bai Clan disciple clicked his tongue disdainfully.

"You people should take this more seriously."

His eyes turned cold.

"Otherwise, you'll all die here today."

Similar scenes unfolded everywhere throughout the battlefield.

The Crimson Thunder Palace experts were steadily pushed backward.

Many disciples had already begun feeling despair because the Bai Clan was simply too terrifying.

Meanwhile, the Bai Clan members became increasingly excited as the battle continued.

"Hahaha! Is this the Crimson Thunder Palace? A top sect? Bah! More like a weak sect that only knows how to bully weaker clans."

"Don't say that, brother. Aren't we also bullying a weak sect right now? Haha... "

"I thought you people were stronger than this!"

...

While the disciples' battlefield already looked one-sided, the situation among the elders and grand elders was not much different.

In fact, the gap there was even more obvious.

Most Crimson Thunder Palace elders were merely in the Void Refinement Realm.

Meanwhile, many Bai Clan elders had already stepped into the Great Ascension Realm.

The difference in strength was overwhelming.

BOOM!

A Crimson Thunder Palace elder was sent flying backward after exchanging only several moves with a Bai Clan elder.

His expression was filled with disbelief.

"How is this possible?!"

Previously, while the Bai Clan was obviously stronger, they didn't think it was to this extent.

If in the same situation, the Bai Clan would win but this was their home ground where they have the advantage. Still, the Bai Clan easily suppressed them.

Not only were their cultivation bases higher, but their techniques were also far more profound.

Even their qi felt denser and more refined.

Many Crimson Thunder Palace elders were rapidly pushed into desperate situations.

As for the Grand Elders, the disparity was even more hopeless.

The Crimson Thunder Palace only possessed four Immortal Realm experts in total.

And among them, only one had reached the Earth Immortal Realm.

Compared to the Bai Clan's current lineup, the difference was simply too terrifying.

At this moment, Bai Qingshan suddenly stepped forward while laughing loudly.

"Hahaha!"

His newly stabilized Earth Immortal aura erupted without restraint.

Terrifying pressure swept across the battlefield instantly.

Then he directly pointed toward the strongest Grand Elder of the Crimson Thunder Palace.

"You're mine!"

The Crimson Thunder Palace Earth Immortal expert's expression changed drastically.

Meanwhile, Bai Qingshan cracked his neck slightly before grinning fiercely.

"No one interfere!"

His eyes burned with battle intent.

"This old man just broke through recently. I want to see exactly how strong I've become!"

Hearing this, several other Bai Clan Grand Elders merely laughed lightly and nodded.

"Fine."

"Then we'll leave him to you."

"Don't embarrass yourself."

None of them objected.

It was not because they underestimated the Crimson Thunder Palace.

Rather, opponents at the Earth Immortal level were not easy to find.

Especially for newly ascended experts like Bai Qingshan, such battles were extremely valuable for understanding their own strength.

Besides, everyone understood clearly that if the Bai Clan truly fought seriously with full force...

The Crimson Thunder Palace would likely collapse within minutes.

Just by looking at the battlefield below, it was already obvious.

The Bai Clan disciples and elders were not fighting with killing intent from beginning to end.

Many were clearly holding back intentionally.

Some even treated the battle like entertainment.

"Hahaha! Come on! Is that all?"

One Bai Clan elder laughed loudly while casually suppressing two opponents at once.

Another Bai Clan disciple intentionally waited for his opponent to unleash their strongest technique before casually breaking it apart with a single strike.

"So weak?"

"You people from the Crimson Thunder Palace should at least struggle properly."

Meanwhile, the Crimson Thunder Palace experts became increasingly desperate.

Because for them, this was a battle for survival.

Every second determined life and death.

Yet for the Bai Clan...

This entire war felt more like amusement.

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Novel Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! Chapter 604 When the Crimson Thunder Palace Collapsed

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan!

Only now did Yu Longxuan finally understand exactly what kind of existence he had provoked.

The Crimson Thunder Palace was losing.

No, it was being completely overwhelmed.

And the most terrifying part was that the Bai Clan clearly was not even fighting seriously yet.

Some were even laughing casually while fighting.

Others treated the battlefield like some kind of training exercise.

Even the Earth Immortal experts of the Bai Clan had barely made any real moves.

Yet despite that, the Crimson Thunder Palace was already collapsing rapidly.

This was no war.

It was a slaughter disguised as battle.

Yu Longxuan's face gradually turned pale.

Even if reinforcements arrive now...

Would it matter?

The Li Clan?

The Zhao Clan?

Other allied factions?

Yu Longxuan suddenly realized something horrifying.

Even if those forces truly came, they likely still would not be enough.

Because the Bai Clan had not even used twenty percent of their force. Others were merely watching.

And the Crimson Thunder Palace was already on the verge of destruction.

At this moment, Yu Longxuan's thoughts rapidly raced.

What could he do now?

Challenge Bai Zihan to a one-on-one duel?

With the condition that if he won, perhaps he could negotiate for the Bai Clan to withdraw.

But the very thought caused bitterness to rise in his heart.

Win?

Against Bai Zihan?

Impossible!

It had been impossible for him to defeat Bai Zihan back in the Ancient Ruin, and it was even more impossible now that the gap between them had widened further.

He couldn't even defeat Nie Fengzhuo, while on the other hand, Bai Zihan had reportedly defeated Nie Fengzhuo.

Then... capture Bai Zihan?

Yu Longxuan's eyes flickered faintly.

If they could seize Bai Zihan hostage, perhaps the situation could still be salvaged.

The Bai Clan would definitely be forced to negotiate.

But the moment that thought appeared, it was quickly crushed by reality.

Capture Bai Zihan?

How?

Just reaching him was already nearly impossible.

Around Bai Zihan alone stood nearly fourteen Immortal Realm experts.

Five Earth Immortals!

Nine Immortal Ascension experts!

Not to mention countless Great Ascension Realm elders surrounding them.

That lineup alone was enough to make anyone despair.

Even if someone somehow managed to break through all those experts...

Was Bai Zihan himself truly someone easy to capture?

The more Yu Longxuan thought about it, the heavier his heart became.

An indescribable regret slowly spread through his chest.

Why?

Why did he have to provoke Bai Zihan of all people?

Originally, he merely wanted to expand his influence quickly before the First Prince completely stabilized his control over the Imperial Court.

He only wanted to force several clans into submission.

Yet now, before he could even truly begin fighting against the other princes and princesses for the throne...

His own foundation was already being destroyed.

BOOM!

Another massive explosion erupted in the distance.

Several palace buildings collapsed instantly beneath the clash of powerful techniques.

Yu Longxuan's expression became uglier and uglier.

Not far away, the Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader was no different.

His face had already turned pale as he watched the sect he had protected for hundreds of years being dismantled piece by piece before his eyes.

The Crimson Thunder Palace had stood proudly at the peak of the empire for thousands of years.

Countless forces feared them.

Countless geniuses dreamed of joining them.

Yet now...

A single clan was crushing them so thoroughly that they could barely resist.

The Sect Leader's heart trembled increasingly the longer he watched.

Everything the Crimson Thunder Palace previously knew about the Bai Clan had been completely wrong.

At this moment, the Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader no longer had any thoughts of resisting.

His only remaining thought was survival.

Without hesitation, he immediately cupped his hands toward Bai Zihan high in the skies.

"Clan Leader Bai!"

His voice echoed anxiously across the battlefield.

"The Crimson Thunder Palace admits its mistakes! We are willing to compensate the Fei Clan!"

"We are willing to apologize and swear we will never make a move against them again. Please show mercy!"

His voice carried genuine panic now.

However, Bai Zihan merely glanced at him briefly.

Then he ignored him completely.

Bai Zihan no longer cared about negotiation.

The Bai Clan had already given enough chances previously.

Yet the Crimson Thunder Palace still chose to test his bottom line.

Now they would naturally have to pay the price.

Bai Zihan's gaze remained cold.

This battle would also serve as a warning to others.

Anyone who dared disregard his words would face consequences.

And until Bai Zihan was satisfied, he would not let the Crimson Thunder Palace off so easily.

BOOM!

A terrifying shockwave suddenly erupted high above the battlefield.

Everyone's attention instinctively turned toward the clash between the Earth Immortal experts.

At this moment, the Crimson Thunder Palace Earth Immortal Grand Elder looked incomparably miserable.

His robes were already stained with blood.

Several defensive artifacts floating around him had already shattered completely.

His aura had become chaotic and unstable.

Meanwhile, opposite him, Bai Qingshan only looked increasingly excited as the battle continued.

"Hahaha! This is all an old Earth Immortal amounts to?!"

He had already used Fate Severing Slash once, and it had nearly killed the Crimson Thunder Palace's Grand Elder.

If he had not held back, there might not even have been bones left of him.

"UGH!"

The Grand Elder coughed out blood while being blasted backward thousands of meters.

His heart was already filled with disbelief.

This was impossible!

He had already entered the Earth Immortal Realm many years ago.

Meanwhile, Bai Qingshan had only recently broken through.

Under normal circumstances, Bai Qingshan should not even have been his opponent.

Yet now, he was the one being completely suppressed.

And the more they fought, the more horrified he became.

Bai Qingshan's qi was far denser and purer than his own.

Not to mention, the last technique Bai Qingshan used was terrifyingly profound.

The very same technique was rumored to have once slain the Half-Qilin during the war against the Demonic Forces.

He had not been entirely certain back then, but now, after personally experiencing the attack, he believed it completely.

Indeed, only such a terrifying technique could possibly kill a legendary beast carrying Qilin blood.

'Just where did the Bai Clan obtain such a terrifying technique?'

His heart shook violently.

A technique of this level should not even exist within the empire.

At this moment, Bai Qingshan casually waved his hand.

BOOM!

A terrifying wave of qi instantly shattered another defensive artifact protecting the Crimson Thunder Palace Grand Elder.

The old man was blasted backward once more while coughing blood continuously.

Then Bai Qingshan frowned slightly.

His earlier excitement had already faded considerably.

"This is it?"

His disappointed voice echoed clearly across the battlefield.

"Don't you have any trump cards?"

The Crimson Thunder Palace Grand Elder's face turned red with fury and humiliation.

Trump cards?

He had already used nearly everything he possessed!

Defensive artifacts.

Secret techniques.

Even his life-saving methods had already been forced out one after another.

If not for them, could he have even remained alive until now?

Bai Qingshan slowly shook his head.

"To think I was actually looking forward to this fight."

His tone sounded genuinely disappointed.

Earth Immortal opponents were not easy to find, especially for a life-and-death battle.

Yet the opponent before him could not even force him to use thirty percent of his qi.

Bai Qingshan sighed again.

"What a waste!"

Originally, he had been genuinely excited about this battle.

Yet this opponent before him could not even properly force him to become serious.

Bai Qingshan slowly clenched his fist.

Feeling the terrifying power flowing through his meridians, even he himself felt inwardly shocked.

Although he had already sensed the enormous changes after cultivating the new techniques and consuming the Mu Clan's pills—

Only now, through actual combat, did he truly understand how monstrous his current strength had become.

Compared to the Bai Clan's Earth Immortals, the Crimson Thunder Palace Earth Immortal experts were practically paper tigers.

Though both sides stood within the same realm, their actual combat power was completely different.

The Bai Clan completely surpassed them in every aspect.

The more Bai Qingshan fought, the more clearly he realized one terrifying truth.

The current Bai Clan had already begun walking down a completely different path from the other forces within the empire.

And the difference between both sides was only going to grow larger with time.

(I wonder which force in the Eastern Region can compete with our current strength?)

The situation across the other battlefields was not much different.

Everywhere one looked, the Crimson Thunder Palace was being completely suppressed.

Their disciples were retreating continuously.

Their elders were covered in injuries.

Even the Immortal Realm experts had already fallen into desperate situations.

The once lofty Crimson Thunder Palace now looked utterly miserable.

Bai Zihan calmly observed the battlefield from above, his expression remained indifferent.

However, after watching for a moment longer, his eyes flickered faintly.

If this continued, the Crimson Thunder Palace might genuinely be exterminated entirely today.

Under normal circumstances, Bai Zihan would not particularly care.

Since the moment the Crimson Thunder Palace dared challenge his authority and attack a member of the Neutral Alliance, they had already chosen their own fate.

But now was not the right time.

And right now, Bai Zihan still did not wish for the empire's overall strength to weaken too much.

At least, not before the true storm arrived.

Thinking this, Bai Zihan slowly raised his hand.

The next moment—

"Enough!"

His calm voice instantly echoed across the entire battlefield.

Yet despite not being loud, it carried unquestionable authority.

In a heartbeat, every Bai Clan expert immediately stopped.

No hesitation.

No complaints.

No one questioned the order in the slightest.

The battlefield, which moments ago had been filled with violent explosions and chaotic clashes, abruptly became silent.

Only the sounds of collapsing rubble and heavy breathing remained.

Then, under countless gazes, Bai Zihan slowly stepped forward.

His indifferent eyes landed directly upon Yu Longxuan and the Crimson Thunder Palace experts below.

Then Bai Zihan finally spoke calmly.

"Yu Longxuan! Crimson Thunder Palace!"

His gaze became colder.

"I wonder whether you have learned your lesson?"

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Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 605 Mercy at Fei Ling's Word[1,888 words]

The Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader's heart trembled violently.

Without even the slightest hesitation, he immediately cupped his hands deeply toward Bai Zihan.

"Yes! Yes!"

His voice carried obvious panic.

"The Crimson Thunder Palace has learned its lesson! We were wrong!"

"We should never have touched the Fei Clan nor challenged the Neutral Alliance!"

The Sect Leader lowered his posture completely.

He did not dare delay even a single moment.

Because he feared that even the slightest hesitation might anger Bai Zihan further.

And if that happened, The Crimson Thunder Palace might truly disappear from the empire today.

Meanwhile, beside him, Yu Longxuan's expression looked extremely ugly.

His fists clenched tightly.

His heart was filled with humiliation and unwillingness.

He was a dignified imperial prince who would become the Emperor.

Yet now he was being forced into such a miserable state before countless people.

How could he possibly accept this?

However, the moment he noticed the gazes directed toward him by the Crimson Thunder Palace elders and Sect Leader, his heart sank heavily.

Those gazes clearly carried warning and pressure.

At this point, if he still dared provoke Bai Zihan further and caused the Bai Clan to continue attacking, then all responsibility would fall entirely upon him.

The Crimson Thunder Palace would hate him completely.

If he was abandoned by his biggest backer then, his dream of becoming the Emperor would be as good as gone.

Yu Longxuan's expression twisted repeatedly before he finally lowered his head unwillingly.

"...I was wrong."

His voice sounded extremely strained.

"I should not have targeted the Fei Clan."

The moment those words left his mouth, it felt as though all the pride within his heart had shattered completely.

Meanwhile, Bai Zihan merely watched calmly.

His expression did not change at all.

Would he end things so easily just because of a few apologies?

"Hmmm..."

Then, unexpectedly, Bai Zihan slowly turned his head.

His gaze landed upon Fei Ling beside Bai Xueqing.

"Senior Sister Fei."

His tone sounded calm.

"Are you satisfied?"

Fei Ling froze slightly.

Clearly, she had not expected Bai Zihan to suddenly ask her directly.

For a moment, she genuinely did not know what to say.

Satisfied?

Originally, she would already have felt grateful enough if Bai Zihan had merely helped the Fei Clan escape the Crimson Thunder Palace's suppression.

But now, The Crimson Thunder Palace has nearly been destroyed entirely.

Its disciples and elders were covered in injuries.

Even its Sect Leader and the Seventh Prince stood there trembling in fear.

The once lofty and arrogant Crimson Thunder Palace had been crushed completely beneath the Bai Clan's feet.

What was there for her not to be satisfied with?

Seeing Fei Ling's somewhat dumbfounded expression, Bai Zihan seemed to understand immediately.

Then he calmly looked back toward the Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader and Yu Longxuan.

His voice suddenly turned cold once more.

"Kneel!"

The Sect Leader's pupils contracted violently.

Yu Longxuan's expression changed drastically.

Before either of them could react, Bai Zihan continued indifferently.

"Kneel before Senior Sister Fei and apologize properly."

His eyes gradually sharpened.

"If she is not satisfied..."

A terrifying pressure slowly spread from his body once more.

"Then the only thing awaiting the Crimson Thunder Palace will be destruction."

Many within the Crimson Thunder Palace felt extremely unwilling deep inside especially the disciples and elders who had suffered heavily during the battle.

Some looked toward Fei Ling with resentment hidden within their eyes.

After all, in their opinion, this entire calamity had indeed begun because of her and the Fei Clan.

If not for the Fei Clan joining the Neutral Alliance...

If not for Fei Ling asking for Bai Zihan's help...

How could the Crimson Thunder Palace have fallen into such a miserable state?

The Crimson Thunder Palace had lost all face today.

Many were feeling a deep resentment towards Fei Ling after Bai Zihan asked whether she was satisfied or not?

If she wasn't satisfied after all this, they can only say that her grudge is as deep as an ocean and she won't be satisfied until they were destroyed.

However, the moment Bai Zihan calmly uttered those words, everyone's thoughts instantly changed.

The meaning behind those words could not have been clearer.

Whether the Crimson Thunder Palace survived or not...

Would now depend entirely upon Fei Ling's satisfaction.

At that moment, the resentment within many people's hearts disappeared completely, replacing it with fear.

Because everyone understood clearly that Bai Zihan was absolutely capable of destroying them if he wished.

The Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader's expression changed repeatedly.

Then, without the slightest hesitation, he directly knelt.

BANG!

His knees smashed heavily against the ruined ground.

The sudden action stunned many disciples.

After all, this was the dignified Sect Leader of the Crimson Thunder Palace.

A peak expert who normally stood above countless people within the empire.

Yet now, he had abandoned all pride completely.

The Sect Leader lowered his head toward Fei Ling immediately.

"Miss Fei!"

His voice no longer carried the dignity of a sect master.

Instead, it was filled with nervousness and sincerity.

"The Crimson Thunder Palace was wrong! We were blinded by greed and arrogance!"

He quickly continued before Fei Ling could even respond.

"From today onward, the Crimson Thunder Palace is willing to fully compensate the Fei Clan for all losses!"

"We are also willing to assist the Fei Clan in every possible way! And I personally swear that the Crimson Thunder Palace will never again make any move against the Fei Clan!"

His voice became increasingly serious.

"Not only that, we are willing to protect the Fei Clan no matter what happens."

"As long as the Crimson Thunder Palace still exists, no one will be allowed to bully the Fei Clan again!"

The surrounding Crimson Thunder Palace elders' expressions twitched slightly upon hearing those words.

Protect the Fei Clan under their banner?

Previously, they had looked down upon the Fei Clan completely.

Yet now, their Sect Leader was voluntarily lowering their status before them.

However, no one dared object.

Because Bai Zihan was still standing there calmly watching everything.

Meanwhile, Yu Longxuan's expression had already become extremely ugly.

His fists clenched tightly beneath his sleeves.

Humiliation burned fiercely within his chest.

However, the moment he sensed Bai Zihan's indifferent gaze land upon him, his heart immediately trembled.

At the same time, the Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader and several elders also looked toward him anxiously.

Their meaning was obvious.

If he still refused now and angered Bai Zihan further, then the Crimson Thunder Palace might truly be finished today.

At that point, all blame would naturally fall upon him.

Yu Longxuan gritted his teeth so hard that faint cracking sounds could almost be heard.

Finally—

BANG!

He unwillingly knelt as well.

His expression looked incomparably ugly.

"...The matter regarding the Fei Clan..."

Yu Longxuan forced the words out slowly.

"It was because of the struggle for the throne."

His voice sounded extremely stiff.

"I was blinded by ambition and failed to consider the consequences properly."

The humiliation within his heart nearly made him cough blood.

Yet he still lowered his head slightly toward Fei Ling.

"I apologize!"

The surrounding atmosphere instantly became strange.

Countless people stared blankly at the scene before them.

A Sect Leader of a peak sect.

A prince of the empire.

Both kneeling before Fei Ling simultaneously.

Trying desperately to appease her.

At this moment, Fei Ling herself was completely dumbfounded.

Her beautiful eyes widened slightly as she looked at the kneeling figures before her.

Even now, she still found everything difficult to believe.

The Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader possessed status comparable to the Sect Leader of the Heavenly Sword Sect.

Someone she normally could only look up toward from afar.

As for Yu Longxuan, he was one of the empire's princes.

A figure capable of shaking countless clans with a single command.

Yet now, both of them were kneeling before her in fear.

Trying desperately to gain her forgiveness.

Fei Ling suddenly felt as though everything before her resembled a dream.

And deep down, she understood clearly, this was all because of one person.

Her gaze unconsciously shifted toward Bai Zihan standing calmly in the skies.

At this moment, Bai Zihan's expression remained indifferent from beginning to end.

As though forcing a prince and a peak sect leader to kneel was merely something insignificant to him.

(Thank you!)

Fei Ling silently spoke within her heart as she looked toward Bai Zihan.

Her emotions had already become extremely complicated.

Previously, whenever she looked at Bai Zihan, the first thing she felt was annoyance.

Especially because of his shameless teasing and flirtatious attitude toward her.

In her eyes back then, Bai Zihan was simply an arrogant and somewhat lecherous young master.

Yet now, that same person had personally brought the Bai Clan to stand behind her when the Fei Clan was at its most desperate moment.

Not only did he help them, he directly crushed the Crimson Thunder Palace and forced even the Seventh Prince to kneel before her.

Fei Ling had never expected Bai Zihan of all people would help her to such an extent.

And after today's display of power, she was absolutely certain of one thing.

At least during the struggle for the throne, no one would dare target the Fei Clan again.

Not unless they wished to end up like the Crimson Thunder Palace.

Thinking about this, Fei Ling's gaze unconsciously softened slightly as she looked at Bai Zihan.

For some reason...

The more she looked at him now, the more handsome he seemed.

Then Fei Ling's eyes shifted toward the kneeling Yu Longxuan and the Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader.

Both figures lowered their heads before her with completely different attitudes from before, especially Yu Longxuan.

If Bai Zihan were in her position, he would definitely never let such an opportunity go so easily.

At the very least, he would squeeze every possible benefit from them before stopping.

However, Fei Ling was still Fei Ling.

Although she felt satisfied and somewhat exhilarated, she still understood reality clearly.

The current situation existed because of Bai Zihan.

This was borrowed power.

And although the Crimson Thunder Palace and Yu Longxuan were kneeling now, they still possessed terrifying status and influence within the empire.

If she pushed too far, who could guarantee they would not secretly retaliate in the future once this matter passed?

Especially Yu Longxuan.

No matter what, he was still a prince.

Thinking this, Fei Ling slowly took a deep breath before finally speaking.

"This is already more than enough."

Her voice was soft, yet it echoed clearly throughout the battlefield.

The Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader immediately revealed an expression of relief.

Even Yu Longxuan secretly relaxed slightly.

Meanwhile, Fei Ling turned toward Bai Zihan seriously.

Then she cupped her hands gently.

"Thank you, Junior Brother."

This time, her gratitude was completely sincere.

Without Bai Zihan, the Fei Clan would likely have already fallen into despair by now.

At this moment, Bai Zihan looked toward Fei Ling briefly.

Seeing the complicated emotions within her eyes, the corners of his lips curved upward faintly.

Then he calmly nodded.

"Since Senior Sister Fei is satisfied..."

His gaze slowly swept across the kneeling Crimson Thunder Palace experts.

"I shall spare you once!"

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 606 The Uncontrollable Variable[1,577 words]

Every prince and princess immediately received reports of the Bai Clan attacking the Crimson Thunder Palace.

After all, during the struggle for the throne, each faction constantly kept spies watching one another.

Countless expressions changed drastically after receiving the news.

Some princes and princesses secretly felt relieved.

Fortunately, they had restrained themselves previously and did not rashly move against the Neutral Alliance clans.

Otherwise, the current situation of the Crimson Thunder Palace might very well have become their own.

Others, however, were shocked beyond belief.

None of them had expected the Bai Clan to go this far for the Fei Clan.

Launching a direct assault against a Top Sect over a First-Rate Clan?

Such behavior was practically unheard of within the empire.

Originally, many believed Bai Zihan would at most issue a warning or force the Crimson Thunder Palace to compensate the Fei Clan.

But instead, The Bai Clan directly mobilized their army and attacked.

Naturally, despite the shock, many factions also felt delighted inwardly.

After all, the Crimson Thunder Palace stood firmly on the Seventh Prince's side.

Seeing one of their rivals suffer such a devastating blow was naturally something worth celebrating.

Soon after, another piece of information arrived.

And the moment the various princes and princesses saw it, even the calmest among them nearly lost composure.

Fourteen Immortal Realm experts.

Five Earth Immortals!

Nine Immortal Ascension Realm cultivators!

The moment that lineup became known, the entire Imperial Family seemed to fall into temporary silence.

Not to mention, that not every Immortal Realm Cultivator was present like Bai Ren or Bai Chu. That meant what the Bai Clan brought out wasn't even their full force.

One clan possessed such terrifying strength?

Inside the First Prince's residence, the atmosphere had already become incomparably heavy.

Yu Zidi slowly lowered the intelligence report within his hand.

His expression looked extremely gloomy despite his takeover of the Imperial Court.

Looking at the strength of the Bai Clan, it is definitely almost invincible and there was no one who could compete with them in the Desolate Heaven Empire.

The more Yu Zidi thought about it, the colder his heart became.

If the Bai Clan continued developing at this speed, then even after he became Emperor, he might only remain Emperor in name.

The true authority of the empire might gradually shift elsewhere.

Thinking this, a cold light flashed across Yu Tiancheng's eyes.

"The Bai Clan..."

He slowly tightened his grip over the report.

"They absolutely cannot continue growing unchecked."

His determination to suppress the Bai Clan burned even stronger. No matter whether he would need help or not, he must have the Vermillion Pill Empire deal with the Bai Clan.

With the two Empires working together, he refuses to believe that he can't handle a single Clan.

Many people quickly received another report afterward.

The Crimson Thunder Palace had been defeated completely.

The Seventh Prince was forced to kneel.

The entire sect was nearly destroyed.

Although many were not surprised by the result after seeing the Bai Clan's terrifying lineup, their hearts still trembled once the outcome was confirmed.

However, some people secretly felt pity.

"What a shame! If Bai Zihan had completely destroyed the Crimson Thunder Palace or killed Yu Longxuan directly, it would have been even better."

Since that wasn't achieved, this meant that the Seventh Prince was still in the race for the throne.

Although the Crimson Thunder Palace suffered huge losses, they were still a Top Sect and many Princes and Princesses didn't have the power to compete even with such an injured force.

Still, regardless of personal thoughts, one thing became completely clear to everyone after this battle.

The Bai Clan could no longer be provoked casually.

Not a single prince or princess dared think of targeting the Neutral Alliance clans anymore.

Far away from the chaos surrounding the Crimson Thunder Palace, inside an elegant palace hidden beneath the quiet moonlight, the atmosphere remained calm and tranquil.

Soft incense drifted slowly through the room.

A beautiful woman dressed in luxurious crimson robes sat beside a jade table quietly drinking tea.

Her movements were graceful and refined.

As though nothing within the outside world could truly disturb her emotions.

This person was naturally the Ninth Princess, Yu Feiyan.

Or perhaps more accurately—

Qin Lingxiao!

A subordinate dressed in black robes knelt respectfully before her while reporting everything that had occurred at the Crimson Thunder Palace in detail.

From the Bai Clan's mobilization...

To the overwhelming suppression...

And finally, the Seventh Prince kneeling beneath Bai Zihan's pressure.

Only after the report completely ended did silence return to the room once more.

Yu Feiyan slowly placed her teacup down.

A faint ripple finally appeared within her otherwise calm eyes.

"This Bai Clan..."

Her voice sounded soft and thoughtful.

"They are much stronger than our previous reports suggested."

The subordinate immediately lowered his head further.

"Yes, Your Highness. Our earlier investigations indeed did not uncover strength at this level."

His expression also looked somewhat grave.

"Especially the number of Immortal Realm experts."

The subordinate hesitated briefly before continuing carefully.

"There are only two possibilities. Either the Bai Clan concealed their true strength, so much so that we were deceived previously Or their growth truly occurred within this recent period."

Between the two, they thought that it was more likely to be the former than the latter.

However, they also can't deny the possibility because of the Mu Clan who has recently broken through and is able to produce Grade-7 pills.

With their help, there was a possibility that the Bai Clan had become much stronger during this period.

But just Grade-7 pills weren't enough to make such a big difference.

After all, growth of this magnitude within such a short period of time was simply too terrifying.

Even with the Qin Clan's support, they didn't think that any Clan could grow as much as the Bai Clan did in recent periods.

Yu Feiyan gently tapped her fingers against the jade table.

Her beautiful eyes narrowed faintly.

Whether it was concealment or sudden growth, neither possibility was good news.

Because regardless of the process, the result remained the same.

The Bai Clan was becoming too powerful.

And unlike the other ambitious factions within the empire, the Bai Clan was even more difficult to predict.

Especially Bai Zihan himself.

Thinking about him, a faint smile slowly formed on Yu Feiyan's lips.

In the long centuries she had lived, she had encountered countless geniuses.

Peerless talents.

Monstrous cultivators.

Scheming rulers.

Even heaven-defying figures capable of shaking entire eras.

Yet Bai Zihan was the first person she genuinely found difficult to see through.

The more Qin Lingxiao observed him, the more interested she became.

Her beautiful eyes gradually deepened.

"Interesting..."

She softly murmured.

"Very interesting!"

The subordinate remained kneeling silently.

He did not dare interrupt her thoughts.

After a long while, Qin Lingxiao finally smiled faintly once more.

Qin Lingxiao slowly leaned back against her chair.

The faint smile upon her lips deepened slightly.

Originally, when she first arrived within the Desolate Heaven Empire, she had viewed this mission as little more than a simple task.

A remote empire.

To someone of her status and background, such a place should have been easy to manipulate.

Yet now, things had become far more interesting than she expected.

A trace of amusement flashed across Qin Lingxiao's eyes.

"Who would have thought..."

She softly muttered.

"That a remote empire like this could actually produce such surprises."

Her fingers lightly tapped against the jade table rhythmically.

Bai Zihan!

The Bai Clan!

The Mu Clan!

The increasingly unstable situation within the empire.

Everything was gradually moving beyond her initial expectations.

For countless years, almost everything around Qin Lingxiao had remained within her calculations and expectations.

Very few things could genuinely surprise her anymore.

Yet this time...

The Desolate Heaven Empire had unexpectedly become one of those rare exceptions.

Soon, however, the amusement within her eyes gradually faded slightly.

Her expression became thoughtful once more.

Then she suddenly asked calmly:

"When can Father send more people?"

Asking for reinforcements...

For Qin Lingxiao herself, this was already somewhat embarrassing.

After all, before arriving here, she had been completely confident in handling everything personally.

But now, the situation has changed.

If she wanted to continue operating silently without exposing her true strength too early...

Then she needed more support.

The subordinate lowered his head respectfully before answering carefully.

"It may still take some time, Young Miss. Patriarch Qin currently cannot move too openly."

His expression became slightly solemn.

"The other Great Clans have already begun paying close attention to our movements."

Qin Lingxiao slowly nodded.

Naturally, she already understood this clearly.

Which was exactly why the Qin Clan could not move recklessly.

Otherwise, once the other Great clans noticed something first, the situation would become troublesome.

After remaining silent briefly, Qin Lingxiao asked another question.

"Then how many people have already infiltrated the Desolate Heaven Empire?"

The subordinate answered immediately.

"Approximately 5!"

Hearing this number, Qin Lingxiao's beautiful brows frowned slightly.

Five people from the Central Continent have already infiltrated the Desolate Heaven Empire. That just means more variables have arrived.

After a long moment, Qin Lingxiao slowly exhaled.

Then she suddenly laughed softly.

"Looks like we'll need to speed up this stupid struggle for the throne."

Her beautiful eyes narrowed faintly.

"Otherwise..."

A dangerous glint flashed across them briefly.

"Others may end up reaping the rewards for my hard work."

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 607 The Third Prince's Offensive[1,521 words]

Within only a few days after the destruction of the Crimson Thunder Palace's prestige, the situation throughout the empire changed once more.

And this time, the one making the largest moves was the Ninth Princess.

Yu Feiyan's faction suddenly began expanding at astonishing speed.

One force after another fell beneath her control.

Third-rate sects.

Second-rate clans.

Even several First-Rate Clans eventually chose to submit.

Her expansion speed was so fast that it shocked countless people.

Unlike the Seventh Prince's previous methods, however, Yu Feiyan's approach appeared far more refined and efficient.

Almost all forces seemed to willingly join her faction after a single discussion.

They even seemed willing to throw away their lives for her cause, which many found strange.

After all, many forces that are forced to submit would naturally hold grudges against the prince or princess they followed, even if they outwardly obeyed.

And if the opportunity ever appeared, they would immediately flee.

Most of the time, they also would not give their full effort because, in the end, they were forced into submission.

However, the Ninth Princess's forces were different.

It was as though every one of them was ready to give everything, including their lives.

Such loyalty normally could not be achieved unless both sides had worked together for many years and built deep trust.

Naturally, many people also quickly noticed something strange.

Throughout all her expansion...

Yu Feiyan intentionally avoided every force belonging to the Neutral Alliance.

All of them remained completely untouched despite lying directly within several regions Yu Feiyan expanded through.

Others believed that the Ninth Princess wanted to avoid confronting the Bai Clan and ending up like the Seventh Prince.

But Bai Zihan knew that with Qin Lingxiao's abilities, if she truly wished to bring a clan under her control, she could easily make them willingly submit.

There would be no need to confront the Neutral Alliance directly.

After all, if the other party willingly joined her, then what justification could the Neutral Alliance use to interfere?

Yet she wasn't doing that.

Instead, she deliberately avoided the Neutral Alliance altogether.

Perhaps she wanted to avoid being targeted by the Bai Clan.

Or perhaps she wanted others to lower their guard by making it seem as though she feared the Bai Clan.

Despite that, her faction continued growing larger and larger.

However, what surprised many people even more was the reaction of the other princes and princesses.

Or rather—

The lack of reaction.

Originally, countless people believed the First Prince, Third Prince, or Fourth Princess would immediately move to suppress Yu Feiyan's rapidly growing influence.

Yet unexpectedly...

None of them did.

Instead, they also suddenly began expanding aggressively themselves.

The First Prince rapidly annexed multiple sects and clans loyal to weaker princes.

The Third Prince launched several swift offensives across the western regions.

It was as though the strongest contenders had silently reached some kind of understanding.

Rather than clashing against each other immediately...

They first chose to eliminate the weaker competitors.

And under the pressure of these monsters, the smaller princes and princesses quickly collapsed one after another.

Some were forced to submit.

Others abandoned their territories and fled entirely.

As for several unfortunate ones, even their fate became unknown.

Perhaps they had already died silently somewhere within the shadows of the throne war.

Within only a short period of time, the struggle for the throne had already entered an entirely new stage.

The weak were rapidly being eliminated.

And eventually, only five remained standing within the struggle for the throne.

The First Prince!

The Third Prince!

The Fourth Princess!

The Seventh Prince!

And the Ninth Princess.

These five had become the final competitors for the empire's supreme seat.

However, although the Seventh Prince still technically remained within the race, most people already believed he had effectively lost.

After all, the blow suffered at the Crimson Thunder Palace had been far too severe.

His greatest supporter had nearly been destroyed entirely by the Bai Clan.

Even now, the Crimson Thunder Palace still remained in recovery.

Their prestige had also fallen tremendously after being publicly crushed beneath the Bai Clan's feet.

Meanwhile, while the Seventh Prince struggled to recover, the other competitors had all expanded rapidly.

Compared to them, Yu Longxuan now looked increasingly weak.

And in the current situation, weakness itself was a crime.

Especially because despite his decline, the Seventh Prince still possessed many clans and sects beneath his banner.

To the other competitors, those forces were no longer viewed as allies of the Seventh Prince.

They were prey.

And among the remaining competitors, the Third Prince was the first to move.

Inside a massive camp, Yu Wenzhao calmly stared at the map before him.

Several regions beneath the Seventh Prince's control had already been marked clearly.

A faint cold smile appeared upon his face.

For a long time already, he had been eyeing Yu Longxuan's territory.

Especially because the territories controlled by both sides bordered each other closely.

Originally, Yu Wenzhao still maintained some caution because of the Crimson Thunder Palace's existence.

After all, he had once believed himself to possess the advantage, only to still suffer defeat.

That experience had made him much more cautious.

But now?

The Crimson Thunder Palace had already been crippled by the Bai Clan.

This was the perfect opportunity.

"How unfortunate for Seventh Brother..."

Yu Wenzhao softly muttered.

The current Seventh Prince no longer possessed the qualifications to continue competing equally against the top contenders.

Soon afterward, the Third Prince's forces officially launched their offensive.

One clan after another loyal to the Seventh Prince was attacked.

Some chose to surrender immediately after seeing the overwhelming pressure.

Others resisted briefly before being crushed.

Within only a few days, multiple territories formerly under Yu Longxuan's influence changed ownership entirely.

The Seventh Prince's faction began shrinking rapidly.

And the most terrifying part was that the other remaining competitors did not interfere.

The First Prince remained silent.

The Fourth Princess continued consolidating her own forces.

The Ninth Princess merely watched calmly while continuing her own expansion.

No one intended to help Yu Longxuan or stop the Third Prince.

Only the Crimson Thunder Palace remained.

Everything else beneath the Seventh Prince's banner had already been devoured completely by the Third Prince.

And now, the Third Prince's eyes finally landed upon the Crimson Thunder Palace itself.

Yu Wenzhao's gaze remained fixed upon the region occupied by the Crimson Thunder Palace.

Behind him stood numerous experts.

The pressure filling the hall alone was enough to suffocate ordinary cultivators.

Compared to before, the Third Prince's forces had clearly expanded tremendously.

Especially after annexing large portions of the Seventh Prince's territory.

At this moment, his side alone already possessed:

One Earth Immortal Realm expert!

Seven Immortal Ascension Realm cultivators!

And numerous Great Ascension Realm elders.

Such a lineup was already enough to crush most top factions within the empire.

Not to mention, the current Crimson Thunder Palace was no longer at its peak.

Under normal circumstances, Yu Wenzhao's current force would absolutely be enough to destroy the Crimson Thunder Palace completely.

However, Yu Wenzhao still did not act recklessly.

Because no matter how weakened the Crimson Thunder Palace had become...

An injured camel was still larger than a horse.

The Crimson Thunder Palace was still a Top Sect with thousands of years of foundation.

No one knew exactly how many hidden cards they still possessed.

Especially cornered beasts were often the most dangerous.

Yu Wenzhao had already learned that lesson once before.

He would not underestimate anyone again.

The Heaven Suppression Pavilion elder beside him slowly spoke.

"Your Highness, the Crimson Thunder Palace is already severely weakened. Most of their experts suffered injuries during the Bai Clan battle."

"If we attack now, victory should not be difficult."

The Heaven Suppression Pavilion elders were excited since this was a golden opportunity.

By defeating the Crimson Thunder Palace, not only would that increase their chances of winning the throne, but the Heaven Suppression Pavilion would also become even more powerful.

Perhaps by then, it might even become the number one sect within the Desolate Heaven Empire.

Thinking about that, many of them felt that joining the Third Prince had truly been the correct decision.

Yu Wenzhao nodded slightly.

"However, the Crimson Thunder Palace is already desperate. If we pressure them too heavily, they may choose mutual destruction instead."

Although the Crimson Thunder Palace was weakened, if a Top Sect truly fought desperately before destruction, even the victor would suffer heavy losses.

And right now, the throne war has already reached its final stage.

The remaining competitors were not easy opponents.

The First Prince!

The Fourth Princess!

The Ninth Princess!

At this stage, any major losses could become fatal later.

Yu Wenzhao slowly narrowed his eyes.

Thinking this, he slowly tapped the table.

"We will attack!"

His voice echoed calmly.

"But not recklessly. We will surround the Crimson Thunder Palace first. Cut off all their external support."

His eyes gradually turned cold.

"Pressure them continuously and only when they can no longer resist..."

Yu Wenzhao's lips slowly curved upward faintly.

"Then we finish them in one strike!"

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan!

Chapter 608 A Broken Throne Dream[1,581 words]

Inside the Crimson Thunder Palace, the atmosphere had already become incomparably oppressive.

Ever since the Third Prince began his offensive, attacks constantly erupted across the surrounding territories.

Although the Third Prince's forces never launched a full-scale assault directly against the Crimson Thunder Palace, everyone understood clearly what Yu Wenzhao was trying to do.

He was exhausting them slowly.

Like a predator cornering wounded prey.

BOOM!

Another explosion echoed outside one of the outer defensive regions.

Several Crimson Thunder Palace disciples hurried back while covered in blood.

"They retreated again!"

An elder's expression immediately darkened further.

Again!

Every single time, it was the same.

The Third Prince's forces would suddenly launch attacks from several directions, pressure them heavily, force them to mobilize experts...

Then immediately withdraw before a decisive clash could occur.

At first, many within the Crimson Thunder Palace were furious.

However, after several days passed, that fury gradually transformed into exhaustion and helplessness.

Because everyone knew the truth.

Yu Wenzhao was intentionally dragging things out.

And unfortunately, it was working perfectly.

The Crimson Thunder Palace had already suffered enormous losses after the Bai Clan battle.

Many elders were still injured.

Countless disciples remained mentally shaken.

Resources had also been depleted tremendously.

Under such circumstances, constantly remaining on high alert while facing endless harassment only worsened their condition further.

Yet despite understanding everything clearly, there was nothing they could do.

Attack the Third Prince directly?

That would simply mean walking straight into a trap.

Yu Wenzhao was obviously waiting for exactly that.

But if they remained inside the sect and continued defending passively, then their eventual defeat was inevitable.

A heavy silence filled the main hall.

Many elders clenched their fists unwillingly.

Their expressions looked incomparably ugly.

Everyone understood the current situation clearly.

There was no longer any way to turn things around.

However, no one dared say those words aloud because Yu Longxuan was still present.

The Seventh Prince sat quietly at the highest seat within the hall.

Compared to before, his entire aura had changed drastically.

The arrogance and confidence he once possessed had almost completely disappeared.

What remained now was exhaustion and bitterness.

For a long time, Yu Longxuan remained completely silent.

The hall was so quiet that even breathing could be heard clearly.

Finally—

Sigh!

A deep sigh slowly escaped his mouth.

Then Yu Longxuan slowly raised his head.

His voice sounded somewhat hoarse.

"Let's just surrender!"

The moment those words fell, the entire hall instantly erupted into chaos.

"Prince!"

Several elders immediately stood up in shock.

Even the Crimson Thunder Palace disciples widened their eyes in disbelief.

Surrender?

Those words had never once existed within Yu Longxuan's vocabulary before.

This was the same Seventh Prince who refused to bow even when facing Bai Zihan and the Bai Clan's overwhelming suppression.

Even when the Crimson Thunder Palace was nearly destroyed...

Even when he himself had been forced to kneel publicly...

Yu Longxuan still never admitted defeat.

Yet now, he was personally telling them to surrender.

The Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader's expression changed repeatedly.

"Your Highness..."

His voice trembled slightly.

Yu Longxuan slowly closed his eyes.

At this moment, he finally understood something clearly.

He no longer possessed any chance at the throne.

None at all!

Originally, even after the Bai Clan incident, a small part of him still believed he could recover somehow.

After all, he still possessed the Crimson Thunder Palace.

He still possessed supporters.

He still possessed influence.

But now?

Reality had crushed those final illusions completely.

The Third Prince was devouring his remaining forces rapidly.

And most importantly, the Crimson Thunder Palace itself was already broken.

Even if they survived this crisis somehow, they no longer possessed the qualifications to compete against the remaining princes and princesses within the throne war.

Yu Longxuan slowly clenched his fists tightly.

Blood dripped faintly from his palms.

Humiliation!

Unwillingness!

Hatred!

All of it churned violently within his heart.

Yet in the end, it all transformed into helplessness.

Surrendering was their only option.

At least, the Crimson Thunder Palace wouldn't be affected too much.

If they surrendered, Yu Wenzhao would not destroy the Crimson Thunder Palace.

He still needed the Crimson Thunder Palace.

For the remaining throne war, he required every bit of strength he could gather. So, if the Crimson Thunder Palace surrendered, he would merely force them to join his side.

Otherwise, if things were pushed to the extreme, the Crimson Thunder Palace could still resist desperately and inflict heavy losses upon him.

The Crimson Thunder Palace might have been crippled heavily, but it still possessed thousands of years of foundation.

There was simply no reason for him to destroy the Crimson Thunder Palace completely.

However, Yu Longxuan's expression gradually became colder.

It was a different story for himself though.

A faint self-mocking smile appeared on his face.

As long as he remained alive, he would always remain a potential threat.

Even if he had already lost the fight for the throne, no ruler would willingly leave behind a prince who could still claim the throne.

So, his fate would either be death or something worse.

The Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader's expression became extremely complicated.

He naturally understood that surrendering truly was the best outcome for the sect.

Otherwise, continuing this battle would only lead to destruction sooner or later.

But for Yu Longxuan, this decision was undoubtedly cruel.

After all, the moment the Crimson Thunder Palace surrendered, it would essentially abandon the Seventh Prince completely.

The Sect Leader hesitated briefly before asking solemnly,

"Your Highness... are you certain?"

Yu Longxuan remained silent for several moments.

Then he slowly nodded.

"I am!"

His voice carried exhaustion, but also resolution.

"There is no other choice left."

The Sect Leader closed his eyes briefly.

Then after a long silence, he finally sighed deeply.

"...Very well."

The moment those words fell, many elders revealed complicated expressions.

Some felt relief.

Others felt guilt.

But no one objected.

The Crimson Thunder Palace could still survive, but only if they surrendered now.

The Sect Leader slowly turned his head toward one of the Grand Elders standing nearby.

The Sect Leader cupped his hands solemnly.

"Grand Elder, I ask you to personally escort His Highness away from the Empire."

The Immortal Ascension Grand Elder fell silent briefly before nodding heavily.

"I understand!"

Yu Longxuan quietly watched everything unfold.

His expression became increasingly bitter.

Once upon a time, countless experts willingly gathered beneath his banner.

He believed himself destined to ascend the throne.

Yet now, he had reached the point where he needed to flee like a defeated dog.

The contrast was almost laughable.

But deep within his heart, another figure unconsciously appeared once more.

Bai Zihan!

Yu Longxuan slowly lowered his head.

If not for that battle...

If not for provoking the Bai Clan...

Would things really have ended like this?

Well, who knows?

The Grand Elder slowly stepped forward.

His aged face looked solemn as he cupped his hands toward Yu Longxuan.

"Your Highness..."

His deep voice echoed softly within the hall.

"We should leave now."

Yu Longxuan remained silent briefly.

Then he slowly nodded.

"...Alright!"

There was no hesitation anymore.

No anger.

No struggle.

Yu Longxuan slowly swept his gaze across the familiar hall one final time.

This place once gathered countless ambitious experts beneath him.

Everyone believed he possessed a real chance to ascend the throne.

But now?

Everything had crumbled completely.

Then without another word, Yu Longxuan turned and walked away.

The Grand Elder followed closely behind him.

Soon, both figures gradually disappeared into the deeper regions of the Crimson Thunder Palace.

Watching their departure, the Sect Leader slowly closed his eyes.

A heavy sigh escaped his mouth.

Then his expression gradually became firm once more.

Now that the Seventh Prince had left, it was time for the Crimson Thunder Palace to survive.

The Sect Leader immediately began issuing orders.

"All disciples are to stand down. No one is allowed to provoke the Third Prince's forces."

Numerous elders quickly nodded.

However, they still did not surrender immediately.

They needed to give Yu Longxuan enough time to escape far away.

If they surrendered right now, the Third Prince might immediately send people to search for him.

Catching him now would be easy.

But if an hour passed first, then tracking him down would become nearly impossible unless someone knew his destination beforehand.

Thus, another hour passed quietly.

Outside the Crimson Thunder Palace, the Third Prince's forces launched another round of attacks as usual.

Several experts descended from the skies while pressuring the outer defensive formations continuously.

BOOM!

A massive explosion shook the mountains.

The Third Prince's cultivators immediately prepared themselves for another prolonged confrontation.

However, this time, something was different.

The defensive formations of the Crimson Thunder Palace slowly weakened.

Then gradually dispersed completely.

Countless gazes immediately sharpened.

Soon afterward, numerous figures flew out from within the Crimson Thunder Palace.

At the front stood the Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader alongside several elders.

Seeing this scene, many of the Third Prince's forces immediately became vigilant.

Their expressions turned cold.

They thought the Crimson Thunder Palace had finally decided to launch a desperate counterattack.

Several Great Ascension experts even began circulating their Qi fully.

However, contrary to everyone's expectations, The Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader suddenly stopped in midair.

Then before countless stunned gazes...

He slowly cupped his hands and bowed deeply toward the Third Prince's army.

"The Crimson Thunder Palace..."

His voice echoed clearly across the battlefield.

"...Surrenders!"

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Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 609 The Prince Who Lost Everything[1,561 words]

The moment the Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader publicly declared their surrender, the atmosphere within the Third Prince's camp immediately erupted.

Countless disciples and elders revealed excited expressions.

Some even laughed openly.

"We won!"

"The Crimson Thunder Palace surrendered!"

"Hahaha! The Seventh Prince is finished!"

...

For many of them, this was an enormous victory.

The Crimson Thunder Palace was a Top Sect that had stood proudly within the empire for thousands of years.

Now, it had finally lowered its head before the Third Prince.

This meant that Yu Wenzhao's influence would rise to an entirely new level.

Even the Immortals from the Heaven Suppression Pavilion looked extremely delighted.

After all, once the Crimson Thunder Palace joined their side, the Third Prince's overall strength would increase tremendously.

Meanwhile, high above the battlefield, Yu Wenzhao himself also revealed a faint smile.

However, unlike the others, his eyes still remained cold and cautious.

He did not lower his guard in the slightest.

Because he understood clearly that a wounded beast was often the most dangerous before death.

The Crimson Thunder Palace had surrendered too easily according to his expectations.

That alone made him wary.

Yu Wenzhao slowly narrowed his eyes before calmly giving an order.

"Seal their meridians first!"

The excited atmosphere immediately quieted slightly.

Several elders quickly cupped their hands.

"Yes, Your Highness!"

Soon afterward, multiple elders stepped forward cautiously toward the Crimson Thunder Palace elders and Grand Elders.

Their qi circulated fully.

Clearly, they remained prepared for a sudden ambush at any moment.

Even Yu Wenzhao's gaze never left the Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader.

After all, if the other party truly intended to fight desperately now, the losses would still be severe.

However—

To everyone's surprise, no one resisted.

Not even slightly.

The Crimson Thunder Palace elders quietly allowed their meridians to be sealed one after another.

Even the Grand Elders remained silent throughout the process.

Seeing this scene, many of the Third Prince's experts secretly relaxed.

Yu Wenzhao's eyes flickered faintly.

It seemed the Crimson Thunder Palace had truly given up.

As for the ordinary disciples, Yu Wenzhao did not bother sealing them.

They were simply too weak to threaten him and far too numerous to waste time sealing individually.

And right now, he did not wish to waste unnecessary time.

Soon afterward, Yu Wenzhao personally led his forces into the Crimson Thunder Palace.

Behind him followed numerous experts alongside the surrendered elders who now resembled prisoners of war more than respected elders of a prestigious sect.

The once lofty Crimson Thunder Palace now appeared incomparably bleak.

Soon, the group entered the main hall.

Yu Wenzhao's gaze immediately swept across the surroundings sharply.

Then his brows slowly furrowed.

Because one person was missing.

Yu Longxuan!

The Third Prince's expression gradually turned cold.

He immediately looked toward the Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader.

"Where is Seventh Brother?"

The atmosphere instantly became tense once more.

The Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader lowered his head slightly before answering honestly.

"His Highness... has already abandoned the Crimson Thunder Palace and fled."

His voice sounded bitter.

"That is also the reason why we chose to surrender."

Silence filled the hall briefly.

Yu Wenzhao narrowed his eyes.

Abandoned them?

He didn't know whether those words were true or if they planned for him to escape.

But regardless of the reasoning behind it, one fact remained unchanged.

Yu Longxuan had escaped.

And Yu Wenzhao absolutely could not allow that.

A cold light flashed across his eyes instantly.

"Find him!"

His voice echoed sharply throughout the hall.

"Whether dead or alive, I want Seventh Brother brought before me!"

The surrounding experts immediately bowed.

"Yes, Your Highness!"

In an instant, multiple figures shot out from the Crimson Thunder Palace at terrifying speed.

Search teams immediately spread throughout the surrounding regions.

Meanwhile, Yu Wenzhao slowly stood within the hall silently.

His expression looked incomparably cold.

He had already reached this stage.

There was absolutely no way he would leave behind any future problems.

Several hours quickly passed.

Search teams continuously returned one after another from every direction surrounding the Crimson Thunder Palace.

However, every single report carried the same result.

Nothing!

"There are no traces of the Seventh Prince."

"We searched the northern regions thoroughly. No fluctuations were left behind."

"The southern search team also found nothing."

Even the Immortal Ascension experts sent personally by Yu Wenzhao returned empty-handed.

Inside the main hall, the atmosphere gradually became somewhat heavy.

Soon, one Heaven Suppression Pavilion elder slowly spoke solemnly.

"Your Highness, the Seventh Prince was most likely escorted away personally by an Immortal Realm expert skilled in spatial movement."

"After all, who knows how many hours have already passed since they left. If the other party continuously tore through space while erasing their traces, tracking them now would be almost impossible."

The surrounding elders nodded grimly.

That explanation made the most sense.

Once an Immortal Realm cultivator fully concealed themselves while escaping through spatial tears, finding them afterward would become extraordinarily difficult unless one knew their exact destination beforehand.

At this point, even the remaining qi traces had already dissipated completely.

Yu Wenzhao quietly listened to the reports.

His eyes narrowed faintly.

However, contrary to everyone's expectations, he did not become furious.

Instead, he remained surprisingly calm.

After several moments of silence, Yu Wenzhao slowly spoke.

"It doesn't matter."

His tone sounded indifferent.

Yu Longxuan had already lost everything.

His forces had all been taken away, including the Crimson Thunder Palace.

What threat could he still pose now?

Now, he was merely a fugitive prince without any foundation remaining.

Even if he survived, it would be difficult for him to rise again.

Yu Wenzhao slowly leaned back against his seat.

(Still...)

A dangerous light flashed across his eyes.

(If he dares show himself again in the future, then I will kill him personally!)

Soon afterward, Yu Wenzhao no longer wasted thoughts on Yu Longxuan.

Instead, his attention shifted toward the Crimson Thunder Palace experts standing below.

Although they had surrendered, Yu Wenzhao naturally would not trust them completely so easily.

However, he was already testing them, and during the past several hours, they had done nothing suspicious, proving they truly had no hidden agenda.

Yu Wenzhao's expression gradually became imposing once more.

"You only have two choices."

His calm voice echoed clearly throughout the hall.

"Follow me wholeheartedly from today onward..."

"Or the Crimson Thunder Palace will disappear entirely from this empire."

The Crimson Thunder Palace Sect Leader lowered his head slowly.

"We understand."

His voice sounded bitter yet respectful.

"From today onward, the Crimson Thunder Palace is willing to follow Your Highness."

The surrounding elders also lowered their heads one after another.

No one resisted.

Because they had already known this would be their only choice the moment they surrendered.

Yu Wenzhao quietly observed them for several moments before finally nodding faintly.

Then he slowly turned his gaze toward the distant horizon outside the hall.

His eyes gradually sharpened.

The Seventh Prince had already fallen.

Now, only the true competitors remained.

The First Prince!

The Fourth Princess!

The Ninth Princess!

Among them, the one he wanted to crush the most was naturally the First Prince.

A cold smile slowly appeared on Yu Wenzhao's face.

"First Brother..."

His voice echoed softly within the hall.

"Soon you will be next!"

Far away, two figures moved rapidly through the endless skies.

Space itself distorted repeatedly around them.

Each step crossed countless miles instantly.

The surrounding scenery blurred continuously as mountains, rivers, and forests flashed past beneath them at terrifying speed.

The one leading was naturally the Crimson Thunder Palace Grand Elder.

His expression remained extremely solemn.

Even now, he did not dare lower his guard in the slightest.

Every so often, he would directly tear apart space once more before changing directions abruptly.

At the same time, he continuously erased the qi fluctuations left behind by their movements.

Clearly, he feared the Third Prince's forces tracking them down.

Meanwhile, behind him, Yu Longxuan followed silently.

Unlike before, the lofty aura surrounding the Seventh Prince had almost completely disappeared.

At this moment, he looked more like a defeated cultivator wandering aimlessly through the world.

Only after several more hours passed did the Grand Elder finally slow down gradually.

The surrounding area had already become completely unfamiliar.

Towering mountain ranges stretched endlessly beneath the night sky.

Not a single trace of human presence could be sensed nearby.

The Grand Elder carefully swept his divine sense across the surroundings several times before finally exhaling deeply in relief.

"We should be safe now, Your Highness."

His aged voice sounded somewhat tired.

"We have already traveled far enough. Even if the Third Prince sent Immortal Realm experts after us, they should no longer be able to track our traces."

Yu Longxuan remained silent briefly before slowly nodding.

"...Good!"

However, despite those words, his eyes still looked somewhat empty.

The Grand Elder glanced toward him silently.

Naturally, he understood the Seventh Prince's current state very well.

After all, Yu Longxuan had spent countless years preparing for the throne.

Everything he did...

Everything he lived for...

All of it revolved around becoming Emperor someday.

That goal had long since become the center of his life.

But now?

Everything he had lived for had collapsed completely.

Even if he survived...

What reason did he still have to continue living?

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 610 Yu Wenzhao's Perfect Opportunity[1,703 words]

The Crimson Thunder Palace Grand Elder slowly exhaled heavily as he sat down against the tree trunk.

His face looked visibly pale.

Continuously tearing through space for such a long period while erasing their traces had exhausted an enormous amount of his qi.

Meanwhile, beside him, Yu Longxuan stood quietly beneath the night sky.

His expression remained somewhat absent-minded.

The Grand Elder glanced toward him before sighing softly.

"Your Highness, once we recover, we can continue moving farther away from the empire."

Yu Longxuan nodded silently.

However, before either of them could speak further, a calm voice suddenly echoed through the forest.

"So... you were hiding here?"

The atmosphere instantly froze.

Yu Longxuan's pupils contracted violently.

The Crimson Thunder Palace Grand Elder shot to his feet immediately.

BOOM!

His remaining qi erupted instinctively around him as his expression changed drastically.

"Who?!"

His voice echoed sharply through the forest.

At this moment, his heart had already sunk completely.

(Impossible!)

He had personally erased all traces along the way.

How could someone still track them here?

And worse—

After exhausting himself so heavily, he could barely display twenty percent of his full strength now.

If the opponent was an Immortal Realm expert, then they had absolutely no chance of escaping.

The surrounding forest remained silent briefly.

Then slowly, several figures emerged from the darkness.

The moment Yu Longxuan and the Grand Elder saw those faces, both of their expressions changed completely.

"You?!"

Yu Longxuan's eyes widened in disbelief.

"You... how could it be—"

Unfortunately—

The newcomers gave them no chance to continue speaking.

BOOM!!!

A terrifying killing intent instantly erupted.

The entire forest trembled violently.

The Crimson Thunder Palace Grand Elder roared furiously as he tried to resist.

However, in his heavily weakened state, he simply could not withstand the overwhelming assault.

Blood exploded through the air.

Yu Longxuan's expression twisted violently.

"No—!"

Before he could finish speaking, a cold blade pierced directly through his chest.

His body froze instantly.

His eyes widened unwillingly.

The aura surrounding the Seventh Prince rapidly dissipated.

Beside him, the Grand Elder's body also crashed heavily onto the ground.

Silence returned to the forest once more.

Only the smell of blood lingered beneath the ancient tree.

The several figures quietly stood there for a moment.

Then one of them slowly stepped forward and carefully checked both corpses personally.

After confirming that their souls and life aura had completely vanished, he finally nodded slightly.

"They're dead."

Only then did the group finally relax.

Without another word, the figures quickly disappeared back into the darkness.

Soon, the forest became silent once more.

As though nothing had ever happened there at all.

Inside the Crimson Thunder Palace, the atmosphere had completely changed compared to before.

Now, the entire sect had fallen under the Third Prince's control.

Yu Wenzhao stood at the highest point of the Crimson Thunder Palace overlooking the massive sect below.

Behind him stood numerous experts from both his original faction and the newly surrendered Crimson Thunder Palace.

Over the past few days, Yu Wenzhao had moved extremely quickly.

Not only did he fully consolidate the Crimson Thunder Palace into his faction, but he also directly took control of many of the sect's resources and treasures.

Naturally, although the Crimson Thunder Palace elders felt bitter seeing thousands of years of accumulated wealth gradually being absorbed away, none of them dared object.

Because compared to destruction, this outcome was already far better.

Meanwhile, after fully integrating the Crimson Thunder Palace's remaining strength, the Third Prince's faction expanded once more.

At this moment, his side now possessed:

Two Earth Immortal Realm experts!

And nearly fifteen Immortal Realm cultivators overall!

Not to mention the countless Great Ascension Realm experts beneath them.

Just this lineup alone was already enough to make countless factions despair.

Even Yu Wenzhao himself gradually felt increasing confidence.

Compared to before, his current power had already risen tremendously.

At this stage, aside from the Top Three Clans and Sects, almost no force within the empire could suppress him completely anymore.

Inside the grand hall, numerous experts stood respectfully below.

Many of them carried excited expressions, especially the Heaven Suppression Pavilion elders.

After swallowing the Seventh Prince's remaining foundation whole, their side had become one of the absolute strongest forces remaining within the throne war.

At this moment, a massive map floated before Yu Wenzhao.

Several territories across the empire had already been marked clearly.

The remaining competitors.

The First Prince.

The Fourth Princess.

The Ninth Princess.

Yu Wenzhao's gaze slowly swept across each territory carefully.

However, his eyes only paused briefly upon the First Prince's territory before moving away.

A faint cold smile appeared on his face.

"The First Prince..."

Yu Wenzhao softly muttered.

"I'll save him for last!"

After all, among the remaining competitors, the First Prince still possessed the strongest foundation publicly.

If Yu Wenzhao clashed with him now, even victory would likely come at an enormous cost.

And at the current stage of the throne war, unnecessary losses were unacceptable, especially when there were still easier targets remaining.

Yu Wenzhao's gaze slowly shifted elsewhere.

Toward the territories belonging to the Fourth Princess and Ninth Princess.

Yu Qingya has the support of The Frost Lily Pavilion!

One of the strongest sects within the Desolate Heaven Empire.

Its foundation was extremely deep and mysterious.

In terms of overall strength, the Frost Lily Pavilion was almost equal to the Heaven Suppression Pavilion supporting Yu Wenzhao.

Neither side truly possessed an overwhelming advantage.

However, that was before the Crimson Thunder Palace joined him.

Now, everything was different.

Yu Wenzhao slowly leaned back against his seat.

With the Crimson Thunder Palace integrated into his faction, his current strength had already surpassed the Fourth Princess's side by a noticeable margin.

Two Earth Immortals!

Nearly fifteen Immortal Realm experts.

With such terrifying power gathered beneath him, even the Frost Lily Pavilion would struggle to stop him now.

If he truly wished to crush Yu Qingya, it would no longer be difficult.

Still, Yu Wenzhao's gaze gradually shifted once more.

Toward the Ninth Princess's territory.

Yu Feiyan!

Her expansion speed had simply been too abnormal.

One force after another willingly joined beneath her banner almost effortlessly.

Even now, Yu Wenzhao still could not fully understand how she achieved it.

That unknown factor naturally made him wary.

However, after carefully analyzing her faction repeatedly, Yu Wenzhao still discovered one major weakness.

The Ninth Princess lacked top-level experts.

Unlike him or the Fourth Princess, Yu Feiyan did not possess an Earth Immortal Realm cultivator beneath her command.

And within the current stage of the throne war, Earth Immortals were absolute pillars capable of determining victory or defeat.

No matter how strange her methods were, without enough peak experts supporting her, she would eventually be crushed by overwhelming force.

Thinking about this, Yu Wenzhao slowly narrowed his eyes.

Compared to the heavily fortified First Prince or the Frost Lily Pavilion-backed Fourth Princess, the Ninth Princess appeared to be the easier target.

A faint smile slowly appeared on his face.

"We'll deal with Yu Feiyan first!"

The surrounding elders immediately exchanged glances.

Many nodded secretly in agreement.

After all, although the Ninth Princess's growth was alarming, her foundation still appeared weaker than the others.

If they moved quickly enough, they could likely eliminate her before she became an even greater problem.

However, just as Yu Wenzhao was preparing to issue further orders—

Suddenly, a figure rushed hurriedly into the hall.

"Your Highness!"

The man's voice sounded urgent.

He quickly knelt before Yu Wenzhao.

"Urgent news!"

Yu Wenzhao's eyes narrowed faintly.

"Speak!"

The expert swallowed slightly before answering quickly.

"The Ninth Princess has made their move! She personally led her forces and attacked the Frost Lily Pavilion!"

The entire hall instantly fell silent.

"What?!"

Several elders exclaimed immediately.

Even Yu Wenzhao's expression changed slightly.

The Frost Lily Pavilion?

Yu Feiyan attacked Yu Qingya first?

For a moment, even Yu Wenzhao himself looked somewhat stunned.

Because no matter how he viewed the situation, the Fourth Princess should have been one of the hardest opponents to deal with.

Yet the Ninth Princess had directly chosen to attack her first.

Was she crazy?

Or...

Did she possess some kind of confidence no one else knew about?

Yu Wenzhao's eyes gradually became serious.

The moment the news settled fully within the hall, the atmosphere immediately changed.

Originally, many elders still felt confused by Yu Feiyan's sudden actions.

But after thinking carefully, numerous people quickly reacted.

And soon, excitement appeared across several faces.

Because regardless of Yu Feiyan's intentions, one fact remained undeniable.

The Ninth Princess and Fourth Princess were now fighting each other.

Which meant both sides would inevitably suffer losses.

Inside the hall, one Heaven Suppression Pavilion elder suddenly laughed loudly.

"Hahaha! Excellent!"

"No matter who wins, both sides will definitely be weakened heavily afterward."

"The Frost Lily Pavilion is not an easy opponent even for the Ninth Princess."

...

As more people thought about it, the brighter their expressions became.

This was practically the perfect opportunity.

Originally, Yu Wenzhao still needed to carefully consider which opponent to attack first.

But now?

The Ninth Princess had solved that problem for him herself.

Yu Wenzhao slowly leaned back against his seat.

A faint smile gradually appeared on his face as well.

"Excellent!"

His eyes flickered sharply.

No matter who gained the advantage in the end, both sides would undoubtedly suffer damage.

And at that moment, he would make his move.

A true hunter never rushed carelessly into battle.

Instead, they waited for the perfect moment to strike.

Yu Wenzhao slowly stood up from his throne-like seat.

His robes fluttered lightly despite the still air.

"We will move as well!"

The surrounding experts immediately became serious.

Yu Wenzhao's lips curved upward coldly.

"Let the Ninth Princess and Fourth Princess weaken each other first. Once one side begins gaining the upper hand..."

A dangerous light flashed across his eyes.

"We will descend and destroy both of them at the same time!"

The entire hall immediately erupted.

"Your Highness is wise!"

"With two Earth Immortals and nearly fifteen Immortal Realm experts, no one will be able to stop us!"

"Hahaha! Then this throne war is already decided!"